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Publisher
John Pribyl (817)275-4109

Editor
Doug McQuaid (214)402-0538

Assistant Editors
Gerry Heina (214)937-7266
Alan Lintel (214)220-8285
Randy Lahti (817)881-1979

Newsletter Exchange Editor
Pehl, Lee

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

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Deadline:

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

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DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for December
North Texas PC NEWS:
Saturday, November 10th**

Meeting Dates:

November Meeting - 2nd Sat (10th)
December Meeting - 2nd Sat (8th)
January Meeting 1st Sat (5th)
(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.

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Program for November _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Future Trends Software

Now Your PC Puts the Universe at Your Command

Monty Shelton, President

The recent release of EZCosmos, an astronomical exploration program which is easy to use and runs on most PCs with Hercules thru VGA display modes, is even faster and more versatile than ever. It can display the sky for over 560 cities in the world as seen from 4000 BC to 10000 AD, with full animation of planets and moon. You can find and zoom in or out on any of over 10,000 objects, with VGA pictures of all planets and 35 other celestial objects. Also shown will be EZShopper, a grocery shopping program which "actually pays for itself." There will be a drawing for 3 free packages of both EZCosmos and EZShopper. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Samna Corporation

Amí Professional, Word Processing That Lets You See What's On Your Mind

Joel Artzt, Assistant Marketing Manager

See why PC Magazine says of Amí Professional, "Of all GUI word processors, Amí Professional has the widest variety of features and is perhaps the most enjoyable to use." It continues to win acclaim for the ease with which users can access its powerful features. Samna will show not only how Amí Professional implements high end word processing features, but goes beyond to show integrated drawing, charting, and image processing functions in Windows 3.0. There will be a drawing for at least one free package. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

There will be a drawing for a free Microsoft high-resolution bus mouse. *

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Adobe Systems Incorporated

Adobe Type Manager: Font Scaling for Windows 3.0 Applications

Jim Paxson, Regional Manager

Type Manager can do type scaling on the fly and improve printing to any non-PostScript printer, even dot matrix. It will work with any downloadable Type 1 font, as can the new PostScript Cartridge from Adobe for the HP LaserJet II, with 35 standard Adobe outline typefaces and screen fonts for the PC. These and other Adobe products will be discussed. There will be a drawing for two free Type Manager packages. *

* Tickets for each drawing will be given to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership. The general public is welcomed to all our meetings.

Prez Sez

Voting News — Election of NTPCUG President Elect & Directors

Yes. It's almost time for our favorite democratic activity — the vote. By the time you read this passage a three member nominating committee will be appointed. This committee, which is headed by Jim Hoisington, President Elect, is given the responsibility to propose a slate of nominations for three positions on the Board of Directors and for the next President Elect. The plan is for Jim to begin forming this slate of candidates during the NTPCUG meeting on October 20, 1990.

During the meeting of November 10, 1990, the slate of candidates will be announced and pictures will be taken of each nominee. If possible, the picture of

each nominee, along with a biographical sketch, will appear in the December, 1990, issue of the North Texas PC News. This is your chance to review and choose.

The January issue of the North Texas PC News will have a rerun of nominee pictures and biographies along with the official voting ballot used to register your vote. The ballot may be turned in at announced locations in the INFOMART during the January NTPCUG meeting on January 5, 1991 (note that this date is subject to change, but unlikely to change). Also, you will be able to mail your ballot to the NTPCUG P.O. Box. Your mail-in ballot must arrive at the NTPCUG P.O. Box no later than January 8, 1991, (note that THIS date is also subject to change, but unlikely to change). ►

Microsoft User Group Summit Meeting

During the week of October 15, 1990, Jim Hoisington and I travelled to the often wet Seattle/Tacoma area. We had the pleasure of attending the third User Group Summit Meeting by Microsoft (MS) Corporation of Redmond, Washington. This was our opportunity to see where MS plans to take things in the future.

My first exposure to the Seattle/Tacoma area was in the Fort Lewis garden spot. It was here that the U.S. Army taught me to sweat, throw grenades, monkey around on monkey bars and run miles of not-so-flat Washington country side. Also, I learned a saying worth repeating which involves Mt. Rainier, a 14,410' snow capped mountain which provides a beautiful backdrop for this area. "If you wake up in the morning and cannot see Mt. Rainier, wear your raincoat. If you can see Mt. Rainier, take your raincoat!!"

Fall COMDEX 1990, Las Vegas, NV

Fall COMDEX is on for the week of November 12, 1990. At this point it looks like the NTPCUG will have several representatives attending THE computer exposition of the year.

Last year this event attracted in excess of 125,000 people to the city of Las Vegas. It became a zoo out there but was informative and fun as well. There were hundreds of previously retired taxi cabs and taxi cab drivers pressed into service. These cabs and

drivers came from questionable sources. If you could breath you could drive a cab.

Several of us had the pleasure of riding in a cab driven by Mario Andretti's half brother. He got us to the meeting on time and in one piece. I've never gone the wrong way on that many one way streets and through so many underground parking lots. It's like a death wish.

Thanks to Richard Terreo — Graphics SIG Leader

Richard has been our Graphics SIG Leader for several years. Commitments in the business world have prompted Richard to step down as Graphics SIG Leader and reduce the many hours of volunteer efforts he has provided. Thank you Richard for all your efforts!

The Graphics SIG is on hold until further notice. If there are members interested in restarting the Graphics SIG please contact Andy Oliver, SIG Coordinator.

OS/2 for End Users SIG Moves to an Earlier Time

Bob Fermier, SIG Leader for the new OS/2 for End Users SIG, is moving his SIG from the 1:00 p.m. time slot to 12:00 noon beginning with the November meeting. This change will eliminate the current time conflict for members who wish to attend the OS/2 for Developers SIG at 1:00 p.m..

Zack Porterfield

▲

About Last Month's BBS Article ...

by Doug Gorrie

In the October PC NEWS, I described how to use the club's BBS facility. As luck would have it, AFTER the article went to press, an error was noticed. The article stated that, when you received your first mail message, the BBS would display the following:

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

It also stated that, after you read the new message, the "New messages" counter is reduced by 1, and the count of "messages in your mailbox" would increase by 1. That was only partially correct. True, the first mail message you receive will result in a "New message" count of 1, but that new message ALSO counts

as part of the "messages in your mailbox". So, your first BBS totals would be:

```
— Mailbox Status —
There are 1 messages in your mailbox.
New messages: 1
```

After reading the new mail, the BBS will report the same total message count you had BEFORE you read the message, but with the "New message" count reduced to 0, as shown below:

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

With that correction made, go check out whether I got it right this time. If I goofed, send me a message by electronic mail and straighten me out. Good luck, and have fun!!

Doug

▲

EDlines

Some of you noticed that I took a vacation last month. I needed it. Last month's deadline fell on the day I moved. John Pribyl had a very worried look on his face.... Well, I'm all settled in and ready to hit it again.

The informal survey was a great help. To all who participated, I want to say "thank you". I am compiling the results and will have them for you next month. Some of the comments were very insightful and we will be following up on them in the months to come. Other comments did not pertain to the North Texas PC News, but we will pass them on to the responsible parties.

One common complaint in the surveys was that the SIG Happenings do not always reflect what happened or what will happen at the SIG meeting. Unfortunately, the NT PC News deadline is the 10th of the month, hard and fast... while the SIG meetings can fall on the second or third weekend of the month.

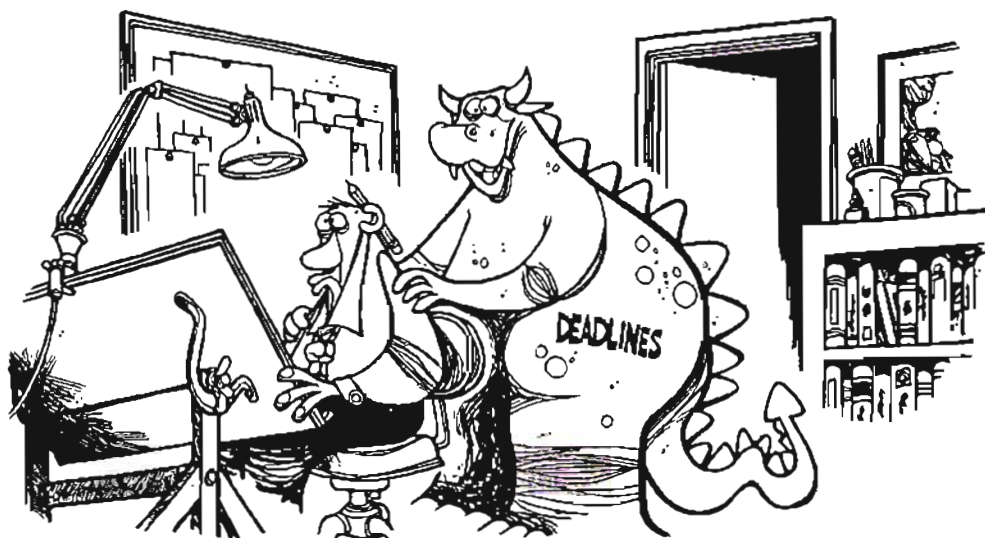
Who can you blame? Well, I can't change our deadline. INFOMART dictates the meeting date. And, the SIG leaders are responsible for PLANNING their respective meeting topics. (If you read the Programming SIG Happenings, you'll wonder if that is possible.) Stuart Yarus, the Computer Council of Dallas

and our Board of Directors are our official links to INFOMART. However, INFOMART is a business and we are non-profit — try to reconcile THAT. The SIG leaders are volunteers, so give them a break. In fact, you might even offer to help your favorite SIG leader plan a presentation. Frankly, I'm amazed that the SIG leaders report at all. A lot of credit goes to Andy Oliver and K.B. Barton for the nudge to the SIG leaders around our deadline. All I can say is that we'll be talking with SIG leaders in the coming months and try to respond to your requests.

Fall COMDEX is upon us and we'll (i.e. Reagan will) try to keep you informed of the latest product announcements. If any really spectacular product is announced, we'll try to have it reviewed. In the meantime, you might dust of the ole keyboard and write an article for the North Texas PC News. As always, we heartily encourage any member to participate in our quality publication. If you would like to share your discoveries or experiences with the group, please feel free to speak up. However, before you begin, please read the "Submitting Articles for Publication..." blurb on the inside front cover. Also, please note the new editorial address and telephone numbers on the inside front cover.

Well, I guess I've taken enough of your time this month. I hope all of you will take me seriously and submit an article or two. It really helps. Anyway, until we meet again,

Douglas McQuaid



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Spreadsheet Compilers

Benefits and Reviews

Part 1 of 2

By Mark H. Gruner
Lotus SIG Leader
North Texas PC Users Group

A spreadsheet compiler is a program that transforms a spreadsheet so that others can use it without the original spreadsheet program. There are several advantages that compilers offer over the original spreadsheet. This article is the first of two articles on spreadsheet compilers.

This installment will discuss the basics of and benefits of compilers as well as present reviews of two compilers which are Baler from Baler Software Corporation and King Jaguar from Sheng Labs. The second installment which will appear next month will include reviews of Compile 1 to C from Resource Analysis International, @Liberty from SoftLogic Solutions, 3-2-1 Blastoff from Frontline Systems Inc., and the recently released Symphony compiler named Composa from Sheng Labs. The second installment will also include a brief conclusion and recommendation.

Spreadsheet Compilers - Overview and Benefits

The process of creating a compiled spreadsheet is to create a 1-2-3 spreadsheet to compile. The 1-2-3 spreadsheet should be fully tested, because once it is compiled, no one will be able to change it. This statement does not mean that only the "spreadsheet gurus" should use compilers, just that the spreadsheets should be fully tested.

The second step is to compile the spreadsheet using a compiler. Once compiled, the developer needs to insure that the compiled spreadsheet works properly. Since most if not all @ functions are supported, this step usually means making sure that the macros work as intended.

The third step is customization. This step includes adding new macro commands and/or functions, title screens, eliminating menu commands, changing colors, changing the appearance of the spreadsheet, and many others.

The fourth step is to prepare the distribution diskettes for users. The distribution disks will include the compiled spreadsheet, a run-time engine, and perhaps some additional utilities. The run-time engine is the program that provides the 1-2-3 compatibility such as macros and formulas, as well as the customization found in the compiler.

Compilers came about largely due to security deficiencies of 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet programs. While this statement is not entirely true, it is a primary reason. Consider the following deficiencies:

1. Global Protection. Global protection is nice except that anyone who knows the command /, Worksheet, Global, Protection, Disable can turn the global protection off and do anything they want to your model.

2. Range Unprotect. Another way to have access to a set of cells is to Unprotect only those cells that you want to have access to, then hardcode or edit formulas, then Protect those cells again.

3. Formulas always visible. While not a security issue for most, consider the 1-2-3 consultants who make their life writing spreadsheets for others to use. The users could easily see the formulas, spreadsheet layout, design, and logic which could leave the consultant without a client in the future. So a form of job security for a consultant could include a compiler.

4. Multiple Spreadsheet Programs. Consider the difficulty and security problems of distributing a spreadsheet when users have one of several spreadsheet programs. For instance, developing a spreadsheet in 1-2-3 when some use Excel, Quattro Pro, SuperCalc, or Symphony just to name a few. There are many problems including translating macros, changing formulas, and testing in each program.

Compilers solve all these security problems by offering the developer the ability to create and distribute a tamperproof spreadsheet program that users cannot change or modify. Finally, a spreadsheet that users cannot muck up. The spreadsheet can be used by anyone since it comes with its own program. The added security also improves reliability.

Security is a major benefit, but is certainly not the only one. Most compilers offer customization options that add features and capabilities not found in 1-2-3 or other spreadsheet programs.

If these features interest you then you should consider reviewing and using spreadsheet compilers in the future.

Reviewing the Compilers

To review the compilers, I used a spreadsheet that I use to keep track of my mortgage and escrow and to prepare a letter to send to the bank that details my accounts. I added some additional capabilities and instructions. I also created a title screen in Microsoft Word and saved it as a text file. A compiled version of this spreadsheet is available in the NTPCUG Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) catalog. This test spreadsheet was approximately 150,000 bytes. There were no fancy formulas or macros in the model. However,

►

there is some string arithmetic, VLOOKUPs, dates, range names, and a print menu macro.

The test machine was a 386 25Mhz clone with 4 meg of memory, hard disk, VGA monitor, and an Epson FX-85 printer.

I do not want anyone to get the impression that these reviews are extensive or that I sought to challenge all of the capabilities and features of each program. My primary goal was to get a good understanding of each program so that comparisons between them could be made. It is my hope that the reviews are sufficient for all to get an idea of which one would be the best for them.

Baler Version 5.0, from Baler Software Corporation

Version 5 of Baler is a complete rewrite of version 4 which has resulted in a much improved product. A demo of Baler is available in the NTPCUG Disk-of-the-Month library (Disk #526). Installation was easy and straight-forward. The instructions in the manual were good. The installation program did not require changing the CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

Compiling the spreadsheet was simple. Baler calls the process Baling. The command was simply BALE FILENAME and then Baler created two separate files -MORTGAGE.OVR and MORTGAGE.WKB. No errors messages were encountered and the spreadsheet worked as intended including macros.

The only menu command not supported is Insert and Delete Column.

The next step was to customize the compiled version. Baler offers a lot of options including adding a title screen, pop-up or pull-down menus, adding customized help, eliminating menu commands, additional macro commands, and a host of others too numerous to mention here.

Customizing also proved simple. All the developer has to do is to type CUSTOMIZ FILENAME.EXT at the DOS prompt. Baler has the ability to edit the spreadsheet after it has been compiled. The advantage of this scheme is that you can add macro commands or edit your macros so that they work properly. One of the problems, however, is that the source 1-2-3 worksheet is no longer the same as the compiled version. If you can live with this situation, then it poses no problems and it is easier than finding a problem, correcting the 1-2-3 source worksheet, recompiling, and then testing. Another advantage of this scheme is that the source 1-2-3 file will work since it has no Baler-specific customizations.

I wanted to disable several commands since they were unnecessary. All I had to do was to tell Baler to edit the CommandAccess. You can turn off any 1-2-3

menu command. The next step was to work through the menu structure and disable the various commands. The developer has three options - enabled, macro only, and disabled. After changing the access status, the developer saves the menu to disk. You also have the ability within CUSTOMIZ to view and test the altered menu access status.

I also wanted to add a title screen. Adding the Title screen included retrieving the ASCII file although you can create/edit one from within Baler if desired. The screen needed some minor editing that was done within Baler and then the screen is saved to disk. The last line of the title screen is reserved for a Baler copyright notice.

Other customization options include a program called BALERDRAW adds upper-ASCII characters to draw lines and boxes around tables and data. Other options include changing colors and menu style. If your printer supports these characters, then you can also print them.

Distribution disks require the run-time engine and the compiled spreadsheet files. There are a few additional utility programs that the developer could also include.

I was very impressed with Baler. The manual was very easy to follow. However, I was able to use the program without referring to the manual a great deal. Baler is an excellent choice.

Baler Software is also selling Baler XE which enables the developer to add new functions that he or she creates in BASIC or C. Libraries are included. A host of other features such as input validation, designing your own engine based on the needed menu commands, better control over graphs, and much more.

Baler sells for \$495.00 and can be ordered from Baler Software Corporation, 1400 Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. Phone number is (708) 506-9700, FAX is (708) 506-1808, orders only (800) 327-6108. Baler XE sells for \$795.

King Jaguar Version 2.2 - Sheng Labs

Version 2.2 of King Jaguar offers a wide variety of capabilities including creating User Defined Functions (UDFs) in either Assembler or C routines. A collection of C routines is included. A demo of King Jaguar is available in the NTPCUG Disk-of-the-Month library. The installation program offers to change the AUTOEXEC.BAT file to modify the PATH statement.

Compiling the mortgage amortization spreadsheet was easy. The command was simply KING FILENAME. This command created the compiled worksheet named MORTGAGE.JWK. No errors were encountered during the compilation process. ►

The only 1-2-3 menu commands not supported is Insert and Delete Column.

Customization options within King Jaguar are extensive including adding a title screen, changing the menu layout to pull-down or pop-up, eliminating menu commands, adding new macro commands, and a host of others.

Customization proved to be a little confusing. I was not able to edit the file MORTGAGE.JWK because of King Jaguar's approach to Customization. King Jaguar takes the stand that the 1-2-3 source spreadsheet should have the exact same structure as the compiled worksheet. Therefore, the developer must add the various King Jaguar macro commands and some other customizations in 1-2-3. While not necessarily a streamlined process, it does insure that the compiled and source spreadsheet are the same. However, the 1-2-3 spreadsheet may not work since it could include King Jaguar customized features.

I created a "debuggable" version of the program by adding a parameter to the KING command. This "debuggable" version is used by the developer to test and analyze macros and functions through breakpoints and other features. Testing the debuggable version required the KDB FILENAME command at the DOS prompt -the model worked as intended. Since the 1-2-3 spreadsheet was working as intended, I did not need or use the features available within the debugging environment.

I then proceeded to add a titlescreen, but I had to add that when I compiled the spreadsheet. I had to recompile the spreadsheet to add the titlescreen by adding a parameter to the command line. The titlescreen was not as nice as it could be and required some editing but it could not be edited from within King Jaguar. After editing the titlescreen in EDLIN, I recompiled the spreadsheet and all went well - title screen and all.

Next, I started to work on the menu structure to eliminate various menu commands. King Jaguar controls the menu access and other features through the program called KCONTROL. KCONTROL is used to change the menu and other characteristics of the run-time engine. With KCONTROL, you can turn-off individual menu commands and the process was easy.

The base run-time engine included with King Jaguar, KRUN.EXE, does not support the Data Table, Data Parse, Data Matrix, Data Regression, Range Justify, or graphs. However, you can create a customized run-time engine that can support these commands. You also have to create a customized engine if your application uses any UDFs that you created, or if you want to change the name of the run-time engine. Further, you would also have to create a customized

debugger if you use UDFs or the additional menu commands.

The distribution diskette for the compiled spreadsheet included the run-time engine, compiled spreadsheet, and two configuration files - KRUN.OBJ and KRUN.SET.

King Jaguar is a very good program and should meet most anyone's needs. The ability to create your own User Defined Functions is a real plus for those who know or want to learn C or Assembler. Personally, I am not one of them.

King Jaguar sells for \$595.00 plus \$6 shipping and handling and can be ordered from Sheng Labs, 4470 SW Hall Street, Suite 282, Beaverton, Oregon 97005. Phone number is (503) 646-3691 or (800) 548-1270. Their FAX number is (503) 641-8822.

Initial Summary

Well by now, you should have a good idea of what a compiler is and how it might benefit you. Spreadsheet compilers make it possible for a developer to create a spreadsheet program so that other can use it without needing 1-2-3 at all. Compilers also provide substantially better security making the compiled version of the spreadsheet virtually tamperproof.

This installment also included reviews of two compilers - Baler from Baler Software and King Jaguar from Sheng Labs. In the final installment in next months issue reviews more compilers. The compilers to be reviewed include Compile 1 to C from Resource Analysis International, @Liberty from SoftLogic Solutions which are compilers for 1-2-3 spreadsheets. Another compiler that will be reviewed in Composa from Sheng Labs. Composa is a compiler for Symphony applications.

Mark ▲

The next installment will also provide some benchmark comparison for all four 1-2-3 compilers and a personal recommendation.

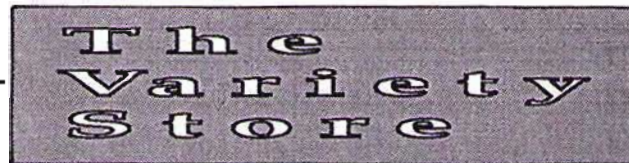
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by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

In Search of an Honest Man — Counting Days till COMDEX/Fall 90

I'm writing this in early October. Also, I'm making lists of folks I want to talk with at COMDEX/Fall 90 — just after the November Meeting. I've got lots of questions.

Microsoft, Borland, IBM and Compaq are high on the list(s) — followed by Qualitas, Quarterdeck Office Systems, Micronics, American Megatrends, Inc., Award and Phoenix. Adobe, Aldus, Micrografx and Computer Support will also be high on the "must see" list(s).

Problem will be separating truth from marketing hype at computerdom's most glitzy extravaganza. Ratio of intellectually-limited and technologically-un-sophisticated (but quite pretty) product "representatives" has risen with each past COMDEX/Fall show. — hope this year is different. (By the way, that last remark isn't "sexist" — some of the male MBA's were actually prettier last year than the female MBA's.)

Won't be surprised if it isn't.

IBM on OS/2 and DOS ...

Usually don't count on much COMDEX info from IBM's exhibit(s). But, want to see how they play the *Windows 3.0* vs. *OS/2* struggle after all the media attention to one more "divorce" between Microsoft and IBM that's been shouted in the last two months. Microsoft took DOS development back — after IBM's massive mishandling of 4.0, while IBM took "all" *OS/2* development under its control.

Latest Prodigy Praterfall

Might also see if IBM/Sears folks are aware of the media black-eye they've earned via instituting a \$.25 charge for Prodigy E-Mail. Prodigy wasn't that good to begin with. Charging for the only worthwhile feature, E-Mail, just doesn't seem too smart *marketing-wise*. Especially after the recent Prodigy "censorship" faux pas.

See *Windows 3.0* Gallop!

It'll be really interesting to see how Microsoft plays the *Windows 3.0* vs. *OS/2* game at COMDEX. *Windows* and *Windows* software products — even Microsoft's — seem to continue rolling up the numbers beyond anyone's expectations. What's poor Microsoft to do? Throttle this year's runaway best seller to salve IBM's ruffled feelings?

Rumors persist that the recent IBM "split" would encourage MS to incorporate previously "off-limits" *OS/2* technology in future versions of *Windows*. '91 might be really interesting for PC users.

See DOS 5.0 Getting Ready to Run?

Will MS people comment on the worst-kept, non-disclosure-agreement secret in the industry — DOS 5.0 — and its future in the Win-

dows picture? Now supposedly scheduled for 1st Quarter, 1991, release (at about the same time as *Windows 3.1*) 5.0 will have to set records for Beta tester numbers alone if nothing else.

Word is that MS has been very, very responsive to reported bugs and other difficulties with 5.0 to date. Some media guru's are already touting DOS 5.0 & *Windows* as the OS "... that *OS/2* should have been."

MS On the Fun Side — Who Stole Bill Gate's Room(s)?

More MS rumors. Remember last year when Xerox "stole" Microsoft's very prime COMDEX display location? Hearing stories now that somebody got their meeting rooms and suites at the Alexis Park Hotel, traditional Microsoft COMDEX HQ's, this year.

Fun rumor is that a vicious competitor called and cancelled the MS reservations. Microsoft isn't alone — according to the rumor, two other very major players got stung as well. Just try to get *any* room in Las Vegas during COMDEX in early October.

Microsoft may have to "commute" from Los Angeles.

Compaq Venturing into RISC Country?

Questions at Compaq and Microsoft will focus on *OS/2* also — with some *Xenix*/*UNIX* attention as well — since Compaq has been reportedly searching for a RISC processor for their anticipated entry into the workstation market. This couples with Microsoft head

Bill Gates' continuing comments regarding CPU-independent (portable) versions of a 32-bit OS/2.

Hope it works better than "portability" seems to in the UNIX world. MIPS and Sun are mentioned as major contenders for Compaq's RISC selection.

May Be More TI Attorneys Than Computers At COMDEX/Fall 90

Don't know if I can afford to drop by TI's COMDEX exhibit area. At the rate they're suing folks, safer to avoid the area entirely since my professional liability insurance probably doesn't cover patent disputes like the recent flurry of "TI vs. everyone" legal actions.

Question: Will TI stage a COMDEX "raid" on PC makers similar to the FCC "invasions" in '88 & '89?

Dell Takes a TI "Hit" As Austin Firm Goes Retail

Dell was hit before COMDEX. Austin's Dell Computing is most-recently-announced, local TI target. According to the TI suit, Dell has infringed eight (8) TI-held patents in manufacturing some of its computer lines. Dell spokespeople seemed surprised by the legal action, stating that Dell and TI were in the midst of negotiations over the royalty issue(s) when the suit was filed.

Don't know what this will mean to Dell's recent entry into retail computer sales via local discounters.

Bull Counter-Attacks — Zenith Gets Hyatt Help

Meanwhile Zenith (Bull) picked up an ally in its struggles with TI. Gilbert Hyatt (see blurb in October's issue) agreed to help Zenith as a "fact witness and technical expert" according to the October 1 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*.

This followed quickly on the heels of speculation by "intellectual property specialists" that Hyatt's patent would be used in defense against TI litigation.

68030 Fight's Finished ...

Motorola's struggle with Hitachi apparently was finally settled in October. Details of the settlement between the two companies were not forthcoming, but Motorola isn't seen as a "victor" by media insiders. Issues were Motorola's use of Hitachi technology (Hitachi claimed) in the 68030 CPU chip that's critical to many low-level workstations and Apple Macintosh computers.

A number of workstation makers have been threatened by the 68030 fight which was rumored to be quite acrimonious by legal watchers.

Must Be The Austin Water — CompuAdd's Sparc Workstation

After workstation giants Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard and DEC entered the PC market, Austin's CompuAdd decided that turn-about looked good to them and decided to enter the workstation market with machines based on the Sparc chip designed by Sun.

That makes two Texas PC makers if the Compaq rumors are true. CompuAdd will be first to market according to the media.

Software Should Sing As COMDEX/Fall Releases Expected to Eclipse Hardware

Doors open for Aldus if PC *Page-Maker 4.0* arrives in time for COMDEX. Xerox's *Ventura Publisher 3.0* was seen as "bland" by media after the long wait — a really stunning Aldus product could walk away with COMDEX.

Power found in *Windows 3.0* word processors will steal some of the traditional page-layout market from (former) leaders unless they're careful. *Word for Windows* and *Ami Professional* both are causing second looks and reconsideration of need for the "bigger" page-layout packages in corporate circles.

Lotus Plays Windows "Catch-up"

Really caught lacking (and blushing) by *Windows 3.0's* massive ac-

ceptance, Lotus is rushing (shades of 2.00?) to get a windows version of 1-2-3 ready in time for COMDEX. They may be well behind Borland whose *Quattro Pro 2.0* is rapidly gaining ground in the DOS arena and supposedly well into development for the Windows interface.

(P.S. Borland "lost" in the preliminaries, and the legal slugfest between 1-2-3 and *Quattro Pro* will take place in Boston.)

Present Lotus users are so confused by all the current 1-2-3 versions available, one more version may be too much. Yes, Lotus, you can have too many update releases — especially for corporate users who update 100's of PC's at a time.

Orem in Windows?

Not heard from (after this month's 5.1XX update/bug-fix) at all on the Windows front, *WordPerfect* may have ceded this arena to Microsoft. Unlike the DOS world where *WordPerfect 5.1* rules, Windows GUI is different. Happened on the Mac, could repeat on Windows' GUI as well.

WordPerfect Office, waiting in the wings, might be a sleeper here, though, and would be a natural for networked Windows machines if Orem can only learn how to deal with GUI's.

Quarterdeck Fights Back With X-Windows Offering

COMDEX should be interesting in the Quarterdeck area. Quarterdeck Office Systems was burned by *Windows 3.0*. *QEMM386* didn't work well with Windows until Microsoft made the DPMI drivers available that allowed them to produce version 5.1 (at additional cost to users) which would work in Windows "Enhanced" mode. Quarterdeck's tack was *DESQview-X*, an *X-Windows* for DOS.

DESQview-X looks good in their brochures and promises to unite the UNIX world with the DOS world if everything works as advertised. May even appeal to the techie crowd who feel left out by Windows. ▶

Norton-Symantec at COMDEX

Peter Norton Computing — and Peter Norton — have been staples at COMDEX for several years. This year, along with *Norton Utilities 5.0*, the newly merged Peter Norton Computing and Symantec will be showing *Norton AntiVirus*.

Symantec has been working with Macintosh antiviral programs for some time, and acquisition of Peter Norton Computing earlier this year seems to have provided a DOS-world entry for Symantec's expertise in combatting viral infections of PC data and programs. *NU 5.0* isn't without bugs, it seems, as early reports spotlight "minor" program problems shortly after release.

Had been worried that Norton's acquisition might mean the end of Peter Norton, and his candor, at COMDEX. Glad to see he'll be there.

Not a COMDEX Item — Quotemaster Plus A Boon for Writers

Using appropriate quotations is an art — and Hell for writers with poor memories. I've been burned in the past by crediting the right phrase to the wrong source. *Quotemaster Plus* may solve that for me.

Product of PennComp of Houston, TX, *Quotemaster Plus* is a database of famous (and not so famous) quotations, featuring rapid retrieval and facile document incorporation that retails at \$89. A *Windows 3.0* version will be released "shortly" according to PennComp, and includes 3,000 literary quotations from 950 authors on 800 subjects.

Four additional databases are available (at \$25 each) including: *Humorous*, quotations from literary and other figures; *Success*, featuring authors on business success; *Contemporary*, quotes from the 20th century, and *Motivational*, personal-motivation quotes.

Quotemaster Plus requires an IBM or compatible PC with 512K RAM and 2.7 M of hard-disk space. Contact PennComp at (713) 669-0965.

Stingy Cache86 Shines From Houston's Aldridge

Cache86 from the Aldridge Company caught my eye for a number of reasons. First, it's really stingy with memory if the user has either extended or expanded memory available.

A 4M, write-through disk cache can be set up in LIM (EMS) memory using less than 1K of conventional memory. Extended memory usage will take 3.5K of conventional memory plus 2% of the cache size, i.e., a 1M cache would use approx. 24K of conventional memory. On a 386 PC, *Cache86* uses only 5K of conventional memory to provide a 4M disk cache.

Aldridge claims that *Cache86* uses less conventional memory than any competing disk caching product. Aldridge also produces *Tree86* (file management program) and *Pre-Cursor* (a menuing system program). *Cache86* retails for \$49.95. Contact Aldridge at (713) 953-1940.

Oracle Missed Crystal Ball — \$36 Million Loss

Oracle has been one of the latest "golden" software companies to stumble in 1990. Highly aggressive sales policies and excellent PR skills have propelled *Oracle* (until 1990) into one of the fastest-growing database software companies. The balloon burst in the company's first quarter of the fiscal year with a reported \$36 Million loss.

Databases originally written for minicomputers have stumbled before in the PC marketplace. *Oracle* has mounted a massive advertising and PR effort to penetrate the corporate micro market, but has had quality problems and a reputation for unexplained crashes on PC platforms.

Local consultants/developers describe *Oracle* as a powerful database with a reputation for system "hogging" and an inability to co-exist with other popular PC software.

But, that's not the real story. (See below for details.)

Software Policing Group Aimed At Publishers — Not PC Users

Oracle story (above) was used extensively as "the perfect (bad) example" by major software publishing houses who have formed an industry group to reform the publishers themselves.

The Software Business Practices Council, a self-policing group, was described by the *Wall Street Journal* as having a mission to reform "widespread, misleading and sometimes unethical marketing practices." Oracle Systems Corp. was prominently mentioned by the October article as an example of reason why council was formed.

However, Council organizers insist the problem is much more pervasive than just the Oracle example and cite "vaporware", broken promises and loss of customer trust as a result as responsible for the movement.

From Really Big To Really Small — Laptop Hard Disks

Toshiba will be delivering a laptop PC with the same size hard disk I just installed on my desktop PC and thought was really big. Toshiba's latest 5200 models will feature 200M, Conner hard disks with 16 ms access times. That's the same as my SCSI Maxtor residing in a 386/25 from Lucky Computing that weighs quite a bit more than the 18 pound Toshiba.

On the other end of the spectrum, Western Digital joined Areal Technology, Conner Peripherals, IBM, JVC, PrairieTek, Quantum and Toshiba in production (announcement of) 2-1/2-inch hard disk drives for the laptop market. W-D's drives will be 30 and 60M models with 19 ms average access times and priced at \$325 - \$495, respectively.

Seagate Technology, Maxtor's Mini-scribe Division, NEC Technologies and Fujitsu America, Inc., are also expected to announce 2-1/2-inch drives shortly for the growing market. ▶

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 45 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

You just don't simply buy a software package any more, you enter into a long term relationship with the company that made the software. Software upgrades are a given.

It costs a lot of research and development money to produce the first copy of a software product. Each additional copy can be made for the cost of the manuals and the diskettes. If it didn't take a lot of time and money to come up with the first copy, then lots of companies or individuals could write their own version in short order rather than buy the programs from someone else.

So why not buy the product and then forget about the vendor? Why worry about upgrades to the software?

There are several reasons for upgrades. The first reason is that it provides more income to the company that produced the original program. They need money to stay in business and may not be able to produce more than one or two products. Yes, I'm saying that some companies come out with an upgrade that in no way significantly enhances their product just to be able to get some more money. After all, an upgrade usually gets mentioned in the trade press, so a few more people buy the product because on the basis that it must be good since it is

an "upgrade" to the prior version. And if the vendor sends the registered users of its program a sufficiently vague announcement, a lot of them will send money for the upgrade without a second thought. (Borland is the exception here. They send upgrade notices to people who have a distant relative who used a Borland product once.)

The second reason for an upgrade is that the current version of the product had a lot of bugs or errors. The upgrade hopefully fixes most of the problems without introducing a lot of new bugs. These upgrades used to be sold for a nominal fee, usually enough money to cover the cost of shipping. However, more and more companies now charge from \$75 to \$150 to send you fixes to make the software you purchased work like it was supposed to from the start.

Software products in the PC world usually use a version number in the form "M.S" where M represents the major version and S the sub-version level. Apple computer products carry this scheme a little farther by using version numbers like "5.1.2" but that's too detailed for the average PC user. When the number following the period or "." changes, it usually represents a "bug fix" release. When the number preceding the period changes, it is supposed to represent significant improvements in the product.

A third reason for upgrades is that the current version does not utilize the ever expanding capabilities of the hardware and operating environment. The transition from MS-DOS 1.1 to MS-DOS 2.0 was particularly traumatic. A lot of software would only recognize drives A: and B:. There was no provision for a hard disk made possible by MS-DOS 2.0. I can think of one popular word processing program that went for years before an upgrade allowed it to store files in sub-directories.

Finally, once in a while, a company does really come up with a much better version of the program. This is rare, however, because it requires that they spend a lot of time and money rewriting their existing program which after all is bringing in money through minor bug fixes and enhancements.

So what should you do when the upgrade announcement arrives in the mail?

My first rule of thumb is to never buy release "1.0" of anything. With Microsoft language products, I try to avoid release "M.0" and wait for the "M.1" version. So much for bug fix upgrades.

If the upgrade doesn't fall into either of those two situations, then I read the announcement brochure for information about what is being "fixed" or "improved". This usually results in wasted time because

Variety Store continued

Tongue-twister Toshiba 2.88M FDD's Announced

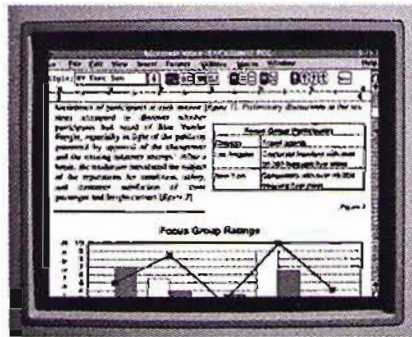
Featuring "perpendicular barium ferrite recording technology" (say that in a crowded bar at midnight), Toshiba announced their new high density, 2.88M (formatted) 3.5" floppy-disk drives and media in October. Although Teac has shown 2.88M, 3.5" FDD's since 1987 at various trade shows, the Toshiba announcement was first to announce media prices.

Sample prices for media range from \$8.25 per disk in sample quantities to \$7.75 per disk in 100 - 500 disk lots. Prices are anticipated to follow historical FD trends as the drives become "standard" and are seen as falling to "below" \$4.00 shortly.

□

continued on page 14

Word for Windows rede

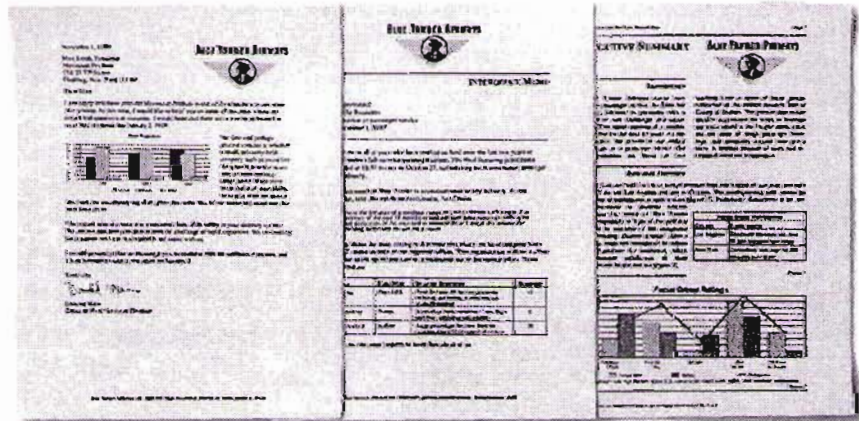


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those brochures are written by the marketing department and marketing people don't use computers.

Waiting for reviews to come out in the trade press used to be an alternative to reading the upgrade announcement, but most vendors have figured out how to prevent you from getting good information on their products. They either send the press a "pre-release" version for review, (any shortcomings mentioned in the review will be "corrected" in the final product, the vendor assures us) or the software vendor puts a time limit on the upgrade so that you have to make your decision before the trade press has time to do anything other than a cursory "first look".

If you decide to take a plunge and buy the upgrade, the fun has only begun. Getting the upgrade ordered can be a real challenge.

For a recent upgrade to Ventura Desktop Publisher, Ventura required that I send in my original diskette # 2 to a Post Office Box in San Diego. If they didn't receive the diskette, then I had to pay full price for a new version of the program.

Like most people, I use UPS, Federal Express or other package delivery systems that automatically insure any package they send. But none of those folks deliver to a Post Office Box! The only way to make sure that my diskette # 2 got to Ventura was to go to the Post Office, stand in line, fill out their forms, and pay about \$5.00 for their insurance. When questioned about the use of a Post Office Box, the folks at Ventura said that it was to "speed up processing of upgrades". They are cashing my check right away but, using that speedy post office box scheme, they are currently taking about 6 weeks to send out the upgrade.

I also asked Ventura why they needed the diskette #2. Their response was that they didn't want people selling the old version of their program. My point to them was that if the upgrade was really an improvement, then people using the old version might just want to buy their own copy of the upgraded version to get all those improvements.

The fun doesn't end when you place the order. When the upgrade arrives you have to install it. Upgrade installation is rarely painless or without stress. After all, you probably have some data associated with the current version that you still need after you complete the upgrade. Don't count on the upgrade leaving your data intact!

Most software programs come with installation programs. My experience has been that only about half of those installation programs handle the situation where you want to update an existing version. The other half require that you remove your data, delete all the old files, install the software as if it was the first time you ever used it, and then it is up to

you to put your data back and hope that the data formats haven't changed.

IBM's Platinum Accounting software is one of the best PC based accounting software packages and it has to have one of the worst upgrade/installation programs. I recently upgraded a company using Platinum from version 6.0 to 2.1. Yes, I know, version numbers usually go up, not down, but IBM does things a little differently.

The installation procedure requires you to delete all the program and associated files before starting the installation of the new version. (It makes you think twice about the reliability of your backup system.) Having deleted everything, I went through the installation procedure with each accounting module. Since this system was running on a local area network, I had also purchased 5 groups of 3 multi-user packs so that 15 people could use the accounting system at one time. This meant that I did a lot of installs to get the new version built.

The good news is that when it starts up, the new version of Platinum recognizes that the data files containing the accounting information need to be converted to the new format. The bad news is that nobody else can use the system until this time-consuming reorganization is complete. No problem, I allocated an entire weekend to get the job done.

The manual mentions that the Platinum software will remind you that you have 15 days to register every time you start up the program. What it doesn't tell you is that no more than 3 of your 15 users can use the program until you register. Imagine my surprise on Monday morning when that fourth user couldn't get into Platinum. In addition, the Platinum people are in California and even though they claim to start answering the phones at 6:00 a.m., I wasn't able to get through until 9:35 a.m. Dallas time. This is at a company where the accounting people start work at 7:30 a.m.

So the next time you buy a software product, take a second to read the name of the company that produced it. Keep in mind that over the next couple of years you will probably get to know them real well.

Jim

▲



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)

SIG Coordinator's Report

I generally don't have a column in the SIG Happenings section, but I wanted to take time to thank the Special Interest Group leaders for their work. Each month, these volunteers prepare discussions and programs to present at our Saturday meetings. No one is paying them to do this, and as far as I know, they haven't been convicted of any MAJOR crimes with this as their court-ordered community service (although ... a certain Paradox SIG leader was wearing a shirt with a number stenciled on the pocket).

These volunteers enjoy what they are doing, and they are the reason that we continue to have a users group dedicated to helping others. I also want to thank the leaders who write columns for this section of the newsletter. The reports keep all of us up-to-date on what we can expect at the next meetings.

Please remember to support the SIG leaders, encourage them, help them, bring goodies, (oh, I mean bring your ideas), and keep them challenged. They make my job as SIG Coordinator easy.

Those who can, teach; those who want to learn, are taught; those who are capable of neither, get elected to Congress.

Andy Oliver

Communications SIG

The October 1990 Comm Sig had a presentation of the Executive Assistant user friendly word processor and Communications software front-end for MCI Mail by Mark Haley of Analytical Software, Inc.

For the November Comm Sig we will try to have Dialog Marketing Information Services, UDS, or Micom out to speak to us.

And we're contemplating a Comm Sig Christmas Party for the month of December.

Pete Testa

The C++ SIG

The first session of the new C++ SIG was a resounding success, with the hundreds of enthusiastic attendees gaining dramatic new insight from the presentation by Messrs. Cook and Cobb, and punctuating the meeting on numerous occasions with wild applause. Okay, okay, maybe it wasn't THAT great. But November's "SIG Happenings" are due before October's meeting takes place, so I had to write SOMETHING.

Actually, if all went according to plan, the discussion at the first meeting centered on the differences between C and C++, and some of the features that C has developed as a result of the influence of C++. There was also discussion of available resources for those interested in C++, and a special offer on the Zortech C++ compiler. The discussion at the second meeting will focus on object-oriented programming in general, and C++ classes in particular.

Starting in December, we plan to dive into a programming project that will span several months, and cover a variety of C and C++ topics.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

dBase SIG

At the October meeting we discussed lesson 8 of the dBASE IV Workbook. Lesson 8 explains the concepts of how to report in a multifile application. This includes: setting up a view query to serve as the basis for generating multifile reports, creating a tabular report that includes fields from more than one database, grouping a multifile report, and generating a forms-based report.

This is the schedule we will use over the next 2 months, see you there.

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 Galnes and
Rodney Haas

DOS SIG

After Microsoft's October presentation, what can we say. (Well, actually, this is being written well before the October DOS SIG Meeting and is based on the assumption that Microsoft's Andy Hill did appear and did discuss DOS 5.0.)

This also assumes that Jim Hoisington actually went to — and returned from — the Microsoft Summit Meeting with NTPCUG President Zack Porterfield in time for the DOS SIG Meeting as well.. Golly, I love foretelling future events!

If you saw me "playing NTPCUG President" in October, please disregard at least one of the two paragraphs above, if not both. If we ever decided on where to hold the NTPCUG Business Meeting, that is. At any rate, we'll get back to more mundane (and important) issues in the DOS world in November.

Installing new software releases will be a prime topic — and how to accommodate incompatible system configurations in using new packages. Windows 3.0 vs. non-Windows applications are a really good example, with one application screaming for massive amounts of LIM (EMS) memory while another, equally im-



portant, application wants everything in extended memory (i.e., for Windows 3.0.) How to end the RAM conflict(s) and stay happy will be a major concern.

Some lucky NTPCUG member may win a fresh copy of PC-DOS 1.0, or an original, un-autographed copy of Peter Norton's 1983 version of Understanding the IBM PC. Otherwise, we'll have the usual altercation(s) between vociferous CP/M-86 and UC P-System aficionados during the closing Q & A portion of the November DOS SIG Meeting.

Reagan Andrews

LAN SIG

Have you heard any good LAN stories lately? We've heard several good ones at the last couple of LAN SIG meetings. Come join us on November 10th.

During the November LAN SIG meeting we hope to have a representative of the WordPerfect Corporation with us to demonstrate WordPerfect Office. They always do an excellent job when they speak to groups like ours. Please check the LAN SIG area on the club's BBS for the latest details.

See ya there at 10am!

Bernie VanRoekel

OS/2 for End Users SIG

This month's meeting and all future meetings will be moving to the 12:00 noon time slot to avoid conflicts with some of the other SIG's.

November will be just the second meeting of this new SIG ... plenty of time to get involved with what's happening with OS/2. This month, we'll be discussing the newest OS/2 announcements (rumored and newly announced). Our discussions will try to focus on what they mean to the OS/2 user and how to take advantage of them.

We expect a lively discussion, and DOS and Windows users are welcome to attend.

One of the key objectives of the meeting will be to let the group firm-up the topics planned for the next few meetings.

Bob Fermier

Paradox SIG

To all who missed the September SIG, I won't tell you what happened with the Demo. Oh well, show up next month maybe I'll do something else equally dumb!

The October meeting will have been spent exploring the possibilities and abilities of the Paradox Custom Configuration Script. Thought we would do that because I just upgraded to release 3.5.

Have had an offer for a presentation by someone other than your's truly. Ah, how pleasant! I'll give details as things develop. I intend to continue with the database design project. The new plan is to work on that when nothing more interesting is happening.

Now that I know there are two partitions on the intelligent two wheelers' disk drive, things should be a bit more entertaining and informative.

Really like Karen Findley's visits. I am trying my best not to wear her good nature thin too quickly. I plan to ask her for another presentation before the holiday season.

See you at the next meeting.

Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

This Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you! ... if you consider yourself any of the following: ... a novice ... a new PC owner ... a beginner with PC's ... a person curious about PC's ... a soon-to-be PC owner ... a personal (versus professional) PC user ... or ... a PC user needing to review some "fundamentals".

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the "fundamentals of personal computers." Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (2nd or 3rd Saturday on the 7th floor of the Infomart in Dallas). After four monthly meetings (covering four classes each), the entire 16-class curriculum is begun again. The classes are presented in numerical sequence, but you can take them in any sequence convenient to your personal schedule. The classes always start each month at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 PM. Since each class is a "stand-alone" ...

i.e. self-contained and NOT requiring any other classes as prerequisites ... you can begin attending at any time convenient to your other priorities and schedule. In addition to receiving informative instruction from people very knowledgeable in their field and class topic, you also receive a set of handout notes for each class, to allow you later review. There are no homework assignments, no pressures, no tests, and no dumb questions. You don't even have to be a member of the NTPCUG before you attend ... **ALTHOUGH YOUR ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN NTPCUG AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS.**

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

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

The four classes for NOVEMBER 1990 will be:

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

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

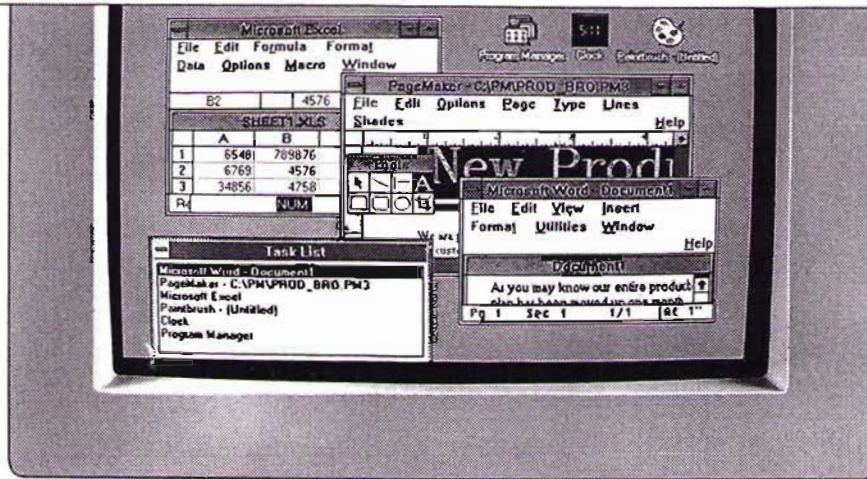
Assistant SIG leader, Jim Hoisington, returned from his annual pilgrimage to the banks of the Neches river near Bridge City, Texas.

Jim told of being visited by extra-terrestrials who revealed to him news of the impending merger of two large personal computer software companies. (Jim may have been breathing a little too many of the fumes from the petrochemical plants.)

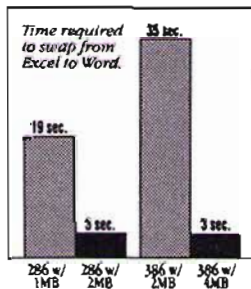
Come join us this month for more exciting revelations of the PC industry.

Windows Applications SIG

Hello all you Windows 3.0 users, my name is Roy Cassas and I am very excited about starting a new SIG dedicated to Windows Users. The current



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adding at least 2MB to run Word for Windows[®]—at least 4MB if you're on a network or use large applications like Excel[®]. And, without additional memory, you'll waste time waiting to access applications, fonts, and graphics.

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The solution? An Intel[®] Above[™] Board—voted number one in *PC Week's* Corporate Satisfaction Poll two years in a row. Above Boards provide up to 14MB³ of memory and are guaranteed compatible with Windows and hundreds of other DOS packages.

To find out how Above Boards can open more Windows for you, call Intel today at (800) 538-3373. To have information faxed directly to you, call (800) 525-3019 and request Document #9959.

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³With 6MB Pageback memory option. Timing performance test is repeated using an IBM PS/2 Model 50 and Above Board w/ 2 Plus running Windows 3.0 in standard mode, and an IBM PS/2 Model 70 w/ Above Board 50/52 running Windows 3.0 in standard mode. © 1990 Intel Corporation. Above and 586 are Trademarks of Intel Corporation. Windows, Word for Windows, and Excel are trademarks of Microsoft Corp.

Windows/OS/2 SIG will continue to be a developers SIG. I felt there was room for a group that was more for users, and considering the sales numbers Windows is putting up, there are quite a few. I would hope that the group will provide a forum for those very satisfied users where everything seems to work, like myself, to those who seem to find all the bugs that inevitably crop up on some systems, like an associate of mine.

I hope to have demos from some of the leading Windows developers, discussions about some of the Windows shareware and freeware that is available, and just about anything concerning Windows in the corporate world and at home. I will listen to any suggestions and I will gladly accept any assistance. We have tentatively

scheduled to start meeting at 9:00am in October. Please plan to attend and bring all your experiences and questions so that we can make this a successful and beneficial SIG for all.

Roy Cassas

Word SIG

We may have some new wordprocessing format translation software to review for Word 5.0 in November. Wish I could be more aggressively forceful (marketing-speak-wise) and positive about this, but this note is being written well before the October Word SIG Meeting and World War III may break out by the November Word SIG Meeting.

I do know we'll be giving away a copy of Word for Windows at the

end of the November meeting. If it's a copy of 1.0, I'll include a set of WfW 1.1 update disks without breaking the original package shrink-wrap. Brings up one of the topics planned — transfer of formatted documents between the Macintosh Word 4.0 and the PC versions of Word 5.0 and Word for Windows 1.1 and why it's worth the upgrade cost(s). to go from 1.0 to 1.1.

Why two different platforms? Mostly because many business settings are equipped with both real computers (PC's) and the Apple products, and many users are experiencing a need to transfer documents between the two machines before final output.

Reagan Andrews

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Norton Backup

by Neal Berkowitz

The latest entry in the field of data backup is Norton Computing with their Norton Backup. Like other backup programs on the market Norton Backup provides the user with a fast efficient way to save and restore data from a hard disk. And like the major contenders on the market, Norton makes the job easy for beginners while permitting a large number of options for the advanced user. Additionally, the advanced user can preset all options so the program can be fully automated to back up any or all files and directories via a batch file.

The program is initiated at the DOS prompt by entering the command NBACKUP which starts the program. The program first scans the hard disk for the directories present followed by the user being presented with the options to backup a disk, restore data to a disk, configure the program, or exit the program. Configuring the program permits the selection of hardware options as well as software level. Exiting the program does the obvious.

The backup option features numerous options. The operator can select specific files or directories to backup via a two column menu. On the left hand side of the menu are the directories arranged in a hierarchal tree. On the right hand side of the screen are the files from the indicated directory. This dual menu approach is extremely usable by even the most novice user. By simply tabbing over to the desired file or directory and typing the enter key, the user can enter or subtract the indicated item from the

backup list. Files selected for backup are indicated by a check mark next to the file name providing an immediate indicator as to which files are to be included in a backup. The advanced mode adds a command line table to permit the user to enter files, directories, and subdirectories in the standard DOS format. For example, to back up the root directory on drive C, the user need only enter "C:*.*". The command line can optionally instruct the program to include the contents of all subdirectories.

Backups can be selected to be full, incremental, differential, full copy, or incremental copy. In plain English, a full backup backs up the full disk and marks all the files as being backed up. An incremental backup saves all files changed since the last full backup. A differential backup backs up all files that have been changed since the last full or incremental backup. The full copy and incremental copy are for special cases. The full copy backs up all files but does affect the normal backup cycle. Any differential or incremental backup will not be affected by the full backup. A incremental copy is identical to an incremental backup but it too does not affect the backup cycle.

Other features of the backup function provide the user to optionally select the backup to optimize for speed, size of the backup, or a composite of both. The program will determine the speed of the processor and provide a guideline as to which mode is best. The level of verification can be selected to verify every track, every eighth track, or to do no verification. The program also provides an optional mode to format the disk to provide a greater amount of data to be stored on each floppy. ➤

When in operation, the backup function provides an immediate report of the files being backed up. As a file is saved to disk the fact that it has been saved is indicated by the file name changing color. The amount of time spent on the backup is indicated - and constantly updated - as is the wait time while the system waits for the operator to change disks.

The restoration process is similar to backup. The operator can view the last backup directory as it is maintained on the hard disk. Alternately the operator can select any previous backup directory saved on the disk or use the directory saved on the last floppy of the saved set. If the last disk in a set is bad and there is no directory on the hard disk the operator can rebuild the directory by having the program scan through all disks in the backup set. The backup directory is displayed in the same manner as was used for disk restoration and in a similar manner the operator can restore all or some files from the backup set.

The big question is how does Norton compare to the other programs on the market for backup. One of the most popular programs is Fastback. A comparison between Fastback Plus version 2.0 and Norton backup provides a few interesting points. Norton is a bit faster and more efficient in a standard mode where an optimal compacting of the files were requested and an intermediate level of verification was selected. Norton required about 12 minutes verses 17 minutes for Fastback to back up 25 megabytes of files on disk. Norton required 11 disks to perform the backup verses 13 for Fastback. Fastback needs either the hard disk backup or builds the backup file set from all the disks in the set, there is not a provision for obtaining a backup directory off the Fastback disk. Norton also has the benefit of being able to use the backup set as two partial sets if one disk in the middle is bad. Fastback does not have any provision to easily use a backup set if one or more disks in the set are bad.

On the subjective side, Norton has a little better look/feel than Fastback. Fastback provides only a 24 line display, Norton provides up to 43 lines on a VGA monitor. Norton shows each file backed up by keeping a page of files being backed up in a directory tree and scrolling down the page. Fastback uses the screen more like an old CRT updating the bottom line for both files and directories being updated but it scrolls up only when the directory changes.

There are a few minor complaints directed at the Norton Backup. As noted, when a file is selected for inclusion or exclusion on a backup it is so marked. In addition, if a directory or any of its contents are toggled from a save to a don't save state or vice versa the directory is marked as having its save status changed. Unfortunately, if a series of changes are made with the end result that the directory is identi-

cal to its initial state, the directory retains its changed state flag. A second complaint is toward the estimate of how many disks the backup will require. The number is calculated on the worst possible case of minimal compression. If a greater disk compression option is selected the number does not change leading one to believe a backup will require more disks than it actually does. Both of these complaints are minor.

The bottom line is that Norton Backup is a very usable, friendly program. Backing up a hard disk is never a pleasant endeavor but with Norton Backup this maintenance effort becomes less difficult. People are inclined to forgo backing up hard disks because of the time and effort involved. While not as entertaining as a game, the Norton Backup is simple enough to use that most people will not mind the effort.

Neal

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New BBS Phone Numbers.

The Lines They Are A Changing

Now is the time to change your dialing directory. The NTPCUG BBS has installed the new lines and they are all in the 214 area code. The board has expanded to three telephone lines. Two are local Dallas lines and one is a Metro line. Metro lines are considerably more expensive in the Addison area and we have decided try this configuration, hopefully it will not be a problem for those calling from 817. The new telephone numbers are:

- (214) 387-2751 - US Robotics Courier 2400,
was (817) 461-0508
- (214) 387-2752 - MultiTech MultiModem 224 E,
was (817) 461-0425
- (214) 263-9036 - ATI Technologies 2400eto,
new Metro line

The two metro lines that we had will use the call forward feature until we feel that the membership has been notified. Right now, we effectively have three Metro lines, but the old 461- lines will be disconnected shortly.

Those living in the 214 area code should try the 387-numbers first as a courtesy to people in the 817 area code. If you are calling from area code 817 you should prefix the number with a 214 (no 1 is necessary since it is not a long distance call). Some of us that are now in the 214 area code will become the 903 area code on November 4. We hope the Metro line service will extend to this area, but I was unable to verify this before this before the article deadline.

Tom Prickett

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What's Happening on the BBS



The following message threads were pulled from the NTPCLUG BBS.

From the DOS Conference...

Message # 6 From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 07/26/90 7:41 pm Subject: Total ly bizarre, possibly legitimate, weirded-out problem

A few days ago, I saw a discussion on BIX of a problem I had never run into. It was so incredible that I went back a few days later to reread it, realizing that the messages appeared in the late March, early April time frame. The problem described was so strange I began to wonder if it might be an April Fool's joke. Alas, the messages had been deleted by the time I logged on again.

The original problem was from someone who was formatting several floppies. I think he said he was using MS-DOS 3.2, but I'm not sure of that. After formatting several, he started getting "Track 0 bad, media unusable" errors. He reported that after rebooting, he was able to format the same diskettes with no problem.

He quickly got a response to his question from one of the conference moderators, who happens to be an associate editor of BYTE. The claim was that this was a known bug in some versions of DOS — the 21st (and subsequent?) diskettes formatted with one instance of the DOS FORMAT command would fail with this error _____IF YOUR CONFIG.SYS FILE CONTAINED ANY LOWER CASE LETTERS_____!!!!!!!!!!!!

So now my question(s). Has anyone else heard of this? Is this really an April Fool's joke? Does Bill Gates have a better sense of humor than we gave him credit for? If I capitalize my AUTOEXEC.BAT file, will the documentation for C 6.0 appear whenever I spin a floppy backwards? (Or will it merely play "DRI is dead" on the speaker?) INQUIRING MINDS NEED TO KNOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

Rgds, Kent

Message # 8 From: Fred Williams Sent on: 07/27/90 7:26 am Subject: Reply: Totally bizarre, possibly legitimate, weirded-out pro

Kent,

Using chemicals to do things like that to your mind has been considered a criminal act for many years now. DRI is not dead. I have a copy of DR. DOS to prove it.

Fred

Message # 10 From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 08/01/90 7:15 am Subject: Reply: Totally bizarre, possibly legitimate, weirded-out pro

And while we're on the subject of config.sys (OOPS!!!! MAKE THAT CONFIG.SYS JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE!!!!), I RAN INTO ANOTHER INTERESTING PROBLEM YESTERDAY. I HAVE BEEN WORKING AT A CLIENT'S OFFICE, USING ONE OF THEIR MACHINES. (A HYUNDAI AT CLONE RUNNING HYUNDAI'S VERSION OF MS-DOS 3.21.) I MADE SOME CHANGES TO THE CONFIG.SYS AND AUTOEXEC FILES TO ADD A DISK CACHE AND INCREASE THE ENVIRONMENT SIZE, BUT DIDN'T GET THE RESULTS I EXPECTED. AFTER SOME EXPERIMENTATION, I REALIZED THAT THE AUTOEXEC.BAT FILE DOES NOT GET EXECUTED AT STARTUP IF THE CONFIG.SYS FILE CONTAINS A 'SHELL=' LINE.

I'M TEMPTED TO CALL MICROSOFT ABOUT THIS, AND OFFER TO TRADE THEM THE HYUNDAI FOR A COPY OF THE C 6.0 DOCUMENTATION. (IF THEY TURN DOWN THAT OFFER, I COULD ALWAYS THREATEN TO SEND THEM THE HYUNDAI _AND_ A POT OF INFOMART COFFEE ...)

STILL DISGUSTED AFTER ALL THESE YEARS,
KENT

From the Hardware Conference...

Message # 22 From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 09/17/90 10:40 pm Subject: AST IRQ uses

Anyone know if the built-in VGA on an AST 386/20 uses an IRQ line or not.

Message # 23 From: Ken Loafman Sent on: 09/19/90 5:36 pm Subject: Reply: AST IRQ uses

It's easy enough to tell — look at the interrupt vectors in low memory to see if any of them point to the VGA BIOS which should reside at C000:0000 to C000:7FFF (possibly less). If any of the hardware vectors in the first 16 point to C000:x then it does.

...Kenneth

Message # 24 From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 09/19/90 10:17 pm Subject: Reply: AST IRQ uses

Ken,

Thanks for your reply. Unfortunately, AST managed to kill their chances of being considered as a file server even without the VGA concerns. Anyone who puts out a 386/20 with only seven slots and then occupies one of them with their CPU (leaving only six available) isn't very smart. If my memory serves me correctly, some of their cheaper machines have only four slots. For being a somewhat expensive machine I consider their tactics tacky at best.

Message # 26 From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 09/22/90 11:18 pm Subject: Reply: AST IRQ uses

Its not the upgradable CPU I have a problem with, WYSE was doing that before AST if my memory serves me correctly. The problem I have is using up a valuable slot for it. The vendors aren't thinking about the potential uses of their machines (or they are trying to force customers to buy the more expensive tower models). Same old song, trying to make money by playing games rather than attempting to discern and meet customer needs.

Message # 27 From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 09/23/90 10:36 am Subject: Reply: AST IRQ uses

This is fun, Leroy! We can bounce around the conferences trading barbs viz the PC-Maker conspiracy to deprive us of our money, or, we can look at it from a slightly different viewpoint.

PC makers are doing just what you suggest — attempting to discern and meet customer needs — and have recognized that

1) Not all customers have the same needs, 2) Lots of customers NEVER open the case on their PC's, i.e., aren't adding multiple boards, functions, etc. 3) But, many customers do want "growth capability" in terms of CPU upgrades, speed, etc. 4) And the majority of complaints they receive from the corporate arena have more to do with size (too big) and noisiness (too loud) of "typical" PC.

They have two options: make every PC large enough to fill the server/multi-function role knowing that the bulk of the expansion room will be wasted, or, produce a variety of PC sizes with each "tailored" to specific market segments.

Yes, the tower configuration boxes do cost more. That's because they tend to have heavier-duty construction, use more (and more expensive) material(s), and come equipped with a larger, high-capacity power supply and increased cooling capacity to handle all the extra boards and subsequent added heat. If you wish, you can purchase "PC's" with 12 expansion slots and room for four (4) full-height,

5.25" hard disks in addition to a like number of floppy disk drives. (PC's in "" since these are approaching "super-micro" or "micro-mini" size and capability.)

Same thing holds with autos. Basic transportation via VW bugs vs minivans for large families, and ending with a Ferrari — Andrew Chalk's basic transportation if wishes would only prevail.

Reagan....

From the Word Processing Conference...

Message # 11 From: Dan Marmion Sent on: 09/16/90 11:47 am Subject: Reply: Line drawing in WFW

Leroy, I don't remember exactly either, but I think I was trying to make a couple of points.

One was that the high-end word processors are indeed complex and not simple to master, but the power they offer is valuable when you need it. When I'm writing something, most of what I write needs only simple word-wrapping and paragraph demarcations. But there's almost always some portion of my document where I want to change a font or point size, put in a hanging indent, maybe even create a sidebar or some other graphic. I appreciate the fact that the word processor allows me to do that with very little trouble.

My other point was that most people use only a portion of their word processor's power. They don't have a bin 2, they don't care about gutter margins, they could care less about parallel columns, they don't know what a widow/orphan is, they use the same base font for everything, footnotes were something you had to deal with in college, etc. What they need to do is type, maybe change a margin, add underline to text, and maybe block and move something (obviously I've oversimplified this, but I think the point stands). What these folks need to do 90% of the time can be done easily, with very few keystrokes, in almost any good word processor. Those commands are not buried deep within a menu structure. In WordPerfect, for example, you hit F8 to turn on underline, and when you're finished you hit it again to turn it off. Changing margin settings does require a few more keystrokes, granted, but after you've done it once or twice it's not that big a deal.

What I'm getting at is that I don't think WordPerfect is better than Word, all things considered, nor do I think Word is better than WordPerfect. They are both very powerful word processors, with much to offer the "power user" and yet simple enough that most people can learn the parts they need without too much effort. Although they employ different approaches to the so-called "user interface," I don't think one approach is

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better than the other. I think if you took a person who had never seen a computer or word processor and trained them thoroughly on one, then told them to learn the other, they would prefer the first one they learned. I think this would be true whether they learned Word, then WordPerfect, or WP and then Word. (I don't have any soap boxes either, do I?)

BTW, your point about WP Corp's unlimited, toll-free customer support is a good one that I think goes a long way toward explaining their ascendancy in the marketplace, but my experience with Microsoft's support, although limited, suggests that you are a wee bit harsh on them. Still, they could take a cue from WP on that issue.

Somebody else's turn now.

Dan

Message # 15 From: Fred Willams Sent on: 09/17/90 8:09 am Subject: Reply: Line drawing In WfW

All,

Do I hear the sound of "Baby Ducks" quacking? :-)

Fred

With a personal history of "Easywriter, Easywriter +, Multimate Advantage?, and finally WP+ 5.1, I can safely say I haven't ever seen a wordprocessor I like.

Message # 30 From: Peyton Weaver Sent on: 09/27/90 9:57 pm Subject: EDLIN ???

Reagan, informed sources suggest you are a regular user of EDLIN. Tell me it ain't so or you'll shatter the image created by the article in the Dallas Morning News last Sunday in the Dallas Life section.

Peyton

Message # 31 From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 09/29/90 1:00 pm Subject: Reply: EDLIN ???

Hmmmmmm..... But, yes, I do use EDLIN, especially on strange systems the "owner" hasn't installed a real editor on, or when I don't know the syntax and command structure of the real editor. This is usually the case when they've messed up a CONFIG.SYS file or the AUTOEXEC.BAT file and quick repairs are needed.

Just for kicks, once wrote a 21-page report using EDLIN. Worked O.K., compared to a manual typewriter. Quickly switched to the editor in IBM's old Word Proof, and was pretty happy — until I got WORD 1.00.

Had used PerfectWriter, but found EDLIN faster and easier to use. So there!

Reagan....

Message # 32 From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 09/29/90 3:26 pm Subject: Reply: EDLIN ???

Reagan,

You mentioned one of the major reasons I use EDLIN: Its EVERYWHERE. If they have DOS then you can usually count on EDLIN. Another reason is that, by the time a real word processor loads into memory, you can practically have simple changes to small files (such as AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS) done and be out of EDLIN.

Message # 33 From: Fred Willams Sent on: 10/01/90 8:18 am Subject: Reply: EDLIN ???

Leroy,

Why don't you stop beating yourself over the head and carry a copy of "QEDIT" in your briefcase like I do. With QEDIT I don't end up kicking the tube out of the client's system.

Yes I do carry both a 5 1/4 and a 3 1/2.

Boy, be glad when we get the final BBS lines installed the noise is super bad!

Fred

Message # 34 From: Fred Willams Sent on: 10/01/90 8:15 am Subject: Reply: EDLIN ???

Reagan,

Well now that I know your WP history, I can see how the first "real" WP software product had no problem becoming your mother duck!

Luck would have it that I only used "EDLIN" (actually "ED" on CPM) extensively back in the mid 70's. Before coming back to personal computers, I was exposed to several mini-computer editors. So, I was not quite as impressed with the first real PC WP package I saw, as I would have been coming straight from EDLIN. (boy does that sentence structure suck!)

Oh well have at it "Editor" Reagan.

Fred

Message # 34 From: Connie Andrews Sent on: 10/02/90 6:26 pm Subject: Reply: EDLIN ???

Fred -

Can't speak for Reagan and whether he would touch your last message (#34) with a 10-foot pole or not, but I would encourage you to continue work on your special, top-secret, "spell check" project...

Connie

AL



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

In browsing through some of the BBS conferences recently, I ran into a message from Fred Williams on the DOS SIG. He had just left the Assembler SIG, where Leroy Tennison had left a message, and, lo and behold, here in the DOS SIG was ANOTHER message from Leroy. "Ahhh," said Fred, "here you are again."

As much as those two play tag, Fred, Leroy, Reagan, and many others, including Dan Marmion in Oklahoma, are frequent contributors to our BBS. They respond to a myriad of questions on many of the BBS conferences, and grace us with their wit and wisdom. The wisdom, we all count on. The wit, we take with our coffee.

Many thanks to all of you who take the time to help us out on the BBS, including those who ask the questions that cause the wheels to turn in answer. And, may I add, many more thanks to your significant others for putting up with your activities...

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

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

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Joe Aderhold
Conley Andrews

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Timothy Carmichael
Christopher Carmichael
Paul Cunningham
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Tom Rex
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Steve Saunders (Anchor)
Fred Steadman
Andrine Stricherz (Anchor)
Connie Testa
Jose Valenciano
Paul Williams (Anchor)
Larry Wood
Thomas Zabel

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Charles Carter

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Kenneth Loafman
John Puckette
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With Special Thanks to:
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Bob Karleback

DOM Review/Presentation
Richard Bauman
Mark Gruner
Kenneth Loafman
Frank Miller
Cliff Murphy
John Puckette
Virginia Salter

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 turn-around custom programs plus custom reports. Call Mike Dudley - DYNAMATE SYSTEMS - 817-265-7799 (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:

Auditorium Presentations	
Timothy Carmichael	331-6303 (h) 661-4626 (w)
DOM Booth Activities	
Bill Drissel	264-9680 (h)
DOM Software Review	
Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information	
Connie Andrews	828-0699 (h)

On November 10, 1990, See What Word Processing Was Always Meant To Be. See Ami Professional.

Ami Professional, the award winning word processor from Samna, provides highly sophisticated, yet easy-to-use word processing under the Microsoft Windows environment. Everyone from corporate users polled by PC Week to the editors of PC World and Software Digest say Ami Professional sets the standard for word processing. Ami Professional's powerful features and variety of true WYSIWIG views enables users to create and edit complex documents. Ami Professional includes powerful table, charting, and drawing features.

So whether you're an executive who types only occasionally, or a heavy user who needs lots of specialized features, Ami Professional is definitely your type.

But don't take our word for it. Come see for yourself. A Samna representative will demonstrate Ami Professional at the November 10, 1990 meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group. Members of the user group who attend the demonstration will be eligible for a raffle to win Ami Professional packages. Everyone who attends the demonstration will be able to buy Ami Professional at a special price.

Ami
PROFESSIONAL[®]
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION North Texas PC Users Group

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

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9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Future Trends Software
Now Your PC Puts the Universe at Your Command

Samna Corporation
Amí Professional, Word Processing That Lets You See What's On Your Mind
NTPCUG Business Meeting

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

Adobe Systems Incorporated
Adobe Type Manager: Font Scaling for Windows 3.0 Applications

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

Special Interest Groups

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

10:00 - 10:55
Basic Programming
Graphics
Local Area Networks
Paradox

10:00 - 10:55 (cont)

Personal Users
Unix/Xenix

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

12:00 - 12:55

C++/Advanced C
Communications
Investors
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
RBase

1:00 - 1:55

Beginners C Language
Business Apps./DAC Easy
LOTUS
OS/2-Windows Developers
Personal Users
Turbo Pascal
WORD

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
Databases
WordPerfect

SIG Coordinator Andy Oliver (214)223-4044 h
K. B. Barton (214)747-0209 w
(214)891-0941 h
Assembler Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. (214)226-3461 h
Basic Programming Kent Kingery (214)458-8711 w
(214)317-0125 h
(214)775-1503
Beginners C Lang. Stan Milam (214)226-3461 h
Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. (214)243-5034 h
Beginners Pascal Phil Chamberlain
Business Applic. Bruce Schubert (214)233-8353 w
C++ / Advanced C Kent Cobb
Tom Cook
Communications Pete Testa (214)495-7508
Doug Gortle (214)618-9002 h
(214)464-7942 w
DAC Software Andrew Laham (214)680-1107 h
Greg Cohen (214)327-4172 h
Put Shaw (214)669-9633 w
(214)235-2559 h
Databases Rodney Haas (214)255-4400 h
(214)407-0070 w
DOS Vincent Gaines (214)418-3101 h
Jim Holsington (214)828-0699 h
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)644-8643 h
Genealogy Minnie Champ (214)307-1259 h
Graphics Richard Terro (214)681-0202 h
Hdw Solutions David McGehee (214)837-9676 w
Gary Johnson (214)837-5851 h

Investors Bernie Van Roekel (817)451-4540 w
Local Area Net Francis Bright
Mark Gruner (214)964-8174 h
Pat Henley (214)229-9216 h

LOTUS James Dunn (214)279-1738 h
(817)962-4596 w

OS/2-Windows Dev Bob Farmer (214)550-2604 w
Fred Williams (214)492-1316

OS/2 for End Users Bob Presley (214)887-1879 h
Bob Russell (214)422-4269 h

Paradox Kent Cobb (214)418-3101 h
Jim Holsington (817)467-4681 h

Personal Users Richard Hauslein (214)352-0888 h
Don Branham (214)229-9216 w
(214)436-1870 h

Programmers Don Chick (214)276-2624 h
Doug Scott (817)267-0768 h
(817)878-0367 w

R:Base Jim Stahlworth (214)240-1085 h
(214)604-3683 w

Software Review Jay Shilstone (214)827-5751 h
(214)361-9681 w

Turbo Pascal Roy Cassas (817)481-7184 h
(214)604-1004 w

Unix/Xenix Don Chick (214)240-1085 h
Doug Scott (817)267-0768 h
(817)878-0367 w

Volunteers Jim Stahlworth (214)240-1085 h
(214)604-3683 w

Windows Applic. Jay Shilstone (214)827-5751 h
(214)361-9681 w

WORD Roy Cassas (817)481-7184 h
(214)604-1004 w

WordPerfect Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)828-0699
David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Dorothy Bertine (817)387-9993 h
K.B. Barton (817)468-3326 h
(214)747-0209 w

* Beginning Pascal will not meet in November and December.



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.

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Disk of the Month Kathryn Loadman (214)596-2539
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(214)387-2752
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P.O. Box 780066
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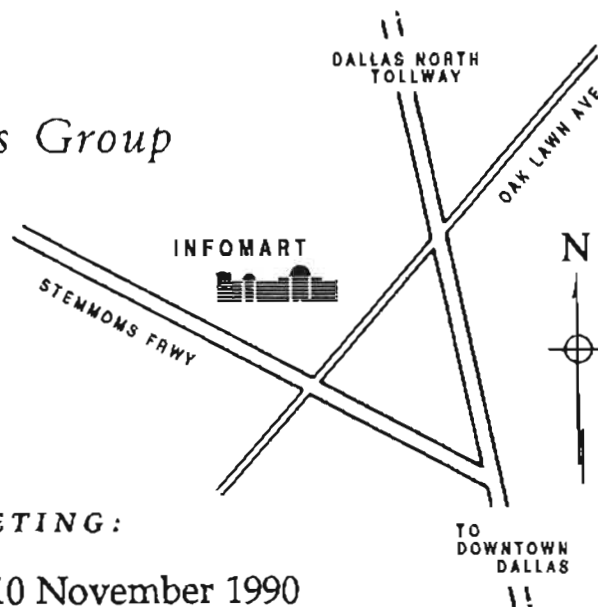
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10 November 1990