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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation is 1864 this month.

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for April
North Texas PC NEWS:
Sunday, March 10th

Meeting Dates:

March Meeting - 3rd Sat (16th)
April Meeting - 2nd Sat. (13th)
May Meeting - 4th Sat. (25th)
(tentative)

*Write an article for the
newsletter.*

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Program for March

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Quicken*Richard Katz***Saving Time With Quicken**

Quicken is a popular and easily learned program for managing small business and home finances, and has won many industry awards. Accuret, a bank account reconciliation program, will also be demonstrated. This presentation by the zany "Quicken Evangelist" promises to be funny and informative. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Corel Systems Corporation*Kim Scheeren, Senior Product Specialist***CorelDRAW V2.0 — Fast, Fun, and Powerful**

CorelDRAW is the award winning PC graphics software that gives you incredible type control, superb drawing power, and stunning special effects in a value packed program. It is easy to learn and use, too. Come see this demonstration of the latest version. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

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

PREZ SEZ**BBS COMMITTEE**

You may have noticed several articles in recent issues of the NTPCUG News describing how our bulletin board is utilized. I want to thank Tom Prickett, Sysop, and all the people on his committee for the long hours they have spent on this project. One of the benefits is that we can "fine tune" our telephone line configuration.

RICHARD KATZ

Richard Katz will be with us at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium demonstrating QUICKEN from Intuit Corporation. Richard is also the president of the UCLA PC Users Group and an old acquaintance. Zack and I are planning something SPECIAL for Richard during the business meeting.

LOTUS Presents 1-2-3 version 3.1

Lotus is planning on demonstrating version 3.1 of 1-2-3 at the Loews Anatole hotel on Thursday, March 21st. They will have a special user group showing that evening. Please check the LOTUS SIG happenings for the exact times.

SIG Happenings.

Each SIG leader is "encouraged" to write up a short summary of what goes on in their SIG for the newsletter. Because our publication deadline is the 10th of the month, it is often necessary to "speculate" what will happen because the meeting being summarized is still in the future.

Last week I got a call from Intel PCED group's public relations firm. The first thing the caller asked was, "What exactly goes on in the Advanced Programmer's SIG?" I told her that I will send her the SIG happenings for 1991.

I told my good friend Steve Bass, President of the Pasadena (California) group, that I sometimes stretched the truth a bit to be able to have something to submit for the Advanced Programmers. Steve was fascinated with the concept so he wrote the following SIG happening in his newsletter:

The Prompt> November 1990:

Word Processing SIG

Patti Balke, a WordStar aficionado, became so enraged with WordPerfect expert John Tremble's smug and arrogant attitude, that she pushed him and his laptop to the floor at the last SIG meeting. SIG leader, Zoe Trolio, a long time Microsoft Word user, tried to stop the fight by explaining how both Balke and Tremble could benefit by switching to Win-

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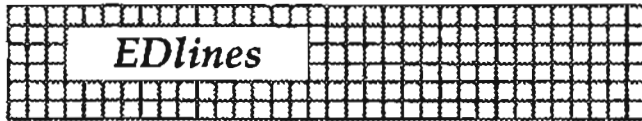
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Word. Needless to say, they didn't believe her and the meeting ended early without resolving the topic, *Quicker Keystrokes for Faster Documents*. The steering committee has assigned a task force to study the altercation and report at the next business meeting.

Two months later, nobody has commented on the article, not even Steve's wife who proofreads the newsletter for him. Please read the SIG happenings, they may not be totally accurate but they give you the general flavor of what goes on each month.

Jim



Another month has rolled by already? I just got over last month. Oh well, this month should be light... The deadline falls before the meeting this month and that usually means fewer SIG reports. I can't blame the leaders for not wanting to write about what hasn't happened yet! A lot of people want to know why we can't accept the SIG reports past the deadline. It's because our production schedule is set by the following month's meeting. In order for you to receive the NT PC News before the meeting, we must cut off submissions on the tenth. This gives us time to compile and edit the articles, do the layout, give the printer some setup time, print and then mail the NT PC News to you... All before the next meeting. It works! (most of the time) Also, please bear in mind that we are volunteers that have real lives beyond this newsletter (although my wife might argue that last point).

We have been getting a lot of good feature articles lately from some new writers and some from old friends. If you have submitted an article recently and it hasn't appeared yet, please be patient. We are revising some of our procedures and will get around to these articles soon.

There are many NTPCUG members who want to contribute to the group but can't volunteer at the monthly meetings. This newsletter is another way that those people can participate. I always encourage anyone reading the NT PC News to write an article. Writing an article can take a little time, but it is very rewarding. So please contribute.

Until next month...

Douglas McQuaid

Desqview: A Few Thoughts

by David Martin

With all of the hype of Windows 3.0, the issue of DOS's performance has been conveniently forgotten. While Windows 3.0 supports multiple DOS session, the drain on system resources mitigates against using Windows 3.0 as a DOS task switcher.

Enter Desqview from Quarterdeck software. Desqview provides DOS multitasking and as an added bonus will run Windows 3.0 in real or standard mode.

Desqview comes in two flavors, task switching and multitasking. (I use the term multitasking to define running two or more tasks concurrently) The flavor you use will depend upon your machine's processor and your memory management software. If you have a 8086 or a 286 processor Desqview will not multitask, while the 386 and 486 owner can multitask up to nine programs.

Multitasking requires compatible memory management software, eg. QEMM from Quarterdeck. QEMM will turn you 386's extended memory into expanded memory. If you purchase the Desqview 386 package you will receive the Desqview program and the QEMM software. If you already own QEMM, you may purchase Desqview separately.

QEMM will free unused portions of DOS's high memory. High memory is the area between the 640K and 1 M area of the PC's memory. DOS reserves this area for code controlling the various I/O devices, for example, a video card. On many PCs only some of this area is unused. The user may load device drivers (SYS files) and TSRs into DOS's high memory. This frees additional conventional memory for standard DOS applications.

Desqview and QEMM are simple to install. Simply insert the disks and type INSTALL. The system will suggest changes to your CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. These changes will conform to the needs of the average user. You have the options of accepting or rejecting these changes.

As part of the general setup, Desqview will search your hard disk and identify known programs, such as Norton's Tools. These programs will be added to Desqview's program menu.

The user requests Desqview's presence with a simple tap of the ALT key. A menu of valid commands appears in the upper right side of the screen. Common commands include opening or running a program, switching between programs, and closing a program.

Most DOS programs behave properly in the Desqview environment. However, some programs,

notably games and others that directly access the hardware, may confuse the Desqview system. To minimize problems, Desqview allows the user to create special settings for these obnoxious programs. Desqview comes with some pre-defined settings, but I have found that the user must use the hit and miss method to correct execute these annoying programs. With sufficient patience and a little luck, a majority of DOS programs will smoothly function under Desqview.

Desqview allows nine DOS programs to run concurrently. Desqview swaps the active program into conventional memory (under the 640K barrier) and moves the other programs into expanded or extended memory or swaps them to the hard disk. Consequently, Desqview's speeds increases with increased memory. I would recommend a minimum of 4 M of memory.

Desqview includes limited cut and paste functions. The user may move TEXT from one active Desqview application to another active Desqview application.

Desqview supports keyboard macros. Macros automate repetitive computer operations. Desqview macros are effortlessly defined. Simply start the macro function, tell the program what key you wish to define, and enter the desired key strokes. Simply press the defined key and the macro is activated.

The Desqview package includes a program disk, a Desqview manual, and a warranty card. Both manuals offer concise, if not abundant, information. However, the average PC user should not encounter any problem.

It is inevitable that user should compare Desqview to Microsoft Windows 3.0 as both operating environments multitask DOS applications. In Windows 3.0's favor, it supports a "standard" GUI which is easier to use than DOS. Windows 3.0's price is clearly lower than Desqview.

Notwithstanding Windows 3.0's admirable assets, I believe that Desqview is best when multitasking DOS applications. If you own Windows 3.0, however, I would not consider rushing out and purchasing Desqview. I would only recommend switching if you are unhappy with Windows 3.0's overall performance.

I think that Windows 3.0 requires too much memory and hard disk space. For example, the generic Windows 3.0 system occupies about 6 M of disk space on my hard drive while Desqview and QEMM occupy about 1 M of space. In addition, Desqview will run several DOS sessions within my 4 M memory limit without swapping to disk. The same cannot be said for Windows 3.0.

For the Windows 3.0 addicts, Desqview supports Windows 3.0 in real or standard mode. Desqview

treats Windows 3.0 as another DOS task. I have not run Windows 3.0 under Desqview so I can not honestly evaluate the interaction between the environments.

All in all, I enjoy Desqview. I ran Windows 3.0 on my 386 for about four months, but I grew tired of it's sluggish performance. I moved to Desqview more out of desperation for good system performance than desire to abandon Windows 3.0. However, I think that the move was worth the price, approximately \$150.

Desqview offers admirable performance and DOS compatibility. I recommend this product to anyone who primarily works in DOS and needs to multitask DOS programs.

David

▲

@NOW -

Spreadsheet Tips & Tricks

#2 in the Series

by Charles Suitt

Ever been tempted to convert your computer into a small boat anchor?... or strategically place it under the track of a bulldozer? Seems emotions of those qualities sometimes surface while programming spreadsheets or, for that matter, programming anything. @NOW is a series of articles intended to share some tips, tricks, and undocumented techniques in the hope of calming those criminal tendencies and rendering the environment more peaceful for those around you. Here are a few more I have run across:

HOW WIDE IS THIS PRINT RANGE?

Is there an easy way to pre-determine the character width of a Lotus 123 print range? Ever think you had all figured right, then have one or two columns of your report print on extra pages? Of course, you can add the widths of each column in the range by hand calculator or pencil and pad... *REALLY* didn't we start using computers to avoid such "hand work"

I have several methods to simplify determination of the print width. Following is a fairly simple approach. I will publish others in future articles. First, you will need two blank lines above your print range. We will enter a two-line "ruler" which will allow you to easily determine the width of your print range in characters. You can choose to either include these lines in your print range or not since the "||" initial characters will prevent them from printing

anyhow. In the illustration the periods can be replaced with spaces if you prefer. They are there to show how many spaces are needed in the first line. Here are the two lines above the print range:

```
| |RULER...10.....20.(etc.).230.....240
| |123456789|123456789| [etc.] 9|123456789|
*****      *****      *****
```

The "ruler" lines should extend beyond the potential print range width. I usually make mine 240 characters wide (the maximum permitted by 123). In the illustration, the last "" indicates a width of 232 characters. Once you have determined the print range width in characters, you can set your margins and character size to avoid a split printout. I set my right margin to the 240 character limit imposed by Lotus, or the maximum width my printer will accommodate, whichever is less. Be sure to apply the ruler method to the farthest right character in your print range which could be on a line below the visible first screen.

WANT YOUR LOTUS 123 DATES IN FULL FORMAL FORMAT?

While Lotus 123 provides several date formats, there is none for the full, formal text, like "January 15, 1991". If you want this date format, the following formula will do the job for you.

```
@CHOOSE(VALUE( = NTH(@NOW)), " ", "January",
"February", "March", "April", "May", "June",
"July", "August", "September", "October",
"November", "December") & " " & @STRING(@DAY
(@NOW), 0) & ", 19" & @STRING(@YEAR(@NOW), 0)
```

NOTE: There are no "spaces" in this formula excepting near the end between the concatenation characters "&", specifically between the comma and the "19." This formula makes use of the @CHOOSE, @VALUE, @MONTH, @NOW, @STRING, @DAY and @YEAR, together with string concatenation to accomplish the task. Be sure your system clock is working properly, or that you have entered the correct date on bootup since @NOW derives its information from the system clock. This macro will not properly enter dates after 1999, but can be easily modified to do so by omission of the "19" near the end of the formula. If your version of 123 is current, this could be a useful macro library entry.

AVOIDING PRINTING MACRO SETUP STRING ERRORS

Ever had your print macro "bomb out" because you had a blank printer setup string, or the remaining setup string from some previous print command? I frequently use several different setup strings for the same report. In any given session, Lotus will retain the last setup string used until it's changed. Frequently, a problem is caused when entering the desired

changed setup string in your printing macro. This can lead to unexpected results since it is merely appended to the existing contents of the setup string unless the setup string is empty. The first solution occurring to many would be to enter "(ESC)" in your macro to delete the previous setup string. This works fine *PROVIDED THE SETUP STRING CONTAINS CHARACTERS! If the setup string is empty, the "(ESC)" command will drop you back a step in 123's menu system and usually "crunch" your printing macro or produce unexpected results. *CHEER UP!*, there is a very simple solution.

The trick involves appending keyboard character(s) the setup string, followed by the "(ESC)" command and the desired setup string. Whether the setup string was blank or not, the addition of the extra character or characters provides a real entry for the "(ESC)" command to delete thus avoiding the potential problem of (ESC) moving back one level in the 123 command structure. Generally, I use "99" as the extra characters to easily distinguish them from "real" setup string characters. You might prefer "XX", "DUMMY", or something of that nature. Actually, any character(s) will do just fine.

EXAMPLE: If you had a two page report, the first page of which is a range named "PAGE1" to be printed in Standard Pica, and the second page is a range named "PAGE2" to be printed in Compressed, your printing macro could appear like this:

```
/PPRpage1-OS99-(ESC)\027\050-QAGPpage2-
OS99-(ESC)\027\015-QAGP
```

For less experienced 123 users, here's how this macro works:

"/PPR" - Invokes the 123 command menu, selects (P)rint, (P)rinter, (R)ange.

"page1~" - Enters the range name of the first page, followed by | RETURN |.

"OS99~" - selects (O)ptions, (S)etup String, enters "99" as a dummy string.

"(ESC)" - deletes the "99" just entered and any left-over setup string.

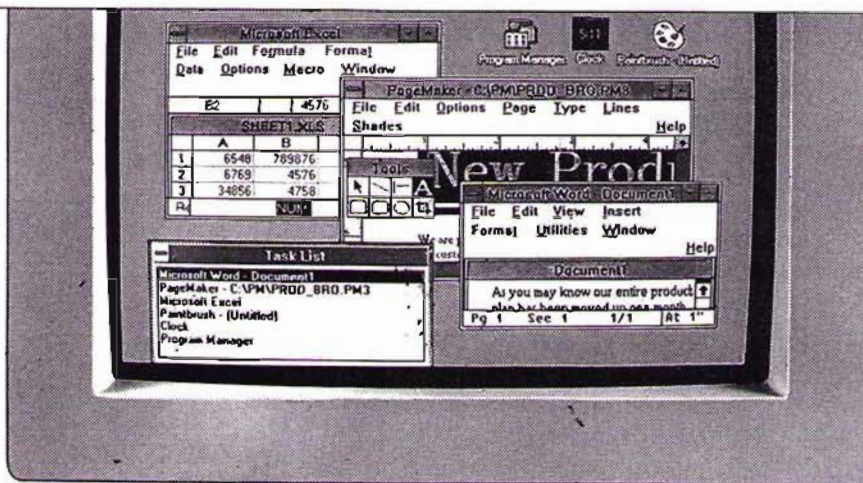
"\027\050~" - enters the Epson command for Standard Pica printing.

"QAGP" - selects (Q)uit from the Options menu, (A)lign the printer, (G)o sends the range "page1" to the printer, and (P)age advances to the next page top.

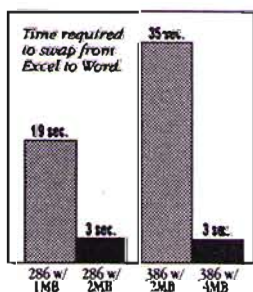
The rest of the macro sends "page2" to the printer with the setup string "\027\015" which is the Epson command for compressed print.

I make a practice of always sending the (A)lign command in a printing macro just before the (G)o com-

...continued on page 14



Open more Windows with an Above™ Board.



Above Board memory means faster access to more Windows applications.

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

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

Actually, as you add Windows applications, memory requirements increase. For example, Microsoft recommends

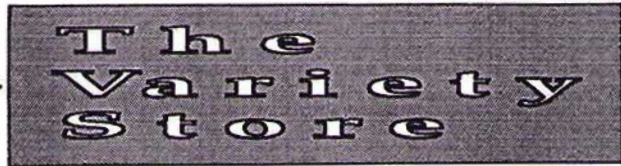
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*100% 14MB PageBuck memory option. Timing performance test conducted using an IBM PC 2 Model 90 and Above Board 2 Plus running Windows 3.0 in standard mode, and an IBM PS 2 Model 70 and Above Board MCL2 running Windows 3.0 in standard mode. © 1990 Intel Corporation. Above and 986 are trademarks of Intel Corporation. Windows, Word for Windows and Excel are trademarks of Microsoft Corp.



by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

Waiting for the War to come home

Since I wrote the last "Variety Store" in January, War broke out in the Middle East. Trying to read innumerable PC-related articles, newsletters, magazines and books while simultaneously watching the Air War unfold over Iraq and Kuwait has been a strain.

Unlike the thousands of reservists and National Guard folks called to duty, I'm waiting for the War to come to me. Sounds strange, but it's my real job — helping veterans (now soldiers, sailors and airmen) deal with the emotional aftermath of combat. I spent the week before Christmas at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, IN, at a joint DoD-VA training conference on (then) Desert Shield and the VA's new role of providing medical care for the wounded in CONUS (CONTinental United States). It's our responsibility after they receive treatment for their wounds in Saudi and European military hospitals.

We spent a lot of time discussing war gases, nerve gases and the treatment of soldiers exposed to both as well as the usual horrors and carnage associated with modern warfare. It was/is very scary.

At the same time, my own PTSD treatment program has, as have similar programs around the US, been receiving increased calls for help by veterans of previous conflicts — WWII, Korea and Vietnam — as a result of the media coverage of Saudi. These men and women are reliving their own combat experiences while watching CNN and other news of the War, and are reaching out for assistance in dealing with these reopened emotional wounds.

This is a long-winded way of explaining why Variety Store may be somewhat shorter than usual, or less humorous. I've been preoccupied with other issues.

Reagan....

WAR between Microsoft & IBM over Windows 3?

OS/2 vs. coming 32-bit Windows

Microsoft keeps feeding the fires of divorce according to PC media in January and February. Latest round is a "restatement" of Microsoft positioning of Windows vs. OS/2 in early February.

First reported by the *Wall Street Journal*, the announcement(s) were repeated in *PC Week* and *InfoWorld* with expanded details, including mention of a future version of Windows that features preemptive multitasking under DOS and multiple execution

threads. This latter is a significant departure from the joint OS/2 - Windows position statement released in late 1990 by Microsoft and IBM.

Stories about the divorce and Windows plans continued across media throughout January and early February. Microsoft plans "mentioned" hinted at pretty close to full "formerly OS/2-only" capabilities in future versions of Windows planned by Microsoft for release over the next two - three years.

Skeptics raised some interesting questions concerning DOS's future in light of the expanded Windows role. Microsoft executives

quoted, however, continued to describe a DOS role paralleling the planned enhancements and maintaining a significant future for DOS.

IBM has been significantly silent (or simply not quoted) during the winter flurries of Windows stories.

Rubbing salt into the wounds Windows 3.1 due this summer

Will Bill Gates stick to his July, 1990, promise that the first Windows upgrade will arrive in a year? Media are already describing version 3.1 features, including OLE (Object Linking and Embedding), a greatly improved File Manager and inclusion of True Type (?TrueType?) support.

The new version should be released in the summer if media sources are correct about Microsoft's planned shipping schedule.

InfoWorld's February 4, 1991, story on version 3.1 emphasized the planned File Manager improvements which sound suspiciously like features found in *ThreadZ File F/X* and *hDC File-Apps* on first read. (Both ThreadZ Software Design Group and hDC Computer Corp. are located in Redmond, WA.)

IBM to replace standing joke with XyWrite III powerhouse?

When the PC wordprocessing wars are mentioned, IBM's *DisplayWrite* tends to be an also-ran, added with giggles and smirks to the end of the list. *DisplayWrite* is ancient and considered to be the "wimp" of the pack of contemporary, super-powerful wordprocessors headed

by *WordPerfect* and *MS Word*.

What to do? *Signature*. IBM's answer was to join forces with *XyQuest* — publishers of *XyWrite III Plus* — to develop super DOS, Windows and OS/2 wordprocessor(s) to match the competition. *PC Week* says the line will be called *Signature*.

XyWrite III Plus is almost legendary as an incredibly fast, smooth wordprocessor adored by techie writers and media mavens. One stumbling block for IBM may be *XyWrite III's* reputation for being somewhat difficult to learn at advanced levels, though.

Is it *WordStar*, or Is it *Legacy*? Source code acquired from NBI

WordStar made the jump from CP/M to DOS quickly in 1981 — flourished, then died, practically speaking. First of the major wordprocessors available for DOS (if you dismiss *EDLIN*) *WordStar* hasn't been able to keep up in either sales or features with the leaders of the DOS wordprocessing world.

Windows opened a new portal and *Wordstar International, Inc.*, wants a foothold in the new market. NBI's *Legacy* may provide an entry with sale of the source code for *Legacy*.

Wordstar International plans to incorporate filters allowing *WordStar 6.0* files to be loaded into the Windows-based program, and other, unspecified, changes media sources report. If released quickly, the new *WordStar for Windows 1.0* version would join a select few Windows wordprocessors.

WordPerfect misses again ... Windows *WordPerfect* delayed

WordPerfect for Windows' delivery was expected right after COM-DEX/Fall '90. Missed. Then it was expected for the first of the year. Now, media reports a "second quarter" shipping date for *WordPerfect's* entry into the Windows arena.

Undisputed (except by Microsoft) leader in DOS-based wordproces-

sors, *WordPerfect* was expected to set new standards when the Orem, UT, firm leaped into the Windows-based wordprocessors struggle currently being dominated by Microsoft's *Word for Windows* and Lotus' *Ami ...* products.

Delays in getting the new product to market are puzzling. WP has experience in GUI's and apparently isn't afraid to let users do debugging (witness the many, many releases of *WordPerfect 5.0* and *5.1*.)

New Wordprocessor power drives Second round of font wars

Sharp-eyed readers will notice that printer and screen fonts have proliferated massively over the past year. *Bitstream*, *Adobe*, *Zenographics*, et al (many "et al"), have all become participants in a bitter struggle to dominate the font world.

Three named makers (above) have extended font management technology previously restricted to the DTP (desk-top publishing) world to the "average user." Result has been chaos.

And, it doesn't promise to get much clearer with introduction of *TrueType* technology from Microsoft and Apple Computing. Problem is, with only a few exceptions, initial selection of one font technology may lock the user into that technology to exclusion of others, perhaps, more appropriate for them.

For example, *Bitstream's* new *FaceLift* works with *Speedo* fonts. Owners of appreciable libraries of older (pre June 1990) *Bitstream* fonts will be forced to purchase "upgrade" kits to make their favorite fonts available in *FaceLift*. *Adobe's* new *ATM*, on the other hand, allows use of older *Type 1* fonts (a positive selling point) but won't recognize other vendors' fonts. *Zenographics' Superprint* allows almost any makers' fonts to be used, but is quite expensive and slow working with Windows.

Caveat emptor.

Just how many fonts are enough? New NEC CD-ROM's extend limits

This came from a catalog — not PC media. *TigerSoftware* sent me an unsolicited catalog full of software at typical discount prices. Nothing new here.

Flipping through the pages I ran across a promotion for *PostScript* fonts that was staggering. I could order all 600 *PostScript* typefaces on a single CD-ROM from NEC, the *Type Gallery PS Premium*, for a measly \$11,599. If I was willing to settle for a lesser quantity, I could license 15 of the 600 typefaces for \$399. Similar collections of *Agfa* typefaces for HP PCL printers were also available at \$1,499 and \$299, respectively.

I'm a font junkie, but that's a little much.

Last font story for this month ... *HP Intellifont for Windows 3.0*

HP LaserJet III owners (registered) along with *IIP* owners got a present from HP this month (February.) HP sent out *HP Intellifont for Windows 3.0* with little fanfare. Actually, I did receive a card several weeks ago announcing the program and fact that it would be sent to me.

What's it do? Generate screen fonts for Windows for owners of the *LaserJet III* to match the internal, scalable, HP fonts supplied with the series III printers. Why'd I get one (actually two)? I don't know, except I have HP's *Type Director* for my *IIP*, maybe.

Since the set(s) have "copy freely" prominently displayed, I'll make them available to the DOM for NTPCUG members — after checking with *Hewlett-Packard* first.

I lied again, *Peachpit Press'* *"TYPEStyle"* great book on fonts

So you have hundreds of fonts at your disposal. How are you going to use them? *"TYPEStyle: How to Choose & Use Type on a Personal Computer"* will provide the answer. ➤

Peachpit Press and Daniel Will-Harris have produced a very, very good volume on selection and utilization of typefaces in DTP. Couple of years ago, such a volume would be restricted to editors, artists and other DTP "professionals." Now, with the explosion of laser printers and powerful wordprocessors, many PC users have access to similar power, but not the training or expertise of the pro's and this volume may be invaluable.

Downer. Will-Harris chose to focus predominantly on Bitstream typefaces. He does give some space to PostScript typefaces, mainly the omnipresent 35 fonts included with most PostScript printers and emulators, but the emphasis is on Bitstream. Never-the-less, this is an excellent book on type usage regardless of the vendor or designer.

It's the output that counts — Destiny chips make printers shine

Hewlett-Packard caught everyone (almost) napping with PCL-5 and (apparent) 600 dpi (dots per inch) resolution when the III series was introduced last year. Destiny plans to give other printer makers "equal opportunity" with their D9001 chip.

Featuring Edge Enhancement Technology (EET) the new Destiny chip makes the apparent 600 dpi of the HP LaserJet III available to many printers in both font and graphics reproduction. PCL level 5 emulation is available through the Laser Act 5 controller, according to source stories in *PC Week* and *InfoWorld*.

Destiny Technology Corp., makers of the D9001 and Laser Act 5 chips, reports that a number of printer engine suppliers have indicated that one or both chips will be incorporated in products to be released in the next six months. Raises the spectre of compatibility once again for printer buyers.

Who's taking aim at Intel? NexGen announces 486 chip set

Only a month or so after AMD's 386 chip was announced, Nex-

Gen Microsystems, Inc. released plans to produce a RISC chip set emulating the 80486 CPU chips. Claiming DOS compatibility, the NexGen chip set is comprised of eight chips based on RISC technology and boasts speed improvements over the Intel chips.

NexGen also announced a 64-bit, NexBus which is claimed to boost throughput beyond the busses currently available in either PC's or workstations. Peak throughput for the bus is claimed at peak (burst) of 267 M bytes per second and 150 M bytes per second in sustained operation.

This may make the CPU chip wars much more interesting in light of Intel's reported very high speed 486 chip production plans.

R:BASE 3.1 run-time version Shipped by Microrim in February

Microrim's run-time version of R:BASE 3.1 was announced and shipped in February. Allowing applications developers to distribute fully executable versions of their applications, the new Microrim run-time protects application code, forms, reports and tables from user modification.

The R:BASE 3.1 run-time module requires DOS 3.1 (3.3 for network applications) and 450K of available system RAM. Requirements include a hard disk drive, but size was unspecified in the announcement from Microrim, Inc.

Prices for the run-time modules were quoted at \$150 for a "five-

pack" and \$595 for an unlimited license. Both are available immediately.

Last, but not least — Snake oil and a major PC sleaze attack

Ran across these folks at COMDEX. Recoiled and looked again. It's bad enough to go through all the personnel rigamarole to get a job, but when people are subjected to "psychological" testing like this, the whole process stinks.

"This" is a simple, paper and pencil test that is touted by its makers, Lousig-Nont & Associates, Inc., to "evaluate 12 critical sales areas" as well as an "Overall Desirability Score" that makes personnel evaluation easy, simple and (cheap). The test makers also push their paper and pencil "honesty profile" and a drug and alcohol abuse test as well.

Problem isn't computerized psychological testing. In the hands of a skilled, licensed psychologist, such testing can be very beneficial and helpful. However, single-test evaluation is very questionable, particularly in the areas claimed by Lousig-Nont, and generally not considered reliable. This is especially true when some job applicant's future earnings and reputation are involved.

Enough soapbox.

Reagan

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Scrapbook, by Eikon Systems, Inc.

A review by Neil Berkowitz

Scrapbook, by Eikon Systems, Inc., expands the functions of the clipboard making it an all purpose tool for moving data within windows.

Scrapbook is the type of program other companies should try to emulate. While functionally it is very easy to use, the convenience that it adds to Windows is remarkable. Imagine a clipboard that can have multiple pages. Now, add to this the ability to view multiple pages of the clipboard at one time, have a textual description of each of the pages, and manipulate sections of the pages. That is the beginning of Scrapbook. Scrapbook also permits easy cutting and pasting of many styles of images from the Window's screen including both textual and bit mapped images. Once the operator adds the images to Scrapbook the images can be organized into one or many files, sorted, and filtered as desired.

The most noticeable aspect of Scrapbook is its versatility. Scrapbook initially appears as a window consisting of one large image and six smaller images.

The large image has all the attributes of the original clipped data while the smaller pictures, thumbnails, are stylized version of other images in the file. The user can optionally reduce the size of the larger image and can choose to display multiple rows of thumbnails. Another option is to forgo the large picture in favor of a full page of thumbnail sketches. If the size of the sketches is too small, an option exists to have larger thumbnails. If there is too much data in a thumbnail making the thumbnail unreadable, the operator can optionally make the thumbnail a segment of the picture rather than a small representation of the full picture.

The second most important feature of Scrapbook is its ease of use. Moving data to and from Scrapbook is only a matter of performing standard cutting and pasting operations. Scrapbook maintains the data format in a manner totally transparent to the user. For dissimilar applications, for example, going from a Microsoft Word document to Paint, Scrapbook maintains full importing and exporting facilities.

Scrapbook makes complex operations simple. An example of this would involve selecting a specific image in a 500 image scrapbook file, then pasting a part of the image into an application. To perform the operation the operator could select a thumbnail only view of the scrapbook, page through to the desired thumbnail, then select it for a full view. Alternately, the operator could enter a request to search for a key phrase in the description and have Scrapbook find the appropriate image. A scanned image of Aunt Mabel's house could be found by the search string "Aunt Mabel" if that textual description was entered with the picture. With the full picture now in the large window, either the box icon or the lasso icon can be selected to surround the part of the picture wanted. The part selected is easily identified since it is in reverse video. The part of the picture selected can then be cut, the cursor moved to a window containing the destination program, and the clipped image pasted in the new application. A very simple operation.

Moving data to Scrapbook is just as easy. An auto feature that can be activated or deactivated can be used to move any data clipped to the clipboard directly to Scrapbook. If the operator wants part of the screen in a bitmap format, Scrapbook can do this with a camera tool. Click on the camera icon, move the cursor to one corner of the area to be cut, move the cursor to the opposite corner, and the image is added to the scrapbook.

Being as easy to use as it is and as versatile, a wholehearted recommendation is made of this product. It retails for \$149, but significant discounts can be found.

Neil

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What's happening on the BBS

From the DOS SIG conference

From: Jeff Seigfried Sent on: 12/28/90 12:47 pm Subject: Print Capture

I am wishing to find out whether any DOS gurus know how I can capture the printout from an application program into a text file. Does anybody know of a DOS command to do this? If not, is there any public domain programs that can capture a program's printout and direct it to a text file instead of the printer?

thanks, jeff

From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 12/28/90 10:38 pm Subject: Reply: Print Capture

Jeff, I have used a public domain utility called LPTX with some success. It doesn't seem to be 100% effective, and the only way to know whether it will work is to try it. I'll upload it to the (U)ser area as LPTX.ARC, and you can try it if you like.

Rgds, Kent

From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 12/29/90 10:45 am Subject: Reply: Print Capture

Another alternative exists if your program will run under Windows (2.1 or 3.0) and allow Windows to handle the printing. Can set printer port to a file via Control Panel and WIN.INI to take program output as a file. This is actually documented pretty well in the Windows documentation for 3.0, and in many of the Windows handbooks from third-party publishers.

Reagan...

From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 12/31/90 1:11 am Subject: Reply: Print Capture

Reagan, Do you REALLY want to put a poor soul through the agony of Windows just to print a file to a disk? I didn't think you liked the product. :-)

Leroy

From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 12/31/90 3:16 pm Subject: Reply: Print Capture

Leroy, no matter how much I may hate a tool, if it's the one I have and gets the job done, I'll use it. (Specially at 2:30 - 4:00 a.m. when it's all available.)

Reagan....

From: Billy Gilbreath Sent on: 01/05/91 10:35 pm Subject: Reply: Print Capture

Jeff, I hope that the version of LPTX that Kent Cobb sent you works fine. However, if it proves less than satisfactory, you might try Dos Power Tools's program called PRN2FILE.COM.

—Billy

From the WP SIG conference

From: Peyton Weaver Sent on: 10/13/90 8:54 pm Subject: WordPerfect printer drivers

I'm told that WordPerfect 5.1 printer drivers were changed and it causes laser printers to print much slower than with previous releases of WP. Is this true? Is there a fix (interim release) for it?

Peyton

From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 10/14/90 6:01 pm Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers

AAAAAAAAAAAAAGH!!!!!!!!!!!! I don't know what printers you are talking about, but the 5.0 drivers for Postscript aren't anything to write home about as far as speed. Don't have 5.1 and plan to wait for 5.2 before upgrading so can't help you this time.

From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 10/14/90 6:14 pm Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers

Although I'm fighting the urge to crow, I still have to admit that PostScript printers are notoriously slow all by themselves, without assistance from software drivers.

It's the nature of the PostScript beastie. However, there may be some hope — in November — when Adobe gives a presentation on ATM (Adobe Type Manager) for the PC. One of the very few Mac items I've coveted in the past, ATM is super on the Mac. ATM doesn't have much to do with speed, but the Adobe folks who will be here may be able to answer your questions viz good drivers for WordPerfect.

The page-layout (Ventura) people have been heavily invested in printer buffers for PostScript printers for some time, and may be able to shed some hope on speeding-up the process, even in WordPerfect.

Reagan....

From: Peyton Weaver Sent on: 10/15/90 4:38 pm Subject: WordPerfect printer drivers—more

I feel kinda' unletterate but here goes... I'm not using Postscript or any other after-market products... just plain vanilla WordPerfect. The printer being considered is a new HP (IIIx). "Informed sources" tell me they have backed out of WP5.1 and reloaded 5.0 just because of the poor performance of HP laser printers with 5.1.

I use several of the features offered only in 5.1 and would hate to lose them just to regain printer performance.

Any news on fixes or WP's plan to fix????

Peyton

From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 10/15/90 11:33 pm Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers—more

Ouch, that hurts. Just one more reason for us to not upgrade to 5.1 (one of our printers is the HP III).

From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 10/15/90 11:41 pm Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers

Reagan, I have seen ATM on the Mac and it really is a nice product. Hope that the IBM implementation is as good. I am going to have to write an article on Postscript. My experience indicates that a good portion of the speed problem isn't a printer (i.e. Postscript interpreter) problem as much as it is a cabling problem. There is just so much data to send over that cable that speed is almost an impossibility. Since we are on the subject, would you be able to help me on the article if I write it? What I need to know is "How big is the 'preamble' that Word sends to a Postscript printer?" I know that in WordPerfect it is 7120 bytes. Would like to have another major product to mention as well.

Leroy



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From: Dan Marmion Sent on: 10/16/90 6:37 am Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers—more

Don't know about the III, but I've been using 5.1 with the HP II for several months now and no problems. What kind of problems have people encountered with the III?

From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 10/16/90 9:49 am Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers—more

If you're using a HP-III, you don't need a PostScript driver. However, to take advantage of the HP-III enhancements (PCL-5, etc.), will need a IIP or III driver, and may exist on CompuServe. LaserTORQ may solve the speed problems if that's major concern. Address is:
LaserTools Corp.
3025 Buena Vista Way
Berkeley, CA 94708
(415) 843-2234

By the way, where's all that famous WordPerfect support?

Reagan....

From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 10/16/90 10:03 am Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers

The POSTSCRIPT.INI file for WORD 5.0 is 12,741 bytes. Don't think the cabling is the speed problem, though. My IIP and Pacific Data Products PostScript cartridge hang on a parallel port. May be a problem with serial machines, but these usually can be "bumped-up" to 38.4 Kbaud if your port and software (Uh oh — WordPerfect wrote that) will support the transfer rate.

XT ports typically won't handle anything much higher than 19.2 Kbaud in native configuration. Most actually balk above 9600 Baud. AT ports, on the other hand, should handle rates headed toward 100+ Kbaud. My IIP goes to 38.4 Kbaud on its serial port, but I've never run it serial, so I don't know how that works out.

Reagan....

From: Kenneth Laung Sent on: 11/22/90 10:46 pm Subject: Reply: WordPerfect printer drivers—more

Huh? I downloaded the new Laserjet III drivers for WP 5.1 for DOS and installed it for the Laserjet III and I don't seem to have a "performance degradation" compared with using a Laserjet II driver for the III. Actually I timed the difference between using the CM Times fonts Vs Dutch Bitstream soft fonts for II and the new CM Times fonts load much faster. The system I tested on was a generic 286 640K RAM with a Laserjet III with no RAM upgrade. In any case the new fonts available for the WP 5.1 Laserjet III driver is very nice : Scalable Universal and CG Times fonts, Courier 10, 12 and 18.67 pitch. Beats using the Laserjet II driver to print on a Laserjet III. Just my humble observation.

From the Unix SIG conference

From: Andrew Chalk Sent on: 11/05/90 10:47 pm Subject: COHERENT

Has anyone here used Coherent? Any initial reactions?

From: Bill Drissel Sent on: 11/05/90 11:00 pm Subject: Reply: COHERENT

I have bought it, installed it and moved some of my tools to Coherent. The books alone are worth the price. I may actually write some lex scripts. Shortly after installing Coherent, I began intensive work on an MS-DOS based job. Alas, Coherent must wait til I get back to it...Bill

From: Andrew Chalk Sent on: 11/10/90 12:07 am Subject: Reply: COHERENT

Agreed. The best UNIX tutorial I have seen. Reminds me of the MIX C approach to marketing.

I was surprised how straightforward it was to install on hard drive with a DOS partition. This machine, a clone SX, has to do double-duty as a utility machine so we have to have a DOS partion as well. We gave 33Meg. over to coherent and the other 90 to DOS. Worked first time.

From the Lotus SIG conference

From: Jackie May Sent on: 11/09/90 9:17 pm Subject: legends In Graphs

Can you tell me why the legends do not print out on the Lotus 123 graph at work. It shows on the screen but when I print the graph it cuts off one of the legend.. If I could get an answer to this question, my boss would think I'm a hero.

Thanks Jackie

From: Peyton Weaver Sent on: 11/15/90 5:27 pm Subject: Reply: legends In Graphs

Jackie, What release of Lotus are you using? What kind of computer and printer? Are you running in text or graphics mode?

I've done a lot of graphs with Lotus and never had any problems printing legends. Maybe we can make you a hero...

Peyton Weaver

From: Peyton Weaver Sent on: 11/19/90 9:35 pm Subject: Reply: legends In Graphs

Jackie, I received your response on equipment and rev level. Since your using IBM, you're probably safe on hardware. I haven't used 2.01 lately but as I recall, the legends are (should be) displayed and printed on the bottom, under the X-axis label. Do you see the legends on the screen? Does any portion print out?

Is your printer a Laser? Dot matrix? a Plotter? (I don't use much IBM stuff so I don't recognize the model number) A quick check to see if you're in the graphics or text mode is as follows: Using a bar graph for instance, the titles for each bar will be displayed below the bar. Assuming you have several bars, the bar titles will overlap one another and therefore be distorted IF you are in the GRAPHICS mode. If you are in the TEXT mode, they may truncate, but they will not overlap. I'm not sure where this will lead us but we oughta' know. Oh yeah, I just thought of another (easier) way to figger out if you're in text or graphics mode. If your cursor blinks, you're in text mode. If it is constantly on, you're in graphics mode. (Sorry to drag you thru the bar graph scenario above.)

You set the text mode or graphics mode when you run the INSTALL program to initially load or reconfigure Lotus. I can't remember the exact question but if necessary, we can walk thru it.

When you respond to the questions above, please send it to the LOTUS SIG. Then, maybe someone smarter than me will read it and help us with the solution.

Peyton Weaver

P.S. If your boss is really in to graphs, get him to spring for a copy of Freelance or some other graphics enhancement package. You can really do some jazzy stuff with your Lotus graphs then.

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 49 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

A series of frustrating experiences during December and January have convinced me that the Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) or "Classic AT" bus in PC's is no longer useable.

The bus is the part of the PC that allows the various add-in cards to communicate with the micro-processor. The original IBM PC came with a bus that handled cards with 8 data bits. When the IBM AT came out, the number of data lines was expanded to 16, but little else was done to improve the bus because everybody wanted their 8 bit cards to be useable in their new computers. This bus became known as the ISA bus.

On April 2, 1987, IBM announced a new family of personal computers called PS/2. The high end models of this family of computers contained a new bus architecture called Micro Channel Architecture or MCA. While it was easy to see that the Micro Channel Architecture was a superior design, it was difficult to imagine in 1987 why we would ever need so much sophistication in a PC. After all, the add-in cards of 1987, worked pretty well in the ISA bus.

While it was hard to find a reason for a more sophisticated bus in 1987, the reason is perfectly clear in 1991.

Consider that in 1987, less than 10 percent of all Personal Computers were networked. I recently saw a study that predicted that 70 percent of all PC's in business will be attached to some sort of network by the end of 1991. I was installing network cards on PC's in 1987,

but the network cards were slow 8 bit cards and the PC's were simple machines with monochrome screens with 8 bit video cards and keyboards and little else.

By contrast, today we use fast 16 bit network cards in PC's. The video cards in those same PC's are also 16 bit cards which require some of the memory blocks above the 640 K line as the network cards for BIOS and buffer functions. In addition, both the video and the network cards want to use one of the limited number of IRQ lines on the bus for signaling purposes. To this combination, add a bus mouse (it needs another IRQ line) and a SCSI controller (it needs lots of bus resources) and you'll find that you just may have a combination of cards in your computer that will prevent it from booting. At first I thought my problems were because of a bad design by one vendor. However, after two weeks of telephone calls to engineers at several PC companies, I am convinced that the problems are due more to the limitations of the ISA bus and less to poor engineering. It is to IBM's credit that they saw the problem coming and offered a solution way back in 1987.

Today there are two bus alternatives to the ISA bus, the Micro Channel Architecture (MCA) from IBM and the Extended Industry Standard Architecture (EISA) bus from other PC makers. We are beginning to see PC makers offer machines with one or the other bus as an alternative to their ISA based computers. While I can't tell you which bus is better, I will predict that we will see a lot more computers being offered with either a MCA bus or an EISA bus by the end of the year. The people who have to configure the machines with add-in cards will demand them.

Jim

AL

BBS Happenings — continued

From the Comm SIG conference

From: Robert Williams Sent on: 12/09/90 1:26 pm Subject: US Robotics 800 Number

Doug, Have you had a chance to list the 1-800 number to US Robotics that we spoke about Saturday?

Thanks, Kim Williams

From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 12/09/90 11:23 pm Subject: Reply: US Robotics 800 Number

Kim, I don't know which U.S. Robotics number you want, but I am aware of one they have: 1-800-DIAL-USR. I called this number to get a free booklet they offered a couple of months ago called "Data Communications Concepts". It is a GOOD primer. Starts with the basics, assumes nothing and ends up with some pretty good technical information.

Leroy

P.S. Even if this is not what you were looking for you could probably call it and get the number you need.

AL

@NOW — continued from page 5

mand, or when manually ordering a printout, to be sure 123 recognizes the same top of form I have established. It's a good idea to be sure your printer is set to the top of form by manually moving the paper to properly align the page perforation, then switching the printer off and back on. If you are using an Epson printer the same result could be accomplished by preceding your final setup string with "\027\064" or "\027@", the command to initialize your printer. If you are in doubt, refer to your printer manual for the proper command to initialize your printer.

Hope you will find these useful. I will appreciate your feedback and, especially sharing your tips. Leave me EMail on the NTPCUG BBS, or StarText Mail Code 135106, and I can almost always be found at the Lotus SIG on Super Saturday meetings.

Until next month... Charles

AL

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

Our February meeting featured a discussion of the use of Assembler in mixed language programming. Stan Milam discussed MSINTR, used to generate any interrupt from a C program. Frank Cavallito discussed GETBAUD, a program to get baud rates from the 8250 UART for use within APL.

Our March meeting is scheduled to be on the use of disassemblers, techniques, etc.

Frank Cavallito

Beginners C Language SIG

At the February meeting we covered a lot of ground to finish our series on C pointers. Again, we briefly covered dynamic memory allocation which was a lead in for a discussion of simple linked lists and how they worked. I then proceeded by unveiling several functions that I have developed to manage my linked lists. To demonstrate pointers, dynamic memory allocation and linked lists, I presented a program listing XREFWORD.C, which will accept a list of words at the DOS command line, read the standard input file attempting to find the words entered. When a word is found an entry is made in a linked list noting the word's line number and the column in the line where the word could be found.

All my notes and source files for LINKLIST.H, LINKLIST.C, and XREFWORD.C can be found on the club bulletin board in the FILES AREA under the name of FEBCSIG.ZIP.

We also talked briefly about a new product from the Walte Group that is being marketed by MIX Software

called MASTER C and is labeled as an "electronic book" that teaches the C language.

I am not planning any specific area of discussion in March. I intend to use the March meeting as a follow-up discussion of the C pointers series and anything else that may come into discussion. Sid Nolte, our assistant C SIG leader, has graciously offered to make a presentation about C programming style in either April or May. We'll work out the details and let you know when we get ready for some this much needed style.

I am already thinking of doing another series, this time "file I/O in C," but more on that at a later time. Hope to "C" you at the meeting!

Stan Milam

Communications SIG

The February Comm SIG meeting again falls AFTER these SIG Happenings are due for publication. Hence, we again must look into the future to see that the Comm SIG meeting was again highly successful (aren't they all?).

As in January, all participants were invited to complete a survey, describing their PC capabilities, equipment, and future interests. This same survey will be offered again March to help Comm SIG leadership determine where your SIG should direct its attention. We welcome your input at any time via the survey, BBS mail, comments in meetings, or by phone.

We also would welcome your participation, whether casual or formal, in the monthly meetings. Even if you don't consider yourself an "expert", you may well have more knowledge of a topic than

anyone else in the SIG, including those of us sitting behind the head table. We welcome your thoughts.

Handouts were again distributed describing the BBS registration process. This will be an ongoing offering to assist new users.

In the March meeting, we plan to make a semiformal presentation on modem protocols. If you have questions as to what MNP-5 and V.42 are, and how modems operate in general, join us.

See y'all in March.

Doug Gorrie

C++ SIG

As I gaze into the crystal ball (nine days before the NTPCUG meeting), I can see the C++ SIG ... I can see us covering inheritance, derived classes, and virtual functions ... I can see hundreds (perhaps thousands) of object-oriented programmers in attendance, spellbound by the discussion, periodically erupting into applause ...

Hmmm ... maybe I do need to adjust the vertical hold on that thing.

The source code we used in February was a new version of DIRTEST, which is still available on the BBS in CPPSIG03.ARC. If all went according to plan, we also had some time for questions.

In March, we should finally get around to talking about our project plans. I'm not yet sure if there will be any source code for you to download, or if we'll just talk about the design. Check the Meetings conference of the BBS for an update; if we do have something new for you to download, we'll announce it there.

Kent Cobb

DOS SIG

If you got a phone call from Microsoft, then you already know that DOS 5.0 probably won't be shipping until May, 1991. Meanwhile, DOS SIG members are continuing their efforts to make 3.3 and 4.01 work for them until the new DOS is released.

Installation of new hardware and software remains high on the list of problem areas for DOS users. Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President, and Reagan Andrews, former NTPCUG President, will look at software approaches that can simplify these problems with an emphasis on diagnosis and elimination of problem areas.

We've requested one of the non-ventilated rooms at Infomart since Jim's beanie (the one with the propeller) tends to confuse the "smart" air conditioning system in Infomart with subsequent and disastrous impact on building visitors, particularly when Jim becomes excited. In spite of the above, plan to attend the March DOS SIG Meeting, but be prepared for high wind velocities.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

The Genealogy SIG meets from 9 to 10 am in Room 7001, the first of four genealogy SIGs that meet between 9 am and 12 noon each Saturday. The Genealogy SIG is a general genealogy computer SIG that does not stress any one type of genealogy software. It normally has access to an LCD overhead projector which means that the computer screen is also displayed on the large overhead projector screen. A disk library and a hard copy library are two of the support groups for the SIG. The disk library has both 5-1/4 and 3-1/2 disk programs for \$1 per disk (most disk programs at present are for IBM compatibles) and the sheets, magazines, and books of the hard copy library can be checked out for free.

Hand-held scanners was the program topic in February. A scanner is a device which allows an optical scan of a drawing, picture, portrait, page of text, etc. It allows this object to be input into the computer's memory where it can be stored on disk, placed into a document and then changed, i.e., edited, etc. Optical Character Reader (OCR) software must be used if the text scanned is to be imported into a word processor for editing. The OCR can recognize the font being scanned and convert it into ASCII format for a word processor. W. C.

Frome of Nisca Inc., a Carrollton, Texas company that makes hand held scanners, brought the program. To give a complete picture, there are flat bed scanners as well as hand held scanners. The flat bed scanners are better but more expensive, \$1800 minimum as compared to under \$500 for the hand held. Also, from a genealogical point of view the hand held scanners are "portable." Another advantage of a hand held scanner is that it can scan images from large bound documents that a flat bed scanner will distort.

The hand held scanner could not do true gray-scale scanning until the Niscan/GS which registers 62 levels of gray at resolutions up to 400 dpi. The Niscan/GS works on everything, but is poor for handwriting or multiple type faces. There is now a Niscan/GS OCR for Windows 3.0. The hand scanner is moved down the page twice with a slight overlap on the second scan. The Niscan software can then put the two scans together as one scan and reproduce the original image. One problem is holding the scanner steady as it scans. John Hatcher, who owns American Business Concepts in Dallas, has solved "skewing" problems of the hand held scanner by designing (patent pending) and manufacturing a template called SCAN/ALIGN which retails for \$49.95.

Planned Genealogy SIG programs are:

March How to read old handwriting
April CD ROM data from LDS libraries

Al Sanford

Lotus SIG

The subject for the February meeting was using 1-2-3 to analyze loans and other debt obligations. Since this column is being written before the February meeting, it is unknown how well the presentation went, but it should have gone quite well. Mark gave the presentation and hoped to cover the difference between APR and nominal interest rates, US Rule vs Rule of 78s amortization, mortgages, and other subjects, perhaps leasing cars.

For anyone using 1-2-3 3.1 and a member of the NTPCUG, Lotus is planning a "symposium" on 1-2-3

version 3.1 at the Loews Anatole in Dallas. During the day, there will be the "normal" presentation. But in the evening, Lotus is planning to have a special presentation for NTPCUG members. Preliminary details include the date of Thursday March 21st, starting around 6:00 and ending around 8:00 or so. The time may change. Mark will post all details in the Lotus SIG mailbox on the BBS. Lotus is planning to have an advertisement in this issue of the newsletter that will have all of the information on the presentation.

The subject for the March meeting will be on the investing side of finance. The February meeting discussed borrowing, making the March meeting the other side - investment. Mark plans to discuss a wide variety of situations such as saving for children's education, ratio analysis, and many others. Hopefully, the information that will be presented will be valuable to all who attend.

After the March meeting, Mark hopes to put the spreadsheet files he used in both the February and March meeting and the respective handouts on a disk and make them available in the Disk-of-the-Month at the April meeting. The name of the disk will be "NTPCUG Lotus SIG Disk #3".

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that users have on spreadsheet programs. If you have such a question, come on by the Lotus SIG at 1:00.

Mark Gruner and Pat Henley

Personal Users SIG

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

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the "fundamentals of personal computers." Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (2nd or 3rd Saturday on the 7th floor of the In-

fomart in Dallas). After four monthly meetings (covering four classes each), the entire 16-class curriculum is begun again. The classes are presented in numerical sequence, but you can take them in any sequence convenient to your personal schedule.

The classes always start each month at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 PM. Since each class is a "stand-alone"... i.e. self-contained and NOT requiring any other classes as prerequisites... you can begin attending at any time convenient to your other priorities and schedule. In addition to receiving informative instruction from people very knowledgeable in their field and class topic, you also receive a set of handout notes for each class, to allow you later review. There are no homework assignments, no pressures, no tests, and no dumb questions. You don't even have to be a member of the NTPCUG before you attend... **ALTHOUGH YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN NTPCUG AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS.**

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

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

The four classes for MARCH 1991 will be:

9:00 AM Class 13.1
Printers for Personal Computers
10:00 AM Class 14.1
Writing LOTUS Macros
12:00 Noon Class 15.1
Software for Personal Computers
1:00 PM Class 16.1
PC's to the End of the 20th & into
the 21st Century

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

Kent Kingery spoke on "Converting from CP/M to MVS/XA without reading the manual." During the question and answer session that followed, the most commonly asked questions dealt with why Kent didn't convert to OS/2 as an intermediate step. Join us next month for more idle discussion and industry gossip.

Jim Hoisington

TI Pro SIG.

Members, our vocabulary word for this month is "prescient." It means "having knowledge of events before they happen." This is a talent that is much needed by anyone who writes a SIG column for the North Texas PC News, because the deadline for submission of such columns is the tenth day of the month before the month in which the column is to appear. Consequently, more often than not, the column describing what happened at a particular SIG meeting must be turned in before that SIG meeting is even held. Likewise, if the column is supposed to describe what is planned for the next meeting, the column must usually be written before anyone has begun to plan the next SIG meeting.

Take this column, for example. It is being written on February 10, six days before the February meeting. This could make it difficult to report what happened at the February meeting, if your reporter were not prescient. Also, since no plans for the March meeting have been made thus far, a reporter lacking prescience might find it difficult to describe what will transpire at that meeting. Fortunately, your reporter is not so handicapped. Unfortunately, however, we have reached the end of our allotted space for this column. Therefore, we must reluctantly defer our report of what transpired at the

February meeting until next month's column. Stay tuned.

Norman Rogers

Unix Sig

At the last meeting Jim gave an interesting and informative presentation of how to use UUCP (Unix to Unix CoPy) and related commands. These commands allow users to transmit files between Unix machines. The meeting was packed, everyone understood everything and we got a standing ovation for the presentation. We'll, I'm having to write this thing in advance again so I may as well be optimistic.

For March we are planning to present a brief description of the "find" command and some rudimentary script programming. The Unix "find" command is a close counterpart to the DOS "whereis" command but is a great deal more versatile. Not only can it find the location of files on a disk but it can be used to execute commands on these files.

Doug Scott

Word SIG

Onward into the fray! March's WORD SIG Meeting will focus on Word 5.0 and 5.5 accessories, including specialized spelling checkers and other utilities that claim to ease/organize the use of MS Word.

We'll also continue looking at printer drivers, and at some of the printer font add-on programs that allow PostScript use with dot-matrix and other non-PostScript printers if time allows.

As usual, the March WORD SIG will close with the usual Q & A roundtable discussion centered on SIG members' problems and experiences with MS Word in their day to day work.

Reagan Andrews

Join the Special Interest Group of your choice.

BBS Tip of the Month

Doug Gorrie

As with anything related to computers, the better you understand their functionality, the more you can enjoy and utilize them. This Tip of the Month will help you get the most from the Mail and Conferencing features within the NTPCUG BBS, by demonstrating how to quickly maneuver from one mailbox to another. Below, explanations will be enclosed in boxes.

Upon entering the BBS, the Main Menu appears as shown below:

```

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

Note the (M)ail, (G)eneral and (S)ig options. These allow access to personal mail, general purpose conferences, and conferences relating to specific SIGs (Special Interest Groups) and/or topics.

As you might expect, you can access each option, individually, from the Main Menu. When through with one, you can return to the Main Menu to select another. However, there is a faster and more direct way to address all three options.

From the Main Menu, select the (M)ail option by entering "m". You will be presented with status information about your personal mailbox, followed by a list of available menu options:

— Mailbox Status —
 There are 18 messages in your mailbox.
 New messages: 1

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

As always, you read personal mail by selecting the (R)ead option. However, note the (O)pen option. (O)pen allows you to jump from your personal mailbox to any other mailbox or conference. Access to other personal mailboxes requires that you know that user's password, but most conferences are available to ALL members. Select the (O)pen option, and the BBS displays:

Open which mailbox ? (<Enter> quits, ? lists):

From here, you can enter the name of another user's mailbox, or of any conference. If you wish to list available users or conferences, enter "?". The BBS will ask which list you want:

(C)onferences (G)roups (S)ubscribers (A)ll (Q)uit or (?):

Enter "c" for conferences, and the following is displayed:

Page: 1

Name	Description	Msgs	Last Msg
1: All	Messages of general interest	74	02/05/91
2: BOD	NTPCUG Board of Directors	9	02/02/91
3: BBS Directions	Suggestion box for SYSOPS	26	01/28/91
4: DOM	Disk of the Month-Information	10	01/10/91
5: Humor	Anything goes (keep it clean)	5	01/17/91
6: DOM INDEX-D	Archived DOM INDEX	1	01/02/91
7: Meetings	Dates Speakers, SIGHAPS, etc.	1	01/11/91
8: Politics	Express your political opinion	8	12/04/90
9: Swap Shop	Items to buy, sell or trade	19	02/09/91
10: C SIG	"C" Programming Language	49	01/20/91
11: Assembler SIG	Intel Assembly Language	51	02/08/91
12: Beginners SIG	Introduction to PC's	4	12/10/90
13: DOS SIG	Disk Operating System	45	02/08/91
14: Bus/DAC SIG	General business and DAC apps.	4	01/08/91
15: Comm SIG	Computer Communications	59	02/07/91
16: Database SIG	Database Management Systems	15	02/04/91
17: Graphics SIG	Computer Graphics Applications	2	12/06/90
18: Lotus SIG	Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony	14	01/19/91
19: Pro SIG	Adv. pgmr. gossip & innuendo	39	02/07/91
20: Pascal SIG	Turbo Pascal Language	3	12/19/90

-More (Y/N) ? Y

Page: 2

Name	Description	Msgs	Last Msg
1: BASIC SIG	for BASIC programmers	33	01/21/91
2: Investor SIG	Investment Applications	9	02/05/91
3: Paradox SIG	Those Interested in Paradox DB	12	01/23/91
4: Windows SIG	Windows User Conference	16	02/08/91
5: Unix SIG	UNIX operating sys followers	4	01/29/91
6: LAN SIG	Local Area Networking	5	01/08/91
7: WP SIG	Word Processing Applications	23	02/03/91
8: R:BASE SIG	R:BASE conference	1	02/01/91
9: Cryptan SIG	Cryptanalysis & Code Breaking	1	11/10/90
10: Hardware SIG	Hardware Issues	49	02/07/91
11: Volunteer	People wanting to Volunteer	2	12/10/90

Open which mailbox ? (<Enter> quits, ? Lists):

The list above combines both General and SIG conferences. In addition, it includes the number of messages within each conference, and the date of the last message. Had you chosen (G)eneral or (S)IG from the Main Menu, the listing would NOT have included the Msgs and Last Message columns, and would have listed only the a portion of the total conferences available.

When initially (O)pening another conference, and asked to "Open which mailbox". It was necessary only that you type the name of the desired conference, as listed in the "Name" column above. Optionally, if displaying the list above, and asked to "Open which mailbox", you can enter the NUMBER preceding the desired conference. For instance, entering "10" places you in the Hardware SIG conference.

If the desired conference appeared on the first of the two pages, enter "N" when asked "-More (Y/N)?", THEN enter the number beside the desired conference.

Upon entering the desired conference, you are advised of the total message count, and, as with any mailbox, you are provided a list of submenu options. You can read any of the messages, and generate new ones, as desired.

— Mailbox Status —

There are 49 messages in mailbox for: Hardware SIG (L,LS) List (R,RS) Read (D,DS) Dump (O) Open (C) Close (W) Who (Q) Quit or (?):

When ready to open a different conference, select the (O)pen option again, and repeat the process. Or, if you wish to return to your own mailbox, just (Q)uit.

That's all there is to it. With these tips, you should be able to move within the Mail and Conferencing system easily. Should you desire additional assistance, many of the menu listings will provide help if you choose the "?" option.

Good hunting!!

Doug Gorrie

Grammatik Windows, by Reference Software Inc.

A review by Neil Berkowitz

Grammatik Windows, by Reference Software, takes one of the best Grammar checkers and makes it better by adding windows functionality. Grammatic is a DOS product that has been ported to Windows. Porting to Windows gives Grammatic the additional ability to run concurrently with word processors making transfer back and forth from Grammatic to the word processor simple. Also added to Grammatic is the ability to work with Windows' based word processors like Ami and Word. The origins of Grammatic are obvious since the list of word processors that it can process ranges from Wordstar to Wordperfect. In addition Grammatic can be used on two forms of ASCII text.

Grammatic is a combination spelling and grammar checker that adds the features of style checking, grammar checking, mechanical error checking, and phrase checking to any word processor. In addition Grammatic can be used to compare any document to known documents for style and readability. To improve further readability of documents and to better one's writing style, Grammatic can also be used to determine word counts. A rule/help feature provides assistance to the user pinpointing grammar errors and how to correct them.

When run, Grammatic has several options for correcting documents. Documents can be processed in

either an interactive or batch mode. In an interactive mode, the operator has the option of fixing each of the problems as it is encountered while maintaining the format options of the selected word processor. In batch mode a file with the errors flagged and suggestions made to correct the errors recorded can be saved away for later analysis. Statistics showing the percentage of passive voice sentences, the reading level, and the average length of words, sentences, and paragraphs can also be recorded.

One of the most versatile features of Grammatic is the ability to choose between various writing styles. Since a letter to a friend is not a technical dissertation, the writing style should be different. Grammatic allows the operator to optionally process or ignore specific rules of grammar. Rules can be individually selected or a "style" can be selected. Styles range from the formal tone "Business" style to the informal "Fiction" style that permits more artistic license.

Grammatic checks almost every aspect of writing including capitalization errors, punctuation errors, transposed letter errors, and similar mechanical errors. Grammar errors that are checked include split infinitives, double negatives, and incomplete sentences. Aspects of style that are checked include cliché usage, voice, colloquial expressions, and informal language usage.

If the above features are not sufficient, Grammatic also permits the user to modify and add to the lists of rules. This is an offline function outside of Windows. In general most users will not need this function but it is available if needed and permits the user to fine tune the program. This feature is well documented and, while Reference Software suggests that programming experience is recommended to use the editor, the documentation makes the editor relatively easy to use.

Grammatic, in short, is the type of program that is invaluable but frustrating to use. It is very disheartening to see the program pick apart a document and find flaws in one's documents. The program is not perfect. Reference Software has been a bit lax in updating the versions of some of their word processors. Framework II, for example, is supported but Framework III, which has been out for three years is not. There are a few times when the program indicated problems which were not actual problems, but overall the program is quite remarkable in its analysis. Grammatic will improve one's writing style if its analysis is followed but the retries needed to correct some problems is at times infuriating, at least from my standpoint. I recommend Grammatic, but I also recommend a roll of Roloids for the heartburn that it gives.

Neil



Disk of the Month

Disks released at the February 1991 meeting.

FEBRUARY 1991 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 589. PC Magazine Utilities Disk Vol. 3 — Recent Utilities from PC Mag by Contributors of PC Magazine, Ziff-Davis Publishing Company.

A collection of utilities and programs for use on IBM and IBM-compatible computers, by the publishers of PC Magazine. Included are a wide assortment of utilities to help manage files, programs, directories, and host of others.

This disk is a successor to PC Magazine's well-regarded Volume I and II sets of utilities. Documentation is very clear and complete, enabling most users to get the programs up and working quickly. Users are also warned of any program that is more difficult to use. The documentation can be printed out by placing this disk in drive A: and typing COPY A:MANUAL3 PRN from the DOS prompt. You can also view the documentation on screen by typing PCMAG3 from your A prompt.

The utilities included on this disk include the following:

ALLKEYS Enables and disables TSR hotkeys for use in other programs
 ASPRN Defines up to 26 2-character macros for printing enhancement
 CALC A pop-up programmers calculator
 CAPTURE Saves text and attribute bytes on the screen to a file
 CARDFILE Combines address and phone number database with modern CO Copies, moves, or deletes files individually or in tagged groups
 COMPARE Displays differences between two text or binary files
 CTYPE Recovers the cursor when it disappears, can also change cursor shape
 DIRNOTES Creates a dual-column directory listing with file descriptions
 DOSKEY Extend the functions available at the DOS prompt
 DR File management utility-sorting, viewing, renaming, deleting, moving
 HELP Pops up help or reference screens of the user's choice
 INSTALL De-installs memory resident utilities - singly or in groups
 KBX Allows entering upper-ASCII in programs that normally would not
 MOUSEKEY Programs a mouse to emulate the keys PgUp and PgDn
 PAINT Edits/creates custom help or pop-up reference screens
 PRN2FILE Redirects output for a printer to a file on disk
 RECORDER Keeps log of the number of times a file is accessed
 REMOVE Installs memory resident utilities - singly or in groups
 RN Simplifies creating/removing/renaming/hiding/unhiding directories
 RUN Executes .COM, .EXE, or .BAT files from any directory
 SAFARI Prevents DOS from overwriting on-screen data
 SETMODE Menu-driven setup and change of video modes and comm parameters
 SNIPPER Copies a portion of a text screen to a printer or file, or inserts
 STAYDOWN Permits two-key Ctrl-, Alt-, and Shift-key as separate keystrokes
 STICK Locks/unlocks a cursor size and shape set with CTYPE.COM
 TOGGLE On-screen report on status of CapsLock, NumLock, and ScrollLock
 TOUCH Changes date and time designation of files

This software was contributed by PC Magazine.

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

Disk 590. Windows/EMS/LAN Benchmarks — PC Magazine Benchmark Programs, by PC Magazine, Ziff-Davis Publishing Company.

PC Magazine reviews a wide variety of computer hardware, peripherals, and software every year. Since the hardware and software is continuously being updated and

revised, PC Magazine developed benchmark programs to provide for reliable and consistent comparisons.

The Windows benchmark program will work with any version of Windows and is designed to test the performance of Windows on a particular hardware platform. You can run the tests individually or all at once. The test performed include Blocks, Curves, Lines, Polygons, Rectangles, Text, Clipping, and others. Test results may be sent to the screen, text file or both.

The EMS benchmark program tests for the correct implementation of the LIM 4.0 specification dated October 1987. LIM stands for Lotus-Intel-Microsoft which are the three companies that developed Expanded memory to provide additional RAM for applications. A list of error codes are included in the documentation.

The Local Area Network (LAN) benchmark test is designed to test LAN hardware and software. Due to relative complexity of LANs in general, you should read the documentation before trying to run the tests.

This software was contributed by Mark Gruner and Ken Loafman.

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

Disk 591AB. Windows Supplemental Drivers, 10/90 -- Windows 3.0 Device Drivers from Microsoft.

The disks included in this package contain device drivers for printers, displays, networks, mouse devices and keyboards. These drivers allow the devices to run with Windows. Unarc files to find instructions.

PRINTERS SUPPORTED IN THIS PACKAGE:

Agfa 9000 Series PS, Agfa Compugraphic 400PS, Agfa Compugraphic Genics, AMT Accel 500, AMT Accel 535, Apple LaserWriter, Apple LaserWriter II NT/NTX, Apple LaserWriter Plus, Apricot Laser, AST TurboLaser/PS-R4081, Bitstream Flex, Brother HL-4, Brother HL-8e, Brother M-1809-Epson, Brother M-1824L, Brother M-1909-Epson, Brother M-1924L, Canon BJ-10e, Canon BJ-130e, Canon LBP-4, Canon LBP-8 III, Canon LBP-8 III-D, Dataproducts LZR-2665, Digital LN03R ScriptPrinter, Digital LPS Printer-Server 40, Epson EPL-6000, HP LaserJet, HP LaserJet 2000, HP LaserJet 500+, HP LaserJet IID, HP LaserJet IID (Postscript), HP LaserJet IIP, HP LaserJet IIP (Postscript), HP LaserJet III, HP LaserJet III (Postscript), HP LaserJet IIID, HP LaserJet Plus, HP LaserJet Series II, IBM Personal Page Printer II-030, IBM Personal Page Printer II-031, IBM Personal Pageprinter, IBM Quickwriter 5204, IBM 4019 v52.1 (17 Fonts), IBM 4019 v52.1 (39 Fonts), JDL 850, JDL 950, Kodak Diconix 150, Kodak Diconix 150 Plus, Kyocera F-Series, Linotronic 100/300/500, NEC Colormate PS, NEC Silentwriter LC 860, NEC Silentwriter LC 860 +, NEC Silentwriter LC 890, NEC Silentwriter LC 890XL, NEC Silentwriter2 90 v52.2, NEC Silentwriter2 290 v52.0, Okidata 380, Okidata 390 Plus, Okidata 391 Plus, Okidata 393 C Plus, Okidata 393 Plus, Okidata LaserLine 6, Okidata OL- 820, Okidata OL840/PS v51.8, Olivetti DM-309, Olivetti ETV 5000, Olivetti PG 108, Olivetti PG 208 M2, Olivetti PG 303, Olivetti PG 308 HS, Olivetti PG 308 HS, QMS Color-Script 100, QMS-PS 800, QMS- PS 800 Plus, QMS-PS 810, QMS PS 820 Turbo, QMS PS 2200 v51.0, QuadLaser I, Seiko CH-5504, Seiko CH-5514, Star NX-1000 II, Star XB-2410, Star XB-2415, Tandy LP-1000, Tegra Genesis, TI MicroLaser

PS17 v52.1, TI MicroLaser PS35 v52.1, TI OmniLaser 2108, TI OmniLaser 2115, Toshiba PageLaser12, Unisys AP9415 v47.0, Varityper VT-600, Wang LCS15, Wang LCS15 Font-Plus, Wang LDP8

DISPLAYS SUPPORTED IN THIS PACKAGE:

ATI Mode 54h (800x600 16 colors) v2.00 ATI Mode 55h (1024x768 16 colors) v2.00 CHIPS Super VGA 82C451 (800x600 16 colors) CHIPS Super VGA 82C452 (800x600 16 colors) CHIPS Super VGA 82C452 (1024x768 16 colors) CHIPS Super VGA 82C452 (640x480 256 colors) DGIS 3.x Medium Resolution w/VGA, Ver 1.01 DGIS 3.x High Resolution w/VGA, Ver 1.01 Paradise VGA (800x600 16 colors) Paradise VGA (1024x768 16 colors) Paradise VGA (640x480 256 colors) Video Seven VGA (800x600 16 color) Video Seven VGA (1024x768 16 color) Video Seven VGA (640x480 256 color)

OTHER DEVICES SUPPORTED IN THIS PACKAGE:

Novell Netware 2.10 or above, Novell Netware 386 Access for Microsoft or IBM PS/2 mouse, and for all keyboard types.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

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

Disk 592. MSDOS Interrupt List 91.1, 1/91 — Ralph Brown's Interrupt List by Ralph Brown, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Ralph Brown's MSDOS Interrupt List is a comprehensive listing of functions available through interrupt calls on IBM PCs and compatibles. The list includes both documented and undocumented functions. Altogether, the information in this list is over 400 printed pages, and has been assembled through the work of Ralph Brown and a host of other contributors.

The last update to this file was 1/91. This is the most comprehensive list of this kind that can be found. As with any work, there are bound to be some inaccuracies and some incomplete information for some uses, but it is a good beginning. Many will find the information extremely useful in helping solve hardware and software interoperability problems.

Special thanks to Fred Williams for a previous version and initial push.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

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

Disk 593. Share-TAX/1040, 12/29/90 — Tax Return Preparer for 1990 by Bammel Software, P. O. Box 382194, Duncanville, TX 75138-2194 214/296-8518. Shareware registration is \$8.00. Enhanced version (USA-Tax/1040) is \$24.00.

WHAT IT DOES: Using the data you enter, Share-TAX/1040 does all computations and prints out your complete tax return (Form 1040 and Schedules A, B, and C).

For all schedules and forms other than Form 1040, it prints substitute forms approved by the IRS. Share-TAX/1040 will not make a tax expert out of you. It only performs the mechanics of tax return preparation using the numbers you supply. Therefore, you must know as much about taxes as you would if you were filling out your forms with pencil and eraser. You need only enter the correct numbers, and Share-TAX/1040 will do all computations for you, forwarding amounts from one form to another as necessary. The order in which you enter your data is arbitrary, and you can at any time suspend your data entry to work on a different tax return or exit the program. Then later you can resume where you left off. When tax season arrives, you might want to have an idea of what your tax bite is going to be before you have all necessary information. With Share-TAX/1040, you can enter the data you have, estimate the significant items you don't have, and in a few seconds have your estimate. When you get the missing numbers, you simply enter them, and in just a few moments have your complete tax return ready to submit to the IRS.

REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compatible, one or two diskettes or hard disk, and printer. You need at least 256K of free memory plus that required by DOS and any resident utilities.

You will find it almost essential to have the blank federal tax forms and related IRS instructions in front of you when you start entering data into the cells.

****WARNING**:** This and other tax preparation programs should be thought of as fast and semi-smart adding machines only. The program cannot contain all the logic necessary to connect all the provisions of the tax laws with the particular situations of all taxpayers. The IRS will hold you responsible for all errors in your return, whether mathematical or substantive. Reliance on a tax program will probably not save you from penalties (including fraud) or interest charges, if you claim some tax benefit you are not entitled to. Use this and other tax programs for preliminary calculations and "what if" scenarios to check the tax effects of making or not making IRA contributions, etc. Thoroughly check the instructions that the IRS furnishes with each form to be sure that you are entitled to use the form, and that the data is properly entered and that all adjustments and limitations have been applied. Be sure that you are not required to fill out additional forms or schedules not included in this package. And manually check all calculations, and table lookups to be sure that the figures are correct. There could always be obscure errors that do not show up in trial runs with sample data.

This software was downloaded and contributed by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 594. Chrome Spheres Animation, 3/90 — 3-D Animation for VGA Systems by Ken Melsha Using DANIMATE Animation Player by Dan Butterfield.

Chrome Spheres is quite simply two circles of rotating chrome spheres over a red and white floor. What makes Chrome Spheres interesting is the detail available when the spheres are rotating. The rotating chrome spheres reflect their surroundings - other chrome spheres, the floor, and shadows. This is where the animation comes into play.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT or PS/2 or compatible with a VGA or MCGA monitor, 512K of memory, and 720K, 1.44M, 1.2M floppy disk or hard disk. The program will not run on a 360K disk.

This software was downloaded and contributed by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 595. PCMODEL 3.03, 8/90 — Molecular Graphics on the PC, KT Consulting, P.O. Box 3810, Vernon, CT 06066. Shareware fee = \$45 (no printed manual), Full registration = \$75.

Molecular models provide one of the best means for studying chemical structures and conformations. There are several advantages of placing these models on a microcomputer: we can actually see the relationships of the atoms of the molecule; we may easily superimpose the structures for comparison; we may make accurate measurements of interatomic distances and bond and torsion angles. The program uses standard Cartesian atomic or X-ray coordinates for input. These data are available from a wide variety of sources, and for a wide variety of molecules, including enzymes and other biological macromolecules. Structural information may also be generated directly from skeletal molecular models. This program is not intended to replace physical molecular models. Rather, it is meant to greatly augment them. For example, PCMODEL may be used to facilitate construction of physical models of complex molecules, since bond lengths and angles are easily obtained from coordinate data.

Using PCMODEL, you can construct graphic representations of molecules of almost unlimited size. The program handles both small and large molecules equally well. It can easily show enzyme active sites and other complex structures, if the atomic coordinates are known. Once you enter the coordinates and connection tables, you can easily manipulate the graphic image by translating it in any coordinate direction, rotating it about any axis or bond, and enlarging or shrinking it.

The diskette contains Coordinate Generation Program (CGP). CGP is used to enter molecular structure data and convert it for use in PCMODEL. There are several examples on disk for use with CGP. PCMODEL is then used to display and manipulate the structure. PCMODEL can be used to compare or link dissimilar molecules, such as an enzyme and its substrate. Many common and important biochemical molecules are included in the data files on the disk. Full registration allows access to the Coordinate Data Consortium (CDC). CDC is a depository of structures generated and contributed by users of the program. Use of CDC and contributing to it will save many hours of duplicated effort.

PCMODEL will run on PC, AT and 386 machines with CGA, EGA(256K) or VGA display. A hard disk and mouse are highly recommended, but, not required.

Software donated by the publisher, KT Consulting.

This review prepared and edited by Charles Carter.

Disk 596. Sandds Movie Guide 2.1, 8/90 — Video Librarian with PCX Graphics, Sandd Software, PO Box

3587, Reston, Virginia 22090. (703)444-8655. SHAREWARE FEE = \$34.95 (incl. Shipping and Handling).

The Sandds Movie Guide is not only a video cataloger, it also maintains a film history, star profile and can display one PCX image for any film or person in the data base. The shareware version has almost 200 movies with their major stars, directors, etc. listed. Now very many pictures are included with this version, but there are enough to get a good feel for how the registered version works. This is NOT a brain-dead version — you may add as many entries as you want. Note that all data base entries which have associated picture files indicate as much, so it is fairly easy to find them.

With its pull down menus and mouse capability, this is a fairly easy product to use, however there are some searches which are not possible (e.g., movies with BOTH Hepburn and Tracy). It also had some problems displaying images on the test VGA system — some of the demo images did not stay on the screen long enough to see.

What do you get for registering? The registered copy comes with 6 disks and include over 1100 movies, 4 disks of compressed EGA and VGA PCX compressed images, one year free support, and one free major upgrade.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Minimum of 384K free memory, DOS 3.0 or newer, a 1.2MB floppy drive or a hard disk, and (if you want to view the graphics images) a VGA board and monitor (EGA will work for SOME of the images).

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

This review prepared and edited by Ben Weatherall.

Disk 597. Commander Keen: Marooned on Mars, 1/91 — EGA arcade game, Apogee Software Productions, P.O. Box 476389, Garland, Texas 75047-6389, (214)240-0614. SHAREWARE FEE = \$15 per volume, or \$30 for all three volumes.

Commander Keen is an arcade game that takes advantage of the graphics capabilities of an EGA adapter. It features high-speed smooth scrolling, animation graphics, and sound effects. This is the first of three games in a series, and the only one available as shareware (the other two are "The Earth Explodes" and "Keen Must Die!"). The others may be ordered directly from Apogee Software Productions when this one is registered. The game premise is simple. You are on Mars. Your helmet is a football helmet and you are looking for parts of your ship that the Vorticons have stolen. You are searching for a battery from your mom's car (ship's power), a joystick (flight control), a vacuum cleaner (propulsion). As you search, you go from cavern to cavern looking for these items. You jump on stairs placed in midair and hope that you do not lose your balance or miscalculate your jump. You get points by getting the balloons, pizza, books and Pepsis.

This is a game reminiscent of the games we played in the infancy of home computing except the graphics are much better. Scott Miller of Apogee did a very job in programming this game.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: The game doesn't need to be installed. It can be run from a floppy, or copied to a hard

disk. It takes 520k to run and an EGA or VGA graphics. It cannot run under Windows or with many other memory resident programs. As it loads it checks for a joystick, but does not need one.

The source for this software was the publisher, Apogee Software Productions.

This review prepared and edited by Ben Weatherall.

Disk 598. Publisher's Powerpak 1.0 Demo, 12/89 - Fonts with Printer Driver, Atech Software, 5964 La Place Court, Suite 125, Carlsbad, CA 92008, Working version List Price \$79.95

The demo is composed of a number of printing programs which show what the product will do. It produces two sample newsletters, a sample of three fonts, Cobb, Dixon and Marin, which emulate Courier, Helvetica and Times Roman, respectively in various point sizes. The fonts may be scaled from 6 to 1,000 points, dependent only on your printer's capability. The fonts may be accessed and scaled at any time in a document. The user might want a headline in Marin (Times Roman) and a brief quote in Dixon (Helvetica) in 24 points and 10 points, respectively while the rest of the story is presented in 12 point Cobb (Courier). All of this is pos-

sible, according to the samples. Having tried the described combination of fonts, sizes and styles in the actual program for which this is a demo, this reviewer can state that it is simple and foolproof to create documents with a variety of looks for emphasis and interest.

The program runs as an add-in to Microsoft Word 4.0 or later, WordPerfect 5.0 or 5.1 and PlanPerfect 5.0. This demo does not require any of the host programs. It is self-installing from a: with the command "INSTALL". Files are arced, but the installation batch file takes care of that of that for the user. The user may select which documents to print or simply view. The demo runs on any PC/XT/AT or compatible. Though no minimum RAM is specified for the demo, the actual program requires 512K. A hard drive running on DOS 2.1 or above is required. The program is nearly as easy to use as the demo. It works well and delivers as promised.

With a list price of \$79.95, the product is available locally from at least one major store at \$49.99. Eighteen additional font packs containing one to four fonts per pack are available from the publisher.

The source of this disk is the publisher.

This review was prepared by Pat Henley, edited by Virginia Salter.



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

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



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

Most folks volunteer because they want to give back to the group as a way of saying thanks for all the group does for them. And in so doing, most volunteers have discovered that they get much more out of their volunteer efforts than they ever give.

If you've never been a volunteer, give it a try. You need not be an experienced user to help out. Openings exist in many areas of the

group's activities. Look in the box on this page for more information.

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

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

Presentation/Equipment Setup
and Breakdown
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Young

BBS Champion
Putt Shaw

Information/Registration Booth
Conley Andrews (Anchor)
John Arnold
Randi Boucher (Anchor)
Ralph Braver
Jim Caraway (Anchor)
Ronald Fairbrother
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Martin Gluck
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Judy Griffiths (Anchor)
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Xelta Nagy
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Steve Saunders (Anchor)
Fred Steadman
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)
Everett Turner
Art Ullman
Jose Valenciano (Anchor)
Jean Waldrep
Judith Williams
Paul Williams (Anchor)
Larry Wood

Disk of the Month (DOM):
Not available at press time

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)



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

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Quicken

Richard Katz
Saving Time With Quicken

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Corel Systems Corporation

Kim Scheeren, Senior Product Specialist
CorelDRAW V2.0 — Fast, Fun, and Powerful

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

9:00 - 9:55

Assembler
DOS
General Genealogy
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users
Software Review
Windows Applications

10:00 - 10:55

Basic Programming
CAD
dBase for TI Pro
Fox Pro Database
Local Area Networks
PAF - Genealogy
Paradox
Personal Users
Unix/Xenix

11:00 - 11:55

Family Roots - Gnlgy.
Roots III - Genealogy
TI Pro General Mtg.

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
R:Base

1:00 - 1:55

Beginners C Language
Business Apps./DAC Easy
LOTUS

OS/2- Windows Developers
Personal Users

TI Pro - New Users
WORD

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
dBase
WordPerfect



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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Jim Holsington, Chairman
Mark Gruner, Kathleen Loadman
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D., Andy Oliver

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President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h
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Treasurer	Ken Connor, CPA	(214)688-3377 w
Secretary	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
Advertising Dir.	John Prybyl	(817)275-4109 h
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Group Statistician	Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0899

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Phil Chamberlain John Prybyl Stuart Yanus

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.)

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(214)263-9036 (Metro)

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Technical Services: Leroy Tenslon

TI PRO BULLETIN BOARD (214)484-5122
SYSOP: - Bill St. John

Address Changes, etc..

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

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date.)

Special Interest Groups

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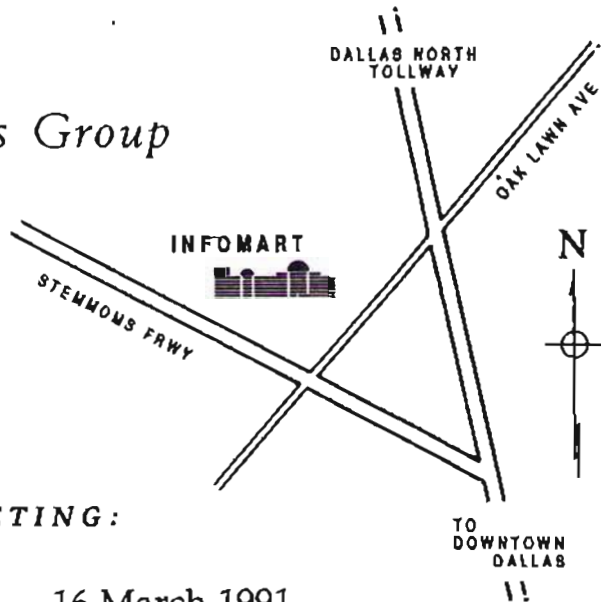
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NEXT MEETING:

16 March 1991