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*North Texas PC Users Group*

10.8

August 1991



# North Texas PC NEWS

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

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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 was 1890 last month.

Member distribution was 1555; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word version 5.0. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Xerox Ventura Publisher. Corel HEADLINE was used for some headings. Reprint was printed on a NEC LC-890 Laser Printer. Typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica and Zapf Chancery.

## DEADLINE

Copy deadline for September  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Saturday, August 10th

### Meeting Dates:

August Meeting - 4th Sat. (24th)  
September Meeting - 4th Sat. (28th)  
October Meeting - 3rd Sat. (19th)  
(tentative)

*Do something —  
be a volunteer. Call the  
number listed on page 14.*

## 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 August \_\_\_\_\_ Timothy Carmichael \_\_\_\_\_

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

### IOMEGA Corporation

#### Introducing the 90 MB Bernoulli Box

*Russ Levinton, District Sales Manager*

On July 15, 1991, IOMEGA announced the newest addition to its family of removable mass storage media, the Bernoulli 90MB. The new Bernoulli 90MB offers 90.5 megabytes of formatted capacity per removable cartridge (180 MB with included data compression), 19 ms access time (13 ms access with caching), and a transfer rate of 20 Mbits/second. Russ will discuss the advantages of the patented Bernoulli technology over other forms of removable media and the advantages of infinite expandable storage in a dynamic, fast-changing marketplace.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### Seiko Instruments USA Inc.

#### Seiko - Big Technology in Small Packages

*Mary Kirby, Sales Representative*

Seiko Instruments manufactures color monitors, thermal transfer color printers, digitizers, and the Smart Label Printer Plus. All of these products will be discussed and demonstrated at this presentation. Mary will also tell us about the role and experience of Seiko in the computer industry. There will be a drawing for a Smart Label Printer Plus.

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

Well, here it is June and I've got to write the August Prez Sez. Since the July meeting won't happen for another two weeks, I'll have to write about what happened at the June meeting.

### The June Meeting

The June meeting was held on "INFOMART OPEN HOUSE DAY". Prior to the meeting, the OASIS radio station made announcements about the meeting. In addition, INFOMART sent out press releases promoting the fact that several of the tenants at INFOMART would have their show rooms open in addition to having all the members of the Computer Council of Dallas meeting at INFOMART.

We hired some people to sit near the front door and to give us an accurate attendance count. According to Stuart Yarus, President of the Computer Council of Dallas, we had over 3,500 people attend. We had expected more people but the weather was beautiful and it's hard to compete with nice weather on a Saturday in Dallas.

For those of you who attended the June meeting, I hope you took the time to visit the tenant show rooms and displays. Microsoft and Software Publishing had display areas near the first floor elevators and they drew a good crowd.

### Mark Gruner and Lotus Week and the June Board Meeting

Mark was at the June Board of Directors meeting wearing a cast from the ball of his foot up to his hip. Mark had been up in Boston at Lotus Week in early June and returned to us injured.

The Board was fascinated by the story that Mark told us. During some follow up questioning by Dr. Reagan Andrews, we all came to wonder if Mark was telling us the entire story.

After Mark finished the question and answer session, the Board helped Kathryn Loafman tie Mark to the roof of her compact car and she drove him back up Stemmons Expressway to Plano. (I hope there weren't too many bugs out at that time of night.)

The Board of Directors meeting ended with a majority of the Board voting to appoint a blue ribbon commission to investigate a possible conspiracy by a right wing user group or a radical spreadsheet company.

### New Membership Director

I finally found a volunteer (snicker) to take over the post of Membership Director. After much deliberation and several shots of tequila, Zach Porterfield, past president of the NTPCUG and a founding member of the International Order of Propeller Heads, has agreed to take over the position from me this fall.

While it has been a real challenge to be both President and Membership Director, I have to admit I'll miss parts of the job. In the two and 1/2 years that I have been Acting Membership Director, I've gotten to know our membership a lot better.

I'm impressed with the kind of people who make up NTPCUG. Reading the notes on the renewal forms and seeing the occupations of many of our members gives me a much clearer picture of each of you, our members. I doubt that many organizations have such an outstanding group of people as members.

### Volunteers

August starts the beginning of our busy season. From August through November, we have lots of people at each of our meetings. Without volunteers, none of what we do could happen.

Please donate an hour or two of your time in one of the many volunteer areas of the NTPCUG. See Connie Andrews at the Information Booth or Kathryn Loafman at the Disk of the Month table.

### Fall is the season for Demographics

Well, it's June and Dr. Reagan Andrews hasn't officially started his 1991 Demographics campaign, but I'm sure that by August it will be in full swing.

The NTPCUG does a demographics survey of its members each fall, usually in September. If you are handed a demographics survey form at the September meeting, please take the time to fill it out and return it to one of the volunteers at the Information Booth.

We send out the results of the survey to about 100 companies. They use this information to justify coming to our meetings to present their products. They also use it to justify placing advertisements in our newsletter which helps to keep to cost of membership down.

Please participate in the Demographics survey this fall.

### Vacation

Tomorrow is July 1st and I'm about to leave on my first vacation in four years. I'm going to visit my parents who live on a farm out in the country. It will be a chance to get away from all the pressures of city life.

I got a call from my parents last night. My father wants a couple more meg of RAM installed on his 386 and, of course, I've got to install the DOS 5.0 upgrade. Mom just wants me to install a new release of her word processor.

Well, it sure will be great to get away from work for awhile!

Jim Hoisington

■

## ON COMPLEXITY

*No. 54 in a Series*

by Jim Hoisington

Who uses PC software? It's not who you think it is!

Some years ago, a popular saying was, "Everyone that wanted a PC has already purchased one." And yet, PC's continue to be sold. I think that the same thing is true of PC software. Everybody who wanted a software package has already bought it. And yet, software packages continue to be sold. Who is using the software?

In my travels around the Dallas - Fort Worth area as a consultant, I see lots of PC users in both large and small companies. There is a consistent pattern of software usage in every company that I visit. Only one person in twenty, really knows how to use the software that 19 other people are using.

This person knows how to install the software, knows the basic command set of the package, knows how to solve the common problems.

The other nineteen people know that if they do A) ... followed by B) ... followed by C) ..., they will get a report or a graph or a set of labels. If anything goes wrong, or if they need to do E) ..., they are totally frustrated. They have no understanding of the computer and the software they use on a daily basis. They just know how to follow a set routine to accomplish a goal. Finding the knowledgeable person is easy once you are inside the company. These people don't appear on any computer organization's staffing chart and usually their job description does not include any mention of software support. They got into the job of software support because they took the time to read the manuals and learn the software.

Ask any of the people who use the software who they call for help and they can tell you. When you find the person, they usually have the manuals on their desk, right beside their computers.

Knowing that only one in twenty users of a software package really know anything about the software has some important implications.

First of all, buying twenty manuals is a waste of money and storage space. What is needed are twenty software licenses and one set of manuals.

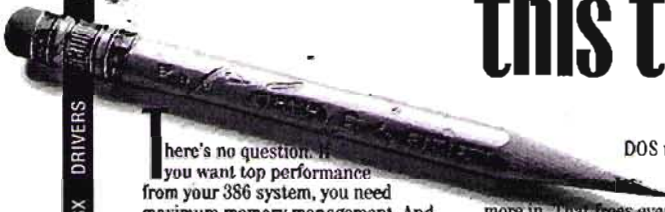
Second, since most of the users of the package only know the name of the package because it appears on the startup screen, the advertising for the software needs to be targeted at the one person that reads the manual, not the nineteen that follow their instruction sheets. ►

RAM PAGEFRAME IPX MEMORY BIOS CACHE VGA MOUSE 386 BLUEMAX 486 HIGH DOS EGA INITIALIZE

640K WINDOWS ROM LIM EMS HMA DOS 5.0 XMS BUFFERS UMB 386MAX 486SX DRIVERS NETWORKS TSRS BLUEMAX 386MAX

640K WINDOWS ROM LIM EMS HMA DOS 5.0 XMS BUFFERS UMB 386MAX 486SX DRIVERS NETWORKS TSRS BLUEMAX 386MAX

# Only the most intelligent memory managers can pass this test.



There's no question. If you want top performance from your 386 system, you need maximum memory management. And that takes intelligence. But whose intelligence would you rather use—yours or your memory manager's? Here's a little quiz to help you make the smart choice.

**1** True or False: All memory managers are alike.

False. Most memory managers free up space for applications by moving TSRs and device drivers from conventional memory into high DOS memory. But they vary widely in how effectively they do it. Others require a lot of guesswork, and a lot of time. And you still won't get top performance.

MAX, on the other hand, uses its intelligence to calculate automatically the thousands of possible ways these programs can be arranged in high DOS, and finds the best possible fit. First time, every time. Guaranteed.

**2** Why do other memory managers leave some programs in conventional memory when there's still room for them in high DOS?

Many resident programs need much more space to load than they need to run. FlexFrame, a MAX exclusive, "borrows" up to 64K of high

DOS memory for loading, so it can pack more in. That frees even more memory for applications.

**3** True or False: Using TSRs in Windows is a great way to crash your system.

With other memory managers, that's definitely true. But not with MAX. Thanks to another MAX exclusive called *TSR instancing*, you can use nearly any pop-up utility as many times as you want in Windows.

**4** With DOS 5.0, there's no need for a memory manager—right or wrong?

Well, that depends. DOS 5 does free up some memory with its smaller program size. And it does let you place programs into high DOS manually.

But for optimal memory management and guaranteed top performance, what you really need is MAX. It's the powerful, automated, full-service program that specializes in all facets of managing your memory. So while DOS 5 is good, DOS 5 with MAX is outstanding.

The answer is easy. The delivery is free.

Just choose the MAX that's right for you. There's 386MAX<sup>®</sup> for any IBM compatible 386 or 486 based system at just \$130.\* And BlueMAX<sup>™</sup> at \$165,\* the only memory manager that gives you up to 250% more high DOS memory on all 386 and 486 IBM PS/2s.

Order direct before 3:00 pm Eastern Time, and we'll have MAX on your desk the next business morning, free of shipping charges.† We'll even include a free copy of ASQ,<sup>™</sup> the intelligent memory analyzer.



To get maximum performance from your system, graduate to the Intelligent Memory Managers. See your dealer or call toll-free today.

**1-800-676-6386 ext. 417**



\*BlueMAX \$79.95 386MAX \$69.95 valid through October 31, 1991



## The Intelligent Memory Managers<sup>™</sup>

RAM MEMORY BIOS CACHE VGA MOUSE 386 BLUEMAX 486 HIGH DOS EGA INITIALIZE

© 1991 Qualitas. Qualitas, 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1386, Bethesda, MD 20814. All company and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. System Requirements: Any 386 or 486 PC or PS/2, min. 256KB of extended memory, DOS 3.0 or higher, high density floppy disk or hard disk drive. † Offer valid in North America only.

Finally, the company using the software really only needs to provide training and assistance to the one person. Because the one person develops the "applications" or procedures for the other nineteen, this person is going to be the first level of support for the software, regardless of how well the corporate support group is trained.

Consider how easy it would be for a new or competing software package to displace a current package if they could convince this small group of users that they offered a better way to help the other nineteen that each of them supported.

Jim

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## The Adventures of Pc Tech

Chapter 5

by Ben Thar

Our heroine, P.C. Technician, is looking forward to this day. The new computer systems are arriving. She has read a new book on the underground market titled *Horror Stories From A Micro Manager*. In the book, the *Micro Manager* talked about promises made to end users regarding delivery dates, or as they are now known in the industry, lack-of-delivery dates. PCT checked with the salesman, and then called the warehouse to assure that the equipment was shipped (she also conveniently neglected to inform any one at the office of anything more than an anticipated delivery week.)

The NOEL computers were at the receiving dock, and PCT checked the boxes for physical damage, also counting and matching boxes to the shipping ticket. Another couple of *Horror Stories* avoided.

Next, PCT had tables set up in the workroom where she proceeded to unpack and set up the new computers. She filled out the warranty registration cards and put them in the mail, after making copies of them for her files. A story from the book related an experience of documentation, and warranty registrations being left in the original packing cartons and thrown out with the cartons. The author told of the terror of having to go into the Accounting Department files eleven months after the fact and try to extricate copies of the original invoices.

PCT had her *Periwinckle All Together* program on the first computer that the company purchased, and with the *PAT* program, she set up a database for systems inventory. The *Horror Story* book told of a company

with 300 computers, none of which were inventoried, and a new VP who wanted a complete inventory ASAP. PCT figured, What better time to inventory equipment than when it comes in the front door? (Obviously, this person is not going to learn everything in the *School Of Hard Knocks*, like the rest of us.)

Oh no! Upon booting up the new p.c.'s, the fourth one returned a cryptic set of numbers, and just stopped. PCT took out the documentation, went to the index, and looked for Error Codes. There was no such entry. Then she looked for the Appendices. There weren't any of those either. She read the manual from cover to cover. Still no help. She called the dealer, and their technical support person was out to lunch. Undaunted, she proceeded to set up the other computers. One set of disks had an error message on the screen *ERROR READING DRIVE A:*. PC Tech remembered the error message from her trials with the first p.c. She did learn her lesson and she already purchased a copy of *Harmon's Utilities*. After reading up on the *FIX-A-DISK* program, PCT proceeded to run the program against the original diskette. *FIX-A-DISK* found the problem and moved the data to RAM memory, marked the spot as bad, and proceeded to relocate the data elsewhere. Unfortunately, the software manufacturer, in its infinite wisdom, left 0 bytes available on the disk, so there were no unused sectors for the *FIX-A-DISK* program to move the data to. The whole process stopped and locked up the machine.

PCT called the software vendor and requested their fax number. She faxed them a letter on company letterhead requesting replacement of the defective disk by overnight courier, with a Xerox copy of the offending disk's label, a copy of her receipt for the 6 copies of the software. Something else she learned from the book.

The technical support person from NOEL computers finally called her back. She told him about the error code. He looked up the code in his book, and said, "That indicates a hard disk drive controller failure. Have you opened up the box and checked the connections?" "No!", she said. "Didn't you guys bother doing that at the factory?" "And by the way, why can't I have a list of the error codes and what they mean? Or am I expected to call you every time I get a cryptic code number." The support person said that he would pass the suggestion along to the documentation folks, and meanwhile, he would fax her a copy of the pages out of his manual. "Now, he said, let's open that puppy up and see what's on the inside." "I guess, she thought, that this is why I'm a p.c. technician. At some point I am going to have to open up the pewter plastic pseudo-brain and operate on the innards."

*Next month, the screwdriver comes out.*

■

# LOTUS WEEK 1991

## Fun and Pains

By Mark H. Gruner  
NTPCUG Lotus SIG Leader

Imagine the opportunity to meet with and see Don Casey, Vice President of Lotus' Spreadsheet Division, software developers from Lotus, talk with vendors, see numerous Lotus-related presentations, and much more and you have Lotus Week 1991 held in Boston from June 5th to June 8th.

Lotus Development invited 17 Lotus SIG Leaders from around the country to attend this year's event. I represented the North Texas PC Users Group (NTPCUG). For a complete list, see the accompanying photo. Elena Fernandez, Manager of User Groups for Lotus planned and coordinated the SIG Leader participation at Lotus Week.

Since Lotus was interested in comments from the user group community, I went prepared. I took a list of suggestions for future spreadsheet programs, comments that users have concerning Lotus as a corporation, and suggestions about user group support. I also prepared a short questionnaire that I passed out at the May user group meeting. If you filled out the questionnaire, Lotus has your comments.

I also took 50 packages containing information on the NTPCUG and our Lotus SIG. The purpose of the packages was give the recipients a better understanding of the NTPCUG and our Lotus SIG. My thanks for all who assisted with gathering the information. I gave packages to Lotus employees, user group representatives, and vendors. I used the packages in horse trading with the vendors. All who received the package seemed pleased to receive it. I even gave one to Don Casey.

My horse trading with vendors at the conference was rather successful. Since returning, I have received several packages from vendors such as Baler Software, Lindo Systems, Brubaker

software, Pizzano & Company, Frontline Systems, Que Software, Intex Solutions, and ProHance Technologies. I still hope to receive products from PC Publishing, Funk Software, Personics, Business Forecasting Systems, and others. I hope to be able to get reviews on these packages for the user group and the newsletter.

The hardware hit of the conference was the HP 95LX palmtop computer. The non-Lotus product hit was ICE from Baler Software. Baler Software was distributing evaluation copies, T-shirts, and hats. The Lotus product hit was of course 1-2-3 since it was everywhere. It was on DOS in versions 2.3 and 3.1, on Windows, on the Macintosh, under UNIX and all versions and platforms were sharing spreadsheet files.

I arrived on Wednesday June 5th and attended the Welcome Reception at the Hynes Convention Center. At the reception, I registered and began touring LotusWorld '91 which consisted of around 100 vendors showing their wares. It also included Lotus representatives manning PCs demonstrating most of Lotus' products including many versions of 1-2-3, Ami Pro, Notes, and others. Later that evening, several user group representatives went to dinner at the hotel to get acquainted and fed.

Thursday was the real start of the conference. After a brief introduction by Don Casey, the event's host, Frank King provided the Lotus blueprint for the future - Working Together. Frank discussed Lotus' goal of providing a suite of products that bring products



User Group Representatives at Lotus Week, 1991. Front Row (Left to Right): Bart Delaney (NYPC), Juanita Lockwood (N. Orange County), Betty Brooks (HAL), Elena Fernandez (Manager of User Groups for Lotus), Bill Zolger (Chicago), and James Ditaranto (AT&T).

Back Row (Left to Right): John Tyler (Boston), David Williams (Philadelphia), Eric Wolfe (Pasadena), Dick Kellerman (PineBlas), Mark Gruner (North Texas), Sain Sabin (Orange Coast), Vance Jochim (N. Orange County), Robert Sanborn (Indianapolis), and Gene Weiskopf (Sacramento).

Not Shown: Judy Brown (Fox Valley Technical College) Allen Moulton (Boston) Leo Rodgers (Central Florida), and Jerry Schneider (Assoc. of PC Users Groups).

together, people together, and people and products together.

After Frank King, came Jeffrey Beir and Mike Scott with demonstrations of Lotus's spreadsheet products including 1-2-3 for DOS 2.3, 1-2-3 for Windows, the HP 95LX palmtop from Hewlett-Packard, Improv for the NeXT workstation, and 1-2-3 for the Macintosh. The HP 95LX palmtop was the certainly the hardware hit of the week, and perhaps the overall winner. All I can say is that I saw it, wrote a short model with it, and now want it. The morning ended with Phillippe Courtot presenting an overview of Lotus' Groupware strategy.

Thursday afternoon began with an overview of word processing and graphics by Said Mohammadioun and Tim Davenport. Then Lotus had a door prize for anyone who filled out an attendee form. The prize was a CD which includes presentations for the event, 1-2-3 for DOS 2.3, Ami Pro 1.2, Freelance Graphics for DOS 4.0, and others information.

The rest of Thursday afternoon was spent in Concurrent sessions on one of four tracks or concentrations. The four tracks included Manager of Information Technology, VARs/ISVs, Technology Seminars, and Technology Workshops. I attended a presentation on "Non-Traditional Spreadsheet Applications" presented by Larry Roshfeld. Instead of attending a second presentation, I sat down at a PC and played with Notes a little. Notes is a groupware mail and sharing product for lack of a better description. I responded to a few "forums" on suggestions for Lotus products. I sent some suggestions concerning spreadsheets, Symphony, Metro and other subjects. I also spend some time on a PC and worked with 1-2-3 for Windows. Late Thursday afternoon, I was back at Lotus World.

Thursday night, the user group representatives went to dinner at "The European Restaurant", an Italian restaurant. After dinner, a brief tour of Quincy Market, then off to a little club. Several of the user group folks danced, but not me. Our host, Elena, made quite an impression on the dance floor.

Friday morning started with special user group sessions. The focus was user group suggestions and comments on a host of subjects such as recommendations for future spreadsheet products, suggestions and deficiencies of current spreadsheet products, Lotus Development as a corporation, and a very interesting discussion on licensing. Part of the morning was spent discussing future spreadsheet products currently in development. In fact, we all had to sign a non-disclosure agreement prior to that discussion.

During most of the Thursday morning session, I sat next to Ezra Gottreil, a Senior Product Design Manager for Lotus. Ezra was furiously taking notes throughout the morning. I also took the opportunity

to pass along several tips and suggestions directly. All in all, the Lotus representatives seemed very pleased with the results of the session. In fact, some of their reactions indicated that their future products were right on the mark with the comments. The morning session lasted until after 2:00 - over one hour late. In fact, many (including myself) did not leave to hear the featured speaker Friday morning.

Friday afternoon, I spent more time on workstations playing with 1-2-3 for Windows, Notes, and other programs. Late Friday afternoon there was a demonstration of the theme of the conference - Working Together. The demonstration included 1-2-3 for Windows, 1-2-3 version 2.3, 1-2-3 for Macintosh, the HP 95LX palmtop, Freelance for Windows, Notes, cc:Mail, and others. All of these programs shared information and files and was a rather impressive display of Lotus' vision of group computing and working together. After that session, I spent more time at Lotus World talking to vendors.

Friday evening festivities included a Beach Party at the hotel and a trip to the emergency room for yours truly. There was no sand at the party, but there was a volleyball net setup. Later a big 3-foot beachball appeared and a few people began playing volleyball. Well, I decided to play and Bill Ziegler from the Chicago user group joined me. After about an hour or so, I went to hit the ball. The guy behind me also tried to hit the ball. The result was that I hit the ball over the net, I was kicked in the Achilles tendon, and I dropped to the floor in pain. I hobbled over to my table and got ice on my ankle. Shortly thereafter, Bob Sanborn of the Indianapolis group helped me to my room. Thirty minutes later, Elena Fernandez was taking me to the emergency room of a nearby hospital. I had a ruptured Achilles tendon and was put in a cast from my toes to Mid-thigh. The cast was so large that I could not get my jeans back on and ended up with a pair of hospital pajama bottoms. I arrived back at the hotel at 2:00 am - see photo.

Saturday saw me being moved around in a wheelchair and occasionally in crutches. The Saturday user



Mark Gruner in a wheelchair showing off his leg cast and hospital pajama bottoms after spending nearly 4 hours at a Boston emergency room.





by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

### **ThreadZ FileF/X to the Rescue**

*ThreadZ FileF/X* caught my eye at COMDEX. It looked like a good compromise between decent file and disk management and the "super" icon-oriented, desktop managers that took too much control over the Windows 3.0 environment. I haven't changed my mind on that score.

When I first installed *Windows 3.0*, I was impressed by the massive improvement over the earlier, *Windows 2.11*, version I was accustomed to tolerating. One thing hadn't changed, though. *Windows File Manager* remained slow, clumsy and completely unintuitive. Functions I had come to take for granted in DOS simply didn't exist in *Windows*.

*ThreadZ FileF/X* may have solved the problem.

A replacement for the *Windows File Manager*, *FileF/X* includes the functionality I expect from such DOS based managers as *Norton Commander*, and a smooth blending into the *Windows* schema of operation.

### **LOTUS WEEK** continued

group sessions consisted of a presentation on 1-2-3 version 2.3 by Rob Perry and a Q&A session. Obviously, I answered a lot of questions about the hospital trip. The featured speaker for Saturday morning was Douglas Adams, author of the "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" and was quite entertaining. Most of the user group attendees also attended the "Tips and Techniques Using 1-2-3" presentation given by Scott Tucker and John Shepard which was very interesting.

Hats off to Elena Fernandez who organized the whole event for the user group representatives. She also helped me out by getting to the hospital, getting me around on Saturday at Lotus Week, and she even took me to the airport.

I certainly enjoyed myself at Lotus Week with the exception of the Achilles tendon episode. I hope that I am invited back next year.

Mark 

*FileF/X* includes both file and text searching across a directory, a disk or all volumes in the system.

Star in this group is the *ThreadZ Task Manager* replacement. I've left this in and use it constantly. It really does enhance *Windows* operation significantly, including both program and file-management capabilities simultaneously. (Any of the *ThreadZ* utilities can be implemented from the *Task Manager* menu, a real plus.)

Not to be dismissed easily, a *File Undelete* utility is included that works effectively and safely. It is pretty intuitive, but shares a common and disturbing trait with other utilities in the suite – it's very, very slow. This persists even on a 33 MHz 386 PC that is lightning fast in other respects. Even when I dropped back to DOS inside *Windows* and called similar DOS utilities, the speed differential was quite annoying.

One difference is that using *File Undelete* in *Windows* works very well and is probably safe (I didn't experience any problems with it after purposely deleting then restoring a number of files.) Using file and disk managers intended for DOS-only operation probably isn't that good an idea most of the time from the *Windows* environment.

All told, I like the *ThreadZ* suite. It stays out of the way until you actually need it and then works well when it's called. Can't ask for much more than that – except speed.

### **Adobe TypeAlign**

Want to have fun with *Windows 3.0*? Try *Adobe TypeAlign* and *Adobe Type Manager (ATM)*. *TypeAlign* is truly a multi-purpose, small (by *Windows* standards) utility program that makes specialized type handling fun – for a change.

Something *Adobe* hasn't highlighted in its promotional blurbs for *TypeAlign* is that it's an excellent training medium for the more complex, involved graphics packages. Skills learned in *TypeAlign* will hold throughout the *Windows* graphic editor world.

What *TypeAlign* does is work with type (letters) as graphical objects that can be manipulated in an almost infinite variety of ways. *TypeAlign* is only limited by the user's imagination. You can do twists, warps, perspective shifts, shadows – the full range of type manipulations you'd expect from the larger (and much more expensive) graphical editors such as *CorelDRAW*, *Arts & Letters*, *Designer*, etc.

Drawbacks? Yes, a few. *TypeAlign* must have *ATM* installed in *Windows 3.0* to work. *TypeAlign* also doesn't include its own fonts – you'll need at least the minimalist pair of fonts that come with *ATM* to do anything with *TypeAlign*. A real plus is that *Type-*

*Align* can work with any *ATM* installed font and output to any printer supported by Windows and *ATM*.

*TypeAlign* works with type as objects -- and is object oriented. This is both good (lots of options for manipulation) and bad (you do need to learn some basic skills to make good use of the program). *TypeAlign* give the user preset options of straight paths, circular or oval paths or free-hand paths for text flow. Once the text is typed in, the paths can be manipulated in shape via *TypeAlign's* handle tools with relative ease. What's missing is the "finer" manipulations available in most good graphics editors in dealing with the handles.

Handles can be deleted and added, have major axis manipulated, and generally moved in almost any manner the user could wish. But, manipulating type shape via handle-manipulation does take some practice although the manuals (as most do) imply that this is a simple procedure.

Users who are fitting headlines and special type effects to a page will appreciate the built in "Camera" feature that loads a "shadow" image of the page layout and allows sizing and fitting to match the user's pre-determined page layout. This can save a lot of time when matching headlines to body copy, etc. On the down side, *TypeAlign* has limited export facilities, which can prove a slight hindrance to the typical user.

File export featured in *TypeAlign* is via EPS, AI and WMF (Windows Meta File) which is not capable of highly complex file transfers. Most users will probably use the EPS export option which works quite well in most applications. A major exception to this is absence of printers capable of printing EPS files. In this case the WMF will be needed, or an intermediary utility will be necessary.

In the case of the artwork accompanying this brief article, I generated the original graphics in *TypeAlign's* EPS format, then loaded the EPS file into *CorelDRAW* for scaling, or converted to *Arts & Letters* GED file format via *A&L's Decipher* utility, then scaled the image to fit the *PC News'* column requirements.

Most users won't have to go through these manipulations since they'll load directly to the intended documents and let their word processors handle the sizing/scaling operations. But, it's important that the resulting files were easily handled by the programs above in a rapid and transparent manner.

I like *TypeAlign*. I'm glad that somebody finally recognized that most users don't need the power of the typical graphics editor, but do want and need the kind of power available through *TypeAlign* to handle text and headlines.

Reagan 

## Adobe - Si -- ASCII - No

Made a funny discovery when the *TypeAlign* art was being generated.

Was attempting to get the upper ASCII card-suite-symbol characters in the *Zapf Dingbats* font to display on the screen (and hence on the printed output.) You know the characters -- the club, diamond, heart and spade symbols. Couldn't find them anywhere.

Tried the *Ventura Publisher* ASCII codes, the *Windows* ASCII codes, and the codes listed in the Hewlett-Packard section of the *Pacific Page* manuals. When I loaded Microsoft *Word's* CHARTEST.DOC file and sent it to the printer, the characters printed out fine -- using the built in Bitstream equivalent font in the *Pacific Page* cartridge.

I even re-read the documentation. No help.

From *ATM* and *TypeAlign*, it was a "No-Go." Call to Adobe's technical support line produced some strange results. Phone was answered very quickly and was able to reach a technician in less than a minute (very, very good for this business), but his suggestions produced no better results than mine. Adobe promised to call back with their best guess ASAP.

This all happened on *PC News'* deadline eve.

Resorted to manual entry of every ASCII code between 033 and 256, and arrived at three of the symbols. Ran art. Will let you know what Adobe's answer is in next issue.

## CASE Management Forum

Computer-Aided Software Engineering (CASE) Management Forum, an emerging non-profit organization which encourages the exchange of information about specific software engineering methods and tools, is hosting the new VENDOR SERIES at INFOMART.

The CMF VENDOR SERIES is a hands-on CASE Product Presentation.

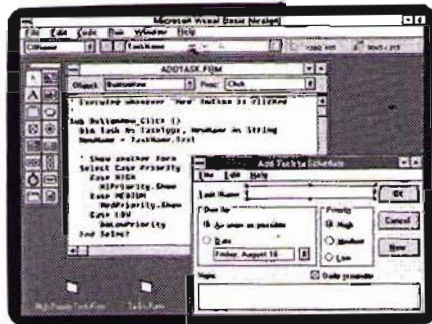
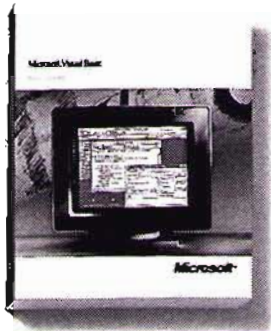
Saturday, September 28, 1991

WHO: CASE Methods Development Corporation will be demonstrating "Framework", a Full Information Engineering Life Cycle Methodology.

WHEN: 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

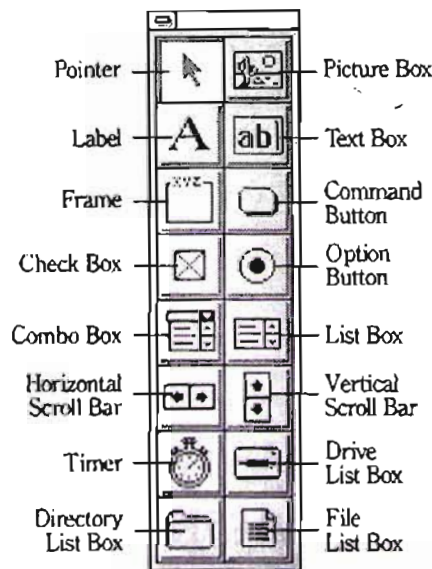
WHERE: INFOMART in Dallas. Check the Super Saturday Program the day of the event for room listings.

For more information, leave a message on the CMF hotline (214) 890-2690, or write to P.O. Box 801201, Dallas, TX 75380-1201.



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### Key Features

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Visual Basic's interactive Help system is always at your fingertips. In the Code window, select any language keyword and press <F1> to get information on that word's usage and syntax. Hypertext links allow you to jump to related topics. You can even cut and paste code examples into your program.

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# The Variety Store

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

## IBM - Apple - Motorola "marriage" kills Summer's "Dog Days" while Microsoft, Intel and PC users wince

- or -

### How do we make buying plans now?

Whatever happened to the PC "dog days" of past summers? Slow news – not this year. And, users, if you want to follow the PC industry, you're going to need a large flow chart for the next several months.

First, the IBM - Apple deal was publicly endorsed by both parties in late June. Actual "signing" may be the public relations event of the decade (so far). It's sure to get massive media coverage as details of the agreement(s) become known.

#### Is this the IBM - Apple deal?

One major aspect, this will give IBM access to *Pink*, the multi-platform OS being concocted by Apple. Apple, in turn, will gain access via IBM's "approval" to the corporate accounts that have eluded the Cupertino, CA, firm. They'll also gain assured access to IBM's RS/6000 RISC microprocessor for Motorola (and, hence for later Apple machines). Not openly discussed, but almost sure to be a part of all this was some significant access to Macintosh GUI features for IBM.

If you think all this is pointed at Microsoft, you're probably well on target according to the media. There's a slap in there for Intel too.

#### Old friends take sides ...

Borland and Lotus lined up behind IBM as well. Neither are really Microsoft and Bill Gates boosters these days since Lotus remembers the beating they took aiming at OS/2 instead of Windows and Borland is still smarting over a number of perceived Microsoft slights, including the rapid demise of *Turbo BASIC*. Lotus may see this as a way to get closer to Apple and perhaps dislodge Microsoft from Macintosh application domination.

This has really boiled over in all sorts of media for the last month or so. After the initial rosy glow wore off, raised many, very important questions about PC OS future.

One question some think was answered was true depth of IBM's devotion to OS/2. Some media pundits cheerily point out this seems like IBM fully intends to abandon OS/2 after all. (Wasn't the OS/2 debate supposed to be the source of all the recent acrimony between IBM and Microsoft? What does it mean when IBM blows off both Microsoft and OS/2?)

#### One question – where's the meat?

Not everybody is all that impressed with the "marriage" of IBM and Apple. For a number of reasons. Apple's *Pink* has been rumored for some time. Most of the rumors hint that it just isn't that great so far. IBM, on the other hand, is used to getting the "shell" of an OS and twiddling it to their satisfaction. Lately, they haven't done that well with this process. It will be a long time before burned PC users forget *PC-DOS 4.00's* many bugs.

Also, don't think IBM will ever live-down *TopView*.

And – imagine the IBM dress code implemented at Apple. Blue pin-stripes, white button-down oxfords and repp ties blending with tie-dyes, cut-offs and thongs? If there were ever two disparate corporate environments, Armonk, NY, and Cupertino, CA, would have to be best examples.

I'm glad I'm not in the business of long-range corporate PC ►

planning. You can just hear the ulcers ravenously eating away duodenal tissue. If their patents weren't verging on expiration, Roche's stock would be a very good buy now (Roche is best known for *Valium*.)

#### So much for software.

One party is a clear winner. Motorola will get yet another chance at the RISC microcomputer CPU race. They need it.

Motorola has been having problems getting silicon out the door on schedule and has lots of disgruntled former customers as a result. However, reports are that constant infighting between the 68040 (CISC) team and the 88000 (RISC) design teams was responsible for the delays experienced in getting both to manufacturing. Also, the 88000 series simply wasn't considered competitive with other makers' RISC chips when finally delivered.

What will these guys do when presented with demand (from Apple) to produce CPU's designed by IBM? Hmmmm ...

#### Feds discover PC's and Intel Discovers CPU competition

Microsoft and Intel are sharing misery these days from the same source – the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and their investigations of both companies. Since I've discussed the Microsoft action before (a lot), think I'll go right to Intel.

Intel announced their new role as a happy FTC target in June. Real source of the FTC investigative action is said to be the very sour relationship between Intel and AMD over the 80386 rights. Might add D/FW area coprocessor producer Cyrix into that equation to boot. Both Cyrix and AMD seem to have similar issues surrounding use of legal straight-jackets and court actions to fend off the smaller (less wealthy) manufac-

turers from Intel's current cash cow.

#### Intel 386 monopoly before AMD?

Before AMD got their 386 clone chip out the door, Intel was *almost* the only game in town. Remember, though, Intel licensed IBM to make their own 386's when IBM owned a substantial portion of Intel not too long ago. That would seem to mitigate the "monopoly" issue to some degree.

Street 386 prices, however, seemed to reflect an Intel sole-supplier status. Heard a lot of low-level grumbling about Intel's 386 "allotment system" among smaller system makers.

#### Allotments replaced by 386 glut

Made a lot of these PC makers very unhappy to have to buy CPU chips from a company who was rationing (allocating) them and simultaneously competing with them, the other PC makers, for system sales. (Intel has become a major player in the systems market and makes a lot of PC's carrying other houses' labels.)

Now, prices for the 386 line have declined significantly. In the last month, according to media sources, a 386 "glut" has reached significant proportions, and is said to be one factor in rapidly dropping desktop, laptop and notebook PC prices.

#### On the institutional front ...

SPA's Anti-piracy screen Features real big holes

Software Publishers Association (SPA) has recently engaged in an extensive media campaign aimed at eliminating software "piracy" in corporate settings. SPA, formed mostly of major software publishers, sees corporate piracy as a major problem. (Read that as "missed \$\$ millions.")

My copy of the "Self Audit Kit" had a lot of sample corporate policy statements (with a definite "SPA" slant), a lot of material stating how evil software piracy is and how it will almost inevitably lead to broken homes, alcoholism, illicit liaisons – well, you get the drift, and *SPAUDIT*, SPA's screening program. It ran flawlessly.

*SPAUDIT* was included to scan hard disks and print a listing of copyrighted programs installed. Ran it. Results were less than flawless. The program "missed" *Ventura Publisher 2.0 Professional* version, but did "find" the *VP 3.0* for *Windows I* deleted some time ago. *SPAUDIT* identified *Word for Windows*, but missed *Word 5.0* and *Word 5.5*, *Norton Utilities*, *Gray F/X*, *Bitstream's Facelift* and *Fontware 3.0*, *Arts & Letters 3.1*, *Adobe Type Manager* and *TypeAlign*, *ThreadZ* – and a lot more.

This is a screen? To catch pirates?

#### Standing joke comes true ... MS FORTRAN Compiler 5.1 For Windows 3.0 announced

How do you know when a software product has really arrived? If it supports *FORTTRAN*. Often cited humorously among programmers, promise of a "QuickFORTRAN" or "TurboFORTRAN" from Microsoft or Borland, respectively, used to be the ultimate oxymoron.

The university and scientific communities don't think so – and will probably embrace the newly-announced Microsoft *FORTTRAN Compiler 5.1* with joy. Why so much attention to an "antique" language. Easy. Hundreds of thousands of lines of *FORTTRAN* code written for scientific applications are being used daily in research labs, universities and other areas. ►

According to Microsoft's May release, the new 5.1 compiler will support ANSI 77 and "numerous IBM, VAX, and ANSI 8x extensions to FORTRAN. An optimizing compiler, the new FORTRAN package will include the CodeView debugger and the complete Microsoft Programmer's Work-Bench and will allow moving most 16-bit applications to the Windows environment without changes to the source code according to Microsoft. Price was announced at \$450 and updates will cost \$150 until June 1, 1992.

#### Windows ATM addiction Fed by DTC MasterWorks

Let's start by admitting I'm addicted to type fonts and ATM for Windows. Only problem is the cost of Adobe type fonts — high.

Digital Typeface Corporation's (DTC) new MasterWorks Type Libraries may provide some relief to my anguish. Composed of 200 type faces between the two volumes, the new MasterWorks fonts are Post-Script and ATM compatible (many other makers' Type 1 fonts aren't) and are fully hinted. List prices begin at \$95 and each of the 100-face volumes is available for \$1695.

Sample sheets sent out by DTC were very cleanly and professionally done, and included some very interesting, well-reproduced faces. They follow in the footsteps of the type books given away during COMDEX/Fall '90 which were actually "textbooks" in typography as well as type sample books. Contact DTC at (612) 943-8920 for more details.

#### Flambeaux goes to Hypertext for DOS Help for DOS 5.0

Flambeaux Software has been in the DOS Help business for a long time. PC users who have updated to DOS 5.0 probably

appreciate the new DOS HELP feature, but wish Microsoft had been more verbose — and inclusive. Flambeaux's new hypertext reference program will ease some of the pain of flipping back and forth between the documentation and the DOS HELP facility.

The new *DOS HELP for DOS 5.0* covers DOS topic areas and includes tutorials on memory management, file and format recovery and the new DOS editor. Ran into Flambeaux at COMDEX last year and spent quite a bit of time discussing DOS, the help program and user needs for more than DOS' documentation.

Publishers report that the *DOS HELP for DOS 5.0* will also cover earlier versions of DOS as well as support all display types. Flambeaux reports that the program includes a mouse interface and will sell at (retail list) \$49.95. Flambeaux Software can be contacted at (818) 500-0044.

#### Micronics' Mport 333 Marks board makers' Stab at laptop market

Enter Lightning. Micronics Computers, Inc. announced their new 386/33 laptop PC and marked their first entry into the retail PC market. The new laptop is a hefty, 14.8 pounds and aimed directly at the Toshiba T5200 laptop. The new machine features a 386DX running at 33 MHz, 32K cache memory and 4 MB RAM that's expandable to 8MB via 1X9 80 ns SIMMs.

Micronics reports the Mport 333 has a high-contrast, paper-white LCD display that is fully compatible with the PS/2 VGA standard with 32 gray shades and automatic color mapping. It's also capable of Super VGA (800 X 600), 16-color output to multifrequency CRT displays and video projectors. List price

is \$5,495 and includes a 120 MB hard disk, 1.44 MB, 3.5" floppy drive, two serial ports, one parallel port, game port, external keyboard connector and the analog VGA monitor connector.

Played with one of these briefly. Makes the 386SX laptops and notebooks look like they've really got an old, 8088 under the hood. More important, the keyboard has a very good feel. The new Micronics is available locally at Lucky Computers.

#### Media Madness -- Bad taste on the prairie

This is an editorial comment, and very highly biased.

First, I've enjoyed reading Jerry Pournelle's Byte and InfoWorld PC columns for a long time (Byte) and have also enjoyed his science fiction books and space-oriented activism. He has contributed heavily to all three areas.

His column in the July, 1991, issue of *Byte* came as a rude surprise. It was accompanied by a full-page ad for one of the products he reviewed, complete with his endorsement and a highly unflattering photograph. Raised the same questions that forced me to quit reading Steve Gibson's column in *InfoWorld* some time back. The issues are the same.

If a columnist continues to "review" products after accepting money from one manufacturer for an endorsement, how unbiased can the column be, and how can we trust the words of the writer in the future? Jerry Pournelle was paid for his appearance in the ad. Were his opinions of the product a function of being an "employee" of the manufacturer, or were they result of unbiased judgement.

I don't know. I do know I won't read his column again.

Reagan ■

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# Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews



Volunteers Gene Carleton, Bob Post, Howard Hamilton and Preston Brashear taking their turn at the disk sales booth.

DOM folks work hard to bring our members up-to-the-date software. Each Disk of the Month is reviewed carefully,

virus-tested, and then reproduced in quantity for our meetings, sometimes on very short turnaround.

When you, as a member, pick up your \$2.00 treasure from the DOM Booth, remember that a lot of volunteer hours are behind that piece of media you hold in your hands.

From start to finish, it's an operation you can count on for quality and dedication of all the DOM volunteers. Can't say that about many organizations these days, can you?

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers listed below who served for the month of JUNE. In addition to those listed below, 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.

PLEASE look for everybody mentioned here at our meetings or take a moment on the BBS to say thanks to them!

**INFOMART Liaison**  
Stuart Yarus

**Vendor Setup/Breakdown**  
David Crocker  
Albert Law  
Mike Momen  
Fernando Rojas  
Peyton Weaver  
Walter Wilson

**BBS Champion**  
Bill Green

**Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown**  
Timothy Carmichael  
Chris Jung  
Christopher Carmichael

**Information/Registration Booth**  
Conley Andrews (Anchor)  
Harvey Andrews  
Dianne Arnold (Anchor)  
John Arnold (Anchor)  
Mike Ashley (Anchor)  
Ralph Beaver (Anchor)  
Cliff Bishop  
Randi Boucher (Anchor)  
John Dyer  
Eteta E. Eta (Anchor)  
John Ferguson  
Paul Fredd (Anchor)  
Rick Griffith (Anchor)  
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)  
Jim Hall  
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)  
Hank Holt (Anchor)  
Glenn Hunt  
Teresa Kelly  
Pehl. Lee  
Don Mayfield

Charles Mooney  
Andy Oliver (Anchor)  
Margaret Reeves (Anchor)  
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)  
Connie Testa (Statistician)  
Larry Tucker (Anchor)  
E. B. Turner  
Jose Valenciano (Anchor)  
Jean Waldrep (Anchor)  
Peyton Weaver  
Paul Williams (Anchor)  
Robert Waller

**Special Thanks to:**  
Diane Arnold  
Don Mayfield

**Disk of the Month (DOM):**

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

**DOM Booth**  
Joe A. Allen  
Mike Ashley  
Roy Bales  
Ralph Beaver  
Robert Bender  
Stan Berlin  
Preston Brashear  
Gene Carleton  
Charles Carter  
Jay Chambliss

Judy Griffiths  
Howard Hamilton  
Howard Harkness  
Karen Harkness  
Stephen J. Hay, Jr.  
Pat Henley  
Jo Johnston  
Bob Karleback  
Bob Post  
Virginia Salter  
Elaine Stephens  
Oscar Tyler  
Claude Walston

**Special Thanks to:**  
Joe A. Allen

Preston Brashear  
Charles Carter  
Judy Griffiths  
Bob Karleback  
Virginia Salter

**DOM Review/Presentation**  
Steve Lanier  
Kathryn Loafman  
Kenneth Loafman (2 reviews)  
John Puckette  
Virginia Salter (4 reviews)

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

**1. Via BBS:** (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)263-9038 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

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

**3. By phone:**

<b>Auditorium Presentations</b>	
Timothy Carmichael	661-4828 (w)
<b>DOM Booth Activities</b>	
Bill Drissel	284-9680 (h)
<b>DOM Software Review</b>	
Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
<b>Information Booth and General Information</b>	
Connie Andrews	828-0698 (h)



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*Selected* **SIG** Happenings

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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 July meeting featured an excellent (albeit long awaited) presentation by Kent Cobb on DOS Protected Mode Programming. This subject was requested by one of our members. Requests for presentations are cheerfully accepted! We are still looking forward to a presentation on Spontaneous Assembly. Please check the BBS for the latest info on the August meeting.

Frank Cavallito

### Business Applications/DAC Easy SIG

Hopefully, our July meeting was a demo of the Great Plains accounting software. We have been waiting for this presentation with baited breath!

#### ABOUT THE FUTURE:

The August 24th meeting will feature a presentation of "Express Publisher 2.0", a desk-top publishing program from Power Up! Software. This low budget program (street price \$99.99) offers professional text effects like 360 degree rotation, drop shadows, fully scalable fonts, graphics import and editing. Sounds like what us Po-Boy entrepreneurs been waiting for to start up our own newspaper. Watch out USA Today, here we come! Bruce Schubert has been chompin' at the bit to learn this program so I'm sure that you will be rewarded for your time.

Due to other commitments, I will not be available to discuss DacEasy Accounting at the August meeting, but plan to be in attendance on September 28th, if that meeting date holds up. The scheduled topic for that meeting is a discussion of two programs which may be used to interface the PC with a VCR. One pro-

gram permits the user to blend text from the PC into a VCR for output and the other enables the combination of Computer Graphics and VCR Graphics. We will have a presentation of one, but, as of this date, don't know which. Either should be of interest, particular to Home Video buffs.

We still don't have a date set up for DacEasy Light Accounting but we will do so as soon as DAC Software says ready to roll.

Putt Shaw

### Communications SIG

We managed to miss our deadline for July's SIG Happenings, so it's Catch-Up-Time.

The June meeting went as planned, with Mr. Tom Prickett and Ms. Andrine Stricherz discussing the NTPCUG BBS. Both are very knowledgeable in managing and using the BBS, and indicated that the meeting was very successful.

Due to other "priorities" (vacation, job requirements, etc.) our July meeting was more freeform than those of recent months. It gave us a chance to talk about topics of interest to the membership, and answer more questions. In addition, we began what may become an ongoing discussion of the various types of on-line systems and BBS's available, including Compuserve, Startext, PC-LINK, Internet, etc. We'll be calling on some of our membership to share their expertise with us, and we already have volunteers! We'll let the membership "vote" on where they want the emphasis placed, with the first on-line demos occurring (hopefully) in August.

See you there!!

Doug Gorrie

### C++ SIG

In July, Tom Cook gave us a slightly different perspective on OOP, with a discussion of virtual functions and inheritance. In August, we'll finally get back to the project (spouses and clients permitting.) Most of our time in August will be spent revisiting the text-window class. We'll also test the claims of reusability by attempting to derive a completely different class from our text-window base, and building a text-file viewer.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

### DOS SIG

What does all the shouting about DOS 5.0, OS/2, OS/NT, Windows 3.x mean to users? Is DOS 5.0 the last of the breed? Almost everybody (except Bill Gates and Microsoft) agree that DOS (as we know it) has outlived its usefulness.

Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President and very, very long-time DOS aficionado, disagrees, and will elaborate on this theme using DOS 5.0 as an example at the August DOS SIG Meeting. Reagan's sitting on the fence on this issue and may offer some rebuttal arguments countering Jim's enthusiasm.

Does this mean that DOS 5.0 was a mistake? No. Both Jim and Reagan agree that 5.0 has been long overdue and its release by Microsoft, even as a brief interim measure, was absolutely necessary.

Come to the DOS SIG in August and find out why.

Latter portion of the August SIG Meeting will be devoted to DOS 5.0 "discoveries" since the July SIG meeting. Users with problems installing or configuring 5.0 may add to the discussion, or find some answers to their problems at this session. Experience so far suggests we'll continue on this theme for several months. (Several late-night phone calls from frustrated users trying to install 5.0 figure heavily into this latter view.)

Reagan Andrews

### General Genealogy SIG

Sorry an article didn't get into the last two issues. There were 54 people present at the 13 April, 65 at the 25 May, and 45 at the June meetings.

The April program was "Compact Disks for Genealogy" and was brought by Art Rubeck, the disk librarian of the SIG. This is a timely subject because the Later Day Saints (LDS) church libraries have been given a set of CD ROMs and the computers to use them. One CD ROM will hold the equivalent data of 600 floppy disks. Everyone is welcome to use the LDS libraries, of which there are seven in the metroplex. There are four different software programs available in these libraries - Family History Library Catalogue, International Genealogical Index (IGI), Ancestral File, and Social Security Death Index.

The May program was to have been on Automate Archives which is a new attempt to make home use of CD ROMs. It should allow the purchase or rental of CD ROMs. However, there was not enough information available at meeting time so John Wylie, leader of the Roots III SIG, and a representative of Commssoft, Inc., the Roots III manufacturer, gave a talk on "Sesame" a new Commssoft product. Sesame is a database management system for genealogical historical research and will run under Windows on a PC or on a Macintosh. The use of a database in conjunction with a genealogy software program is becoming popular, and even PAF's originally independent database called Research Data Filter (RDF) can now import data from PAF (through a shareware program called GIPSI) and export data to PAF (using a shareware program called RFDTOGED).

The April program was to have been on Family Reunions but has been postponed until July. Instead, the program was on using the Computer Bulletin Board. Art pointed out two important features of Computer-Serve; Genealogy and Phone File. The genealogy section is found by typing GO ROOTS after logging on. It contains 4 items: Message Board, Files to download, Member Directory, and Live Conferences. PHONE FILE \* FILE gives phone numbers state-by-state and has a surcharge.

Al Sanford

#### PAF SIG

There were 37 present at the Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG in Room 7001 from 10 to 11 a.m. Jun 15. PAF is a \$35 genealogy software program

good for beginners or experts with versions available for IBM compatible and Macintosh computers.

The program in June was "searching data in PAF using FOCUS procedures. It was brought by Art Rubeck. There are four methods to search data in PAF. The most common is to use the Pedigree Search (menu item 4). This allows the search to be made by sequentially choosing a new ancestor (or descendant), including spouse's lineage, until arriving at the relative desired. The search by RIN# and the Alpha search are also available.

FOCUS and DESIGN REPORTS are other useful items on the menu. FOCUS is used to filter out unwanted (or to include only wanted - i.e. anyone with red hair, eliminate anyone born before a certain date and anyone after a certain date; remove individual spouses, etc.). DESIGN REPORTS lets you personalize PAF printed reports. Upgrades to the PAF 2.2 programs are still available. These upgrades can be obtained from Al Sanford, Garland, 214-278-7888; Tom Bennett, Irving, 214-252-7187; Travis Morris, Cleburne, 817-645-0617, or Joe Waldrop, N. Richland Hills, 817-498-5856. These four people also have "repair" disks that can be used to reorganize a PAF database that has gone awry. Please call the one nearest you when you experience a problem.

The July 14 meeting was on the basics of the DOS environment as used by PAF. It will be brought by Travis Morris, the leader of the PAF SIG.

Al Sanford

#### ROOTS III SIG

At the July meeting John Wylie briefly discussed the ROOTS III upgrade that was published in late June. Many of those present had received it. A flyer demonstrating some of the upgrade features was distributed, including a printout showing some of the options now that ROOTS III will export directly into Wordperfect. As previously announced, SESAME and RPLLOT were demonstrated using a 386/25 machine and the VGA overlay owned by the NTPCUG. We at the ROOTS SIG appreciate NTPCUG letting us use this valuable tool.

The complications of running a display from a 386 tower mounted on a

little red wagon added some humor to the discussion. The usual question and answer session was held. A source for having old photos and documents was announced. This source is "SCANPRO" a home based business that can be reached at 964-2585. All scans are by appointment only with Andrea Rosenfield. It is hoped that some members of the SIG can use this service and report back to the group how well things worked. The subject of imbedding scanned images into ROOTS III output will remain open until we see an example of just how it is done.

COMMSOFT, publisher of ROOTS III and SESAME has moved about 100 miles north of their old location. Their new address is: PO Box 310, Windsor CA 95492-0310. Voice phone is 707-838-4300, Fax is 707-838-6343, BBS is 707-838-6373 and their toll free number remains unchanged at 800-327-6687. Those wanting more information about this SIG can contact me at 214-495-4410.

John Wylie

#### LAN SIG

Nikole McBride, Regional Manager for WordPerfect Corporation will be with us in our August LAN SIG session. Nikole will be demonstrating WordPerfect Office for LANs, an electronic mail and desktop utilities package that uses the familiar WordPerfect command menus. If you have attended a WordPerfect demonstration before you know we are in for a treat; if you haven't, don't miss this one!

The schedule for the remainder of the LAN Seminar series is:

Sept Design Considerations  
Oct Installation Considerations  
Nov LAN Case Studies  
Dec Administration Considerations  
Jan Seminar Summary

See ya Saturday!

Bernie VanRoekel

#### Lotus SIG

Well folks, anyone who missed the July meeting missed many happenings. For those that I had the pleasure (?) of explaining my presence is a wheelchair, I hope you enjoyed the story. For those who did not see me or attend the July meeting, just read the article in this issue entitled "Lotus Week 1991 - Fun and Pains." ▶

The real events at the July meeting were demonstrations of Ami Pro version 2.0 and 1-2-3 for Windows. Janice Ryan, of the Dallas Lotus office, demonstrated Ami Pro at the 10:00 presentation in the Auditorium. Ami Pro is a Windows' word processing program. Version 2.0, which will be available later this summer, includes many new features including SmartIcons(tm) that will be incorporated into all Lotus' Windows' products. The helpful thing about SmartIcons is that they are programmable and do common functions such as changing fonts, font size, and attributes such as bold, italic, and underline. Ami Pro also includes features designed for long documents and workgroup computing.

The July Lotus SIG met in the Auditorium where Mike Guest, also from the Dallas office, demonstrated 1-2-3 for Windows. This product really shows itself. The Windows' product includes SmartIcons(tm) also, that will change depending on the type of task you are working on. For instance, when a graph is on the screen, the SmartIcons are graph oriented. 1-2-3 for Windows also includes WYSIWYG like other 1-2-3 products. 1-2-3 for Windows can read and write other 1-2-3 spreadsheet files including 1-2-3 for the Macintosh. Now for the really good news, any spreadsheet in the DOS versions of 1-2-3 can be read and executed, including the macros. Lotus does this by including the "1-2-3 Classic" menu such that, any model written in version 2.3 can be executed in Windows. The "1-2-3 Classic" menu is also in 1-2-3 for the Macintosh. I do not know about you, but I am looking forward to this product's release later this summer.

The subject for the August SIG will be a demonstration of two add-ins for 1-2-3 that Mark picked up at Lotus Week in June. The first product is "What's Best" from Lindo Systems. "What's Best" is an optimization program to solve complex problems. The add-in lets you automatically find optimal solutions in your models. If you have to allocate resources for manufacturing, you might ought to check out this program. The second add-in is "ICE" from Baler Software. "ICE" is a spreadsheet compiler that offers the features and capabilities of Baler but as an add-in. Baler adds many features including macro com-

mands and changing screen layouts. Also, if Mark can get it working on his portable, he will show the Power Mouse from ProHance Technologies. The Power Mouse includes a numeric keypad, menu command, and is completely compatible with 1-2-3. The basic problem with a mouse is that you constantly go from the mouse to the keypad. But with the Power Mouse, all you need to go the keypad for is to type labels.

The August meeting also will include a significant announcement concerning the Lotus SIG, so don't miss it. I should be out of my casts by the meeting and able to walk like everyone else. Hope to see you in August.

Mark Gruner

### OS/2 for End Users SIG

Want to find out more about OS/2 and how to use it? Then this SIG's for you. Those involved with OS/2 as well as DOS and Windows are welcome to attend.

OS/2 2.0 offers many new and exciting features for all PC users. We'll be exploring these and other aspects of OS/2, such as Performance and Tuning and the Database Manager, in the months to come.

Lately, we've been discussing Novell for OS/2, the High Performance File System and lots of goodies about the OS/2 Beta 2.0 release.

Hope to see you soon at 12:00 Noon.

Bob Fermier

### Paradox SIG

In July, Terry Brantly presented the disk cataloging system he developed. As I said last month, this is a good example of a "starter" for those who are looking for that first application to design.

August's meeting is to be presented by Tom Browning on Paradox installation tips, techniques, and hazards. Wish I had more about this one this early, but I don't.

Tried to make contact with the local Borland office, but the telephone tag won out. I'm working on getting them here for the September SIG. I figure by then we will either get the originally scheduled Quattro/Paradox demo, OR the xBase

compiler roll out. With Phillippe buying out the potential law suit, things should be rolling right along by then.

Well, see you all at the SIG.

Fred Williams

### Personal Users SIG

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

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the "fundamentals of personal computers." Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (2nd or 3rd Saturday on the 7th floor of the Infomart in Dallas). After four monthly meetings (covering four classes each), the entire 16- class curriculum is begun again. The classes are presented in numerical sequence, but you can take them in any sequence convenient to your personal schedule. The classes always start each month at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 PM. Since each class is a "stand-alone" ... i.e. self-contained and NOT requiring any other classes as prerequisites ... you can begin attending at any time convenient to your other priorities and schedule. In addition to receiving informative instruction from people very knowledgeable in their field and class topic, you also receive a set of handout notes for each class, to allow you later review.

There are no homework assignments, no pressures, no tests, and no dumb questions. You don't even have to be a member of the NTPCUG before you attend ... **ALTHOUGH YOUR ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN NTPCUG AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS.**

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

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

The four classes for AUGUST 1991 will be:

9:00 AM	Class 1.3	Start Up
10:00 AM	Class 2.3	Diskette Sizes & Formatting Each
12:00 Noon	Class 3.3	Copying & Backing Up Files
1:00 PM	Class 4.3	Personal Computer Hardware

Bob Presley

### Advanced Programmers SIG

Discussions at the June meeting swirled around the Dos Protected Mode Interface (DPMI), version 1.0. After a presentation of a C Language compiler by a rep from Intel, all the real programmers in the SIG were ready to start coding. However, a visitor seated in the back of the room pointed out that the DPMI version 1.0 is not supported in either MS DOS 5.0 or Windows 3.0.

But given the optimistic nature of real programmers, everyone was convinced that the new Windows 3.1 would surely give us the DPMI 1.0 platform needed to develop some really killer apps.

But again the visitor with thick glasses and tousled hair explained that Windows 3.1 would only support DPMI version 0.9 because Microsoft had been busy with other software issues and hadn't had time to update to version 1.0.

The visitor's disguise was almost perfect and we wouldn't have recognized him were it not for Zach Porterfield. Zach asked the SIG leader if DPMI 1.0 would be compatible with Borland's VROOM technology. The visitor left shouting something about VROOM being only a subroutine.

Maybe Elvis will be sighted at the August SIG meeting. Who knows?

Jim Hoisington

### TI Pro SIG

Following a three-month drought, the thirst of our members for a new disk of the month will be slaked at the August meeting. August of what year, you say? OK, we deserved that. In the May issue of the North Texas PC News, this column reported that a new disk was in the works and would either be introduced in May or, at worst, in June. There was even a supposedly humorous remark that

if the disk was not ready until June, it could be referred to as a slipped disk.

Well, it must have been a herniated disk, because it wasn't ready in May, June or July. (Actually, your unworthy volunteer columnist and occasional disk of the month producer missed both the May and June meetings due to being ill in May and out of town in June. No excuse was available for July, other than lack of time.) However, significant progress has been made toward its completion, and it will definitely be available in August. We're tempted to say it will be worth the wait, but you'll be the judge of that.

As usual, the schedule for the August meeting will be:

10:00	dBase for the TIPC, led by Ed Snuggs
11:00	NTPCUG Business Meeting
11:30	TI Pro General Meeting
1:00	TIPC New Users' Meeting, led by Bill Jones

Hope to see you there.

Norman Rogers

### WORD SIG

MasterWord, Alki Software's expanded "Help" suite for Word 5.0 and Word 5.5, will be featured at the August WORD SIG Meeting - equipment and patience allowing. Alki (AKA Peter Rinearson and Associates) has improved on the original Microsoft Word Companion programs and produced a superior on-line "Help" facility.

Alki's MasterWord comes with "Help" in three sizes - Compact (720K), Standard (1M) and Expanded (1.4M). The latter includes added instructions and tips on using printers, DOS, researching in a library and on business document production. 52 business-oriented Style Sheets pre-designed by Peter Rinearson emphasize the last point, as do a full array of MACROS and utility programs also included.

Alas, Alki hasn't announced a similar package for Word for Windows (at the time of this writing). Microsoft is focusing on WordBasic, Word for Windows' MACRO language, instead of add-on utilities to enhance WfW's built in functions.

We'll talk about writers forced to become programmers - and look at Microsoft's WordBasic Primer at the

August WORD SIG Meeting in addition to the Alki programs.

Reagan Andrews

### Unix SIG

For those who have not attended the Unix SIG in a while (or possibly were just not paying attention) we have been covering shell scripts over the last few meetings. The importance and usefulness of scripts has justified taking a bit of time to explain them, I trust.

Shell scripts are similar to DOS Batch files. Like batch files they allow you to write "quick and dirty" programs to perform one shot operations (such as installing software) that would be too expensive to have a programmer write in a high level language such as C. But the extensive features available to script files make it a viable alternative as a programming language in their own right, especially when the ability to make quick changes to the program is more important than processing speed.

If all goes as planned we should be able to wrap up our discussion of shell scripts at the August meeting. I know, I know. Nothing has gone as planned this summer. So why should August be an exception. Because I keep hoping, that's why. But assuming things do go as planned then in September I should be able to present a session on termcaps and how to setup your terminal. We'll see.

I should also like to mention an important development regarding the NTPCUG's Bulletin Board. Some of the subjects in the SIG Conferences, including Unix, have gone public. Now, even if you are not a member of NTPCUG, you can still log onto the board to read the messages posted.

Doug Scott



# NEW DISKS

## ...from the D O M

Disk 623. Professor Weissman's AlgebraX, 9/90 - Algebra Drills & Quizzes, Professor Martin Weissman, 246 Crafton Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314. (718) 698-2219 8-10 P.M. Eastern Time. Shareware Registration \$30.00

This is the first of a set of six disks designed to supplement an algebra course. The software consists of problems to solve on selected topics. If the student answers incorrectly, each step of the solution is explained in detail before going to the next problem. The instructional material is not presented on the disk, since it is assumed that the student is using a textbook. If the textbook being used is either Introductory Algebra or Intermediate Algebra by Keedy/Blitinger - 5th Ed., Addison Wesley, or Developmental Math by David Novak - 2nd Ed., DC Heath, the software may be optionally keyed to it.

Topics on this first disk are: Inequality Symbols, Order of Operations #1, Combining Multiple Signed Numbers, Simplifying Exponents, Removing Parentheses, Distributing Division with Signed Numbers.

As the program is menu driven, the topics need not be taken in a given order. For each topic, there are five levels. Questions begin at level 1, but the student can use arrow keys to move up or down a level at any time. Other options include changing a problem at any time or seeing the solution. The program keeps track of the scores and the menu permits viewing one's cumulative record at any time, even in the middle of an exercise.

This software and its' companion disks 2 through 6 would be useful for teachers wishing to drill students on individual topics within the course, or for students needing reinforcement or remedial work to do at home. There are sufficient problems in each area to insure mastery of the topic upon successful completion of AlgebraX.

This disk was contributed by the author, Prof. Martin Weissman.

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

Disk 629. DFL 3.0, 6/91 - Duplicate File Locator 3.0, W. S. Ataras Engineering, 40 Laughton Street, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772.

This is one of the few truly useful programs I have found! If you are like me, and have accumulated a lot of duplicate files on your system, sometimes with totally different names, and you want to clean them off, this is the program for you. If you have a LAN with multiple nodes and want to minimize disk space used, then you can run this across your network to locate all the duplicate files, then remove the duplicates that are not needed.

This program can be driven from a rather nice menu interface, or directly from the command line. It will allow you to choose what disks to check, what files to check, and the method of comparison. The comparison method can be by duplicate filenames, by first letter(s) of filenames, by file sizes, and by file contents. It is extremely fast. I chose a test case that was across two networked machines and compared for equal contents on all \*.EXE files. In a search of 440 directories and 1291 files, the program identified 677 duplicates (12.5MB disk used) in under 3 minutes (one machine was a 386/33 and the other an old 286/10). Not slow at all!

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: PC XT/AT or compatible machine, using any 80x86 processor chip, monochrome or color display, under MSDOS 2.0+ in about 340k of memory. Additional memory

is needed to interface with external archive systems. For some, this is only 90k. Others need 190k. Check the docs for the specific archive programs you use. DFL runs in about 540k of memory (or less) with the ZIP, PAK, ZOO, LZH and ARC archive programs.

This software was downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

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

The following applies to DOM Disks 630 and 631:

### LOTUS USER GROUP SUPPORT PROGRAM DISKS

As part of supporting the user group community, Lotus Development has begun distributing disks containing technical information on its products to user groups. The contents of these disks consist of questions often asked at the Lotus customer support telephone lines. Included on these disks is technical information on a wide variety of Lotus products and other information.

Most of the files have been zipped into product or information specific information. The best way to use the information is to setup a Magellan database so that searches can be done quickly and easily. The file README.TXT contains information on creating and using a Magellan database.

Also included on these disks is a 1-2-3 and Symphony file called IMPORT.WK1 and IMPORT.WR1 respectively. Mark Gruner created these two spreadsheet files so that he could import the files quickly and then print them out.

Disk 630. Lotus User Group Support #1 - Technical info on Lotus products

The following files are contained on this disk: 123-68.ZIP - Lotus 1-2-3 technical notes, all versions except 2.3. SYM-6.ZIP - Symphony technical notes FL-7.ZIP - Freelance technical notes MG-6.ZIP - Magellan technical notes PRESS-7.ZIP - Product and company press releases E&U-21.ZIP - Complete Exchange and Upgrade Guide CERT-42.ZIP - Lotus' 1-2-3 Certified Products Guide USERQA.TXT - Questions and answers about the SCO and Borland lawsuits README.TXT - Information to setup a Magellan database of the files

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 631. Lotus User Group Support #2 - Technical info on Lotus products

This disk contains the following files:

AG-4.ZIP - Agenda technical notes E&U-21.ZIP - Complete Exchange and Upgrade Guide FL-7.ZIP - Freelance technical notes PRESS-29.ZIP - Product and company press releases 123WIN39.ZIP - 1-2-3 technical notes under Windows 3.0 WINDOW-8.ZIP - General Windows 3.0 technical information AMIQ&A.TXT - Questions and tips on Ami Pro

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 632. FOR COIN COLLECTORS 2.00, 2/90 - Database for Coin Collectors, COPYRIGHT Steven C. Hudgik. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. HOMECRAFT, P.O. Box 974, Tualatin, OR 97062. Registration \$59.95.

FOR COIN COLLECTORS 2.00 is one of HOMECRAFT's easy to use specialty databases. It is menu driven for simple operation yet

can handle up to 10,000,000 entries per file, and allows multiple data files.

FOR COIN COLLECTORS has three different levels of information storage for each entry. This feature allows you to determine the amount of information which needs to be retained. Each field has a predetermined highlighted length to make data entry easy and quick. Searching the databases is simple and can be done any of three ways. 1). Normal-by entering something to search for in one of the first 3 fields; 2). Indexing-provides a means to locate specific information fast; and 3). Sequential-looks for matches.

The manual is an easy to read 18 page document which can be printed out. Also included is an Utility program that allows you to copy entries from one file to another, rebuild indexes, condense data, change file names, reserve future needed space on a disk, have a security code (registered users only), and customize or change the titles on the first three lines of each database.

REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible with a minimum of 256K of memory and two floppy disks. A hard disk is recommended if you have over 1,000 items in your collection.

NOTE: If you install (i.e., copy) the contents of this diskette to a directory listed in your system's PATH environment variable, you need to insure that the DOS PRINT command is found before the one included on this diskette.

This software was contributed by the author, Steven C. Hudgik.

*This review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Ben Weatherall.*

Disk 633. FOR ANTIQUE DOCUMENTS 2.00, 2/90 - Database for Document Collectors, Copyright (C) 1990 by Steven C. Hudgik. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, HOMECRAFT, P.O. Box 974, Tualatin, OR 97062. Registration \$59.95.

FOR ANTIQUE DOCUMENTS 2.00 is one of HOMECRAFT's easy to use specialty databases. It is menu driven for simple operation yet can handle up to 10,000,000 entries per file, and allows multiple data files.

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This software was contributed by the author, Steven C. Hudgik.

*This review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Ben Weatherall.*

Disk 634. Dallas Street Smart, 9/90 - Dallas MAPSCO street locations by Tim Holt and Emmett Guinn, Street Smart Software, 10120 Cayuga Drive, Suite 104, Dallas, TX 75228, (214) 328-8434.

Dallas Street Smart is a handy computer companion to anyone who uses a Dallas MAPSCO. All you have to do is to enter a street name without the type of street (such as: St, Lane, Cir, etc.) and the program displays MAPSCO street locations by Block Number, Zip Code, and City. If you hate looking through the

MAPSCO street index to find MAPSCO locations, then this program is for you.

There are only two curious aspects of the program. One is that you apparently must look up a street address every time the program is started. Normally ESCape will exit out of the program except when a street address is not looked up. The second curious aspect is that it ignores the type of street such as ST, BLVD, CIR for Street, Boulevard, or Circle. All this aspect means is that you may have to use the arrow keys to find the correct street type. However, these two curious aspects are probably worth it for those who need the capability to look up MAPSCO locations quickly.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM XT/AT or PS/2 or compatible with a 1.2M drive, 1.3M of available hard disk space, and minimal RAM.

Street updates and other Metroplex areas are available from the authors. Street Smart Software is NOT affiliated with MAPSCO, Inc. in any way.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 635. Tutor.COM 4.5, 5/91 - Interactive Tutorial on Computers, Computer Knowledge, P.O. Box 91176, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

TUTOR.COM is a shareware minicourse in microcomputing covering the basics of a variety of topics including: Computer History, Introduction to DOS, Computer Terminology, Subdirectories, Hardware, Batch files, The Keyboard, and Introduction to Programming.

The tutorial material is presented in a series of screens and the user has the ability to move forward or backward through the tutorials, or jump to selected locations using a menu. Short quizzes test you on your knowledge but you may bypass these when reviewing.

The TUTOR.COM program is fully menu driven. Options within the program are selected by single keystrokes. Answers within tutorials may or may not require a carriage return. Within the tutorials, menus with the options and their commands appear at the bottom of the screen display.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 636. ViruScan v80, 6/91 - McAfee Virus Scan Utilities, McAfee Associates, 4423 Cheeney Street, Santa Clara, CA 95054-0253.

VIRUSCAN Version V80 is a virus detection and identification program for the IBM PC and compatible computers. VIRUSCAN will search a PC for known computer viruses in memory, the boot sector, the partition table, and the files of a PC and its disks. VIRUSCAN will also detect the presence of unknown viruses.

CLEAN-UP Version V80 - CLEAN-UP (CLEAN) is a virus disinfection program for IBM PC and compatible computers. CLEAN-UP will search through the partition table, boot sector, or files of a PC and remove a virus specified by the user. In most instances CLEAN-UP is able to repair the infected area of the system and restore it to normal usage.

VSHIELD Version V80 - VSHIELD is a virus prevention program for IBM PC and compatible computers. It will prevent viruses from infecting your system. When VSHIELD first loads it will search the PC for known computer viruses in memory, the partition table, boot sector, system files, and itself and then install itself as a Terminate-and-Stay-Resident (TSR) program. It will then scan all programs before allowing the system to execute them. If any program contains a virus, VSHIELD will refuse to allow it to ex-

ecute. It will also not allow the system to be warm-booted from any diskette which contains a boot-sector virus.

**NETSCAN Version V80** – NETSCAN is the network version of VIRUSCAN. It scans network virtual drives and identifies any pre-existing PC virus infection in the file servers. NETSCAN will indicate the specific files or system areas that are infected and will identify the virus strain which has caused the infection. Removal can then be done manually or, if the infection is widespread, automatic removal utilities are available which can disinfect each virus strain.

**VCOPY Version V77** – VCOPY is a replacement for the DOS COPY command for IBM PC and compatible machines. VCOPY will search a PC for known computer viruses in memory, then search the partition table and boot sector of the source and destination disks, in addition to the files being copied. This prevents viruses from entering your system and identifies infected diskettes. VCOPY functions identically to the MS-DOS 3.30 COPY command, with the exception of the COPY CON function.

This software was downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

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

**Disk 637. COPYQM 2.26, 3/91 - Disk Duplicator, By Sydex, 153 North Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Shareware Fee: \$15.00.**

COPYQM is a utility designed for disk duplication and is an excellent replacement for the DISKCOPY command. The program will read a master disk once and make as many copies as you need. Further, it will format a disk if needed and verify as it writes the disk. If you do not like the DISKCOPY command, you will like COPYQM a great deal.

**HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:** IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible, or PS/2. Since the program is only 25K in size when installed, minimal RAM is required.

For most systems, no configuration is needed unless 1) more than one floppy adaptor is present, 2) more than two floppy drives are on an AT or 386 computer, 3) a Microsolutions CompatiCard(tm) is used, or 4) high density drives (1.2 or 1.44) are on an XT system. If any of these four conditions are present, then COPYQM must be configured with the CQCONFIG.EXE program.

COPYQM will read the data from the disk into memory and make multiple copies of the disk before returning back to DOS. If the data on the disk is larger than available memory, then the user can specify an overflow location that can include expanded memory, extended memory, hard disk, or all three. Another option available is to copy the data from the floppy to your hard disk permanently. Then all you have to do is to tell the program is to copy the hard disk copy to floppies. Then simply erase the file from your hard disk.

The best feature of COPYQM is that it is a no-hands program meaning that you tell the program how many floppy disk drives to use and how many copies you want and COPYQM will take care of the rest. Another good feature for software developers is the ability to put serial numbers at a user defined location on the disk.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

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

**Disk 638ABC. Window BOSS 6.01, 1/91 - C Language Windowing Library, The Window BOSS & Data Clerk 6.01 (01.07.91), Star Guidance Consulting, Inc., 273 Windy Drive, Waterbury, Connecticut 06705. (203) 574-2449. Registration: Shareware = \$20.00, Library Source = \$55.00.**

The Window BOSS and its adjunct, Data Clerk, provide the C programmer with the same type of text windowing capabilities as Vermont Views and C-Worthy, though not to the same extent. Complete data entry screen and help systems are provided in addition to the normal text windowing libraries. The shareware package provides object libraries for the following compilers: Watcom C & Express C, TopSpeed C, Microsoft C & Quick C, Borland Turbo C & C++, Computer Innovations C186, Datallight C, Mix Power C, Zortech C++, and Aztec C. Registered users get the source to these libraries. There are some assembly language routines in the library source code, so if you need to make any changes the authors recommend using the Microsoft Assembler, MASM. If you do not already have this package in your C programming tool kit, seriously consider adding it.

Some of the statistics, as taken from the manual, are: Maximum windows: limited only by compiler and memory; Maximum window: full screen (25x80, 43x80, 50x80); Minimum window: 1 row 1 column (borderless); 3 rows 3 columns (framed); Minimum fields: none; Maximum fields: limited only by compiler and memory.

Some of the benefits of registration are: (1) All of the source code for all supported compilers, (2) Support via telephone, mail, CompuServe, GENIE or BIX, and (3) Updates for a minimal fee to cover their costs of production and shipping. The manual as received on disk is 173 pages plus a Table of Contents and revision history. All of the files are provided in compressed format and the installation instructions are provided in the author's READ.ME file.

The source of this disk is the author, Star Guidance Consulting, Inc.

*This review prepared by Ben Weatherall, edited by Kathryn Loafman.*

**Disk 639. CMOS\_RAM.EXE, 8/89 - Setting the CMOS RAM in PC/AT systems, Thomas Mosteller, 1872 Rampart Lane, Lansdale, PA 19446. Shareware registration fee: \$5.00.**

Two programs are provided, CMOS\_RAM.EXE & CHEKCMOS.EXE. CMOS\_RAM.EXE replaces the SETUP program that was needed before the manufacturers included it in the BIOS ROM. In addition it allows the user to save the contents of the CMOS RAM to a disk file that can be restored later. This program will be very useful to those individuals that have one of the older PC/AT or compatible systems (i.e. prior to 1989). Most of the newer systems save considerably more to the CMOS RAM, especially the 386, 386SX, 486, and up machines. This program will be of little use on these newer systems.

CMOS\_RAM.EXE allows the user to perform the following:

- 1: display on line documentation
- 2: Save the contents of your CMOS RAM to a disk file
- 3: Restore the CMOS RAM from the disk file
- 4: Set the CMOS clock

CHEKCMOS.EXE helps you two ways. First, it checks two self-test status functions of the MC146818 IC to ensure that it's data is valid and that the battery voltage is within the allowable limits. If either of these checks fails, a warning is generated. The other function of CHEKCMOS is to make sure that the contents of the file CMOS.RAM match what's in the CMOS RAM itself, with the exception of the time and date.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** PC/AT (286) with any monitor, 512K RAM, DOS 3.0 up.

This software was contributed by Gene Carlton.

*This review prepared by K.M. Branscome, edited by Kenneth Loafman.*

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## What's Happening on the BBS



### From the ALL Conference

Message # 36 From: ROBERT BENDER  
 Sent on: 06/28/91 9:51 am  
 Subject: Addressing expanded memory.

I have got a IBM PS/2 model 30-286 that IBM was generous enough to supply with 512 RAM. I purchased and installed SIMMS to upgrade my machine to 1024 RAM.

So, now I'm running a 286 10MHZ machine with 1MEG RAM. I loaded a memory manager called "VMEM" to address my expanded memory. It appears to load properly, however, my communication program, called "Telemate" (which always ran perfectly) now loads painfully slow, and then does not run properly. VMEM has an "off" feature in which case Telemate won't load at all and I get a "out of memory" message.

I removed DEVICE=VMEM.SYS from my config.sys till I can sort this out.

Any ideas on how to better reload VMEM would be appreciated. Or a suggestion for a better memory manager available at a reasonable price.

Thanks,

Rob

Message # 37 From: Billy Gilbreath  
 Sent on: 06/28/91 1:34 pm  
 Subject: Reply: Addressing expanded memory.

I suspect that you need to read the box that VMEM came in more closely. ;-) Seriously, I have 2 different programs called VEMM. One came with my VSLI motherboard and emulates exPAnDed memory in exTEnDed memory. The other emulates ram on the hard disk. I suspect this might be what your VMEM is doing if it is VERY slow. IBM motherboard memory is exTEnDed memory (not exPAnDed) though the term "expansion memory" is sometimes used. Expansion memory is also not exPAnDed memory. Since you have only 384K exTEnDed memory, I think you could find a better use for it than changing it to simulated exPAnDed memory. Consider getting a program such as QRAM from QuarterDeck that will let you load device drivers, etc. into this exTEnDed memory, thus giving you more "conventional" memory for DOS and programs INCLUDING Telemate to use. I think QRAM used to cost near \$40. Egghead Software has DOS 5 for about the same price and it also has a similar utility. If you're thinking of upgrading, this might be a good excuse to do it now. There are shareware utilities to do this also. Likely there's one or more at the DOM (D)isk (O)f (M)onth table at the NTPCUG meetings. Before you get deeply involved in complex memory configuration utilities, do yourself a favor and use DOS's VDISK program to set up a ram disk in that memory. It's CHEAP - comes on your DOS disk and is much easier to set up than memory drivers. One line in your CONFIG.SYS is all that's needed. Once you get used to using a ramdisk, you may not ever want to change. If you've never used a ramdisk, you'll be amazed how fast A COPY OF your programs that use a lot of disk access will run. I download programs to it to save online time. You must, however, remember to copy them to a mechanical drive before you reboot or turn your computer off.

-Billy

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**Message # 38 From: Reagan Andrews**  
**Sent on: 06/30/91 4:07 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Addressing expanded memory.**

Billy's idea will probably work fine.

May be a stumbling block here, though. Magic "PS/2" may indicate that the 30-286 has a BIOS gotcha similar to that found in upper-level PS/2's, and may not work with QRAM well at all. I don't know that much about the "30's", but it sure has been a problem with the 50+ PS/2 machines.

IBM may also include a utility to emulate Expanded Memory in the PS/2 machines and checking the utility disk that came with the PS/2 may be quite helpful here.

Reagan....

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### From the PRO Conference

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**Message # 47 From: James Dunn**  
**Sent on: 06/24/91 7:20 pm**  
**Subject: Printer re-boots**

Weird problem. The computer is a Five Star 286 12mhz. The printer is an Epson FX-85. When the computer is ON and running, turning the printer ON causes the computer to warm boot. Can you do this from the parallel port ??? Is there a ROM bug? It happens every time. Any ideas appreciated.

**Message # 48 From: Kent Cobb**  
**Sent on: 06/24/91 7:41 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Printer re-boots**

Hmmmm .... Sounds like something Leroy asked about in the Advanced Programmers SIG a few months back. If memory serves me, he had the cable hooked up backwards. ;-) :-)

Kent

**Message # 49 From: Pete Testa**  
**Sent on: 06/25/91 7:06 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Printer re-boots**

Yeap, I'd try another cable for starters also.

**Message # 50 From: Fred Williams**  
**Sent on: 06/25/91 7:10 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Printer re-boots**

James,

I'm guessing that both units are sharing a common power plug. Maybe the printer is causing a power dip big and long enough to cause the PC to think power is gone and then restored. That is reaching, but the only thing I can think of when shooting from the hip, so to speak.

Can't see how anything on the 8 bit I/O buss could cause such an event.

Fred

**Message # 51 From: Fred Williams**  
**Sent on: 06/25/91 7:12 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Printer re-boots**

Huummm, when Pete Testa say's try another cable, I'd definitely try another cable!

Fred

**Message # 55 From: Leroy Tennison**  
**Sent on: 06/25/91 9:58 pm**  
**Subject: Calling all Guru's**

Problem:

Have two IBM PS/2-30's at work. Each has the same amount of memory, no HD and one 3.5" FDD. Am using the same boot disk to boot both of them on to a LAN. One ends up with about 40K more memory at the end of boot than the other. Any ideas?

**Message # 58 From: Ken Loafman**  
**Sent on: 06/27/91 3:12 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Calling all Guru's**

Leroy,

I just put PMAP 2.03 in the upload area. It will provide maps of your system's memory and you should be able to locate the 40k that's missing.

The file name is PMAP203.ZIP, and its small (32k).

...Kenneth

**Message # 59 From: Leroy Tennison**  
**Sent on: 06/27/91 10:48 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Calling all Guru's**

Ken,

Thanks. Will check it out. Have determined that the difference is caused by which file server the station initially attaches to (REGARDLESS of where it actually logs in). Will keep you posted.

Leroy

---

### From the DOS Conference

---

**Message # 7 From: Monika Proskowetz**  
**Sent on: 06/21/91 10:56 am**  
**Subject: ROOT DIRECTORY**

In addition to autoexec.bat, config.sys, applications and groups of application programs, what files are supposed to be on the root directory? This novice needs help please, and I don't seem to find this in any of my books. Thank you,

Monika

**Message # 8 From: Fred Williams**  
**Sent on: 06/21/91 12:47 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: ROOT DIRECTORY**

Monika,

The root directory only need contain the two "hidden" systems files, Autoexec.bat, config.sys and optionally Command.com. All other files may be located in any subdirectory of your choosing.

Please read the DOS manual description of the "PATH" DOS Environment variable for clues as to how to not end up putting everything in the Root directory of the "boot" disk.

Fred

**Message # 9 From: Monika Proskowetz**  
**Sent on: 06/23/91 4:20 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: ROOT DIRECTORY**

Thank you very much, Fred. I kind of knew that I had too much stuff in there. Bye,

Monika

**Message # 16 From: Leroy Tennison**  
**Sent on: 06/25/91 9:16 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: ROOT DIRECTORY**

Monika,

As others have commented, there is very little you absolutely have to have in your root directory. My suggestion (which I am sure others will have somewhat varying opinions on) would be to have AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS and COMMAND.COM in the root. Then I would have one directory for each application's

program files and a separate directory under it for whatever you create with the application. For example,

```
AUTOEXEC.BAT
CONFIG.SYS
COMMAND.COM
WP
  DATA
SS
  DATA
DB
  DATA
COMM
  DATA
```

In this case I'm (arbitrarily) using WP for Word Processing, SS for Spread Sheets, DB for Data Base and COMM for your telecommunications program. Although I do believe that it is best to have an application's data separated from it's programs, you do need to check your manuals to see if the application supports that. And by all means use more descriptive names for your subdirectories than I did!

Another thing, look in the DOS manual concerning the ATTRIB command. Use it to make your AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS and COMMAND.COM files Read-Only. If you want more help I would suggest that you bring a print out of your root directory to a Sig meeting (such as DOS or Personal Users (? don't remember if thats the exact name)) so that someone can look at it.

**Message # 38 From: Roy Brewer**  
**Sent on: 06/30/91.12:40 am**  
**Subject: Logitech/DOS 5**

DOS 5 install told me I would have problems with my 3.2 Logitech driver, and I have indeed. I'm told Logitech has a BBS from which I could download their 5.1 version that can handle the DOSSHELL of 5.0.

Anyone have the #? or another solution?

Thanks Roy Brewer

**Message # 39 From: Kent Cobb**  
**Sent on: 06/30/91 10:06 am**  
**Subject: Reply: Logitech/DOS 5**

Roy, The number I have (which was good about a year ago) is(415)795-0408. 2400 baud, N81.

Rgds,

Kent

**Message # 40 From: Reagan Andrews**  
**Sent on: 06/30/91 4:18 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Logitech/DOS 5**

Kent's right. Logitech BBS number is (415) 795-0408.

Technical Support (415) 795-0427.

Have you tried the Microsoft Mouse driver? Logitech has taken so much heat because of their quirky mouse drivers, that later mice have worked well with the generic MS driver in most cases. Might give it a try before spending the long distance \$\$\$\$.

Reagan....

**Message # 58 From: Leroy Tennison**  
**Sent on: 07/06/91 4:25 pm**  
**Subject: Reply: Logitech/DOS 5**

All,

Called Logitech's BBS Saturday. A modem answered (CONNECT 2400) but that was it. Couldn't get any further. Any ideas?

Leroy

**Message # 59 From: Fred Williams**  
**Sent on: 07/07/91 8:38 am**  
**Subject: Reply: Logitech/DOS 5**

Leroy,

Might try during normal working hours :-). The receptionist probably turned off her machine when she went home.

Fred



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9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**OMEGA Corporation**  
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10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Seiko Instruments USA Inc.**  
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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  
Quicken  
Software Review  
Windows Applications  
WordPerfect

10:00 - 10:55  
Basic Programming  
CAD  
dBase for TI Pro  
Fox Pro Database  
Local Area Networks  
PAF - Genealogy

10:00 - 10:55 cont  
Paradox  
Personal Users  
Unix/Xenix

11:00 - 11:55  
Community Service  
Family Roots - Gnlgy.  
Roots III - Genealogy  
TI Pro General Mgt.

11:30 - 11:55  
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55  
C++/Advanced C  
Communications  
Investors

12:00 - 12:55 cont  
Law  
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

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## North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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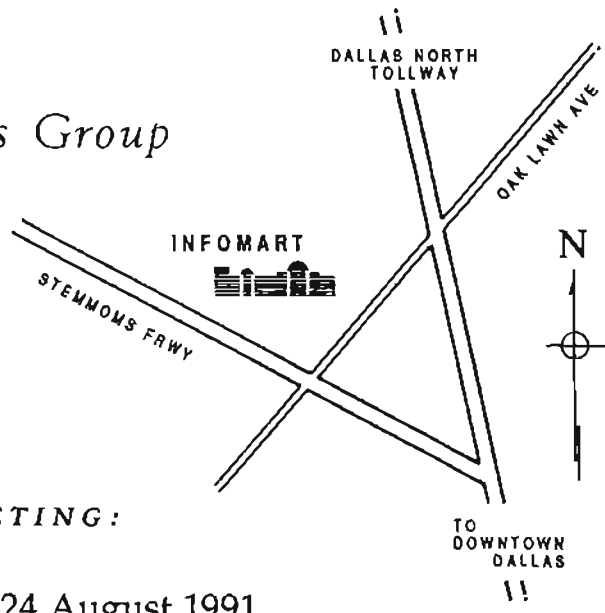
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