



North Texas PC Users Group

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DEADLINE

Copy deadline for February
North Texas PC NEWS:
Thursday, January 10th

Meeting Dates:

January Meeting 1st Sat (5th)
February Meeting - 3rd Sat (16th)
March Meeting - 3rd Sat (16th)
(tentative)

*Happy
New
Year!*

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

b) Snail Mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service). Put the article on a floppy diskette and mail it to: 10429 N. MacArthur, #360, Irving, TX 75063

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

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Jim Hoisington	
COMDEX/Fall '90	3
Reagan Andrews, Ph. D.	
Using a Mouse with EDLIN	14
G. Kent Cobb	
On Complexity, No 47	18
Jim Hoisington	
A Short Treatise on Propeller Heads	19
Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group	
January - Election Month	3
BALLOT	

Special Items:

Agenda	1
SIC Reports	9
Disk of the Month	20
Swap Shop	22
Volunteer Guide	22
Member Application Blank	24
Officers, Meetings & Times	25

Program for January _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Central Point Software

PC Tools V6.0 and Central Point Backup

David Walnwright, Regional Manager

Come see this live demonstration of these two award-winning products which have gained so much popularity. Highlights of both products will be addressed in an open forum, with time for questions and answers. There will be a drawing for free products.*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

There will be a drawing for a free copy of Lotus Agenda and two copies of Lotus 1-2-3 Release 3.1.*

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

Prez Sez

Thank You Zack.

We all need to thank Zack Porterfield for being President this last year. It is not an easy job to be President of the NTPCUG and Zack has survived it well. About June of last year, PC World published a list of user groups. Their list showed a Zach Porterfield as President. In the following months, we received a torrent of mail addressed to Zach. The nickname has become permanent within the Board of Directors and officers.

Enjoy your retirement, Zach.

"The torch has passed ..."

As part of the transfer of power from one President to another, a heretofore secret ceremony performed only in the presence of the Board of Directors will be performed during the January business meeting. We won't divulge the contents of the ceremony so you will need to attend the business meeting to experience it. However, elsewhere in this issue is an article by my good friend Steve Bass reprinted from the Pasadena User Group newsletter which hints at what will happen during the ceremony.

Exciting year ahead.

Timothy Carmichael, our program chairman, says that lots of companies want to visit us to present their products during 1991. We also have a tentative commitment from Rich Landry, Editor in Chief of PC World, to be with us some weekend in 1991. Let us know if there are products or companies you would like to see presented at one of our meetings.

January Meeting is the FIRST Saturday.

In case you haven't noticed, our January meeting falls on the first Saturday of the month. Our contract with INFOMART sometimes causes us to move off of the second Saturday. When that happens, we always try to move to the third Saturday, but it just wasn't possible this month. If you can't remember the date of the meeting, you can call our recording at (214) 746-4699 to get the correct meeting date.

Fall COMDEX.

First of all, let me say that we did not hijack the airplane. It was stolen by the airline!

No trip to COMDEX, the big computer trade show in Las Vegas, is ever uneventful. When my wife and I arrived in Phoenix, we discovered that we were part of a group of 400 people booked onto a plane that held 200 people. Those of us left stranded by the airline milled about the airport like a snarling pack of dogs, complaining to every passenger service representative we could find. After about an hour, the airline stole an airplane and crew from a scheduled flight to Minneapolis and told us to get out of town.

Fall COMDEX is a big trade show with over 20 miles of aisles of booths filled with computer equipment and software. This year it was spread over 6 locations in Las Vegas. Needless to say, I did not make it to every booth. Laptops and Windows applications drew the crowds this year.

I like to go to some of the smaller, outlying show areas and browse. This is where the smaller, startup companies can afford a booth to show their wares. I found a company at Caesar's Palace with a package that let you generate windows applications by plac-

ing fields on the screen. Their package then produced the C language source code that could be modified to suit the application.

Here are some of what I remember as the best. The booth with the best drama was Logitech. The best button was from Edsun which had a battery powered neon light. The best giveaway was the Central Point Software book bag (which my son appropriated as soon as I unpacked it). The best speech was by Dr. Andrew Grove of Intel.

Vendors are realizing that user groups represent a large number of buyers. Those of us who attended from NTPCUG were invited to breakfast, lunch and evening product briefings every day of the show except Friday. My wife won a QMS Postscript Laser printer at the Adobe luncheon on Monday. (Maybe that was the best giveaway.)

On Wednesday evening, the Association of PC User Groups held their annual summit meeting. APCUG is a coordinating body for user groups throughout the world. I am member of the Board of Directors of APCUG so I helped organize the meeting this year. It is impressive to see representatives from user groups from Australia to the PC Club of Moscow in attendance. In total, the user groups that are members of APCUG represent over 20,000 users of personal computers.

My wife, who teaches kindergarten, was collecting buttons to use as counting objects in her classroom. With the help of Zach Porterfield, Andy Oliver, Reagan and Connie Andrews of NTPCUG and Steve Longo of Philadelphia, she came back with over 100 buttons handed out by vendors at the show.

Fall COMDEX was five intense days of learning. Thank goodness the flight back to Dallas was uneventful.

Jim Hoisington ▲

<i>EDlines</i>

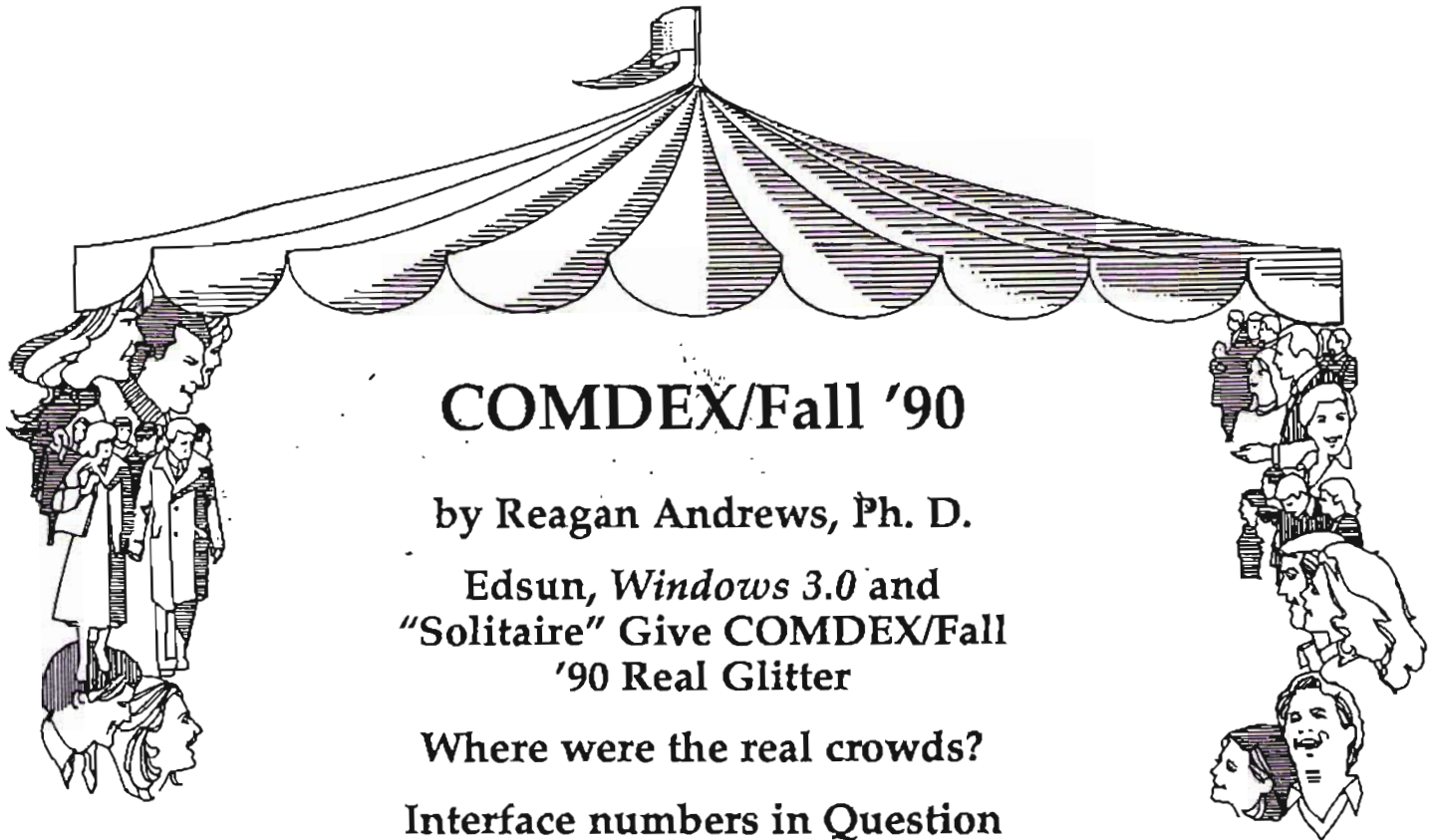
The microcomputer landscape is becoming very cluttered as of late. OS/2 is gaining momentum. The success of Windows 3.0 has surprised everyone... including Microsoft. DOS is still hanging on, and a new release promises to breathe new life into the operating system we all love to hate. Applications are changing to meet the challenge of new environments. Borland keeps sending us offers that are hard to refuse. How do you deal with it all? Well, I have resolved to slow down and observe for awhile. Face it, we'll never keep up with the greatest, or fastest, or most feature-laden, or whatever, as long as the benchmark keeps changing. But, in the meantime, your NTPCUG is here to help you stay abreast and minimize the confusion. (... and the COMDEX reports are here ... Ahhhhhhhh!!!)

The people who use and rely on products everyday are usually the best source of information; that's why user groups are so effective. The NT PC News wants to make our readership aware of products that live up (down) to the "shelfware" classification. We also want to let our readers know about little known products that are gems. But, we can't do it without your help. The need for timely information is very important to us all. That's why I always ask all our members to consider writing an article for the North Texas PC News. Please, write an article, or at least, make suggestions. I am always available - call me at (214) 402-0538, send me a BBS message (Douglas McQuaid), or send me a letter.

As Bartles and James say, "thank you for your support."

Douglas McQuaid ▲





COMDEX/Fall '90

by Reagan Andrews, Ph. D.

Edsun, *Windows 3.0* and
"Solitaire" Give COMDEX/Fall
'90 Real Glitter

Where were the real crowds?

Interface numbers in Question

Hardware and software "stars" shone individually over COMDEX/Fall '90 instead of the bright galaxies of the past.

Most popular software "Star" of COMDEX/Fall '90 must have been *Solitaire* running under *Windows 3.0*. And, running on a 386/33 or 486/25 (take your pick) if visual counts can be believed. That's not counting all the laptop and notebook PC's (everywhere at Comdex) running *Windows* and "Solitaire" — as if to prove they could.

Microsoft's stunning *Windows 3.0* game may have been another indicator of something else we saw at this year's Comdex — an absence of the peaks of excitement generated by past Comdex shows.

Hardware marked by numbers

There was real excitement at the hardware level, but you had to search to find it. Comdex this year was flooded with laptops, notebooks, faster than ever CPU's and "barebones" motherboards at every hand.

Edsun is best example of genuine innovation available at Comdex, and on two levels. Edsun was showing the most exciting video technology at COMDEX/Fall '90 with their VGA digital signal process-

ing (DSP) chip that doubles apparent display resolution — at very low cost. Tucked/hidden away in the LVCC West Hall, Edsun and Analog Devices were demonstrating visual impact on VGA's at 640 X 480 that looked as good as — or better than — 1024 X 768.

Edsun also had the most sought-after Comdex give aways this year — flashing, neon "e" lapel pins that attracted attention, particularly by female participants, throughout the show.

Sharp and Toshiba had the most exciting laptops with the active matrix color displays that were magnets for unbelieving spectators. Screens looked better than a number of monitors we saw this year.

Comdex on a diet?

Missing were Comdex hallmarks of years past — hours-long taxi lines, traffic jams on "the Strip" and the massive crowds of participants that have been the symbols of the giant computer show. This latter is another point of conflict.

Interface Group, Inc., was calling COMDEX/Fall '90 "the largest show ever" with (their) crowd estimates approaching 130,000. That may be. (See "Numbers, numbers, whose numbers are real.") ▶

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Theme was obviously GUI

COMDEX/Fall '90 did have a theme (unofficial) this year. GUI (graphical user interface) has definitely arrived. *Windows 3.0* and applications for *Windows* were everywhere. Especially at the combined Microsoft-IBM Graphical User Interface (GUI) Pavilion — designed to showoff OS/2 PM and *Windows* at the main entrance of the LVCC show area.

There were 48 booth/display areas in the Pavilion, bulk of which were showing *Windows 3.0* applications. Didn't make any difference, *Windows 3.0* was everywhere at Comdex this year. As was *Solitaire*.

Made sense. Instead of some CAD program with a cryptic command structure nobody knows, *Solitaire* is playable by (almost) anyone and fun to boot. Saw lots of exhibitors playing it in the absence of crowds. Also saw lots of *Solitaire* shown on laptops — and some notebook PC's — during the show.

Graphical accessories out in force

If it works in GUI and enhances wordprocessing, it was at COMDEX/Fall '90. Mice were so numerous that I felt like calling for an exterminator! Trackballs were almost as common, and several alternative pointing devices attracted equal attention.

Also common this year were alternative keyboards and "enhancers", including Cyrillic and Kanji language versions. Most unusual "keyboard enhancer" had to be the Bat from Infogrip that featured "chording" and looked like some type of oriental torture device.

Scanners weren't quite as prominent as last year, but were shown in numbers. This area seemed to be dominated by Niscan and Logitech at the hand-held level, both showing very nice grayscale scanners and software. Logitech people did report that their popular ScanMan Plus could be upgraded to the more recent grayscale standards with a software update.

Speaking of hand-held scanners, saw a logical extension that made sense — especially for those of us with unsteady hands. Scan Trac is a plastic jig that holds the scanner, keeps the copy to be scanned flat and makes the whole procedure much more precise.

Questions, questions, questions —

Few industry answers at Comdex

Came to COMDEX/Fall '90 with lots of questions. Not many were answered. Chief among them was the Intel vs. AMD in the 386 arena.

Big question after Friday, November 9th's Federal court decision in AMD's favor (two days before Com-

dex) was "Will AMD announce their 386 clone chip at Comdex?" And, "What will Intel do then?"

No answer(s) here. AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) did have a display at Comdex (which was not expected), but didn't make any (public) announcements concerning the competing 386 chip (which was expected.) Intel was equally mum on the issue. AMD wasn't announced as a participant at this year's Comdex. Their appearance there with booth was seen by some as a prelude to the expected announcement.

AMD did have a killer Harley-Davidson motorcycle on hand as part of their promotion of their 80287 math coprocessor clones (another court victory) to dealers, though. Bike was a prize for dealer(s).

IBM vs. Microsoft — OS/2 vs. Windows

Hints of acrimony between IBM and Microsoft recently touted by media were absent at Comdex.

The IBM-Microsoft Pavilion was a surprise. It was huge, 48 booths, and dominated the entrance to the main LVCC hall. Both OS/2 PM and *Windows* applications were being shown by their vendors. Saw some exciting new products here. And, this was one of the few areas that was consistently crowded up until the last minute at Comdex. In terms of application numbers, here and elsewhere, *Windows* was a clear winner.

Microsoft was showing OS/2 2.0 at their booth as well as a number of OS/2 applications. 2.0 looked good. Perhaps the experts are right — the full 32-bit 2.0 is the *real* OS/2.

Fun on the workstation front ...

SPARC (RISC) machine penetration into formerly PC-only country was apparent. CompuAdd (Austin, TX) was showing their new SPARC-powered workstation as was Hyundai. Dell Computing was silent on the SPARC issue as was Compaq. Dell did have a very interesting badge though, complete with picture of Compaq's Rod Canion.

Most interesting and stunning SPARC machine was at TriGem where they had their SPARC laptop on display running a full CAD/CAM package. Early reports on the machine indicated full DOS and Macintosh emulation capabilities, but these weren't shown. Too many Apple attorneys around, I guess.

TriGem also had one of the more sought after give aways — a huge, bright red shoulder bag. Trigem came with 30,000 of these bags and all were gone by Wednesday, third day of Comdex. ▶

Comdex's Soft Side — Software

Software seemed to revolve around Windows in one form or another. Lots of it seemed to speak to Windows limitations in file handling. (Who really likes Windows' File Manager interface, anyway?)

One of the first we saw (at the Riviera) seemed to handle the job best — ThreadZ's *FileF/X*. Part of a quintet of Windows replacement programs, it's composed of *F/X File Manager*, *F/X File Find*, *F/X File Un-delete*, *F/X File Search* and *ThreadZ Task Manager*.

Windows opened lots of doors. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) may be chief among them. Looked at Calera's *WordScan Plus* and genuinely impressed. This OCR is hot! Much better than 99% accuracy and Windows compatible at \$995 (list). First of the PC OCR's below the Kurzweil \$15K that seems reasonable for small business applications. Works with either full-page or hand-scanners.

Legacy was next. NBI's Windows wordprocessor looked super in Comdex demos. Better known for their dedicated wordprocessors (early 80's) and an initial attempt at converting the 8088-powered PC into

a somewhat slower, 6809 wordprocessor, NBI may have gotten it "right" this time out. Very impressive in handling graphics.

NTPCUG members saw *Ami Professional* at the November Meeting. Looked just as good at Comdex and was shown at Lotus, IBM-Microsoft Pavilion and at SAMNA's own area at Comdex.

Describe was showing their OS/2 version of *Describe*, but talking about a soon-to-be-announced Windows version. It's expected in the first or second quarter of 1991. They do handle graphics — really handle graphics in the GUI mode(s), and make Microsoft's *Word for Windows* look dated.

WordPerfect for Windows was showing at the WordPerfect display. Really wanted to see what Orem, UT, would do second time out of the chute, but the noise level was so high couldn't tolerate the area more than a few minutes.

Microsoft had same approach — Broadway-musical style — but did it right and was many, many DB lower in sound pressure level. Had software demonstration stations well-removed from the show

Numbers, Numbers — Whose Comdex Numbers are real?

Interface Group, folks who put on COMDEX/Fall '90, claimed crowds approaching 130,000.

Our impression was different. We didn't see the usual indices of massive crowds, and, exhibitors at the outlying Comdex halls, Bally's Casino, Caesar's Palace, the Riviera and the newly opened Sands Convention Complex, weren't so enthused about the crowds. They felt there were fewer attenders than in past Comdex's.

Boosting this view was the amount of empty booth space seen at all the above sites from Monday, November 12 (start of Comdex) through Wednesday, November 15. These are usually the most crowded days of the five-day exposition, even at the outlying sites.

Opening of the new Sands Convention Complex (approx. 500,000 square feet) may have better organized the show and spread the crowds out some. Did see some crowds at the usual "premium" show sites — the Las Vegas Convention Center and Las Vegas Hilton Convention Area (LVCC) on Wednesday morning, but both were easily negotiated by Thursday. By former standards, both were nearly deserted Friday, November 16.

Next year should be really interesting. COMDEX/Fall '90's producers, the Interface Group, purchased the aging Sands complex some time ago and managed to get half the planned 1,000,000-square foot Convention Complex open for this year's Comdex. Next year, the full, planned, space will be finished (they hope) and this may draw a lot of attention away from the LVCC and Hilton areas — traditional focus for major Comdex displays and announcements. The Sands itself reflects the shift, since rooms formerly priced in the \$50 range will start at \$150 next year, and will only be available through Interface Group.

Number of exhibitors this year tended to slightly mispronounce "interface" as "In your face" as a result of the Massachusetts group's management.

Workers in the Sands' new complex admitted that there were many problems in the new building, including the fact that using vacuum cleaners tended to "blow" circuit-breakers in the new building. Other problems were seen in poorly-thought-out stair placement and other potential hazards that must have caused their liability insurers to develop new ulcers.

areas. Saw *Word 5.5* (if you've seen *Word for Windows*, you've seen *Word 5.5*) and *Word for Windows* shown at advantage. Question: why does *WfW* look so much faster at Comdex than on my 25 MHz 386?

Only people who do Comdex better than Microsoft are Aldus. Looked forward to *PageMaker 4.0* (not shown) but appreciated rows of PC's where Comdex participants could "play" with *PageMaker 3.X* and really get a feel for this program. They've done this for several years, and each year we're impressed. Good show.

Both Aldus and Ventura better look out. Windows wordprocessors and several of the graphics editors are adding features at a rate that may make them obsolete.

Example: Saw Computer Support's *Arts & Letters 3.1* and Corel's *CorelDRAW 2.0* shown at Comdex. Both editors have included significant text-handling features that may threaten either Aldus or Ventura (or Quark) in the future. *Micrografx Designer* looked good too, but *Arts & Letters* has some real surprises in store for Corel.

Real software surprise came from the scanner area. *Image-In*. First saw this mentioned in a review that pitted it against Xerox's *Gray F/X*. Saw it for real in a Niscan scanner demo at Comdex. Impressed.

More impressed when I saw how many products were being shown with *Image-In* (silently) in the background. May be a real "sleeper" in the graphics management/editing area. Effectively removes the "640K" limit from scanner size vs. resolution dilemma since it runs under *Windows 3.0*.

Biggest area in software —

may have been type managers

Downloadable typefaces, type managers, Windows screen fonts and LaserJet (and compatible) fonts have gotten a real boost over the last year. Adobe was showing their *ATM (Adobe Type Manager)* at a number of locations as was Bitstream's *Facelift*. Agfa Compugraphics *Intellifonts* and LaserMAX weren't far behind, either. Were several other typeface producers for PC's showing as well.

Must mean the LaserJet and compatibles have really arrived and type appearance isn't a term for art directors alone anymore.

Most of the type "directories" shown attempted to teach type usage as well as showoff the developers' own type faces. Two of the best were from LaserMAX (*Type GUIDE*) and Digital Typeface Corporation's *MasterWorks Type Library*.

Even Microsoft was showing their *Trulmage* page description language, *TrueType* fonts and several laser printers.

T-shirt Wars at Comdex?

Logoed T-shirts are one of the more popular give aways at Comdex.

Saw two men strolling through the Sands Convention Center area wearing T-shirts with "Prodigy Sucks!" emblazoned in very bold letters. Stopped one of the men, Tomm Dauenhauer, President of Autommedia Computer Imaging Systems (ACIS), who explained they were protesting several recent actions by IBM/Sears Prodigy service.

Tomm was quite serious about this "protest", to the point that his business card has "Boycott Prodigy" across the bottom in bold letters.

Offered me a T-shirt and took a business card. Added it to what appeared to be several hundred he'd already collected at Comdex for the purpose. I'm not sure what all this means, but I think it may mean Prodigy may be in for some hard times if this man's dedication is any indication of the mood of Prodigy users now.

What to print all this on?

11 X 17 Lasers, Of course

Big laser news this year was the larger printers. Nisho was showing a 480 X 480 DPI resolution, 11" X 17" PostScript printer that produced super images. Fast. The LN-2248B runs from an Intel 80960 and cranks out pages at 20 PPM with prices beginning at \$18K.

QMS was showing their 300 X 300 DPI, 11" X 17" QMS-PS 2210 and 2220 printers at Comdex in addition to their better-known, 8.5" X 11" QMS-PS 810 and 820 models. Head of the QMS class appeared to be the QMS ColorScript 100 series color PostScript printers.

LaserMaster — a company devoted to proving that laser printers are equal of photo-typesetters — announced their LaserMaster 1200, 11" X 17" laser printer that features 1200 X 1200 DPI output. Pricy — announced at \$16,000 — the LaserMaster printers feature 135 typefaces and full PostScript capability.

In Hardware —

Smaller Is Bigger — Bigger is Bigger

This year's Hardware at Giant Show

Small was definitely "IN" at Comdex. Notebook PC's and laptop PC's were everywhere the eye fell in

What would our Pres do — if no one were looking?

Jim Hoisington, new (and old) NTPCUG President, is an old Comdex hand. He's also travelled some during his various careers. He knows how to handle airlines, hotels, concierges and taxis.

Rent cars are another matter.

We caught a ride with Jim and Nancy to one of the evening APCUG meetings. We began by looking for the rental car which Jim had left in the Sands parking lot — someplace. Car found after a tour of the lot. Group proceeded to Alexis Park and another reception. Terminally crowded there. Started to leave.

Jim's key would not fit car's doorlock. Played with it a while, said nice things to car and key, considered brute force. Wives pointed out "real" rent car a few cars over in the parking lot. Key fit. Jim left Alexis Park via the "Entrance Only" ramp.

Connie began searching for a taxi.

the exhibit halls. TI, Compaq, Sharp, Poqet and a lot of names we'd never heard before were showing notebooks as well as AST.

All looked good, but none were remarkable. Announced prices ranged from stratospheric to unbelievably low with the latter coming from vendors we didn't recognize. They were so common it was almost as boring as the laptops which were ubiquitous.

However, hard-disk drive development is being driven by this segment of the PC market. Every drive maker at Comdex was showing either very, very large capacity (400-500 M) 3.5" drives or medium capacity (40 -100 Megabyte) 2.5" drives, or both. Except Micropolis who wasn't showing anything except very fast 5.25" SCSI drives.

TEAC hit the middle ground with very small (thin), medium capacity 3.5" drives. TEAC, as most other drive makers, also featured "sleep" modes of operation to accomodate the laptop/notebook market. TEAC also showed their 2.8M, 3.5" floppy disk drives, but no major PC maker(s) had endorsed this standard at Comdex.

Almost all drives were available in IDE or SCSI models, while ESDI and ST-506 models were much less visible this year and fading from popularity.

Both Insite and Brier Technologies were at Comdex, but neither is apparently shipping their 20M, 3.5" floppy drives in numbers in spite of earlier announcement(s) from Brier Technologies last year. Did hear rumors (on the floor) that the Insite "floptical" units are being produced in Japan and purchased in 100,000 quantities by an "unnamed" US PC maker.

Axonix to the rescue ...

Axonix comes to the rescue of laptop owners who need more disk space. Not new technology, but an excellent implementation of existing technology, Axonix features a line of add-on hard disks, floppy disks and other accessories for laptops.

Datafile is a portable hard drive attached to the parallel interface for laptops that don't support hard disks normally. Sizes range from 20 - 200 M. Axonix also produces the Lapstation, laptop expansion stations, for Sharp, Toshiba and TI laptops that allow almost "any conceivable" to be attached to the laptop PC.

That's "Small Footprint" PC's!

Smaller looked very appealing in the Carry-I PC's from Flytech Technology. First time I saw them, I thought they were either toys or models — until I noticed one running "Solitaire", that is. Top of the line is the FT-9305. This is a 16 MHz, 386SX powered PC with 4 M DRAM, 3.5" 1.44 M FDD and an 80 M hard disk. CPU unit measures 9.5" X 7.3" X 1.8" (smaller than a standard textbook) and weighs just under six pounds. A 10" VGA color monitor is available.

The Ergo "Brick"

Smaller yet was the Ergo "Brick" which is a cross between a laptop, notebook and small-footprint PC. Also a 386SX machine, the Ergo is shown vertically and can carry 8 M DRAM and a 212 M hard disk. This unit plugs into a docking station — as do many of the notebook and laptop PC's — and features a number of external accessories ranging from mice to tape backup units. List price for these starts at \$2400 and escalates.

Larger was larger this year too

Big monitors were almost standard this year. The new IBM monitors were stunning, but "lost" in the IBM and IBM-Microsoft Pavilions until you stepped

back and took notice that this monitor was good. Very "pricey," though.

NEC, Mitsubishi, Seiko and Moniterm were also showing big monitors that looked outstanding, and, as last year, the NEC 3D and 5D monitors were defacto show standards. *Windows 3.0* detractors need to see a fast 486 driving one of these 19 - 20" monitors to appreciate GUI.

Larger monitors, 27" and bigger, were being used very widely for software demonstrations. Unfortunately we saw the return of the "fuzzy", out-of-focus screen again. (Didn't see this technical bug much last year, but was almost universal in 1988.)

Safe and convenient

PC-SAFE II is a ROM-level, PC security system from Autrec Research, Design and Development. It's easily installed, works with PC's, PC/AT's and PS/2 Model 30's, and moderately priced (\$137.50). Looked these people up at Comdex after seeing a series of BBS threads before the show. Comes on a board that fits in a short slot on the motherboard and doesn't require changing the original BIOS ROMs. System

looked fast, non-intrusive and transparent after logon.

H-P Continues excellent support

Last hardware item at Comdex came from Hewlett-Packard's booth. I stopped by to enquire about the new PostScript cartridge for the LaserJet IIP and III series printers.

Instead, we spent an enjoyable period discussing H-P's support system, now highlighted by their FIRST (Fax Information Retrieval Support Technology). The new H-P service requires a Group 3 FAX machine and touch tone phone, but will provide very rapid technical support turnaround.

H-P is providing technical support, application notes, data sheets, lists of supporting software/hardware and information on how to obtain drivers for H-P equipment. Wanted us to print the FAX number (208) 344-4809 too.

Reagan a

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)

Assembler SIG

In December, we discussed the Spontaneous Assembly package - an extensive library of well designed assembly language functions and macros (source code included) that can simplify the writing of assembler programs. We also discussed various methods of locating the master DOS environment. Our January meeting will feature a discussion of how to find the number and type (i.e. Fixed, RAM, LAN, etc.) disks that are present on a user's PC.

The topic of each meeting will be posted on the BBS one week before the meeting date. Any sample code will be made available for download-

ing as well. Please check the BBS before each meeting.

Frank Cavallitto

Beginners Pascal SIG

After a 3-month hiatus, this SIG will meet again, at least in January. Part of the meeting will be devoted to determining the direction of the SIG and content of the meetings during 1991, so that it appeals to the interests of the majority of the attendees.

There have been several important developments recently, most notably the announcement by Borland of Turbo Pascal Version 6.0. The new version includes several nice features

missing from previous versions, such as Mouse support and the ability to use multiple windows for editing in the Integrated Environment — and more extensive use of "Objects".

We will discuss the new version during the meeting.

Phil Chamberlain

Business Applications/DAC Software SIG

Bruce Schubert held his traditional Christmas Stocking Stuffer presentation at the December 8th SIG meeting and his suggestions were well received. Bruce features software with a shelf price of \$50 or less and his presentation included games, utilities, address book, cookbook, check book & accounting programs. Particularly timely was the 1990 Tax program suggestion - wish someone at my house had been listening!!!

NEXT MEETING - Jan. 5, 1991 or whenever - we expect to have someone from DAC Software to go over (1) the new upgrade of DAC Easy "Light" and (2) the 1991 Version (1990 Tax Year) of Sylvia Porter's RapidTax by DAC. Might even have

time to ask a few questions about the current "fix" status of Accounting 4.1 and it's Editor. As this develops, we will post information on the Business and DAC conference of the NTPCUG BBS so stay tuned for details.

Putt Shaw

COMM SIG

As we enter into 1991, we sadly say Good-bye to Pete Testa, our SIG Leader of the past three years. Pete has served the SIG admirably, but changes in job responsibilities now require that he direct his time toward his employer's needs. We still hope to see Pete regularly as a visitor, though. Thanks, Pete, for a job well done.

As Pete's assistant for several months, I have volunteered to assume the role of SIG leader. Joining me is Mr. Bill Green, a SIG member who has often "stolen the show" with his excellent questions and, sometimes, even some answers. With inputs from the NTPCUG membership, Bill and I feel we can make the Comm SIG an enlightening experience for all.

To cap off 1990, the Comm SIG provided cookies and drinks to December's participants. Between eating and drinking, we talked about some of the Bulletin Board systems around the Metroplex, and of the mail facilities available for linking these together. We also discussed such things as protocols and data compression techniques.

Future meetings will be based on YOUR interests. As an example, starting in February, we plan to have presentations on data transmission protocols (i.e., XMODEM, YMODEM, KERMIT, etc.) and on modem protocols such as V.42 and MNP5. Access and use of our BBS, and others, will also be a predominant topic. Watch PC NEWS and this SIG for details.

We will also be asking you to complete a survey form so we can better serve you. Start collecting your thoughts, and join us at the Comm SIG's Noon meeting in January, 1991 !!

Doug Gorrie

The C++ SIG, VI.3

At the December meeting of the C++ SIG, we continued our discussions of object-oriented programming and C++ classes. We reviewed the topics we covered in December, and used Turbo Debugger to step through some code that illustrated those topics. There were several questions from the audience, and we didn't cover as many topics as we had planned. (But that's okay — It makes it a lot easier to prepare for the January meeting.) We did manage to talk about the "this" pointer, but we didn't get around to operator overloading, reference types, I/O streams, or friend functions.

In January, we will move on to the topics we failed to cover in December. At some point (probably in February), we will discuss inheritance, derived classes, and virtual functions. When we finish all of that, we will move on to our project, and discuss all of these items in much greater detail.

The source code for the January meeting will probably be exactly the same as the December version. The December version is available on the bulletin board now. If we do update it, we will post it on the BBS about a week before the meeting, and announce it in the C SIG conference.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

dBase SIG

At the December meeting we discussed lesson 10 of the dBASE IV Workbook. Lesson ten explains the concepts of generating applications. The lesson showed 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

December's DOS SIG was highlighted by NTPCUG (new and old) President Jim Hoisington's cool presentation of CONFIG.SYS tips while erstwhile CP/M-86 and UNIX terrorists were attempting to hold the SIG Meeting participants hostage.

Undaunted by unwashed thugs (UNIX hackers) waving Uzi's and MAC-10's, Hoisington persisted and held forth with unwavering explanations of the DOS idiosyncrasies contributing to CONFIG.SYS confusion. Later, Hoisington reported he'd known all along that the terrorists were pointing the "wrong ends of the guns" at him and credited his AF Academy training and Fred Williams' tutoring for this burst of knowledgeable self-confidence."

January should start another year's DOS SIG off with a bang -- if the CP/M and UNIX folks can find their C-4 (plastic explosive). Failing that, Jim and Reagan will continue to expound on ways PC users can optimize operation via judicious manipulation of the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

The Genealogy SIG is the first of four genealogy SIG's that meet between 9 am and 12 noon on the Infomart Super Saturday. The Genealogy SIG meets from 9 to 10 am. The PAF SIG meets between 10 and 11 am, and both the Family Roots SIG and the Roots III SIG meet from 11 am to 12 noon. The Genealogy SIG is a general genealogy computer SIG that does not stress any one type of genealogy software. Each of the three SIG's generally has access to a LCD overhead projector which means that the computer screen is also displayed on the large overhead projector screen.

A handout telling about the planned programs for the Genealogy SIG through April 1991 was passed out at the December meeting. After the general business meeting, Art Rubuck made a short report on his recent trip to the genealogy facility in Salt Lake City.

The December 8th program was a demonstration of the various printouts that can be obtained by using some of the popular Genealogy programs. One reason that we did this was that many people will use one program to enter data and another one or two for printouts. It appears that any serious genealogist of the future will actively use more than one [genealogy software package] at a time. Travis Morris ▶

demonstrated PAF, which is the most popular of the present programs. PAF is mainly ascendancy oriented, so Travis also showed some descendant's chart forms that can be printed by Brothers Keepers. Art Rubuck showed the specialties of Brothers Keeper. One of the unique features of Brothers Keeper is its ability to generate "box" charts, including merging up to eight families. These printouts are very impressive and take a long time to generate. They are useful at family reunions.

Joyce Jones handed out examples of Family Roots printouts. Family Roots can be used on Apple and IBM compatible PC's. John Wiley showed the versatility of Roots III at the December meeting. Roots III is very source oriented and requires the programmer to have good documentation of his genealogical data. Ron Fairbrother presented the distinctive hard copy form of the Family Edge program.

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

January 1991	Genealogy information available on local BBS's
February	Hand scanners and their technology
March	How to read old handwriting

Al Sanford

Investors SIG

Welcome to Harry Widing who has agreed to lead the Investors' SIG and to Nash Kapoor who has agreed to help Harry. Hopefully the former leaders, Cliff Murphy and Dick Hoierman, will continue to offer their expertise as they have so unselfishly in the past.

Nash started off the November meeting with the introduction to each meeting's format: an outlook on market conditions by way of the current trend in the Dow Jones Index. The presentation following the introduction was based on five ways in which an earnings growth rate can be calculated. As an example, Harry Widing discussed his method of screening for acceptable investment stocks and showed the implications of applying the different types of rates upon a specific company.

In December, the first half of the program looks at a database from a Ft. Worth company—STARTEXT. This is a service offering a database of his-

torical and current stock market information. The second half of the program Dick Richtman discusses moving averages as a useful tool in analyzing stock movements in the market.

Did you catch the January meeting on the FIRST Saturday? Then you're sharper than I was when the time changed in October. The subject of that meeting was software used enthusiastically by Harry Widing called Market Based Fundamental Stock Analysis.

As a part of the free exchange format of the SIG, ample time will be allowed for questions, suggestions ... differing opinions. With the wealth of investment experience of our members no subject from how-do-I-get-started to commodities trading should lack for comment.

Jo Johnston

LAN SIG

In December we reviewed the Manifest program by Quarterdeck and discussed how it might be used to help in setting up and maintaining a LAN.

In January we will continue looking at software tools that might be useful to LAN administrators and/or users. Please check the LAN SIG area of the BBS for more details. See you at the Infomart on January 5th!

Bernie VanRoekel

Lotus SIG

The subject for the December meeting was string arithmetic and string @ functions. The meeting was a follow-up to the November meeting on the same subject. Mark was very busy since the last meeting and was not able to add a lot of additional insight, but he did offer a few points to ponder. Hopefully, Mark's schedule will not be as busy so that he can get ready for next month's meeting. On the BBS in the Lotus SIG is a file called CHECK.WK1 which converts numbers into English equivalents. Mark was also amazed at how little was written about string arithmetic in Lotus Magazine. Perhaps the slight attention on the subject accounts for the lack of use by many members. Suffice it to say, that if you have never used string arithmetic, you probably should.

The subject for the January 1991 meeting will be the graph capabilities of 1-2-3. 1-2-3 graphs are often criticized for their lack of presentation quality, but the add-in's Always (release 2.2) and Impress (release 2.2 and 3.1) address that problem to a large degree. The interesting thing about 1-2-3 graphs is that when included in release 1A, they were among the best available graphs anywhere. In fact 1-2-3 graphs spawned a host of other packages that attacked 1-2-3's "ugly" graphs. Even if 1-2-3's graphs are not presentation quality for your tastes, you ought to consider them because pictures are easier to understand than hoards of numbers on a screen. Trying to explain a spreadsheet to your boss or spouse or someone else, just graph the data and show the relationship. Come on by and see how to use the graph capability.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions about 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet programs. If you have one, come on by or post the question/problem on the BBS in the Lotus SIG mailbox.

Mark Gruner and Pat Henley

OS/2 for End Users

The past few meetings have shown significant interest in OS/2. We've been discussing the newest release (1.3) and its enhancements. The group is open to anyone wanting to find out more about externals and end user interface and operation of OS/2. The January meeting will focus on running DOS programs under OS/2, using the Desktop Manager and Group Menus. For February, we will deal with the new 1.3 Print Manager and spooler. March will expand on printing to cover the Adobe Type Manager and its use under the Presentation Manager and Print Manager.

Bob Fermier

Personal Users SIG

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



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The four classes for JANUARY 1991 will be:

9:00 AM	Class 5.1 Directories, Batch Files, & Paths
10:00 AM	Class 6.1 Creating DOS Menu Systems
12:00 Noon	Class 7.1 Fundamentals of Lotus 1-2-3
1:00 PM	Class 8.2 Fundamentals of "BASIC" Language

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers

As the new year approaches, the discussion turned to what the marketing boys would hype in 1991. Will it be the "Year of the GUI"? Another perennial favorite suggested was the

"Year of the LAN". Kent Kingery suggested the "Year with No Name" which received a standing round of applause.

Come join us for more idle speculation and nonsense.

Jim Hoisington

R:Base SIG

I would like to express my thanks to Charles Lucas and Alan Alberts for hosting the November and December meetings for me. As I write this column a few weeks before Christmas, I am looking forward to our meeting in January. I will discuss the dynamic multiple columns point and pick menus in a data entry form using R:Base version 3.1.

As always, a question and answer session will be available to all in attendance. If you are new to R:Base or a long time user, why not stop by and see what is going on.

Rick Hauslein

Unix SIG

Well, here we are at the beginning of another year. (Well it will be by the time you read this. Actually I'm writing this well before Christmas). We had a fairly large turnout for the December meeting. Which was something of a pity. Jim was once again to give a lecture on file permissions under Unix. And once again the powers that be decreed otherwise. This time job demands rather than the flu was to blame. I know how he feels. I've also got a project nearing a deadline. I just hope first-timers weren't too unfavorably impressed by my lame attempts to keep a question and answer session going in the absence of questions. In the future I'll have to prepare a backup lecture for days like this. I promise, we are usually much more organized. So for the January meeting we will have—surprise—Jim presenting file permissions under Unix. But just in case I'm going to read up on the cron command. On another note January is an important month for Unix users, especially those living in the DFW area. From January 22 to 24 Infomart will host the eighth annual UniForum Conference and Trade Show. The central topic for the show will be Open Systems while workshops will

present many other subjects. There will also be 270 companies presenting exhibits and 55 conference presentations. Those wishing more information on UniForum can call (800) 323-5155.

Doug Scott

Windows Applications SIG

The Windows Application SIG had its third meeting this past December and things are looking pretty good. We have had good discussions and good questions to start the discussions. I hope to be a little better at scheduling actual presentations and topics for each meeting in the future. Life has been a little hectic lately.

For January, Barbara Waller from Samna Corporation will be doing a follow-up presentation for Ami Professional. Barbara is hoping to get good feedback from all those who might have picked up a copy at the November meeting or anybody else who has a copy of the package.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments for the group I would like to hear them. Please drop me a line on the BBS or feel free to call me. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to be assistant SIG leader please let me know; I could sure use the help and it would be a chance for someone to get involved in the North Texas PC Users Group.

Well that's all for this month and I look forward to seeing everyone out for the January Meeting; it should be a good one.

?

Word SIG

Word SIG participants got a first look at Word 5.5 in December. We'll continue looking at Microsoft's latest version of Word in January with an eye to how this version may be an improvement over previous versions in terms of memory management and printer drivers.

Again, some lucky Word SIG participant will win a copy of Word for Windows 1.1 or DOS Word 5.5 during the meeting.

Reagan Andrews

▲

Using a Mouse with Edlin

by G. Kent Cobb

Three years ago, I bought my first mouse, a Logitech. I quickly realized that I had wasted my money. My word processor of choice did not make use of the mouse, nor did my favorite spreadsheet. Of all the mainstays in my software arsenal, only one was designed to be used with a mouse. Even that one was a disappointment: it took no time at all to conclude that its mouse interface had been designed by an idiot.

My mouse had been gathering dust for about a year, when I met a more fortunate rodent owner. After we had worked together for a few days, I realized that all of his preferred programs made excellent use of the mouse. I commented on this fact, and complimented him on his wisdom in purchasing mouse-aware software. (It seemed like the gracious thing to do, especially in light of the fact that he was my boss.)

I realized from his "Why-did-I-hire-you?" look that I must have said something incredibly stupid. He explained patiently that the secret was in the software bundled with the mouse. Using the Logitech software, he was able to make the mouse simulate the keyboard; his application programs expected input from the keyboard, and the Logitech TSRs made them think that's what they were getting. Pulling the Logitech manual from his shelf, he showed me the sections that describe the process in detail. (So that was the secret! The manual — I never would have thought to look there!)

I was impressed. I made a mental footnote to investigate, and see if I could mousify the programs that I used regularly. (I had a suspicion that I might have a lot of free time in the very near future.)

About a year later, I finally turned my intentions into actions. Unfortunately, my actions quickly turned into disappointments. Although it was possible to make my favorites respond to the mouse, there were enough idiosyncrasies in the process to make it more of a distraction than an advantage. (I hesitate to use the term "bugs", since the most significant one was described very clearly in the documentation. Nonetheless, I found this particular "feature" to be a major annoyance.) Discouraged, I returned my prodigal fingers to the home row.

And there they stayed for another year, and would have stayed indefinitely, had I not replaced the mouse with a Logitech trackball. In the twelve months between then and now, I had thought on a number of occasions what a shame it was to abandon the mousifier. I never regretted the loss enough to try it again, though — not until I got the trackball

with its new software, that is. Convinced that such a good idea could not be permanently hobbled by a mediocre implementation, I decided to give Son-of-Mousifier a try.

The Gory Details

Mousifying a program requires at least a small amount of "programming". You have to decide which mouse buttons should simulate which keys (and possibly, in which situations.) You also have to decide what should happen when the mouse is moved, and how sensitive the mouse should be to those movements.

The central piece of Logitech's mousification system is a TSR named LOGIMENU, which offers a reasonable selection of options. You can set the sensitivity of the mouse in both vertical and horizontal directions; you can assign any mouse movement or button combination to a sequence of keystrokes; you can pop up a menu of available options; and you can make any of these actions conditional. (I.e., things happen ONLY if a particular string of characters is on the screen at a particular location.) A sample of what such a mouse program looks like is shown below. This one is designed to be used with PC-Write, the shareware word processor from Quicksoft.

```
BEGIN lbtn,mbtn,rbtn,left,right,up,down,4,15
```

```
left: TYPE 0,75 ; Left-arrow key
right: TYPE 0,77 ; Right-arrow key
up: TYPE 0,72 ; Up-arrow key
down: TYPE 0,80 ; Down-arrow key
```

```
lbtn: TYPE 0,61 ; F3 key
rbtn: TYPE 0,64 ; F6 key
```

```
mbtn: MENU "PC-Write Options",11,30,57
      OPTION "Delete Block",delblock
      OPTION "Copy Block to File",cpyblock
      OPTION "Mark Box",markbox
      OPTION "Unmark",unmark
      OPTION "Exit",nul
      MEND
```

```
delblock: TYPE 0,62 ; F4 key
cpyblock: TYPE 0,99 ; Ctrl-F6 key
```

```
; Don't try to go into box-marking mode if PC-Write is
; prompting for some type of input
```

```
markbox: MATCH 1,1,,"Esc:Menu",ctrlf7,nul
ctrlf7: TYPE 0,100 ; Ctrl-F7 key
```

```
unmark: TYPE 0,63 ; F5 key
nul: NOTHING
```

The mouse program starts with a BEGIN statement, which includes a long list of parameters. The first three are line labels which indicate what happens when the user presses the left, middle, or right button, respectively. For each of these labels, there must

be a line in the program with a matching label. Similarly, the next four labels are for left, right, forward, and backward mouse movements. The two numbers at the end dictate the sensitivity of the mouse to horizontal and vertical movements.

In our example, moving the mouse causes the program to branch to the "left:", "right:", "up:", or "down:" label, depending, of course, on the direction you move it. If you move the mouse to the left, for example, the program branches to the "left" line, and executes the statement

```
TYPE 0,75
```

(Anything on a line that follows a semi-colon is a comment. On this line, the portion "; Left-arrow key" is just a reminder to myself, or anyone else who might be looking at this program, that 0,75 is the left-arrow key.)

This is perhaps the most straightforward thing that LOGIMENU can do: the TSR detects a mouse action, and makes it appear to the application program that you have typed something on the keyboard. In this case, it makes PC-Write think the left arrow key has been pressed whenever we move the mouse to the left. Similarly, moving the mouse up, right, or down simulates the up-arrow, right-arrow, and down-arrow keys. It would have been an improvement, in my opinion, if Logitech had written their software to interpret commands like "TYPE LEFT-ARROW", rather than "TYPE 0,75". All of the key codes are documented in the manual, though, and it's not terribly difficult to assign the keys you want to simulate.

In my example, the left and right buttons are used to simulate the F3 and F6 keys, which are used in PC-Write to copy and move blocks of text. That leaves us with only one button (ignoring combinations of buttons), and several keys we would like to simulate. LOGIMENU's answer to this dilemma is the MENU command.

Pressing the middle button will take us to the "mbtn:" line, and cause the menu that's defined there to be displayed:

PC-Write Options

```
Delete Block
Copy Block to File
Mark Box
Unmark
Exit
```

Once it's displayed, you can use the mouse to pick any of the options on the menu. The "Delete Block", "Copy Block to File", and "Unmark" options are very much like the key simulations we've seen before; selecting these options will simulate the F4, Ctrl-F6, and F5 keys, respectively. The one option which is a little different is "Mark Box".

On the "markbox:" line, we find the command

```
MATCH 1,1,,"Esc:Menu",ctrl7,rul
```

This is LOGIMENU's way of implementing "conditional execution." What this means is that LOGIMENU will examine the screen before it simulates any keystrokes. In particular, it will look in row 1, column 1, for the characters "Esc:Menu". If it finds them, it will simulate a Ctrl-F7 key; if it finds something else on the screen at that location, it won't do anything. (PC-Write displays this string of characters when you are entering text; when it is waiting for a response to a prompt, or displaying a help screen, or is in some other non-input mode, it will change this display to something else.) This option allows us to prevent the key from being simulated at those times when Ctrl-F7 is not meaningful. It would actually be appropriate to apply this same test to the other function keys, but in the interest of keeping the sample program simple, I have chosen not to.

Putting it all together

The process of going from an ASCII .DEF file to a mousified program is fairly simple. The first step is to load the appropriate Logitech software. You must have a mouse driver loaded (either the MOUSE.SYS device driver in the CONFIG.SYS file, or the MOUSE.COM TSR), and you must have the LOGIMENU TSR loaded. The easiest way to accomplish this is to load both via the CONFIG.SYS and/or AUTOEXEC.BAT files. (If you use the MOUSE.COM driver rather than MOUSE.SYS, you must be sure to load it before LOGIMENU.)

The mouse program should be in a file with a .DEF extension, and the same filename as the program to be mousified. In the example above, the mouse program is contained in the file ED.DEF. (The PC-Write executable file is named ED.EXE.) Logitech provides a mouse program compiler, NEWMENU.EXE, which turns the ASCII text file ED.DEF into the ready-to-run version, ED.MNU. The syntax is:

```
NEWMENU filename
```

NEWMENU will either tell you that you have made mistakes in ED.DEF, or that ED.MNU is ready to use. Once ED.MNU is ready to use, you can wake the mouse up with the following commands:

```
LOGIMENU ed ED filename
```

The first command tells LOGIMENU that you're about to run a program named ED, and that it should activate ED.MNU. This syntax allows LOGIMENU to juggle menus for a number of different mousified programs. The second command is what you would normally enter to start PC-Write.

At this point, LOGIMENU is transparent, unless you choose to use the mouse. You can use PC-Write in its normal, non-mousified mode, or you can use the

mouse to move the cursor, mark text, etc. In at least one respect, custom-mousified software has a tremendous advantage over pre-infested versions: the screen is completely free of the difficult-to-hit scroll bars that litter most of the current mouse-driven software. (I have a sneaking suspicion that the people who design software with scroll bars have never used a monitor smaller than 27 inches.)

Nice beat, easy to dance to, but ...

I still don't use LOGIMENU for my day-to-day work. For the most part, it works as advertised, and does create a usable mouse interface for a number of programs. After several weeks of use, though, I found that I still relied on the keyboard the vast majority of the time. That in itself is not reason enough to ditch LOGIMENU, but it was a contributing factor.

There were two more compelling reasons to revert to the keyboard. The first is the "idiosyncrasy" I mentioned earlier, which persisted into the later version. The easiest way to describe it is with an example.

In PC-Write, it is possible to shell out to the DOS command line, and, available memory permitting, run another program. This is something I do frequently. The second program may have its own LOGIMENU interface, which you can load in the normal way, without any difficulties. The problem occurs when you try to return to PC-Write; LOGIMENU does not realize that the second program has terminated, and does not reactivate ED.MNU. You find yourself back in PC-Write, but with a different mouse interface!

I made a couple of attempts to correct this problem. My first attempt was to use CLICK, a second Logitech TSR, which automates the loading of .MNU files. With CLICK active, there is no need to enter the "LOGIMENU ed" command, since CLICK does that automatically. Unfortunately, while CLICK can recognize when a program is executed, and load the appropriate .MNU file, it still doesn't seem to know when a program terminates.

My second attempt was to discard CLICK, and use a series of batch files to execute all the programs for which I had built .MNU files. The problem with this approach is that you don't know (when you're building the batch file) which .MNU file to restore; the program may have been executed from the command line, or it may have been executed from another program. I suspect that for many people this would not be a big deal. For me, it meant that the very thing that was supposed to make my life easier was complicating it, instead.

Nonetheless, I probably could have lived with it, had it not been for Reason Number Three. Shortly after I started using LOGIMENU, I started seeing some cor-

rupted files coming out of PC-Write. It seemed to occur when I made major changes to a file, and shelled out to the command line several times to run other programs. I never did manage to positively identify the source of the problem.

The sad thing about this one is that it may not be LOGIMENU's fault. The blame could just as easily rest with PC-Write, or with me. (I use the machine in question for software development and testing. Whenever something goes wrong, there's always the possibility that the problem is a weird side effect of some not-quite-perfected program that I'm working on.) The options I had were to change my habits; to change my word processor; or to get rid of LOGIMENU. LOGIMENU, being the new kid on the block, was the one to go. When LOGIMENU went away, the corrupted files also departed.

I wish I could recommend mousification, but my enthusiasm is limited. For some, it may be a big productivity enhancer. My negative reactions were definitely influenced by the other software I use, and by my own habits. It's important to point out that other mouse vendors (notably Microsoft) offer software similar to LOGIMENU. I'm not familiar with the alternatives, though, so I really can't comment on how well they live up to the promises of mousification.

Finally, I should emphasize that my dissatisfaction is with the Logitech software, and not with the trackball itself. The hardware is well-designed, and very comfortable for a right-handed rodent pusher. I only wish the software lived up to the same standards.

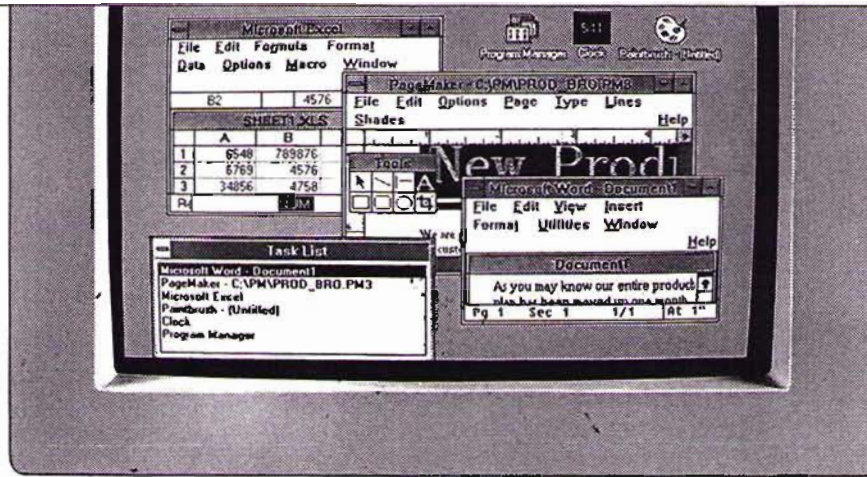
OOPS! I almost forgot ...

This article was supposed to be about Edlin. Logitech includes a number of .DEF files with its mice and trackballs, including one for the ultimate text editor. Yes, Virginia, it is possible to mousify Edlin. The button assignments that Logitech chose map the left button to the Enter key, the right button to the Escape key, and the middle button to a menu of options to insert text, to save the file, to exit, and to move around the file. It doesn't do anything with mouse movement, although it would seem logical to simulate the right- and left-arrow keys with side-to-side motion.

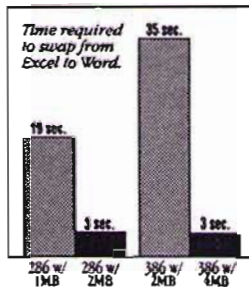
For the sake of journalistic integrity, I did use the LOGIMENU/Edlin combination, for an admittedly brief time. Sure enough, you CAN use a mouse with Edlin. I doubt that I will use it in the future, though, since it proved very detrimental to my concentration. Every few minutes, I'd catch myself leaning back in my chair, pondering what my Yugo would look like with racing stripes ...

Kent

▲



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ON COMPLEXITY

No. 47 in a Series.

by Jim Hoisington

Recently I asked some experts in the PC industry, "What is the most important software package that I can install in a company that has just gotten an Local Area Network (LAN)?" They were unanimous in their answer. "Install electronic mail."

I installed an electronic mail package at a local company in October and watched the results. The experts were right, electronic mail changed the way people work in this company. They now work much more efficiently and are more productive.

The first thing that the people in this company used the mail system for was to communicate with those people who worked a different shift. It quickly replaced all those notes taped to office doors by people who were coming in early or working late.

As they got used to sending and receiving messages in electronic form, they discovered another use for e-mail. It began to replace phone calls and trips from one office to another. The reason for this is that electronic mail documents things better than a phone call or an office visit.

For example, if the sales manager called the production manager on the telephone and asked about the production schedule on three different products, the production manager would normally have check with the several production leaders before calling the sales manager back. In order to do this, the production manager has to either write down the three products or remember them. That may sound easy to some of you, but the work of a production manager is complex and it easy to forget what you were working on before the interruption that interrupted the interruption that interrupted what you were working on for the sales manager. The electronic message documents the three products on which the sales manager needs information. In fact, the production manager can add his comments to the sales manager's message and forward it to several of his manufacturing group leaders for their answers. When they respond to him, he can formulate a response to the sales manager without ever leaving his office or having to track down his group leaders.

The electronic mail system that I chose for the company has a feature called bulletin boards. This

feature allows a designated group of people to post messages to a common area where every member in the group can read them. They are currently using this feature in a group of people who are working on developing a new product. Beside several design engineers, they have included a representative from marketing, manufacturing, and purchasing in the group that has access to this bulletin board. As the new product takes shape, the production people in the group can make suggestions on ways to make the manufacturing process easier, the purchasing representative can check for parts that may be hard to obtain or very expensive. The marketing people monitor the development to ensure that it will have the features that the customers want when the product goes into production.

This electronic meeting place is the beginning of one of the most radical changes in the way companies work. By combining workgroup software with communications technologies like electronic mail and remote telecommunication links, the need for the workgroup to all be in the same place at the same time is reduced. This technology will allow people from diverse geographical locations to collaborate on projects that would have not been possible if they had to be located in the same building.

For the past six months, the board of directors of the Association of PC User Groups has been meeting every Sunday evening in Scotts Valley, California. The people represented at that meeting are from all over the United States. The meeting is conducted on a bulletin board system that allows electronic conferencing. At the Microsoft Summit meeting in October, I finally got to meet a couple of the people in person that I had been meeting with for four months.

The electronic form of meeting does have a drawback. All messages on the screen look the same. In real life we rely on all sorts of cues like body language and tone of voice to add information to the spoken message. All of that is missing in the electronic meeting place. Until we get full video transmission of the speaker, it will be important to know the people that you are working with electronically. But, with people who know each other, electronic mail is a great way to communicate.

If you haven't used electronic mail, expect to use it in the future. It is an exciting technology that will change the way all companies work.

Jim

■

A Short Treatise on Propeller Heads

by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

[Editor's Note: While sitting in the audience at the Microsoft Summit, I began asking questions. At first, I wasn't aware of my hand rising above my head, indicating I had a question. I just, well, had a question. I noticed how I would sometimes make lengthy statements prior to the question. Surprisingly, I asked similar questions throughout the day. I suspected that whenever I sit in the audience, I become a Propeller Head. You are probably aware of this phenomenon and know someone who suffers from it. As an observer, you may find the treatise somewhat amusing.]

Introduction: The first evidence of Propeller Heads was found in the 14th century. Unverified observations throughout the Renaissance period, mostly as a byproduct of the so-called Scientific Revolution, further suggested Propeller Heads existed. There are strong indications of a major eruption of this population towards the end of the 19th century. (Edison, 1861). Current research, primarily at gatherings of computer users, alludes to a remarkable growth of Propeller Heads (Hoisington, Porterfield. North Texas PC Users Group, NTPCUG, 1988).

Observations: Propeller Heads' state of mind is generally dormant or relaxed. The propeller is dynamically linked to the readiness state of the individual. When a question is posed by another individual, for example, the Propeller Head becomes mildly alert and the shaft of the propeller engages. If the question is concise and is promptly answered, the shaft recedes and the Propeller Head slowly subsides into the dormant state.

Conversely, questions preceded by lengthy introductions, or answers illustrated with protracted examples, give rise to the curiosity, interest or uncertainty in the Propeller Head. At this point, synapses begin closing and the Propeller Head enters into the tumescent state. Once tumescence occurs, the Propeller Head's condition is unalterable and detumescence may take hours.

The tumescent state begins with four distinct stages:

Stage I: As the propeller begins warming up, a low, almost imperceptible hum is noticed. The hum is usually only perceived by other Propeller Heads and by experienced lecturers and presenters.

Stage II: A question is painstakingly formulated. It frequently begins with, "Uh, I, uh, I have a concern" Other questions start more assertively, "I have,

ah, only, ah, just two quick questions" More experienced Propeller Heads casually launch into a statement, sometimes with no question in mind, "Ah, you know, I've, ah, noticed that quite often" Many questions are repeated, seemingly passed from one Propeller Head to another.

Stage III: The Propeller Head slowly begins to raise a hand in preparation for verbalizing the question or statement. The hand generally reaches an upright condition as Stage IV starts.

Stage IV: The propeller begins its first "thwup" as it starts to rotate. As the blades turn, the strong "thwup, thwup, thwup" sound gets louder and generates further concern and consternation throughout the room. Other Propellers autonomously enter the tumescent state bypassing Stages I, II and III. At least one hand is now fully upright, brows are furrowed, and a look of apprehension is on many faces. A room full of whirring Propeller Heads invariably leads to a phenomenon known as pseudo-tumescence whereby other, non-Propeller Heads, enter into a simulated state of tumescence. Researchers have observed as many as 500 whirring Propeller Heads at a users group in North Texas (Hoisington, Porterfield, Reagan, 1989).

Treatment: Although this behavior is not dangerous, it is controllable. Interventions include abstinence from audience activity, watching television and short-term psychotherapy. It's obvious that more funding must go into the research of this exceedingly important area of group behavior. Please send your tax deductible contribution to the Institute for Propeller Head Studies, c/o of this user group.

Liability Disclaimer: Listen, if you were offended or feel distraught, or, worse yet, think I was talking about you, don't sue, I was probably talking about me.

Steve

▲

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Disk of the Month

DECEMBER 1990 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 573. METZ Utilities, 5/90 - Utilities for Windows 3.0, METZ Utilities, METZ Software, P.O. Box 6042, Bellevue, WA 98008-0042. 1-800-447-1712 FAX (206) 746-4655

These utilities are offered for demonstration. Shareware registration includes diskette, documentation, and license. The programs are priced individually, as follows:

Desktop Manager 3.1 - \$30
 Runner 1.3 - \$10
 Desktop Navigator 2.4 - \$30
 Lock 1.2 - \$10
 Time 2.4 - \$10

DESKTOP MANAGER lets you create menus and sub-menus to access your applications, including across directories and drives, and multiple directories and drives. It also allows you to rearrange windows, display directory trees, and use 'point and shoot' for file management. Compatible with Windows 2.x and 3.0.

DESKTOP NAVIGATOR is used for quick access to files and directories and for frequently used file management activities such as directory commands (create/rename/copy/move/delete), actions on multiple files, and a File Finder. Compatible with Windows 2.x and 3.0.

RUNNER lets you run an application directly by name, without having to go through all steps required by Windows. An application can be started up maximized, or as an icon. RUNNER can be used to set up defaults for running an application. Requires Windows 3.0.

LOCK is a password driven security program to prevent unauthorized file access. Compatible with Windows 2.x and 3.0.

TIME is a pop-up digital clock which can be placed anywhere on the screen.

Another utility, FREEMEM, displays DOS and EMS RAM available. It too can be moved anywhere on the screen.

This disk was downloaded from CompuServe.

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

Disk 574. CHECK-IT-OUT 1.0, 12/90 - Personal Accounting Program, CHEQUE 1.0, Hooper International, P. O. Box 62219, Colorado Springs, CO 80962, order line 1-800-245-7789. Registration Fee: \$39.95 + \$5 shipping and handling.

With 'CHEQUE-IT-OUT' you will manage your money like a financial whiz. The determining factor of the survival of your finances is proper management of your financial resources. An exceptionally easy and low-cost way to manage your finances, 'CHEQUE-IT-OUT' provides the best and most comprehensive personal finance program available. It is a thorough, efficient, and easy to use program designed for the IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 and 100% compatibles. In short, 'CHEQUE-IT-OUT' is a personal double-entry financial program which creates complete financial reports, keeps track of your income, expenses, liabilities and budgets. It can also print single checks for you and keep track of all your bank service charges and interest. Password protection and an automatic data file backup function makes it very safe.

The user manual is located on the disk is 74 pages long. The manual contains step-by-step instructions for setup and operation, and a description of the files within the ZIP files. The section on

accounting principles makes this DOM worthwhile for us non-accountants.

A hard disk is recommended but installation can be done on three floppies. There are copious quantities of examples to get you started. Included in the manual are "short cut" instructions for use after you gain experience using the program.

Minimum hardware requirements: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2, or 100% compatibles; DOS 2.0 or greater; 448K memory; and one high density (>500K) floppy disk drive or two 360K floppy disk drives.

Registration brings the latest version of "CHECK-IT-OUT", a 96-page bound copy of the latest manual, and free support for one year. There are associated programs available.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by I. Frank Müller, edited by John Puckette.

Disk 575. TBS Home Inventory 1.0, 12/90 - Personal Possessions Tracking, TBS Home Inventory 1.0, Taylor Business Software, 16835 Algonquin, Suite 180, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Sales: M-F, 9-5 PST: 714-840-5021. Tech Support: M-F, 9-4 PST: 714-840-6435. Registration Fee: \$20.

TBS Home Inventory is a simple yet powerful program, written for the IBM PC and compatibles, for tracking personal possessions. It provides a simple means to track those items that we acquire over time. You can print out reports showing the value and warranty dates of your personal property.

TBS Home Inventory gives you simple, straightforward, menu-driven access to all operations, such as entering items, and printing reports. An on-line, context-sensitive help system is available. The only limit on the number of items in the data file is the amount of disk space available.

TBS Home Inventory requires an IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible computer with 384K RAM or more. PC/MS-DOS 2.0 or later is required. A hard disk is suggested. TBS Home Inventory works well with MDA, CGA, EGA, VGA, and compatible monitors. Printed reports require a wide carriage printer, or a narrow carriage printer that will print in condensed mode.

With today's ever increasing crime rate, and the need to identify our possessions, this program fills the bill. As items are entered they are placed in alphabetic order thus making sorts unnecessary.

This software was contributed by NTPCUG member Mark Gruner.

This review was prepared by I. Frank Müller, edited by John Puckette.

Disk 576. Church Membership System 5.5.8, 2/90 - Organizing, Managing, Church Membership System, Version 5.5, Revision 8. Author: Ron Byxbe, Dublin, Georgia. Shareware fee = \$95.00.

The following modules are available:

MEMBERSHIP MODULE allows you to Create, Modify, Delete, or View your members, print mailing labels, rolodex cards, and a complete church directory. A partial list of reports can be printed are: Family Roster, Birthdays, Anniversaries, New Church Members and Shepherd Report.

EDUCATION MODULE allows you to add a person to an Education Department & Class and give that person's position within that Class, keep up will class attendance for 52 weeks, view member attendance records, print mailing labels for all absentees for a given date. A partial list of reports available are: Alpha Listing of Member, Class Attendance Rolls, Class Enrollment Report, Department Report, Position Rolls, New Members Report, Birthday Report, Anniversary Report.

ORGS/ACT MODULE allows you to add members to different Organizations and Activities within the Church, print membership list for a selected organization. ▶

STEWARDSHIP MODULE allows you to keep track of all contributions given to the church for the year. Each members giving record can be kept.

PLEDGES TO STEWARDSHIP MODULE provides the capability of setting up a pledge system for budgeting purposes.

VISITATION MODULE allows you to place members (or non members) on a visitation list. You can also place them on the permanent shut in list. These options then become very handy for the Pastor when he needs a list of people to visit.

Color screens are available and are very well done. The documentation is available on line, but there is no on-line help.

This program is one of three related programs, the others are: CHURCH ACCOUNTING SYSTEM and CHURCH VISITATION SYSTEM.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Hard disk recommended the program can be run on two floppies with limited disk space. DOS 3.0 or higher is also recommended. Ram Memory should be 640k or more.

Software donated by the publisher, SonShine Software, Inc.

This review prepared by K. M. Branscome, edited by Charles Carter.

Disk 577. Church Accounting System 2.53, 2/90 - Complete Accounting Pkg. Church Accounting System, Version 2.5, Revision 3 by Ron Byxbe, Dublin, Georgia. Shareware fee = \$95.00.

The CHURCH ACCOUNTING SYSTEM covers all aspects of a complete accounting system required to run a church.

The following are a few of the many topics that are covered: Assets, Liabilities, Income, Expenses, and Bank Accounts.

Reports include: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, General Ledger, Expense Statement, and Checkbook Statement.

Color screens are available and are very well done. The documentation is available on line, but there is no on-line help. Instructions are given for setting up your church accounting system including sample account number listings.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Same as Disk 576.

Software donated by the publisher, SonShine Software, Inc.

This review prepared by K. M. Branscome, edited by Charles Carter.

Disk 578. Church Visitation System 4.02, 6/90 Contact Church Visitors, Church Visitation System, Version 4.0, Revision 2, by Ron Byxbe, Dublin, Georgia. Shareware fee = \$49.00.

The CHURCH VISITATION SYSTEM (CVS) provides much more detail of church visitation activities than that provided in the CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM. The CVS is designed to help you keep track of all your contacts. Within the program you simply enter all your people. Each time a visit is made you can record the visit, or contact, along with pertinent information, and notes about the visit. Complete file maintenance capabilities are provided and on line documentation is always available. Color screens are available and are very well done. The documentation is available on line. There is also on line help available on each screen.

The following items can be printed from the data base: 3x5 Cards, 4x6 Cards, Contacts List, and Labels - always printed in zip code order for mailing.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Same as Disk 576.

Software donated by the publisher, SonShine Software, Inc.

This review prepared by K. M. Branscome, edited by Charles Carter.

Disk 579. POINT & SHOOT BACKUP/RESTORE 2.0. A fast and easy program to backup / restore files on your hard disk. Copyright (C) 1987-1990 by Kurt H. Diesch ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. APPLIED MICRO SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, P.O. Box 1596, Welch Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010. Shareware fee = \$35.00.

POINT & SHOOT SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:

1. Up to 10 user-defined backup configurations, each of which may contain a list of up to 10 subdirectory backup sources plus trailing directories.
2. Each backup definition allows selection of matching file specs, modified files only, optional disk formatting during the backup process, and optional file compression. A graphic directory tree display assists in the selection of backup source directories.
3. Files remain intact on backup disks (except when disk boundaries must be crossed, or when file compression is used.)
4. Required number of backup disks and time is automatically calculated.
5. Restoration options include source drive, restoration to other than the original path, prompts for duplicate or modified files, and selective file restoration.
6. Compression routines allow compression/decompression of single files using a file list and directory tree.
7. Configuration options include colors and an hourly chime.
8. Supports 360K and 1.2MB 5-1/4", 720K and 3-1/2" floppy disks.
9. Backups may be automatically executed from the command line.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: DOS 2.0 or greater; 320K MINIMUM MEMORY; A HARD DISK AND 1 FLOPPY DISK; IBM OR 100% COMPATIBLE COMPUTER; COLOR/GRAPHICS, MONOCHROME, EGA OR VGA DISPLAY.

This software was contributed by the publisher, Applied Micro Systems Tech.

This review was prepared by Mike Ashley, Edited by Charles Carter.

Disk 580. OASIS 4.1, 1/89 - Turbo Pascal screen builder. OASIS 4.1 by Remy E Fesnoux, EUREKA SOFTWARE ASSOCIATES, 2344 Yorkshire, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 313-973-0113. Shareware fee = \$40 + other options.

OASIS (Open Architecture Screen Interface System) 4.1, is a tool for Turbo Pascal application programmers. It lets you use powerful 4GL techniques without sacrificing any of the flexibility of Turbo Pascal. It saves you time and money as it allows you the freedom to build professional programs with outstanding features in a fraction of the time it takes using conventional programming techniques.

OASIS has two parts: SFD (Screen Format Designer), and SCL (Screen Control Language). SFD is a state-of-the-art menu driven program which allows you to design and even "test drive" complete user interfaces with menus, input checks, context sensitive help, and much more before you write a single line of code. SCL is a 4GL tool for Borland's Turbo Pascal (version 4 or 5 or higher; also portable to other languages using '.TPU' files) which mainly consists of constructs to utilize the screen formats designed by SFD. It also provides many other functions such as: data communications, background processing, date/time manipulation, access to system functions, and execution of DOS commands and other programs. There is NO special runtime software for OASIS applications.

OASIS runs on all true PC compatibles with 384KB memory, MS/PC DOS 3.0 or later and is compatible with Turbo Pascal 4.0 (4.0 & 5.0 for OASIS 5.0), hard disk is recommended.

The source of this disk is the co-author, Remy E Fesnoux.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Kathryn Loafman.

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

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 Tennisson

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
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 Alan Harbaugh (Anchor)
 Hank Holt (Anchor)
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 Susan Maxson
 Donald Mayfield
 Claude McClure (Anchor)
 Melody Mummert
 Joe Nail
 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):

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 Mark Gruner
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 Paul Corbett

Kent Haven
 Stephen Hay
 Pat Henley
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 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)

SWAP SHOP

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

For Sale: IBM PS/2 Model P70 386 20 MHZ 386 Computer, 4 meg RAM, 120 meg hard disk, 1.44 3.5" floppy, Built-in Amber VGA Display, Extended warranty. Bob Femiier Home (817)481-6625 Metro or Work (214)550-2604.

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)

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.



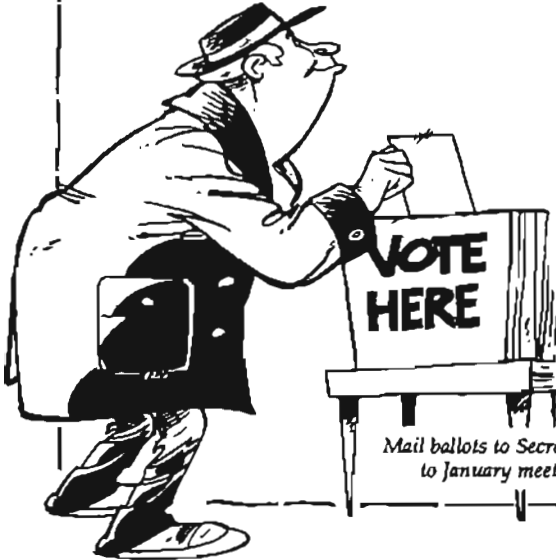
Kathryn Loafman

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.



Official 1991 ballot
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc

USE ORIGINAL BALLOT - Copies not acceptable



Nominee for President-Elect	<p>Vote for 1</p> <p>Andy Oliver <input type="checkbox"/></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Nominees for Board of Directors	<p>Vote for 3</p> <p>Reagan Andrews <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mark Gruner <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Kathryn Loafman <input type="checkbox"/></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>

Mail ballots to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066 or bring to January meeting. Mailed ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than January 8, 1991.



Disk of the Month MAIL ORDER FORM

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

Mail form to: NTPCUG, DOM Mail Order, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas TX 75378-0066

Sold To:

Ship To:

DOM Disk #	Number of disks in set	TITLE/DESCRIPTION

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

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

North Texas PC Users Group

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Work ____ () _____ Ext. ____ Metro? Y ___ N ___

Occupation/Profession: _____

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

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

Meetings & Times



9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Central Point Software

PC Tools V8.0 and Central Point Backup
David Wainwright, Regional Manager

(See page 1 for
description of
programs.)

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

Come and see what you've been missing...

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

Special Interest Groups

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

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

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
Beginning Pascal
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Community Service
Investors
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
RBase

1:00 - 1:55
Beginners C Language
Business Apps./DAC Easy
LOTUS
OS/2-Windows Developers
Personal Users
Turbo Pascal
WORD

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers
Databases
WordPerfect

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

Assembler Frank Cavallito (214)432-9221 h
Basic Programming Kent Kingery (214)458-9711 w
(214)317-0125 h

Beginners C Lang. Stan Miam (214)775-1503
Beginners Pascal Phil Chamberlain (214)243-5034 h
Business Applic. Bruce Schubert (214)233-8353 w
C++ / Advanced C Kent Cobb (214)343-3862 h
Tom Cook (214)341-1890 w
(214)618-8002 h

Communications Doug Gorrie (214)464-7942 w
(817)731-1308 h

DAC Software Bill Green (214)327-4172 h
Greg Cohen (214)669-9633 w
Pati Shaw (214)235-2559 h

Databases Rodney Haas (214)255-4400 h
(214)407-0070 w

DOS Vincent Gaines (214)416-3101 h
Jim Holsington (214)828-0699 h
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)844-7638

Fox Pro Kevin White (214)278-7888 h
Genealogy Al Sanford (214)681-0202 h
Hdw Solutions David McGehee (214)937-9676 w
Gary Johnson (214)937-5851 h

Investors Harry Widing (214)350-4611 h
Nash Kappoor (214)458-9158

Local Area Net Bamie Van Roekel (817)461-4540 w
Francis Bright

LOTUS Mark Gruner (214)964-8174 h
Pat Henley (214)271-4911 h

OS/2-Windows Dev James Dunn (214)279-1738 h
(817)962-4596 w

OS/2 for End Users Bob Fernier (214)550-2604 w
Paradox Fred Williams (214)492-1315

Personal Users Bob Presley (214)867-1879 h
Bob Russell (214)422-4289 h

Programmers Kent Cobb (214)343-3862 h
Jim Holsington (214)418-3101 h

R:Base Richard Hauslein (817)467-4581 h
Don Branham (214)352-0888 h
Pat Henley (214)271-4911 h

Software Review (214)436-1870 h

Turbo Pascal Don Chick (214)276-2524 h
Unix/Xenix Doug Scott (817)267-0758 h
(817)878-0367 w

Community Svc Jay Shilstone (214)240-1085 h
(214)804-3683 w

Windows Applic. Roy Cassas (214)827-5751 h
(214)361-9681 w
(817)481-7184 h

WORD Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)804-1004 w
David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Dorothy Bertine (817)367-9993 h

WordPerfect K.B. Barton (817)349-9690
(214)747-0209 w
Zack Porterfield (214)434-1844 w



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
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

Phil Chamberlain, Program Chalf.
Mark Gruner

Jim Holsington

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 Moomey
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa

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

Officers

President Zack Porterfield (214)434-1844 w
President-Elect Jim Holsington (214)416-3101 h
Program Chalf. Timothy Carmichael (214)681-4626 w
Treasurer Ken Conner, CPA (214)669-3377 w
Secretary David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir. Jim Holsington (214)418-3101 h
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

Phil Chamberlain John Pribyl Stuart Yarus

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.)



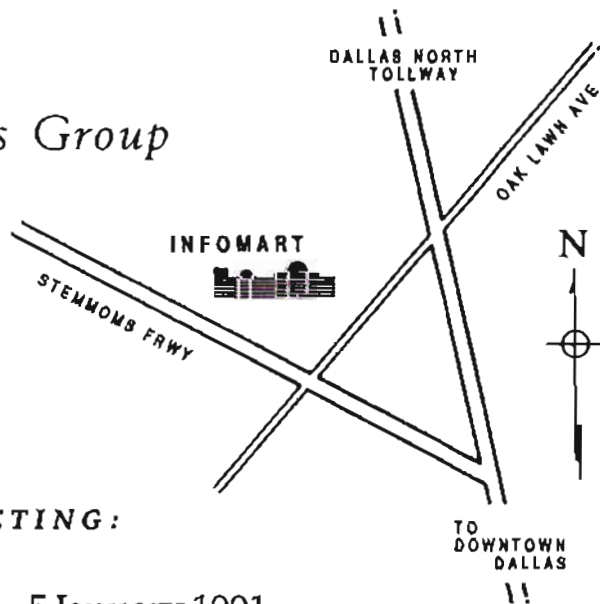
North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

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Address Correction Requested.

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

5 January 1991