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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 January North Texas PC NEWS: Monday, December 10th

Meeting Dates:

December Meeting - 2nd Sat (8th)
January Meeting 1st Sat (5th)
February Meeting - 3rd Sat (16th)
(tentative)

Submit your articles for January PCN as early as possible!

We have a short turnaround this month since the meeting is on the 1st Saturday.

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 December — Timothy Carmichael

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM **NTPCUG Business Meeting**

There will be a drawing to give away a copy of the latest version of Lotus Agenda (for attending NTPCUG members with proof of membership).

Notice of other presentations will be posted in the ALL mailbox of the BBS and in the lobby at Infomart on Super Saturday.

Prez Sez

Voting News — December Update

During the meeting of November 10, 1990, pictures were taken and biographical sketches gathered for each nominee. If luck is with us, you should be able to find pictures of the candidates elsewhere in this PC News. This is your chance to review the slate.

As explained in last month's PC News, the January issue 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, January 5, 1991. 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.

Fall COMDEX 1990, Las Vegas, NV — How many RSVP's??!!

My long distance bill for November was a whopper. I RSVP'd around fourteen meetings with companies at COMDEX for the week of November 11 through 16, 1990. Unfortunately, there were no 800 numbers given and I just HAD to chat with each of them about their upcoming COMDEX presentations/exhibits.

As usual, my biggest problem at COMDEX was deciding which of these many vendor meetings, which are held away from the exhibit halls, to attend. You just run out of time!! Last year (1990) I didn't arrive until Sunday evening. That's too late. This year I arrived EARLY Sunday. There were "meetings" (more like parties) that started on Saturday night.

You run out of time at COMDEX because you must choose between the miles and miles of exhibitor aisles and many, many vendor meetings and parties. Vendor meetings hosted by the likes of Ashton Tate, Lotus, Intel, Borland, Symantec, Microsoft, Wordperfect and so on, are conducted away from the exhibit halls. They start around 8:00am where you get a full fledged or continental breakfast and time to talk with the firm's Pres and, if you're lucky, their technical gurus. More meetings with software and hardware companies, then lunch and dinner followed by informal parties hosted by these vendors continue on through the day and into the night. Now let's see...the product exhibits are where??

Meanwhile, you could easily spend the entire week going to the Las Vegas Convention Center, West Hall, Sands Convention Center, the Balley, Hilton, Mirage and others to actually see the products demonstrated and talk about the new and exciting features.

One thing was certainly prevalent this year as in prior years. As you listen to the pitch persons pitch their wares you can almost see Juan Valdez picking the rich, robust Columbian coffee beans and smell the aroma of the coffee brewing. Vendors seem to like to develop "full featured products whose development has been leveraged with years of technical team cultivation which results in highly efficient screen real estate and robust performance" . You mix Juan Valdez, Columbian coffee and a Bunn brand coffee maker and...well, you have the picture.

UniForum 1991

On January 22, 1991, Uniforum will open at the Infomart. This is the eighth annual UniForum and runs from January 22, through January 24, 1991.

There will be 250 exhibiting companies which will demonstrate UNIX systems hardware, software and services. A complete schedule of full-day and half-day tutorials, marketing panel discussions and technical paper presentations will make up the UniForum 1991 Conference program.

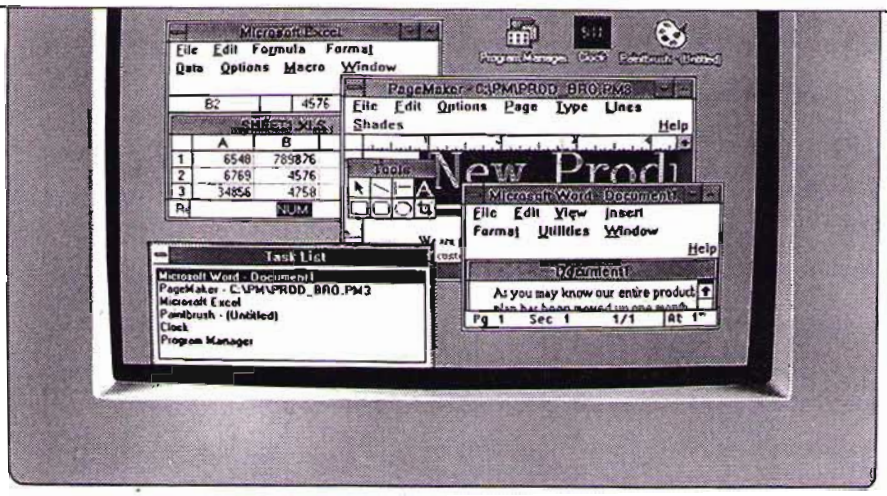
For more information call (800) 323-5155.

Thanks for the Memories —

In December (for the January 1991 PC News), Jim Hoisington, President Elect and soon to be President, will once again take over the Prez Sez column. Jim has a good deal of experience at the task for this is his third time through the paces. How does he do it??!
The most rewarding task, job, effort, a person can have is one that provides growth and return. I've had the privilege to enjoy both these pleasures this past year as the President for NTPCUG. For the many experiences and for the "unprecedented opportunity" I have had in the past year I must thank in particular Connie and Reagan Andrews.

There is a group of NTPCUG members I like to call the "central body of volunteers". As we marched down the months and planned the agenda items from meeting to meeting we tried to steer a course for NTPCUG that would provide for the present but look to the future. We had some victories and some failures. But most of all, we have the memories. Thanks.

Zack Porterfield



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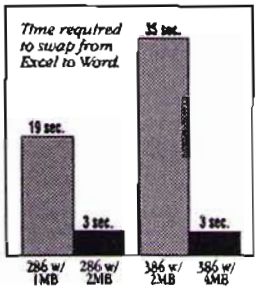

Above Board memory means faster access to more Windows applications.

The wraps have finally come off. Now that Windows™ 3.0 is out, you can switch to a graphical PC environment and handle multitasking applications with ease. Right?

Actually, as you add Window's applications, memory requirements increase. For example, Microsoft® recommends 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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*With 6MB Piggyback memory option. Timing performance test conducted using an IBM PS/2 Model 80 and Above Board 2 Plus running Windows 3.0 in standard mode, and an IBM PS/2 Model 70 and Above Board MCA2 running Windows 3.0 in enhanced mode. © 1990 Intel Corporation. Above and 386 are Trademarks of Intel Corporation. ®Windows, Word for Windows and Excel are trademarks of Microsoft Corp.

January is election month...

Nominee for President-Elect

Andy Oliver

Andy Oliver has been working with personal computers for 7 years and an NTPCUG member for 3 and a half years. He is currently the SIG Coordinator, responsible for SIG room assignments, NTPCUG equipment used in SIG meetings and preparing the SIG Haps column for the club newsletter. He has also served as the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for two years. Andy is Supervisor of Microcomputers for The Rosewood Corporation. In addition to his supervisory duties, he teaches Lotus and DOS classes at Rosewood. Andy earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Dallas Baptist University and is planning to return to school to pursue an MBA.

Nominees for Board of Directors

Reagan Andrews

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. has been working with personal computers since 1981 and an NTPCUG member since December 1982 when the group was meeting at SMU. He is currently on the Board of Directors (since 1989), the Word SIG Leader for 2 years, and the DOS SIG Co-Leader for 5 years. He also served as President-Elect and President in 1987 and 1988 respectively.

Reagan is a Clinical Psychologist who runs a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment program for combat veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Dallas. Reagan earned both a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and a Masters degree in Psychology from SMU and a Ph.D in Clinical Psychology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Mark Gruner

Mark Gruner has been working with personal computers since 1984 and an NTPCUG member since September, 1985. Currently, he is on the Board of Directors (since 1990), Lotus SIG Leader for 3 years, member of the Disk-of-the-Month Central Committee for 2 and a half years, and the NTPCUG representative to the Computer Council of Dallas for 1 year. Mark also gives presentations the Personal Users SIG on 1-2-3 and macros. Mark is a Senior Financial Analyst in the Corporate Financial Analysis Department at Electronic Data Systems (EDS). He earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Indiana University.

Kathryn Loafman

Kathryn Loafman has been using personal computers for six years and an NTPCUG member for six years. She has been working with the Disk-of-the-Month Central Committee for 4 years and head of that committee for the last three years. She also served on the NTPCUG Board of Directors in 1988. Kathryn is the Head of Serials Cataloging at the University of North Texas library. Her responsibilities include constructing, maintaining, and interpreting the records for the periodical literature held by the library using a variety of automated, on-line, and manual files and systems. Kathryn has been a professional librarian for 20 years. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Penn State and a Masters of Library Science from Columbia.

Spreadsheet Compilers

Benefits and Reviews

Part 2 of 2

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

This article is the second and final installment of an article about spreadsheet compilers. The first installment included an introduction to and benefits of spreadsheet compilers and reviews of two compilers for 1-2-3 spreadsheets - Baler from Baler Software, and King Jaguar from Sheng Labs.

In this installment, three additional spreadsheet compilers will be reviewed including Compile 1 to C from Resource Analysis International, @Liberty from SoftLogic Solutions, and Composa from Sheng Labs. Both Compile 1 to C and @Liberty are 1-2-3 spreadsheet compilers. Composa is the recently released Symphony compiler from Sheng Labs.

After the reviews there are comparisons between the four 1-2-3 spreadsheet comparisons, and a personal recommendation.

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.

COMPILE 1 TO C Ve rsion 2.2 - RESOURCE ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

Version 2.2 of Compile 1 to C is designed to support 1-2-3 release 2.2. There is a demo disk for Compile 1 to C in the NTPCUG Disk- of-the-Month library. The installation process was unusual. Most of the program files are placed in a second level subdirectory called 12C\RAIEXE. Using this directory required changing the path command to access the directory. The directory 12C is used for compiling and customization. When I first tried to compile the test spreadsheet, I got an error message. The installation program mentioned that this might happen and if it did to add the statement

```
SHELL=COMMAND.COM /E:00200 /P
```

to the CONFIG.SYS file. This statement increases the DOS environment space. My normal environment space is very small and I found this somewhat unusual.

Compiling the mortgage amortization spreadsheet was easy though. The command was COMPILE FILENAME and the compiled spreadsheet was created. All 1-2-3 @ functions and all macro commands are supported. However, blank cells that may have a formula written to them through a macro may not work. However, the manual offers several work arounds.

Unsupported menu commands include Worksheet Insert, Delete, Page; Worksheet Global Recalculation Columnwise and Rowwise, Global Default Update, Other, and Printer Name; Range Justify, and File Extract Formulas.

The customization options I wanted to add were changing the menu access status and adding a customized titlescreen. The title screen proved easy but not what I wanted. Compile 1 to C has a fill-in-the-blank form for you to fill out and use as your titlescreen.

To change the access status of the menu was also easy but not as powerful as Baler or King Jaguar. In changing the menu access, the developer has to turn off entire menu structures. For instance, the developer must turn off the entire Worksheet menu option even if some of the sub-menu options (such as Window) would be beneficial to the user. While some commands are not needed, consider the Print menu. If you enable the Print menu, then your print macros would have to set all print options to assure that it will print correctly. The alternative is to turn off the Print command and not provide the user any other way to print except the developer-defined macros. ►

The distribution disk included a configuration utility, the run- time engine, the two compiled spreadsheet files, and setup options file.

Compile 1 to C is a very good program but does not provide the features, flexibility, and capabilities of Baler or King Jaguar.

Compile 1 to C sells for $495.00 and can be ordered from Resource Analysis International, 1445 S Oakhurst Drive #200, Los Angeles, CA 90035. Their phone number is (213) 281-6230 or (213) 286-3160.

@LIBERTY Version 2.01 - Softlogic Solutions

@Liberty version 2.01 is compatible with 1-2-3 release 2.01. Installation was painless and straight forward. No need to modify the AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS files.

Compiling the spreadsheet used the command PREPARE FILENAME. The compilation process was interesting because it reads and converts the formulas, strings, and macros adding the number of each up as it goes. Then the process reverses as the formulas are verified and written to disk. No errors were encountered during the compilation process.

@Liberty supports the 1-2-3 macro language for 1-2-3 release 2.01 as well as all of the @ functions. @Liberty also provides some additional macro commands.

Next I wanted to verify that the model worked as intended including macros. The model calculated correctly, but the print macros did not work because @Liberty does not support the 1-2-3 menu structure. Therefore, to use @Liberty you have to modify macros to only use the menu commands supported by @Liberty. @Liberty has several menu commands that 1-2-3 does not have and some that replace the 1-2-3 commands. While you can print from @Liberty, you do not have the 1-2-3 menu structure, just the structure that @Liberty includes. This lack of complete 1-2-3 menu support is a serious shortcoming of @Liberty.

@Liberty does not provide for much customization other than some additional macro commands and the replacement 1-2-3 menu commands. The printing options are sufficient enough to get reports from your compiled spreadsheet. But @Liberty would not be a suitable compiler for anyone compiling many spreadsheets. However, for the occasional compiled spreadsheet, @Liberty may be just the ticket.

@Liberty sells for $295.00 and can be ordered from SoftLogic Solutions, One Perimeter Road, Manchester, NH 03103. Their phone number is (603) 627-9900 or (800) 272-9900.

COMPOSA VERSION 1 - SHENG LABS - SPREADSHEET COMPILER FOR SYMPHONY

Lotus Symphony is a big brother to 1-2-3 providing equivalent spreadsheet functionality and adding word processing, improved database and graphing capabilities, and communications. Considering all of the additional functionality and capabilities, it is easy to see why no compilers have been written for Symphony. Well, Sheng Labs has recently released the first Symphony compiler named Composa. There is a demo disk for Composa available in the NTPCUG Disk-of-the-Month Library.

Since Sheng Labs created both King Jaguar and Composa, you would expect that Composa is much like its older brother and it is. The process of creating a compiled spreadsheet, however, is slightly different. The developer still creates a Symphony worksheet. But instead of first compiling the model, the developer must create the run-time engine by selecting the various environments and capabilities that should be included in the run- time version based on the needs of the spreadsheet. Once the run- time engine is created, the developer configures the run-time engine. Finally, after the run-time engine is configured, you use it to compile the spreadsheet. While this process may sound like a major hassle, it is certainly reasonable given the complexity of supporting the 5 Symphony environments.

Composa also allows the developer to create their own User Defined Functions. In fact, most every capability and customization found in King Jaguar is also in Composa.

I was able to compile the sample 1-2-3 spreadsheet without any problem and able to add the same customizations as in King Jaguar. This application only required the spreadsheet environment. Next I compiled several Symphony applications that used multiple environments. Composa was able to compile several spreadsheets using multiple environments including word processing, spreadsheet, and database without any problems.

Composa sells for $795.00 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. ►

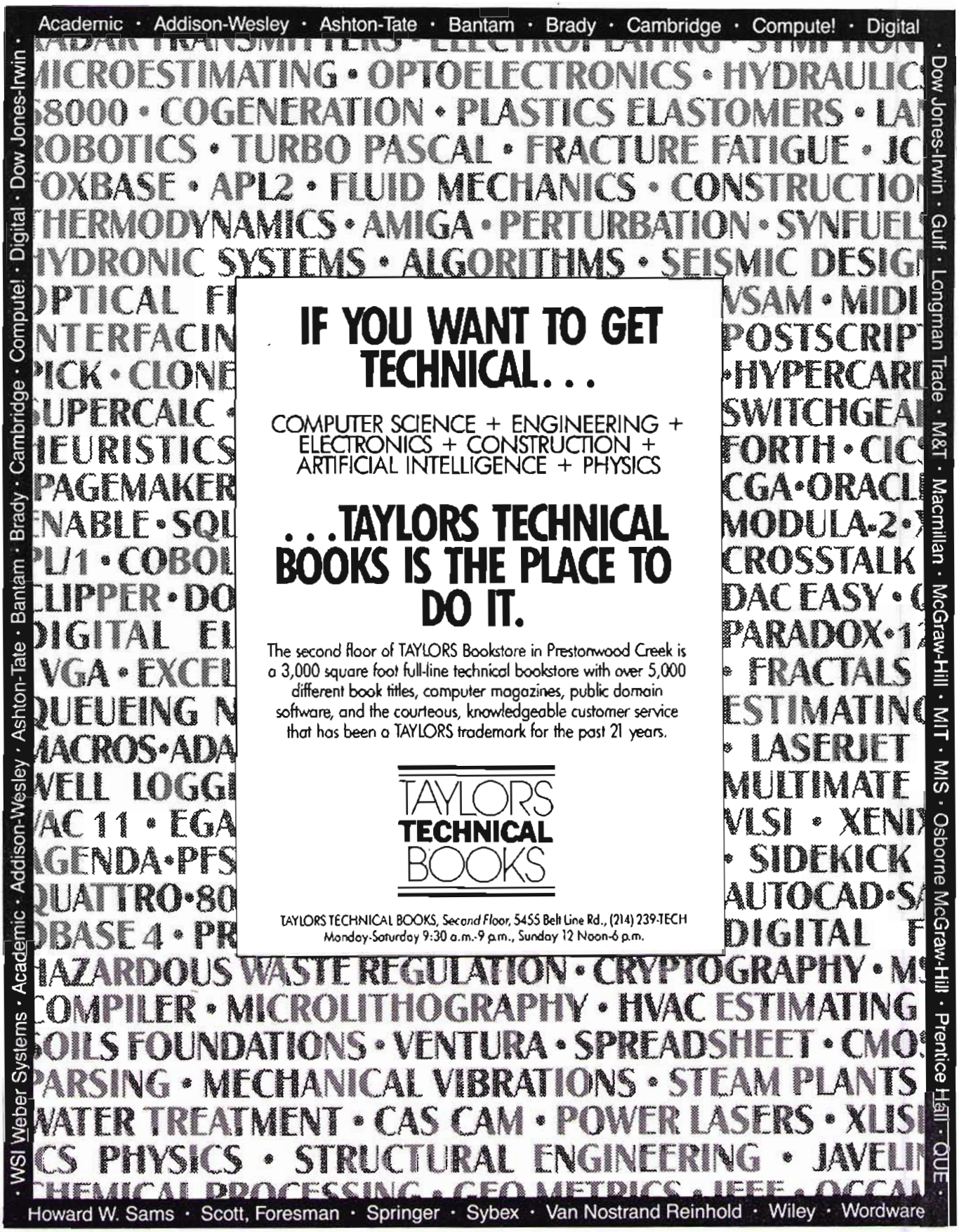
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Compilers offer significant advantages to corporations, consultants, and individuals. My personal favorite for ease of use, customization, and features is Baler. King Jaguar is an excellent buy but I found it a little cumbersome to use as compared to Baler. Compile 1 to C is also good, but for the same money you could buy Baler. @Liberty's lack of 1-2-3 menu support offsets its benefit as the fastest compiler (based on the tests) and lowest price.

SPREADSHEET COMPILER COMPARISONS

	BALER	KING JAGUAR	COMPILE 1 TO C	@LIBERTY
Hard Disk Space Required	1,179,648 Bytes	2,890,954 Bytes	1,064,960 Bytes	495,616 Bytes
Base Run-Time Size	324,614	361,271	325,713	185,055
Source 1-2-3 Spreadsheet Size	148,412	148,412	148,412	148,412
Compiled Files * Created	MORTGAGE.WKB MORTGAGE.OVR	MORTGAGE.JWK	MORTGAGE.12C MORTGAGE.WKC	MORTGAGE.SKW
File Size	18,608 62,104 80,712	102,400	61,596 109,840 171,436	126,250
% of Source	54.4%	69.0%	115.5%	85.1%
Time Needed To Compile In MM:SS	0:24	1:49	3:27	0:18

* King Jaguar offers minimal recalc which increases the file size. If the minimal recalc was not used the file size would be approximately 90,000.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The Variety Store

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

PCB's — Pre-COMDEX Blues
Mark this month's column

I'm writing this six days before we leave for COMDEX/Fall 90 in Las Vegas. *PC News* deadlines make keeping this column contemporary rather difficult at times. Example: by the time you read this, COMDEX will have come and gone, and you'll probably have heard one of the NTPCUG folks who attended wax eloquent over something they saw there that was really news.

Since I mention COMDEX/Fall at least six months of the year — usually three before and three after — you may wonder what all the noise is about. Easiest answer is knowledge.

COMDEX/Fall is when most PC makers announce their new hardware and most publishers roll out their flagship products for the year ahead. But, knowledge — as opposed to canned and sanitized marketing glitz — has become more difficult to find with each passing year.

Marketing folks a problem ...

I carp a lot about the Marketing MBA's that are increasingly taking over the giant computer show and are pushing out the techies who used to represent the products shown. Reason? MBA's are great at giving the canned presentations you'll see in subsequent advertising, but usually don't know that much about what they are selling. They mostly don't give any insight(s) into product development, evolution, or possible technical glitches users should know about.

So, kick out the marketing people? Hardly, they're experts at selling and COMDEX/Fall 90 will be brutally expensive for the vendors. COMDEX cost figures in excess of $1 Million are not uncommon. The vendors are here to sell products, influence market analysts — and find out what the competition is/will be doing next year.

Marketing foots the bill for the rest of us.

What's unusual — and valuable — is contact with someone who really does know the product and its history, and is willing to share some of this "gold" with the public. Xerox showed both sides of this coin last year with "marketers" manning the Ventura area and David Rose, Xerox Imaging Systems, showing *Gray F/X*, and able to talk about the image editor as well as show it off. IBM usually stays well on the "managed information" side, as does Compaq at COMDEX.

"Variety Store" Comes from COMDEX

COMDEX/Fall 90 will supply a lot of material for future "Variety Store" columns. That gives me an opportunity to segue to the next topic. Where does the rest of the "Variety Store" material come from?

I listen hard at NTPCUG meetings. Much of what appears in "Variety Store" is a result of the questions I hear at the DOS SIG, Advanced Programmers SIG and vendor presentations each month. I use these as an index of what seems to be important to our users, or what users want to know about future PC trends.

Variety Store owes a lot to the PC media.

I'm a compulsive reader. That's particularly true if the material comes in the form of newspapers, journals, trade magazines, PR releases and other "timely" sources. Books are absolutely in last place on the list — for this column, that is. Most readers aren't aware of the "information lag" inherent to current media, with books typically taking six months to one year from onset to publication.

That's too old for a column source. Most PC magazines have a minimal 90-day publication deadline. That means the material presented is usually at least 90 days old, usually much older for complex review articles such as a survey of databases, wordprocessors, etc. Journals have slightly longer deadlines, but can also be much shorter for fast-breaking items.

Timely sources most valuable

"Hottest" sources are newspapers with good technical reportage. Currently, the *Wall Street Journal* is among the best in this area, and often "scoops" the two major trade weeklies — *Infoworld* and *PC Week*.

PR releases have a "special" place here. They are frequently a major source for the media above, but only tell the story from the company's view point. As such, ►

they need a lot of follow-up unless all that's desired is a straight product announcement.

Some PR releases are an attempt by the company to tell a story in more depth than any of the media will dedicate to a product or issue. Computer Support Corporation, publishers of *Arts & Letters* graphics editor is an example of the above with their very detailed and illustrated explanation of their suit against the publishers of *Harvard Graphics* for stealing their clip art.

In addition to reading, I also spend a considerable amount of time on the phone.

Sharp knives help spot trends

Toward column deadline (the 10th of the month preceding publication), I'll sit down and begin clipping articles out of approximately 30 pounds of newspapers, weeklies and other media sources. I'll also read the last two months' columns, and items from the previous months' article collections that didn't make the column.

What I'm doing is integrating and differentiating to arrive at an analysis of what I'm seeing across media sources and time. I'm looking for trends, directions and hints of coming directions.

Some trends and directions are easy to spot. *OS/2* is one. Comments from users match media hesitancy in endorsing acceptance at this time. Here, it's a combination of hardware concerns and software concerns with users feeling no particular pressure to move up to *OS/2*. *Windows 3.0* is a "natural" with users seeing this as an extension of DOS rather than a sudden shift or disruption.

Missed *WordPerfect* Landslide

WordPerfect wasn't — unless you look at who's making the decisions to go with this product. It ain't the girls in the typing pool, but the more technically-oriented, non-production managers who lean in this direction. High-speed typists by-and-large don't like *WP* — their bosses do. The impact is cumulative. That is, when A-B-C firm says they want *WP* compatibility from their vendors, then *WP* becomes the de facto standard.

NTPCUG members who frequent the BBS will recognize the debate over this issue that appears in several conference areas. Other, and better suited, from the production point of view, products have been lost in the *WordPerfect* landslide (locally). I used *WordPerfect* as an example here because it's convenient. I could have used Lotus *1-2-3*, *dBASE IV* or *Oracle* instead.

Windows 3.0 — new game

Windows 3.0 is providing a whole new ball game. A GUI (graphical user interface) is "different" from the traditional, command-line oriented DOS interface, and not all the DOS champions will persist into the GUI world unscathed. *WordPerfect* is a good example (again). Orem sallied into GUI territory on the Macintosh and stumbled badly, repeating Lotus' (*Jazz*) experience with the new interface.

The problem for both wasn't technical expertise, but failure to recognize that a GUI represents an entirely different universe for both the producer and software user. WordPerfect has gathered back into itself and is venturing forth again in the *Windows 3.0* GUI. It's one of the products I'll watch carefully at COMDEX — first, to see user reactions and second to see if they got the "hang" of the interface this time.

A number of writers have speculated that even the people are different in the GUI world and that the "typical" GUI user doesn't see and operate from the same perspective as that of the DOS user. Popular media aimed at Mac users would tend to reinforce this view. Hear the "left-brain vs. right-brain" controversy being expounded again and there may be some truth here.

If so, what will *Windows 3.0* represent to the DOS world? That may be a major question I'll be exploring over the next year of this column.

Back to the "real world" ...

Thumbs Up to Micrografx, Computer Support and Maxtor

Good end-user (and reviewer) support is golden. Received review copies of Micrografx *Designer 3.0* and *Arts & Letters* (Computer Support Corporation) for review last year. Both were automatically updated by their publishers when new versions were released after the *Windows 3.0* roll-out in May. What was really nice, was that I was being treated as a "registered user" by these firms, which is unusual for review software. I have had the opportunity to use technical support from both and it has been proficient, timely and quite good.

Maxtor is another story. Maxtor makes premium hard disk drives and is based in California. Bought one recently. Much to my dismay, I couldn't find a way to attach a drive-activity light to the drive as a result of the SCSI board design. Couple of calls to the vendor [a value-added reseller (VAR)] were fruitless. The technician at Storage Dimensions couldn't seem to understand why I'd even want such a thing (play with graphics and you'll know, baby) and was less than helpful.

Local Maxtor sales engineer was a different story. Recognized the problem and offered to FAX the entire technical docs for the drive as we talked. I settled for the US Mail.

Thumbs Down to MicroMaps

Been looking for a good, high-resolution (EPS) map of South East Asia (Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos) for a current project. Phoned MicroMaps Software in New Jersey to see if their collection had what I wanted. Salesman on the phone indicated they did and agreed to send an example of their product.

Got a standard sales brochure a week later. Area of interest, Vietnam, etc., was approximately .25" X .1875" in size on the brochure. It may have been high-resolution EPS — I couldn't tell because of the poor printing quality. ►

Sorry MicroMaps, I'm not about to invest $200 on the basis of the junk you sent, and I won't recommend your product(s) to others either.

If you really miss the mainframe *VSICOBOL* has the answer ...

Couldn't resist this one. It's for all the PC users who miss their mainframe days and *COBOL*. Let me quote: "Now you can enjoy the benefits of an interpreter with *COBOL* for the IBM PC and compatibles.

Aimed at those of us who are experiencing withdrawal symptoms after moving (down) to the PC world following a mainframe experience. *VSICOBOL* is "Visionary Software Interpretive COmmon Business Oriented Language" editor, interpreter and debugger designed for ease of learning and ease of use. Described as a powerful educational tool by it's publishers, Innovative Computers, Inc., *VSICOBOL* is a programming development tool for general business applications.

Suggested price is $99. Requires 128K memory, 80 column monitor and one floppy disk drive. Contact Innovative Computers, Inc., 26400 Southfield, Suite F, Lathrup Village, MI, 48076. Phone (313) 569-7422.

Go for the gold ...

CorelDRAW's 2nd Annual International Design Contest

Corel Systems Corporation, publishers of *CorelDraw*, announced a second International Design Contest with over $300,000 in prizes. Deadline for entries is midnight, March 1, 1991, and awards will be announced May 16, 1991.

Grand Prize has a total value of $36,000 — $10,000 cash (Canadian) and a complete PC system consisting of a MaxSys 486 system by CSS Laboratories, Ricoh RS312 scanner, Seiko Colorpoint PS Model #4 Printer, JVC 16" monitor and other hardware and software.

The *CorelDRAW* International Design Contest is open to all registered *CorelDRAW* users and all submitted entries must be created using *CorelDRAW*. Winners will be chosen on the basis of originality and creative use of the software's capabilities.

For more information, contact: Karen Evans, Contest Coordinator, (613) 728-8200 Ext. 162.

Reagan Andrews

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)

Beginners C SIG

In November, we discussed return values from functions. Specifically, when a function should not have a return value and when one should. Also discussed were the six specific actions taken when a function returns a value and some of the pitfalls that could give you problems.

Starting in December, I am going to take up one of the most difficult subjects to beginners and experienced C programmers alike: pointers and arrays in C. We will start with arrays and how different declarations of arrays allocate memory. Then we will discuss pointers and their relationships with arrays. Since this is a very large area of discussion, I am planning to continue into January with a discussion of dynamically allocated memory and using pointers to create linked lists along with some generic functions I have written to manage linked lists.

As always, I am looking for interesting things to show off or demonstrate the C language. If you work in C and would like to share something of interest with this SIG please let me know and we will schedule a meeting for you.

Thanks, and see you at the meeting.

Stan Milam

C++ SIG

At the second session of the new C++ SIG, we discussed object- oriented programming in general, and C++ classes in particular. We talked about some of the new objected-oriented concepts, such as encapsulation and data hiding. We also used a sample C++ program (DIR_TEST) to demonstrate some aspects of C++ that are new to C programmers: classes, objects, member functions, private and public parts, constructors and destructors, name mangling, and type-safe linkage.

We seem to be proceeding a little slower than we had originally planned, so we won't get into the project until January. In December, we'll continue the discussion we started in November, moving on to operator overloading, inheritance, and virtual functions. We plan to use an updated version of the DIR_TEST program; the source code for the new version should be available on the bulletin board about a week before the new meeting, for those of you who would like to get a head start.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

dBase SIG

At the November meeting we discussed lesson 9 of the dBASE IV Workbook. Lesson 9 explains the concepts of how to create form letters and labels. This includes: using the ►

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

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

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

Vincent Gaines and
Rodney Haas

DOS SIG

So, what happened at COMDEX/Fall 90? Did the confusion concerning DOS & Windows 3.0 vs. OS/2-1.3 & PM get resolved at last? Did Jim Hoisington get kidnapped by DRI and forced to reveal DOS 5.0's innermost secrets? How much torture (and Johnnie Walker Black, boiled shrimp and filet mignons) did it take?

Both Jim and Reagan will be newly returned and "glowing" from the COMDEX glitter — and contact with lots of vendors. How all this seems to influence DOS and DOS usage over the coming year will be discussed at the December DOS SIG Meeting.

One subject will be major new hardware and software releases shown at COMDEX and how DOS versions will fit into the picture. DOS 3.XX's future may be hanging in the balance according to media mavens — Jim and Reagan look at this issue in terms of COMDEX and when users should consider an upgrade to the newest DOS version.

We'll end in the usual Q & A format unless there's another attempted armed incursion by disgruntled CP/M-86 fanatics.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG

The Genealogy SIG has a new leader, Al Sanford. Minnie Champ, the Genealogy SIG leader for the last seven years had a job change which moved her to Hawaii. All of the SIG members wish her well.

Al has been doing the membership list for the SIG and is secretary for the PAF Genealogy SIG sponsored by DALTRUG. He is a retired electrical engineer who worked primarily with E-Systems in the local area. He says he will try to provide strong leadership and already has a program agenda through March of '91.

The November 10th program was brought by A.C. Williams, a SIG member who is an Aerospace consultant. The presentation was on GEnie Star*Services. GEnie is a national information service with local access numbers (like CompuServe, Prodigy, etc.).

The Genealogy SIG programs planned for the next few months are:

December	Printouts available from genealogy software
January	Genealogy information available on local BBS's
February	Hand Scanners and related technology
March	Reading old handwriting

Al Sanford

Lotus SIG

Due to technical difficulties, the column for the Lotus SIG was not included in the November PC News. If it were there however, it would have mentioned that at the October meeting Lotus Development presented Agenda 2.0 and Magellan 2.0 at the 10:00 am main presentation and 1-2-3 release 3.1 at the Lotus SIG meeting at 1:00 pm. The presentations were excellent. Gary Griggs from the Dallas office presented Agenda and Magellan. He also was the primary contact in getting everything arranged for their visit. Ruth Armstrong, also from the Dallas office, gave the 1-2-3 presentation. Also present were two developers from Cambridge and Elena Fernandez who is the Lotus User Group Coordinator for Lotus. Elena works in Cambridge, too. At the 10:00 am presentation, Lotus gave away 10 copies of Agenda, and 5 copies of Magellan. At the Lotus SIG, Lotus gave away 15 copies of 1-2-3 release 3.1. All in all an excellent meeting.

The subject for the November meeting was string arithmetic and string @ functions. The presentation was in a different room at the Infomart, which perhaps accounted for the low turnout. The NTPCUG is probably going to continue using room 5006 for some SIGs including the Lotus SIG. Room 5006 is in the Southwest corner of the Infomart - the right corner as you are walking out of the elevators. Mark presented basic string arithmetic and the technique of combining string and numbers into a single formula. Mark also presented a model that converts numbers into their English equivalent for such applications as check writing. The file is available on the BBS in the Lotus SIG mailbox - use XMODEM as the file transfer protocol. Oh, and those who wandered the halls to find room 5006 had an added benefit in that they had a chance to win software left over from the October meeting. We gave away 5 copies of 1-2-3 release 3.1, 2 copies of Symphony release 2.2 and 1 copy of Agenda 2.0.

At the December meeting, we will continue to talk about string arithmetic and functions. There was a lot of interest, from those who attended, in string arithmetic. Many present had never used string arithmetic or knew how to incorporate these capabilities into their spreadsheets. So if you missed the November meeting, you can still catch a presentation on string arithmetic in the December meeting.

The Lotus SIG always answers questions that users have on 1-2-3. If you have a question, come on by in December, or leave a message in the Lotus SIG mailbox on the BBS.

Mark Gruner and Pat Henley

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 December 1990 will be:

9:00 AM	Class 1.2	Start Up
10:00 AM	Class 2.2	Diskette Sizes and Formating Each
12:00 Noon	Class 3.2	Copying and Backing Up Files
1:00 PM	Class 4.2	Hardware

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

Reagan Andrews pontificated about the poor service of several PC hardware and software vendors. As usual Reagan only referred to the companies by location and not by name.

Reagan, we all know who the Houston clone maker is and after some research we have identified the software company on on Pico Boulevard in LA. But, who is the company that won't return your phone calls at 2895 Zanker Road in San Jose.

Join us this month for discussion of the location of PC issues.

Jim Hoisington

Unix SIG

Ahhh... The simple joys of being able to write about last month's meeting, after last month's meeting. How long has it been since we had one of those. Now I can actually say what happened rather than what I hoped would happen.

Just as well. My predictions have always been wildly off anyway. They would have been last month. Jim was planning to give a presentation on file permissions in Unix. But he came down with a bug (the biological kind). So the November meeting turned into a Question and Answer session. (Every time we do this someone asks me about UUCP).

Assuming no other unforeseen problems Jim will back at the December meeting and we will have the presentation on file permissions then.

Doug Scott

Volunteer SIG (Community Service SIG)

We're changing! Effective the December meeting, we will be changing our name to the Community Service SIG. Also, our NEW TIME will be 12:00 noon. Now, maybe we will get more of you sleepyheads to attend. For the December meeting, we hope to have a local non-profit agency come talk to us about their computer needs. This should give members more insight into how we can help non-profits.

Almost 100 local non-profit agencies responded to our survey saying. "Yes, we need help with our computers." If you can spend a few hours helping a local charity with their computer problems, please contact us.

Thanks to several generous donations, we now have a computer ready to donate to a non-profit agency (almost). We still need a hard drive and controller (working) for an XT. If you have upgraded your hard drive and have a spare lying around, please consider donating it. We can get you a tax letter for the IRS.

VOLUNTEER BBS! We now have a BBS available for those who are into telecommunications. The number is (214) 361-7925 R (The R is for reverse modem detection for our fax/modem switch.) The BBS is just starting, but if you need to contact us, that will be a good place.

Jay Shilstone

Word SIG

Microsoft snuck one in with the new Word 5.5 release. Microsoft is now referring to this as "DOS Word" as opposed to "Windows Word," but promises that this Word has a future. I'll have had an opportunity to watch it run at COMDEX and should be in a better position to describe it in more detail at the December Word SIG Meeting.

If possible I'll try to get a review copy and put it through its paces at the December Meeting, perhaps with a Microsoft representative in tow.

All the different Words may be confusing to some users. That is, when should they look toward the features in each version as appropriate for their day-to-day work? Word for Windows vs. Word for DOS will be a major topic over the next several months. We'll also compare the Windows 3.0 version with some other Windows wordprocessors, including Ami, Ami-Pro and WordPerfect for Windows (when available.)

This ought to be a lot of fun, and you'll want to be here for the results.

Reagan Andrews

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to program in BASIC.

Granted, with Microsoft's BASIC Professional Development System, rocket scientists can work wonders every day of the week.

But if you want to work better in this stratosphere, Microsoft® QuickBASIC is all you need.

Instead of an I.Q. test, you get a step-by-step printed tutorial that guides you through a complete working program. And our handy on-line electronic manual lets you put your finger on anything you want to know instantly, or copy and paste sample code into your program window.

Meanwhile, our on-line training and Easy Menus make you feel at home in your new environment in minutes—not hours. And to simplify things even more, our intuitive interface offers context-sensitive help. Plus a debugger that gets your program up and running in record time.

Naturally, this BASIC also turns out code at record speed—150,000 lines per minute. Not surprisingly, *PC Magazine* called it "... perhaps one of the greatest software programs ever written" and gave it their Editor's Choice Award.

All of which only goes to prove one thing: you don't have to be a rocket scientist to conquer new frontiers.

Just smart enough to get a hold of our Microsoft QuickBASIC.

Microsoft
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Control Room

by Neil Berkowitz

Ashton-Tate's Control Room program is described as "utility software that lets you take control of your computer". To describe it a bit better, it should be referred to as a Swiss army knife of small utilities all bundled into a consistent whole. The program includes such diverse utilities as a virus scanner, keyboard macro recorder and interpreter, disk cache, undelete utility, and file wipe. In addition it also contains a system surveying utility that permits a report of the system configuration and a text editor that displays and permits modification to the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files.

Looking at the documentation, the first indication is that this is a program designed for the novice user. The manual is 32 pages in length and contains both detailed instructions for installation as well as numerous illustrations and drawings. Both 5 1/4 and 3 1/2 inch disks are provided and the directions specifically describe how to use either size disks to make either a floppy based or hard disk based version of the program. Installation went smoothly except for an error message displayed at the end of the installation process indicating that the installation failed. Upon further investigation it appeared that the real problem was that the master floppy disks had write protect tabs added to them before installation was begun. Despite the error message, the program could be run and seemed to function perfectly. Copying the master disks and rerunning the installation program with these copies that were not write protected resulted in an errorless installation.

The functions of Control Room fall into several areas as follows: Four major areas providing control of the keyboard, disk, screen, and memory. A text editor is provided to easily modify the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. There are internal functions to perform miscellaneous tasks. Finally, the system characteristics can be determined and displayed in both a compact "summary" mode as well as an expert mode giving a detailed explanation of what is determined. Some of these functions are contained in a TSR (terminate and stay resident) program loaded with the AUTOEXEC.BAT file (most screen, keyboard, and disk functions) while the rest are activated while Control Room is invoked at the command line.

Keyboard parameters that can be modified include having the abilities to swap CTRL and CAP LOCK keys; set default status of CAPS LOCK, SCROLL LOCK, and NUM LOCK keys; adjust the key repeat rate and delay rate before repeating begins; and activate/deactivate the key click. There are two sets of keyboard macros operations as well as internal hotkeys to perform time and date substitutions. The keyboard macros can be set up for individual key combinations or in a banked approach where the function keys are assigned to a macro.

The disk options relate to caching data coming from the disk. The cache can be set up to be of variable size and located in either expanded or extended memory. Another disk option provides the feature to park the hard disk if it is not accessed over a period of time.

The screen options are associated with the number of lines of text on the screen, color of the screen, and blanking the screen after an elapsed period of time. The only complaint in this area was that the screen in 50 line mode was a bit slow in updating. While a compressed screen is nice, the delay in screen updating reduced the usability of this function.

One interesting feature of Control Room is the accessibility it provides to the CONFIG.SYS and AUTEXEC.BAT files. These files can be easily edited through Control Room with lines being activated and deactivated as requested by using function key selection. All that really occurs with deactivated lines is the placement of a REM statement before the line, but to the novice user, the method given here is less complex.

The remaining utilities are a mixed bag. Included are features to undelete lost files (no major recovery, just the restoration of the first character in the filename), an encryption-decryption program, and a nice feature to clear the remainder of a file block that exists at the end of DOS files. Also provided are a virus scan feature which alerts the user if selected files have been changed and a CMOS RAM backup utility.

The final feature of this package is the system reporting ability. The program has the ability to scan the system for hardware configuration, memory usage, disk usage, and report this information in both a quick display mode as well as a text report. The text ►

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Use Our Computerized Insurance Price Comparison Service For Your Benefit !

Term Life\Health Ins\Dental Ins
Disability\Defer Annuitys\ L.T.Nursing Care

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(Regularly $49 Per Report)

214-421-3019\The Ins Warehouse\Ask For Lou

report feature is extremely useful. Not only does it describe in detail the hardware configuration, it compares the configuration to that of other systems and performs a rudimentary evaluation. For example, on a system with a 80 meg hard disk, it describes the disk as being of intermediate size and while not as large as the 200 meg drives now on the market, far larger than the 10 meg disk that came with the original XT. An important addition to this report is a help function. Any computer term in the report can be flagged and identified with a pop-up menu describing the term. Terms that have subheadings are identified and the subheadings can be investigated further. For example, the term BIOS not only described what the BIOS is but made reference to AWARD, PHOENIX, "this computer", and BIOS level cache. A novice user would gather a great deal of information from the presentation methods, helping without hindering the learning process.

Overall, Control Room is a mixed bag. At first it seemed like a very impressive product. Upon reading the documentation I reevaluated it as a glossy bundle of common utilities designed for the novice. Then, with a little bit of use I again revised my opinion as the practical aspects of the program became more obvious.

While some of the functions are included in newer versions of DOS and several are commonly available as public domain TSRs, the biggest saving grace for Control Room is that the functions are unified. There is less chance for programs stepping on each other or the same hot key used for several different things if one program can control everything. I have selectively disabled some of the functions in favor of my old programs and after reading the system log text once I have not looked at it again. On the other hand, the system layout screen was extremely helpful in verifying the new boards I have installed in my machine and it is far easier to use the text editor to modify the system files than to bring up a full feature word processor to do the same thing.

In short, this program has something for everyone. For a person with a first system, Control Room provides a simplified method of accessing many tools and learning more about the system. For an individual in charge of an office with numerous PCs, this program provides a simple way of establishing the configuration of each machine with a minimum amount of fuss. For experts, the software and hardware configuration panels present an easy way to tweak the system to help achieve a greater degree of usability. While not as detailed as some of the fancier system configuration programs, Control Room still provides much of the information an advanced user would want as well as coordinating some of the more common TSRs.

Neil

Have a Happy Holiday!

SWAP PC 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.

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ON COMPLEXITY

No. 46 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

Shelfware is PC software that you've bought but don't use for one reason or another. It ends up on the shelf. Shelfware has been around as long as PC's, but the number of shelfware products is increasing.

Probably one of the biggest reasons for a product ending up on the shelf is that it is impossible to install the product properly. After all these years of PC computing, you'd think that software vendors could come up with a simple, trouble free, installation program. The opposite is true.

Each new upgrade seems to bring with it an increasingly complex installation program which usually manages to install some part of the software incorrectly. I recently had to install a new version of a popular spreadsheet on a Local Area Network. Five times I read the chapter on Network Installation and five times I tried to get the installation program to work and each time the program failed to work. Finally, I gave up and spent the required one hour of listening to elevator music somewhere in voice mail hell in order to talk to a support representative. The support person's answer was amazing. It seems that the software company had changed the installation software after printing the manual. A five page fax of the correct procedure allowed me to get the program working on the second try.

Even if the program gets installed properly, there are other factors that keep people from using it. Inconsistent or non-intuitive user interfaces which require that the user constantly refer to a manual or keyboard template discourage frequent use of the program by all but the most compulsive people.

Finally, the program may not be used because it is poorly written. Programs in this class typically have undocumented error messages, machine hangs, and incorrect output. I always feel like the attitude of people who sell this kind of software is, "We'll get their money and then make them find all our problems for us so we can charge them more money when we send them the upgrade to make the program work like we promised originally." If vendors really believed in their software, they should give you the next release free if you find a legitimate bug in the current version.

The existence of shelfware in the PC software industry has some interesting consequences. Most vendors equate sales with users. For particularly bad products, the real ratio of users to sales may be something like 1 to 10. This "user gap" may make the software vendor complacent and allow another vendor a window of opportunity to provide an alternative. I can think of at least five companies that no longer exist today because they fell asleep counting their money and their market lead.

Shelfware users don't talk to the vendor's support staff because they don't use the product for long. In the early days of PC computing, I can remember working for weeks before putting something on the shelf. Today, I don't know many people who will give a product more than two or three days. There are just too many alternatives. Of course the vendor's support records show the opposite of what is true. The product has at best (or is it worse), one or two calls to the support group per user. The vendor's conclusion is that it must be a really good product because people don't need a lot of help with it.

I cannot offer any solutions here. But, I don't recommend that you spend a lot of time "debugging" a poorly built product. I know that most software vendors can't afford to make periodic calls to users of their products to see how things are going but maybe calling a small sample of the people who bought their product might help. Or maybe the vendors just need to spend more time testing their products in the alpha and beta testing phases before bringing their product to market.

Jim

NTPCUG Bulletin Board Usage

October 1990

by Tom Prickett

I have often been asked for statistics on the bulletin board usage. Now that we have moved the BBS, we can produce these figures. Programs to analyze the LOG files have been available for quite some time, but we have been unable to manage the LOGistics. Now that we can, I would like to report on October activity. An extensive analysis program is available, provided by one of the more active Chairman Sysops - Mark Petersmeyer out of Toronto, Canada. What follows is a small excerpt from a massive quantity of statistics produced by his program. Now, I will just sit back and let the numbers speak for themselves:

Chairman Usage Statistics - Ver. 1.35
by M.W. Petersmeyer

Period covered: From 12:23 am Oct 1/90 to 10:24 pm Oct 31/90

-=[System Statistics for 31 Operating Days]=-

Incoming calls	1,575
Number of active Users.	239
Average calls per day .	50.8
Mail messages sent	1476
Avg call duration (min)	10.1
Total connect hours ...	265.6
Times Mailboxes opened.	2981

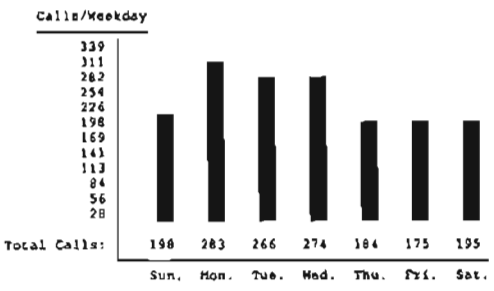
-=[Sub-BBS ACTIVITY (Included in above totals)]=-

-=[CALL SUMMARY BY LINE]=-

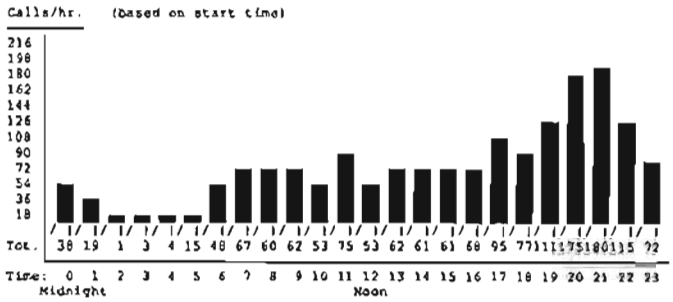
Line#	# Calls	Pct. Calls	Hr. Used	Avg Hr/Day	Pct. Busy
1	737	47%	125.8	4.1	17%
2	573	36%	87.3	2.8	12%
3	265	17%	52.5	1.7	7%
Totals:	1,575	100%	265.5	8.6	12%

Chairman Usage Statistics - Ver. 1.35
by M.W. Petersmeyer

-=[DAILY DISTRIBUTION of CALLS]=-



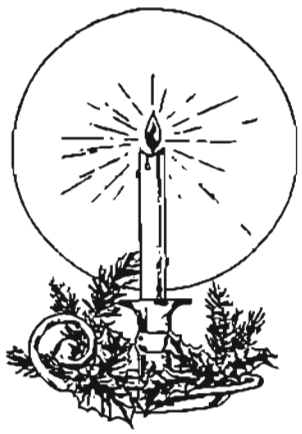
-=[HOURLY DISTRIBUTION of CALLS]=-



Chairman Usage Statistics - Ver. 1.35
by M.W. Petersmeyer

-=[DAILY CALL LOG]=-

Date	Day	Line Number 1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Calls	Time On (hh:mm)	Peak Calls
10/01/90	Mon.	25	17	0	0	0	0	42	6:12	
10/02/90	Tue.	19	18	0	0	0	0	37	6:05	
10/03/90	Wed.	18	17	7	0	0	0	42	5:27	
10/04/90	Thu.	24	14	6	0	0	0	44	4:53	
10/05/90	Fri.	14	16	1	0	0	0	31	4:08	<-(MIN)
10/06/90	Sat.	18	19	0	0	0	0	37	6:57	
10/07/90	Sun.	10	20	3	0	0	0	33	5:46	
10/08/90	Mon.	32	27	7	0	0	0	66	13:56	<-(MAX)
10/09/90	Tue.	26	26	12	0	0	0	64	12:34	
10/10/90	Wed.	27	28	11	0	0	0	66	9:44	<-(MAX)
10/11/90	Thu.	21	22	8	0	0	0	51	7:00	
10/12/90	Fri.	20	16	6	0	0	0	42	5:58	
10/13/90	Sat.	31	24	10	0	0	0	65	10:36	
10/14/90	Sun.	26	22	9	0	0	0	57	8:19	
10/15/90	Mon.	28	25	11	0	0	0	64	8:46	
10/16/90	Tue.	29	26	4	0	0	0	59	9:16	
10/17/90	Wed.	20	30	1	0	0	0	51	9:44	
10/18/90	Thu.	24	17	2	0	0	0	43	7:11	
10/19/90	Fri.	26	20	1	0	0	0	47	7:02	
10/20/90	Sat.	20	15	3	0	0	0	38	5:28	
10/21/90	Sun.	19	19	11	0	0	0	49	8:07	
10/22/90	Mon.	28	18	14	0	0	0	60	19:08	
10/23/90	Tue.	22	22	10	0	0	0	54	9:52	
10/24/90	Wed.	26	23	11	0	0	0	62	10:35	
10/25/90	Thu.	23	19	4	0	0	0	46	8:47	
10/26/90	Fri.	24	10	21	0	0	0	55	7:55	
10/27/90	Sat.	29	11	15	0	0	0	55	9:49	
10/28/90	Sun.	27	9	23	0	0	0	59	13:33	
10/29/90	Mon.	28	6	17	0	0	0	51	8:41	
10/30/90	Tue.	27	9	16	0	0	0	52	8:39	
10/31/90	Wed.	24	8	21	0	0	0	53	5:28	
Totals:		737	573	265	0	0	0	1,575	265:33	



The Computer Simplified:

An Original Story for the First-Time PC User

by Michael Dodge

Reprinted from the July 1990 issue of PC Post, The Modesto PC User Group Newsletter.

I've heard this story told over and over again to professionals who have been exposed to computers but are not yet computer literate. Each listener was fascinated by the story, which makes it easy to grasp the basic operating concepts of the PC. To those who are already knowledgeable in the world of PCs, it is not only an interesting story but shows there is more than one way to think about the computer. Read and enjoy. Elsie Grom, Modesto PC User Group.

Inside your computer there lives a little man whose name is CPU (Central Processing Unit). Inside his house there is a light, a fan, a desk, a file cabinet and at lease one mail box.

You communicate with CPU through a language called DOS (Disk Operating System). Like any other language (German or French or English), DOS has its own vocabulary and rules. You communicate with CPU by typing DOS commands on the keyboard, and he repeats everything on the monitor screen.

The size of CPU's desk is equal to the amount of RAM (random access memory) your computer has. If your computer has 640,000 bytes of memory (640 kilobytes or 640K), CPU's desk will be bigger than if you had only 128K of memory. The bigger CPU's desk, the more room he has to lay out papers and the more things he is able to work on at one time. So the size of his desk (or the amount of memory in the computer) is very important. A computer with one million bytes of memory (one megabyte, or 1 MB) means that CPU has a very large desk to work with.

All of the messages CPU handles are organized into units called files. There are basically two kinds of files: those that contain numbers of English language information, called data files, and those that contain instructions to CPU written in a programming language, called executable files, or programs. Generally speaking, the executable files enable CPU to write and manipulate the information contained in the data files.

CPU stores both kinds of files in a file cabinet called the hard-disk drive. The bigger the storage capacity of the hard-disk drive, the more file-cabinet drawers CPU has to store things. A hard drive with 20 MB of memory gives CPU only 20 file drawers, whereas a 100-MB hard drive gives him 100 drawers for storage. Through DOS commands typed in at the keyboard, you can tell CPU to take files out, and what to do with them, or to put files away, and where to put them. Just as real file-cabinet drawers are organized and divided by folders, the hard disk is divided into directories (drawers) and subdirectories (folders).

CPU sits inside his house and waits for you to give him commands. When you tell him to take out a program to work with, he finds it in one of the file cabinets, takes it out, puts it on his desk (loads it into RAM), and waits for your next command. When you start a new data file, you must give it a name so that CPU can find it the next time you want it. When you are finished working with a program and you tell CPU to put away all the data files the program has been using, he stores them back in the file cabinet. If for some reason you haven't told him to put away all the data files and you turn off the computer power switch, you have also turned off CPU's fan and light. CPU says, "It's too dark in here; I have no windows, so I'll just sit and wait." Everything that you were working on is still sitting on CPU's desk. When you turn the switch back on, the light comes on and you can also hear the fan come on. The fan blows everything off CPU's desk. It is now just a pile of trash and CPU throws it away. So you can see why it is important to put away (save) all your data files when you are finished with them; if you don't, you won't have them any more.

CPU's mail boxes (floppy disk drives), which can be different sizes (5" and 3"), allow you to give CPU new programs or information to work with, or transfer information from your CPU to another computer for another CPU to learn and work on.

Before you can tell CPU to write information on a floppy disk, it must be formatted. When you tell CPU to format a disk, he "prepares" it to accept information by dividing it up into pie-shaped wedges, called sectors (usually eight or nine), and into circular tracks like grooves on a record (a high-density 5" disk will take 96 tracks, a low-density disk will take 48 tracks). CPU stores information in those tracks and sectors. The first sector on the first track is reserved for a directory where CPU writes down the name of every file that is stored on that disk and where it is. When you ask CPU to get something from that disk, he runs the the directory, reads it, an knows just where to go to get the file you are asking for.

After your work is safely put away and you turn off the power switch, CPU rests until you need him again.

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NT PC User Group

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Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

by Connie Andrews

It's early November as I write this, and I'm thinking about Thanksgiving and the holiday season. The leaves are turning outside (actually they are falling all over the yard and it's probably time to think about the definition of a rake), but my thoughts, instead, turn to our group.

Here it is, pre-holiday season as I write this (mid-holiday season as you read it), and I haven't even begun to thank lots of people for volunteering this year.

As we continue to grow and add new members and services, it is important to remember that ALL, and I repeat ALL, of the benefits enjoyed by our members are provided by volunteers. We are very lucky, indeed, to have so many individuals give of their time and efforts to our greater good. When you see a volunteer, take time to say "thank you" on behalf of all of us...

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

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

INFOMART Liaison
Stuart Yarus
Joe Aderhold
Margaret Reeves

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown
Timothy Carmichael
Christopher Carmichael
Chris Young

BBS Champion
Andrine Stricherz
Leroy Tennison

Information/Registration Booth
Conley Andrews (Anchor)
Mike Ashley (Anchor)
Cecilia Bacon
Lathan Baker
Randi Boucher (Anchor)
Brad Bellue
Mark Cook (Anchor)
Rick Curry
Jan Frost (Anchor)
William Giba
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Vincent Hale
Alan Harbaugh (Anchor)
Hank Holt (Anchor)
Glenn Hunt
Teresa Kelly
Susan Maxson
Donald Mayfield
Claude McClure (Anchor)
Melody Mummert
Joe Nall
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Dick Richtman
Kelly Smith
Ron Snow
Fred Steadman
Andrine Stricherz (Surveys)
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)
Jose Valenciano (Anchor)
Paul Williams (Anchor)
Larry Wood

Disk of the Month (DOM):

DOM Central Committee
Roy Bales
Preston Brashear
Charles Carter
Mark Gruner
Howard Hamilton
Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman
James McCrain
John Puckette
Virginia Salter

DOM Volunteer Coordinator
Bill Drissel

DOM Table
Joe A. Allen
Mike Ashley
Roy Bales
Stan Berlin
Preston Brashear
Jo Cannon
Jay Chambliss
Paul Corbett
Kent Haven
Stephen Hay
Pat Henley
Wade Mayfield
Bob Post
Bob Reynolds
Jerry Stone
Oscar Tyler

With Special Thanks to:
Joe A. Allen
Charles Carter
Kent Haven
Pat Henley
Andy Oliver

DOM Review/Presentation
Mike Ashley (2 reviews)
K. B. Barton
Neal Berkowitz
Mark Gruner
Pat Henley
Kathryn Loafman
Virginia Salter
Tony Stone
Paul Van Dreal (2 reviews)

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

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

Disk of the Month

NOVEMBER 1990 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 561. PC-Index 3.0, 8/90 - Multiple-Column n Document Indexing Utility, HELP SOFTWARE, 16706 BRADLEY COURT, BELTON, MO 64012, (816) 331-5809. Registration $45 With Printed Manual.

PC-INDEX produces the type of an index that you would find in the back of a book or reference manual. With many options available, it can produce a professional looking index of up to 4 columns in a very short time and with a minimum of user input. PC-INDEX can produce an index on every single word in a document, or you can control which words will be included or discarded. You can also specify phrases you wish to index in addition to words. Overall, this is a very easy utility to use.

PC-INDEX can handle any size file. Version 3.0 is faster than earlier versions, though it is still very disk intensive. PC- INDEX differs significantly from the index feature you will find in most word processors. Instead of having to mark each word or phrase, PC-INDEX simply indexes your document using every word (or optionally, every word and phrase that you choose to include).

Registered users will receive the latest enhanced version of PC-INDEX which contains some additional features, primarily the ability to handle documents created with word processors such as WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Multimate, Wordstar, and Wordstar 2000 without converting to ASCII format first and a printed copy of the manual.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: PC-INDEX needs 640K of RAM, one floppy disk drive, and DOS 2.1. A hard disk drive is highly recommended.

The source for this software was the author, Help Software.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Ben Weatherall.

Disk 562AB. TUTOR DOS, 11/89 - Tutorial for learning DOS 3.x, Kevin L. Cummings, 155 North Fort Lane 'B', Layton, UT 84041. A $10 donation is invited.

This tutorial, based on DOS 3.21, is an appropriate introduction for an adult who is not computer literate. The author patiently and thoroughly explains terminology and clarifies the DOS idiosyncrasies that usually trouble the newcomer. Later lessons go beyond an introduction however, and even more literate users might learn something. The lessons are:

1) What Does DOS Do?
2) More About Disks
3) Getting Started with DOS
4) Working With DOS Files
5) DOS, Disks & Drives
6) Formatting A Disk
7) Copying Disks & Files
8) DOS & Wildcards
9) Getting Rid Of Files
10) Renaming DOS Files
11) DOS & Printers
12) Hard Disk Drives
13) DOS & Subdirectories
14) DOS & Paths
15) Making Subdirectories
16) Removing Subdirectories
17) The Path Command
18) The Prompt
19) Batch Files
20) Creating Batch Files
21) AUTOEXEC.BAT

There is a menu from which lessons may be chosen in any order, but beware. Using the ESC key as stated, during a lesson has no effect, and at the end of a lesson will terminate the program or cause an error message. A small quiz (2 or 3 questions) after each lesson tests comprehension, and there is an interactive test available covering the entire tutorial. The author also suggests some additional references for interested persons.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Kathryn Loafman.

Disk 563AB. Telemate 2.11, 11/90 - Communications Program by Tsung Hu, P.O.Box 938 Unit 105, St. Catharines, Ont., L2R 6Z4 Canada. SHAREWARE FEE = $40.

In my search for the communication software package of choice. I have found that each one lacked basic features I wanted. Author Tsung Hu had the same experience and decided to write one of his own. OK, so what's special about Telemate?

Integrated Environment: Telemate is a full-featured and flexible communication program with an easy-to-learn, easy-to-use integrated environment. You don't need to use a separate editor, viewer, and mouse driver. All these features are built in and accessible through menus and windows.

Multitasking: While you are dialing or downloading, you can prepare messages, view files, scroll back. Or you can have them all at the same time, each in its own window.

Mouse support: Telemate considers the mouse to be an input device and provides an environment suitable for both mouse and keyboard.

Clipboard: Through the clipboard, you can cut and paste text among windows. You can prepare a message in the editor and then copy and paste it to the terminal.

Protocols: Telemate has the most popular protocols built-in, including Zmodem, Ymodem-G, SEAlink and CompuServe QuickB. And there are four slots for external protocols.

Easy-to-learn Script Language: Writing a Telemate's script program is as simple as writing a BASIC program. The Learn Script Mode generates script files for you.

Enhanced Video support: Without any additional hardware, Telemate lets you select a screen height from 25 to 32 lines on your CGA adapter and 7 choices of screen height on an EGA or VGA adapter. One will fit your eyes.

EMS, XMS, Video Ramsupport: Telemate uses expanded memory, extended memory and EGA/VGA video RAM as virtual memory to store data.

Telemate requires an IBM PC/AT/fully compatible computer, PC-DOS or MS-DOS versions 2.11 or greater, a minimum of 480K of memory and a modem (or connect two computers directly to each other at the maximum baud rate of 115200). Runs on Monochrome, CGA, EGA or VGA systems. Up to 8M expanded memory (EMS 3.2 or up) and up to 8M extended memory with XMS driver is supported.

Neat!

This software downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared and edited by John Puckette.

Disk 564. PKZIP/PKUNZIP/PKSFX 1.10, 3/90 — Data Compression from PKWARE. PKWARE, Inc., 7545 N. Port Washington Rd., Glendale, WI 53217-3422, 414-352-3670 Voice - 414-352-7176 BBS - 414-352-3815 FAX. Shareware fee = $47.00.

Available in MS-DOS version and OS/2 versions.

Several new features have been added to PKZIP/PKUNZIP/PKSFX 1.1. Highlights of PKZIP/PKUNZIP/PKSFX 1.1 include:

PKZIP 1.1 imploding is up to 5X faster, particularly on large spreadsheet and database type files where PKZIP 1.02 would run relatively slowly. ►

Most 'typical' types of files should implode 5% to 25% faster. In addition, compression has been improved over version 1.02 as well. —Authenticity Verification. —A 2,934 byte "mini" PKSFX self-extracting module. —ZIP2EXE no longer requires the external file PKSFX.PRG. —The ability to save & restore volume labels. —Defensive use of the 32 bit accumulator EAX on 80386 or 80486 computers. —In many instances, such as when using MultiSoft's PC-KWIK cache or Novell non-dedicated NetWare software, if you needed to set the PKNO386 environment variable with PKZIP/PKUNZIP 1.02, you probably don't need to set this anymore with PKZIP/PKUNZIP 1.1.

Also included on this disk is PK, a menu driven version of PKZIP and PKUNZIP from PKWARE. This is an easy to use version, which handles the most commonly used functions: ZIP, UNZIP, and VIEW. The menu allows you to select a directory and ZIP, UNZIP, or VIEW all or selected files. Great for the novice user!

This software was downloaded from the Collector's Edition by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by KathrynLoafman.

Disk 565. Automenu 4.7, 10/90 - Menu Construction Set. Marshall W. Magee, Magee Enterprises, Inc., PO Box 1587, Norcross, Georgia 30091. Shareware fee = $69.95.

Automenu lets you design menu screens with options for your most used software programs and commands. This is especially useful in office environments, with staff who are not proficient with PCs or with DOS.

The user creates Menu Definition Files, which are used by the program to display the menu options on-screen and handle loading and starting the selected software. The MDF is an ASCII text file which is written by the Automenu program. There is an editor available from the Automenu main menu, AUTOMAKE, which prompts the user to create and edit the MDFs. AUTOMAKE also provides on-line help. All the user needs to know the name of the program to be run, the subdirectory it is in, the and the command to start the program. There is also a DOS shell that handles the most commonly used DOS commands in a user friendly fashion. Automenu operates on stand alone PC or with a local area network system. Passwords can be used to control access to the menu selections. There is also the ability to blank inactive screens.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT/JR./Portable/Convertible/3270-PC, PS/2 models, and PC clones; DOS 2.0 or higher; 32K of free memory; monochrome, CGA/EGA/VGA, Hercules graphics; program is compatible with Microsoft Windows 2.X, Windows/286 and /386, and Novell, 3COM, Alloy, and other network operating systems.

This software was downloaded from the Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by KennethLoafman.

Disk 566. Vegas Johnny's Draw Poker 1.02, 11/89 - Draw Poker Simulation by John Comeau, Top Score Software, PO Box 541, Townsend, MA 01469. Shareware fee = $7.00.

Vegas Johnny Draw Poker is a very interesting game as well as a learning tool for learning the finer points of draw poker. By use of the ASK menu selection, the author will give you his suggested move and the reasoning behind it although you do not have to take his advice. The game in progress can be SAVEd and then the next time you start the game, that game will automatically be continued. There are numerous options which can be used, even changing the HOUSE RULES for each hand, although they can not be changed in the middle of a hand (sorry).

You can play against 4 to 7 players, each of various skill levels. As players deplete their cash, they are dropped from the game (including you). Everyone starts with the same amount. Bets are $25 or $5. Ante is $5.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with 256K, DOS 2.0 or higher, Mouse is optional, MONO, CGA, VGA, and EGA are all supported. Can be run from a floppy disk or installed on the hard disk.

The source for this software was the author, John Comeau, Top Score Software.

This readme prepared by Roy Bales, edited by Kathryn Loafman.

Disk 567. Virtual Park DEMO, 2/90 — Thoroughbred Horse Racing Simulation. Virtual Park Thoroughbred Horse Racing Demonstration, Virtual Technology, PO Box 324043, Kansas City, MO 64132.

This Demo version contains 10 races consisting of 10 horses in each race. The non-demo version contains 120 horses, 12 trainers, and 15 jockeys, which are randomly selected.

Odds are given and you can bet on the horses, (up to $99) per horse. The horse travel an oval track displayed on the screen as well as a icon representation of each horse (in color if color monitor is used) in their positions on the track. In case of a photo finish, the photo is also displayed on the screen. The status of the race and the first through fourth horse positions are constantly updated as the race is run.

The demo version does not update the statistics file, nor does it keep track of your winnings and losings, nor can you collect your winnings.

The registered version of Virtual Park costs $35, which includes the floppy disk (either 5.25" or 3.5") and a user's manual.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compatible, 256k of available RAM, DOS 2.1 or higher, CGA, EGA, VGA, or Monochrome Graphics, can be run from floppy disk or copied to hard disk. Parallel printer optional.

The source for this software was the publisher, Virtual Technology.

This review prepared by Roy Bales, edited by Kathryn Loafman.

Disk 568. Football Fun 1990.5, 8/90 - Office Football Pool Management, Critics Choice, P. O. Box 1381, Pompano Beach, FL 33061. Shareware fee = $15.00.

Football Fun is a productivity tool for managing the office football pool. It could also be used as a tutorial for someone who has never understood the office football pool, but was too intimidated to ask.

The program is menu driven and is very easy to operate. It prints out a weekly selection sheet, using a file that contains the schedule for the current professional football season. The file with the season's schedule is provided, which saves the operator from having to key in the team names every week when preparing the weekly selection sheets. The selection sheets also contain the rules for playing the game. Having the rules on the sheet removes the barrier which discourages non-football types from participating in the game. The rules are quite simple. The object is to pick the most winners of the weekly pro games. Point spreads are optional. In the event of ties, each contestant enters the total number of points they think will be scored in the Monday night game, the winner being whoever was closest to the actual points scored. You can also use the point spread between the winning team score and the losing team score.

The author ask you to try the program for free this year. If you like what you see, register the program and next year you will get a version complete with that year's season schedule.

►

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM-PC or compatible with 256K RAM, floppy disk drive, 5.25" or 3.5" (720K), or a hard disk, Mono or color monitor, DOS 2.0 or higher.

The source for this software was the author, Marty Critics.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by KennethLoafman.

Disk 569. DAC Easy RapidTax DEMO, 7/90 - Tax Preparer/Electronic Filer 90, DAC EASY, INC., 17950 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75252 214/248-0205. Personal version is $79.95 - Commercial version is $399.95.

WHAT IT DOES: This is an interactive demo (not a "slide-show") of a tax preparation/electronic filing software package. Most features (including printing) and most schedules other than the 1040 and Schedule A are disabled in the demo. Using the data you enter, DAC EASY RAPIDTAX 90 does all computations and prints out a complete tax return. Most actions are accomplished with slick Lotus-like pull-down menus. Context-sensitive help is available in most areas with a press of the <F1> key. Personal version of the program will let you file returns by modem with an IRS approved third party filer. Commercial version will let you file returns electronically direct with the IRS. You must get the necessary federal approvals to provide this service. This program will prepare forms 1040 and most all of the schedules most people will need.

REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compatible with hard disk, memory requirements not stated. No printer or modem required for demo. A 1200 or 2400 baud modem will be needed to file a return electronically with a third party filer; and a Cleo 4800 baud bisynchronous modem will be necessary if YOU wish to become an approved electronic filer.

"WARNING: This demo program is designed to give you the feel of the real program, but you should not assume that the tax calculations it makes are free of error, or that the latest tables and rates and rules are being used. Also congress or the IRS may make material changes before December 31, 1990. The IRS will hold you responsible for all errors in your return, whether mathematical or substantive. Reliance on a tax program will probably not save you from penalties or interest charges, if you claim some tax benefit you are not entitled to. Thoroughly check the instructions that the IRS furnishes with each form to be sure that you are entitled to use the form, and that the data is properly entered and that all adjustments and limitations have been applied. Be sure that you are not required to fill out additional forms or schedules not included in this package. And manually check all calculations, and table lookups to be sure that the figures are correct. There could always be obscure errors that do not show up in trial runs with sample data.

This software was contributed by NTPCUG member Steve Lanier.

This review prepared by Preston Brashear, edited by KathrynLoafman.

Disk 570. Self-Health Stress Manager, 6/90 - Stress Reduction Techniques. 6 Step Stress Management Program by David W. Jacobs, Ph.D. and B. Scott Diener, Ph.D. SELF-HEALTH SYSTEMS, 2850 Sixth Avenue, Suite 222, San Diego, Calif 92103, (619) 298-3464. Shareware fee = $49.95.

Chronic stress can wreck your health. In order to reduce the stress in your life, the first step is to identify the various events that are driving you up the wall. The next step is to develop coping strategies to deal with these events.

The 6 Step Stress Management Program is designed to lead you through the process. The program is menu driven. The user learns how to identify and measure stress, how to relax, and how to apply the relaxation skills when faced with a stressful situation. Instructions are included for creating cassette tapes to use with the relaxation training section. Registered users receive a kit which includes 3 cassette tapes to use with the relaxation training program.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible; 512K available memory; two 5.25" floppy drives or a 3.5" floppy drive or a hard disk; supports color (CGA/EGA/VGA), or monochrome, or LCD display; printer required.

The source for this software was the publisher, Self-Health Systems.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by KennethLoafman.

Disk 571. Coloringbook, 8/90 - Prints a personalized coloringbook by Michael J. Barry, P.O. Box 5127, Lafayette, LA 70502, (318) 233-5789.

The shareware registration fee is $25.00. In addition, there is a $5.00 fee for each story. A package price of $35.00 includes registration and pictures for the 3 stories on the distribution disk. Additional stories are available for $7.50 each.

This menu driven program prompts the user to input the name of a child, as well as siblings, chums, and pet, his birthday, sex, and city and the name of the book donor. A sixteen page book can then be generated which uses these names in a story, and includes pictures to color. Printing can be done on a laser or dot matrix printer. The 3 stories on the disk are about trips to the Beach, a Museum, or the Zoo.

NOTE: There are no pictures on the disk. They are available only by paying the registration fee.

Hardware requirements include a printer and 10K available disk space for building the story.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE FROM THE AUTHOR ALSO INCLUDED ON THE DISK

The software was contributed by the author, Michael J. Barry.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by PrestonBrashear.

Disk 572. EGA Coloring Book 1.0, 1/90 - Screen pictures for kids to color, by David C. Swope, 3753 Tango Drive, North Bend, OH 45052. Shareware registration fee $16 upon paying the fee, you will also receive 10 more pictures and will be put on a mailing list for future sets.

This program is appropriate for very young children (or adults in need of tension relief). The child chooses a picture to color from the list of titles on the menu, and it appears on the screen ready to be colored. The palette of colors and patterns is displayed to the left of the picture. There are 120 colors available in 5 patterns. The menu, including the palette may be moved to the other side or removed when not needed. Choose a color and pattern, point to an enclosed area and click to color the area. An Oops menu selection will undo the most recent action. Choose Erase to start the picture over again. When you select Exit, the current picture will be saved as colored, and will be displayed the next time the program is run. There are 5 pictures on the distribution disk.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: EGA or VGA monitor - (uses 640 x 350 mode for display). A mouse is recommended, but arrow key combinations can be used if a mouse is not detected.

This program was downloaded by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by PrestonBrashear.

Disk of the Month MAIL ORDER FORM

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

Sold To:

Ship To:

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

TOTAL disks _____ @ $2.00 each . . . . . .

Shipping and Handling - $1.00 for each 5 disks . . . . . .

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ORDER . . . . . .

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
North Texas PC Users Group

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

_____

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Phone: (Check Preferred No.) Home ___ (___) _____ Metro? Y ___ N___

Work ___ (___) _____ Ext. _____ Metro? Y ___ N___

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from *each* column below:

Payment:	Membership Classification:	Application Status:
Cash ___	Regular ($24.00) ___	New Member ___
Check ___	Student ($12.00) ___	Renewal ___
Credit Card ___	(full-time with ID)	Address Change ___

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

Meetings & Times

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

There will be a drawing to give away a copy of the latest version of Lotus Agenda (for attending NTPCUG members with proof of membership).

Notice of other presentations will be posted in the ALL mailbox of the BBS and in the lobby at Infomart on Super Saturday.

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

9:00 - 9:55

Assembler
DOS
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users
Software Review
Windows Applications

10:00 - 10:55

Basic Programming
Local Area Networks
Paradox
Personal Users
Unix/Xenix

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

12:00 - 12:55

*

C++/Advanced C
Communications
Community Service
Fox Pro Database
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

* 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.

Board of Directors

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

Officers

President	Zack Porterfield	(214)434-1844 w
President-Elect	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
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Membership Dir.	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101h
Advertising Dir.	John Pribyl	(817)275-4109 h
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loalman	(214)596-2539
Group Statistician	Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699

Members Emeritus

Stuart Yarus — John Pribyl

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

BULLETIN BOARD (214)387-2751
(214)387-2752
(214)263-9036 (Metro)

SYSOP: – Tom Prickett
Asst. SYSOP.– Maggie Mooney
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams, Pete Testa
User Relations: Kent Cobb
Information Mgt: Dan Marmion
Technical Services: Leroy Tennison

Address Changes, etc...

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

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date.)

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h
	K. B. Barton	(214)747-0209 w
		(214)891-0941 h
Assembler		
Basic Programming	Kent Kingery	(214)458-9711 w
		(214)317-0125 h
Beginners C Lang.	Stan Milam	(214)775-1503
Beginners Pascal	Phil Chamberlain	(214)243-5034 h
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)233-8353 w
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	
	Tom Cook, Ph.D.	(214)341-1890 w
Communications	Pete Testa	(214)495-7506
	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h
		(214)464-7942 w
	Andrew Laham	(214)680-1107 h
DAC Software	Greg Cohen	(214)327-4172 h
	Purt Shaw	(214)669-9633 w
		(214)235-2559 h
Databases	Rodney Haas	(214)255-4400 h
		(214)407-0070 w
	Vincent Gaines	
DOS	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
Fox Pro	Kevin White	(214)644-7536
Genealogy	Al Sanford	(214)278-7688 h
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
	Gary Johnson	(214)937-9676 w
		(214)937-5851 h
Investors	Harry Widing	(214)350-4811
	Nash Kappoor	(214)458-9158
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	Francis Bright	
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OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	(214)550-2604 w
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)887-1679 h
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
Programmers	Kent Cobb	
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R:Base	Richard Hausleln	(817)467-4581 h
	Don Branham	(214)352-0888 h
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Turbo Pascal	Don Chick	(214)276-2524 h
Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h
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	Jim Stallworth	(214)240-1085 h
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WordPerfect	K.B. Barton	(817)349-9690
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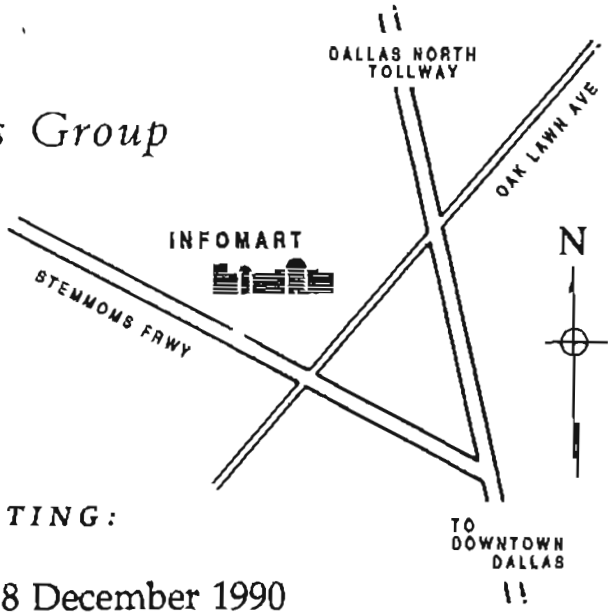

NEXT MEETING:

8 December 1990