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North Texas PC NEWS

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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 1895 last month. Member distribution was 1583; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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DEADLINE

Copy deadline for November
North Texas PC NEWS:
Thursday, October 10th

Meeting Dates:

October Meeting - 3rd Sat. (19th)
November Meeting - 3rd Sat. (16th)
December Meeting - 2nd Sat.
(tentative)

Participate!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Jim Hoisington	
Arts & Letters 3.1 and Micrografx Designer 3.1	2
Reagan Andrews	
Painting with the PC	5
Neil Berkowitz	
Corel DRAW v2.0	8
Douglas Mcquaid	
What is Multimedia <i>Part II</i>	10
Bernard F. Mayoff	
Cells & Ranges	12
Betty Brooks	
On Complexity, No 56 Telecommunications	17
Jim Hoisington	
A shorter Path to Windows data files	25
Bob Fowler	
Where did he come from, and does he have any brothers?	26
Andy Oliver	
The Adventures of PC Tech Chapter 7	28
Ben Thar	

Special Items:

Agenda	1
Variety Store	14
SIG Reports	19
New Disks from the DOM Squad	22
Member Application Blank	26
Volunteer Guide	27
Officers, Meetings & Times	29

Program for October _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **Video Image Processing With Your PC**

Kinney Electronics Inc.

Don Kinney, President

Come see a demonstration of two new products from AlTech International which offer low cost alternatives for video image processing. The ProVGA/TV board mixes TV video with VGA graphics for production of video recordings, and includes titling software with special effects such as wipes and fades. The ProColor board captures professional quality video images to disk for editing and printing, and includes full editing software.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Introducing Legacy 2.0 for Windows**

NBI

Jeff Creek, Legacy Sales Representative

Legacy 2.0 offers total integration of word processing (WP) and desktop publishing (DTP). Its WP features include spell checking, grammar checking, thesaurus, automatic table of contents, outlining, table editing, headers and footers. Its DTP features are image processing, style sheets, text threading, and track and pair kerning. All features can be accessed through the new Legacy macro language. We will be among the first to see Legacy 2.0 after it is unveiled at the Seybold Computer Publishing Expo on Oct. 2. Legacy 1.1 is still shipping and will be available to attending NTPCUG members for \$129. There will be a drawing for free products. *

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

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **Microsoft Solutions Series for Windows**

Microsoft Corporation

John Williams, Product Manager

The Microsoft Solutions Series is designed to focus on the everyday productivity needs of individuals and growing businesses. The series features 3 Windows operating system compatible products in a simplified yet fully integrated form. The products are: Microsoft Works, a word processor, spreadsheet, database, drawing, and charting program all in one package; Microsoft Publisher, a desktop publishing program for professional quality business forms, newsletters, flyers, and reports; and Microsoft Money, a personal finance program focusing on check writing, cash flow, budgeting, and expense monitoring. There will be a drawing for free products. *

* 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

speakers and will focus on using computers to help trace your genealogical roots.

Short Month

The October meeting on the 19 follows the September meeting on the 28th by only three weeks. We try to schedule our meetings for the second Saturday but it doesn't always work out that way. Meeting dates are firm only 180 days before the date of the meeting. So, check your newsletter or call the recording at (214) 746-4699 for the date of the next meeting.

Disk of the Month News

Kathryn Loafman informed the Board of Directors that due to the recent events in the USSR, the DOM Central Committee is changing its name. They will now be known as the DOM Squad. (I will not report to you here the names that some of the Board members suggested.)

GENTEX 92

The Genealogy SIG is planning on holding a conference during our January meeting called GENTEX 92. The conference will feature nationally recognized

End of the Baker's Dozen

When the NTPCUG first started, all memberships expired on December 31st. If you joined during the year, your first year's dues were prorated based on the number of months remaining in the year. ►

Graphics editors revisited

Arts & Letters 3.1 and Micrografx Designer 3.1

Reagan Andrews

I've got a project for this winter. I'm going to really learn *Micrografx Designer 3.1* and *Arts & Letters 3.1*. (Of course, I've been saying this for a couple of years now ...)

Why learn two graphics editors - Wouldn't one be enough?

NO. I already use *A&L* a lot for quick graphics and signs. With the power added to version 3.1, it should be enough for anybody to do anything. But, *Micrografx Designer 3.1* is seductive. It calls out for a skilled, steady hand to form and shape a new reality via its subtle power. *Designer* has the grace and complexity only found hidden in a great Bordeaux - I can't resist.

Prez Sez continued

It became increasingly difficult for the Membership Director to handle all the renewals in January. So, the Board of Directors voted to change membership so that it ran for one year from the month that you joined. To scatter out the existing memberships, the Board created a plan called the Baker's Dozen. If you renewed before the month in which your membership expired, you got 13 months of membership for the price of 12.

Since our membership is now fairly evenly divided over the year, the Board has voted the Baker's Dozen program out of existence as of the first of November. That means you still have a couple of weeks to get 13 months of membership for the price of 12.

Volunteers

Both the Disk of the Month (nee. DOM Squad) and the Information Booth use volunteers each month to help them with the meeting. When you renew your membership, consider checking one of more of the boxes for volunteer areas. At the end of each month, the membership database generates a list of all the people who volunteered that month and that list gets sent to the person heading up the volunteer effort for that group.

Jim Hoisington a

Back in the days when I wrote, photographed, and edited for an honest living, I swore by (and, occasionally at) a Royal manual typewriter, used a number of cameras ranging from a beautiful Leica M2 to an old, Minolta Autocord 6X6 I found in an air base swap shop for \$25. When I had time, the Leica produced beautiful, technically superb results.

If I absolutely had to have the picture, though, I grabbed the Minolta and carried a Nikon S2 as a backup. These were the workhorses I could use intuitively without pausing to think.

Arts & Letters 3.1 - the workhorse

If *Arts & Letters* keeps on its present course of increased functionality coupled with an excellent user interface (for me) and already impressive ease of use, at least half the project won't take any time at all. Somehow everything in Computer Support Corporation's top of the line graphics editor seems to work intuitively and requires minimal digging through the documentation.

Saw 3.1 at last year's Fall COMDEX and fell back in love with it. Computer Support had done a lot of homework on the new version, and it showed. *A&L's* Warp tools made *CorelDRAW* look primitive and their gradient fills are on a par with anyone's similar features.

Nice thing about the new Warp tools is their ease of use. Users will have to see these to believe how easy creating really dramatic type effects can be. *A&L* is that good. In the hands of a good graphic artist, I doubt there's any type effect that would fall into the "impossible" category.

Computer Support has also been doing some listening since I reviewed version 2.01. *A&L* now includes some basic charting tools that make presentation graphics less of a chore with this editor. According to the media reviewing the 3.1 editor, it's alone so far in this area. Since Corel has good marketing intelligence, I doubt this solitary position will long endure, however.

In addition to their own typefaces, *Arts & Letters* now supports the Adobe Type 1 fonts found in *Adobe Type Manager* which can be converted to freeform objects and manipulated in the same manner as *A&L's* native fonts. This should prove very useful to users who will be incorporating graphics in text documents using PostScript fonts and who wish to maintain design continuity between text and graphics. ▶

A&L improvements manifest in Windows 3.0 usage --

A&L really has undergone major surgery. It's so subtle most users won't notice -- until they wonder what happened to the Windows UAE messages they are accustomed to seeing in less stable applications.

Memory handling has been enhanced to the point that I was able to work with graphics that took Corel down to its knees. Remember the "coins" used in the PCUG survey article? This thing consistently crashed the Corel product because of its very large number of objects while it almost floated through A&L with minimal complaint.

Final illustration was produced in A&L and exported as an EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) file. Yes, I could "crash" A&L in the process, but not nearly as easily, and was able to complete the graphic. Couldn't in Corel.

Micrografx Designer 3.1 Power, precision and finesse

Back to the Leica. *Designer 3.1* is beautiful, but a daunting challenge to the unwary. This graphics editor has so much control built in that it could take years to learn to use it all.

Micrografx distributes a samples disk with the product that illustrates the differences in "seeing" that separate it from the others in the highly-competitive graphics editor race. There is a style and grace here that defies written description and is at the same time capable of making the viewer realize the chasm that separates pop art from the classical masters.

Enough editorializing. This all comes at a price. The user will quickly recognize the limits of their skill well before the potential of *Designer 3.1* is exhausted. The learning curve is steep and demanding. Casual users need not apply here.

Designer 3.1 knows Windows ...

Micrografx does know how to work inside *Windows 3.0* and it shows in the latest version of *Designer*. This product is much, much faster than previous version to the point that I almost didn't believe what I was seeing. *Designer* has always used *Windows'* memory well, even in version 2.11, and has allowed working with much more complex and/or larger objects than the competition.

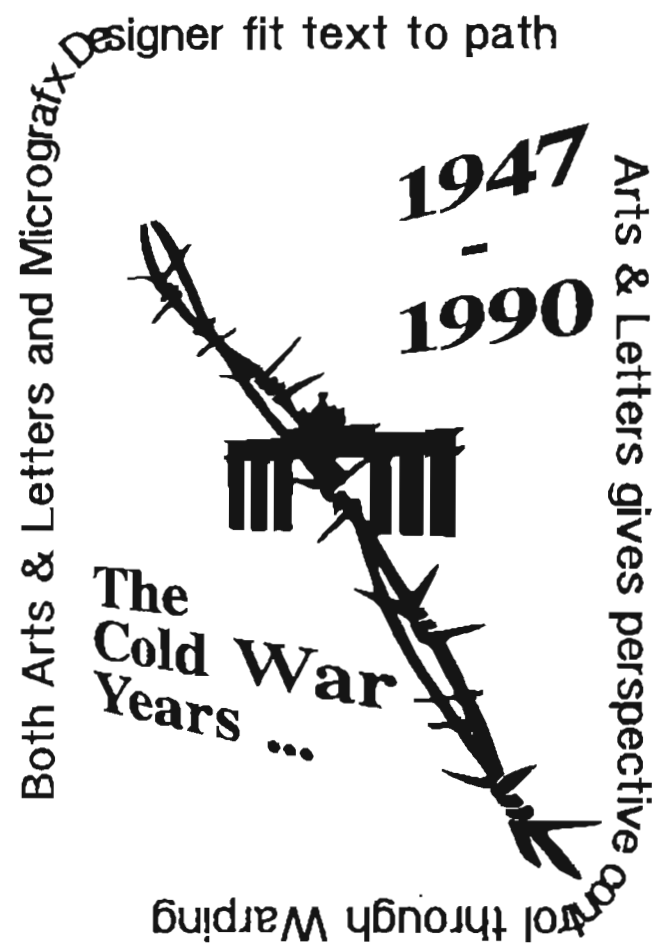
Added this year are: fitting text to a curve (finally!), word wrap, import and export of Adobe Illustrator files, ATM fonts, blending of objects or symbols, and one of the better attempts at solving the *Windows* printer dilemma via Micrografx' own PostScript printing utility and batch printing facility.

If *Designer* keeps moving toward increased automation of frequently-used operations, it will soon surpass

Corel and A&L in terms of text handling and color control. *Designer* also continues to improve its handling of bitmapped graphical objects to the point that combination of vector and bitmapped objects in the same graphic is highly practical. Until release of *Corel Trace* last year, *Designer* had one of the best bit-map tracing capabilities available.

Summary -- I'll keep using both editors

I really like both editors, even though I haven't spent enough time with *Micrografx Designer* to really use it as well as I'd like. I do use both from time to time, choosing one over the other on the basis of the job I'm doing.



The illustration accompanying this article was originally done in *Designer 3.1*, and based on a graphic I produced to go with a section on the Cold War in a manual for interviewing veterans. Text to path fitting was accomplished in *Arts & Letters 3.1*, which was also used to export to EPS format for the article.

Reagan

▲

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

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

640K WINDOWS ROM LIM EMS HMA DOS 5.0 XMS BUFFERS UMB 386MAX 486SX DRIVERS JEMAX 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's 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® for any IBM compatible 386 or 486 based system at just \$130.* And BlueMAX™ 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™, 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.

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Painting with the PC

Beginning of a Series.

by Neil Berkowitz

With the current emphasis on draw programs, paint programs have been getting little fanfare and virtually no attention. While in some areas drawing programs are superior to paint programs, paint programs do have their uses. Draw programs are virtually unusable for processing scanned images, are difficult to apply to drawing with subtle shading variations between rough areas, and can require a large amount of number crunching for relatively simple illustrations.

The versatility and usability of draw and paint programs are based on their underlying concepts. These underlying philosophies also highlight each program's limitations. Paint programs are based on the concept of pixels, discrete points, on the screen. Each point on the screen can have one of a set number of colors associated with it. Think of a painter applying paint to canvas where the painter applies a bit of color to selected parts of the canvas. The concept of paint programs is similar. Because of this, the artist can use a variety of tools to apply various colors to the picture and have each spot of the picture independent of every other point. This permits rough shapes with indefinite edges and freeflowing shading gradients.

Draw programs are based on shapes applied to a surface. This can be likened to working with stained glass where each piece of the overall picture is a distinct entity with its own properties. In a painting, once something is painted on the canvas it cannot be removed, only painted over. In a stained glass work, a piece can be moved or replaced independent of the rest of the picture. The end results of the two types of programs are as different as watercolors and stained glass. Each has its own style and neither can really replace the other.

In this and subsequent reviews I'll be covering several of the paint programs currently on the market ranging from very simple programs like the paint program in Windows to extremely complex programs like Publisher's Paintbrush.

Window's Paintbrush

Probably the most widespread paint program currently is the one found in Windows. This is one of the more basic programs. While standard functions can be performed with Paintbrush, comparing it to some of the other paint programs is like comparing Windows Write to Word for Windows. Paintbrush

has the basics but lacks many of the enhancements. On the other hand, it is fairly good at what it does.

Paintbrush's functions represent the core functions of all paint programs. Using a palette of 16 colors and six paint brushes of user defined size, basic objects can be drawn on the screen. Basic objects are determined by a set of fixed icons which represent tools that can be selected by a pointing device. The tree types of lines- straight, freehand, and curved- can be drawn as can be the basic shapes- circles, squares, and polygons. A fill tool exists for coloring in any enclosed area. Colors are selected from a palette of 16 colors which can be adjusted individually using a 256 point scale each for red, green, and blue (RGB value). With most paint programs, changing a color in the palette will result in all instances of that color on the screen changing to the new color. With Paintbrush, the colors on the screen are independent of the colors in the palette. This can in part be explained by the way Windows handles colors and how Paintbrush supports them. Paintbrush achieves most of its colors by a process known as dithering. While there appear to be more than eight colors, in reality most of the spectrum is represented by groups of pixels of different colors placed together to simulate a larger spectrum. In effect, the program is fooling the eyes into thinking that there are more colors than there actually are. Since most of the colors on the Paintbrush screen are actually patterns, not individual colors, there is no need to remap colors into a large spectrum set when a palette color is changed. The user is still limited to the eight Window's colors.

Shapes can be manipulated in Paintbrush giving the user some flexibility in cutting, moving and duplicating parts of a picture. Unfortunately the tool only supports rectangular cutting. This is probably the greatest limitation of the program.

Importing and exporting images is important for any paint program. Paintbrush supports the standard PCX format as well as the Windows bitmap format. The latter provides an easy way to make wallpaper and icons since that is the only format that Windows recognizes.

Deluxe Paint II

Deluxe Paint II by Electronic Arts is one of the old standbys of paint programs. While this program is beginning to show its age- it has not been updated in close to three years- it is still one of the better programs on the market. It does not support extended memory, although it does support expanded. It can only support 16 color VGA, but it does support MCGA 256 color mode in a 320 X 200 resolution and MCGA two color mode in a 640 X 480 resolution. In other words, it was state of the art three years ago and can still process most image needs. ►

Deluxe Paint II is far more versatile than Paintbrush with the degree of versatility directly related to its fundamental tool, the brush. Most paint programs have a set number of brush sizes and shapes and apply a single color or pattern with the brush. With Deluxe Paint anything can be a brush. A piece of a picture can be clipped and made into a brush. The pattern of that area then becomes the brush color. The selected area can be either rectangular or an irregular shape depending upon selected options. The part of the brush that is the same color as the background can be declared to be transparent. Transparent parts of the brush leave the area painted over the original color. The image can also be either lifted off the picture leaving behind a filled area the color of the background, or duplicated in the brush and left behind in the initial spot. Brushes can be then be manipulated. Operator built brushes can be flipped, doubled in size either horizontally or vertically, rotated, stretched, halved, bent in either a horizontal or vertical direction, or sheared to induce distortion in the shape. If the whole picture is selected as the brush, these features make it possible to globally affect the picture. Brushes can also be saved with their own palette making it possible to lift shapes off one picture and then be applying the shapes with the original colors to other pictures. One of the more unique features of brushes is that their perspective can be changed along all three axes. This feature is extremely useful in giving depth to a picture - and it is easy to implement. It is also fast.

The only complaint on the implementation of brushes in Deluxe Paint II is the appearance of the brush when the brush is rotated, sheared, or otherwise processed. While the brush is modified it is replaced with a white shadow in a rectangle. This makes it difficult to finely adjust shapes. The brush is first altered. The operator thinks it is correct but cannot see the final result until it is applied to the picture. This stops the modification process. If the desired effect is not achieved, the only recourse is to undo the operation and start again. It would be far nicer to have the new pattern always appear the way it will be when the operation is complete.

Deluxepaint has the same basic functions of Paintbrush for drawing shapes and selecting colors. In addition Deluxe Paint has tools for additional manipulation of pictures. The smooth feature reduces the contrast between areas under the brush. This is done by taking the RGB values for adjacent pixels, averaging them, then finding a color in the current palette that comes closest to approximating the computed values. The smear tool provides a way to spread existing colors onto other parts of a picture. Deluxepaint compares this to running a finger along a wet oil painting. No new colors are added to a picture; the existing colors are just spread out onto new areas. The third tool, shade, allows the operator to cycle through a color range. As the brush goes over pixels the color of the pixel is replaced with the next color in the cycle range.

For example, if a cycle consists of white, light blue, dark blue, and black; a brush going over a picture with these colors with cycle enabled will replace white with light blue, light blue with dark blue, dark blue with black, and black with white. A well set up palette is essential for this feature to be optimally used.

Modification of colors within a palette is similar to the process used in Paintbrush. Depending upon the mode Deluxe Paint was started in (CGA, EGA, VGA, MCGA) various possibilities will exist for color selection. In MCGA, 256 simultaneous color mode, each of the 256 colors in the palette can be individually selected and modified using a RGB scale. Alternately, the colors can be selected using a HSV (hue, saturation, value) scale. Slidebars represent each of these scale values which can be moved and adjusted via mouse control. As the scales are moved the new color is shown providing immediate feedback. Colors within the palette can be copied to other locations within the palette or swapped for other colors within the palette. Swapping colors results in all pixels of one color on the screen being replaced with the second color. This feature does not permit the operator to simply change positions of colors within the palette.

Up to four ranges can be selected within the palette controls. These ranges are used for the previously mentioned shading function. The ranges can also be used to simulate animation in a picture with the colors cycling within a range as the picture is constantly redrawn.

Deluxepaint has a fairly good set of text fonts for text manipulation. There are fifteen fonts with an average of two different text sizes within each font. "Typewriter" has the greatest number of size options with a total of four. In addition to the fonts, text style can also be selected from plain, bold, underlined, or italic.

Deluxe Paint II only reads files in the .LBM format but has two tools that permit the transfer of pictures to its format. The first is CONVERT. This is an offline function that will translate PC Paintbrush, Windows Paint, and MacPaint pictures to the Deluxe Paint II format. The second is CAMERA, a TSR that will capture whatever is on the screen and save it in the Deluxe Paint format. The CAMERA program is hot key activated. The default value for the key is Alt-c but any key combination can be defined to activate CAMERA.

Overall, Deluxe Paint II is a good program with a great deal of functionality for the price. While it is showing its age and begs for an update, the versatility, ease of use, and ability to run on almost all machines makes this a program to seriously consider. This is especially true if higher resolution VGA modes are not needed.

Neil

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Corel DRAW v2.0

by Douglas McQuaid

After Reagan Andrews' comprehensive look at graphics editors (Arts & Letters, Corel DRAW, and Artline) in late 1989 and early 1990, the newsletter inherited Corel DRAW v1.2. Version 1.2 was not very easy to use. Nor was it very fast. I was not impressed and exiled it to the shelf.

When new versions of Arts & Letters and Corel DRAW came out, their advertising was alluring. Well, I ordered the demo videos and looked over the marketing stuff and decided to give Corel DRAW a second look. I already had a little experience with Corel DRAW v1.1 and the video made v2.0 look easy. The video made me feel like I could start designing billboards after a few hours. But it just ain't so. It is possible to get up and running with a little effort, but graphic editors are complex beasts and it takes some time and effort to tame them.

With that in mind, let's look at Corel DRAW.

Overview - the helicopter shot...

Corel DRAW uses a toolbar structure similar to "Paint"-type programs. There are nine tools that run down the left border of the screen, although some tools perform multiple duties depending on what you're doing with them. The tools are (from top to bottom): the pick tool, the node edit tool, the zoom tool, the draw tool, the rectangle tool, the ellipse tool, the text tool, the pen tool and the paint tool.

The Pick tool is used to select objects for editing. An object can be a line, ellipse, rectangle, text, or a grouping of multiple objects. The Node Edit tool is used for nitty-gritty, down and dirty editing of the curves that make up an object. The Draw tool is used for drawing lines and curves. The text tool is used for text (what else). The Pen tool allows the user to define the line width, color, and to create calligraphic and other special line effects. The Paint tool is used to define the fills - color and pattern.

New to version 2.0 is the ability to import ASCII text as "paragraph" text. With paragraph text you can work with larger blocks of text, treating the block as a single element. This allows for snaking columns of text. In addition, there are lots of scalable fonts. The Pen tool has some new features as well. You can define lines to have calligraphic attributes, arrowheads/tails, and dashing effects. The arrowheads can be selected from an ample set of symbols, or you can create your own. The options for dashed lines are equally abundant.

Across the top is the pseudo-standard Windows menu structure. Corel uses seven menus: File, Edit,

Transform, effects, Arrange, Display, and Special. Note that there is no Help menu in Corel DRAW.

The File menu has the usual New, Open, Save, Save As, etc. features. But it also includes Import and Export features that support several graphics file formats. This is very useful for graphics format conversions. Corel DRAW can handle many vector-based graphics formats, including: .DXF (AutoCAD), .EPS, .PLT (HPGL), .CGM, and .WMF. You can import and export bitmap-based formats (.PCX, TIFF, and BMP), but Corel won't convert these formats. Corel comes with lots of clip-art (over 3500 images) in several formats, so the import feature is critical for importing clip-art. I generally don't like clip-art - to me, it's more hassle than it's worth. I was not impressed with the selection of clip-art. The images are samples from several commercial clip-art packages, so there are a lot of similar images. Also, many of the images are too simple.

The Edit menu includes cut/copy/paste as well as "Select All" and "Duplicate", both very handy. The Effects menu is new to version 2.0 and contains the most exciting features - Envelope, Perspective, Blend, and Extrude. Envelope lets you mold text into a shape, similar to Arts & Letters' Warp feature. Perspective and Extrude add realistic 3-D attributes to objects. Blend lets you transform one object into another in steps. Blend can be used to create tooth-paste effects like the following illustration.



The Arrange menu allows you to group and combine objects as well as ungroup and break apart objects. The Arrange menu also includes Fit Text to Path. You use Fit Text to Path to flow text along curves and circles. It takes a bit of practice (and reading the manual) to get effective results. It seems to me that Fit Text to Path should be in the Effects menu. The Display menu allows you to snap-to-grid, snap-to-guidelines, and specify previews. Editing in Corel DRAW is done entirely on a wire-frame model and you have to preview the page to see exactly what you've done. You can choose to swap screens between the wire-frame and a full page preview or use a split screen where you work on the wire-frame on the left half of the screen and preview your work on the right half of the screen. I tended to prefer the swap method because it seemed faster.

The Special menu lets you setup the program to your taste. One of my favorite features is the ability to configure the right mouse button to perform 2x-Zoom, ▶

Edit Text, Full Screen Preview, Node Edit, or nothing at all.

And if you buy before midnight tonight...

Corel DRAW is actually four programs in one box. The main program is the Corel DRAW graphic editor, but the package includes three other utilities - Corel TRACE, MOSAIC, and WFNBOSS. TRACE is a bit-map tracing utility. Supposedly you use this to convert bitmapped images (from paint programs or scanners) into vector images that are resolution independent. TRACE worked fine on the samples that come in the package, but on real world bitmaps that I tried, TRACE either couldn't handle the bitmap (Can you say UAE?), or produced impractical results. The TRACE utility is an improvement from the v1.2 "autotrace" feature, but there's still room for improvement here. By the way, Corel still implements the "autotrace" feature in Corel DRAW. The autotrace feature is NOT the same as the TRACE utility - if you really need to convert bitmaps, use the TRACE utility. TRACE did work on a few simple bitmaps I tried to convert, where autotrace didn't.

MOSIAC is a Corel graphics file viewer/management utility. This is a welcome addition to version 2.0. MOSAIC presents several thumbnails of Corel DRAW .CDR files in any selected directory. You can double click on the thumbnail and Corel DRAW is launched with the graphics file. As you generate more files (with multiple revisions), this becomes the preferred method of starting Corel.

WFNBOSS (pronounced "wuffenboss" by the folks at Corel) is a font conversion utility. With WFN Boss, you can use Corel DRAW as a font editor. With WFN Boss you can convert your WFN fonts created in Corel into up to six different type formats, including: Adobe Type 1, Agfa, and BitStream. Corel DRAW package comes with over 150 WFN typefaces. I used WFNBOSS to convert several .WFN fonts into Adobe Type 1 fonts that Adobe Type Manager uses. Unfortunately, not all of the font conversions worked, but most did. There has been at least one maintenance release to fix this problem, and I tried it, but it didn't fix all of my font conversion gremlins.

What's it gonna be Mack? ... You gonna buy that paper, or what?

In general, Corel DRAW is easy to get started with. I found the documentation to be excellent and very complete. Corel comes with manuals for DRAW, MOSAIC, WFNBOSS, a Technical Reference with lots of graphics file format details, a clip-art reference, a tutorial manual, several reference cards, a type scale, and a video tutorial. I never had to search very long for whatever I needed help with. The video and tutorial manual reduced the learning curve substantially. I still pop the video in my VCR from time to

time to catch stuff that I may have missed in earlier viewings.

I use Corel DRAW primarily for graphics conversion. My work frequently involves importing AutoCAD DXF files, adding or eliminating elements in the drawing and then converting the files into Windows Metafiles or EPS files. The conversion process is smooth. Also, there's lots of clip-art for those of you who like clip-art. As I said before, I don't like clip-art, but it's there if you want it. The type manipulation features are excellent. There's lotsa fonts, and the WFNBOSS font conversion utility lets you create you own fonts or import Adobe Type 1 fonts and other formats.

New features that I liked were the addition of paragraph text, guidelines, the new special effects - extrude, blend, and perspective, and the ability to configure right mouse button.

Corel DRAW is not without its problems. TRACE although an improvement over autotrace, doesn't quite perform. When you think about it though, the task of converting bitmaps into vector graphics is monumental. WFNBOSS choked a few times as well.

Version 2.0, although significantly faster than version 1.2, still runs a bit slow, especially when you have lots of objects in your drawing. Corel DRAW does not support math coprocessors. Adding math coprocessor support might improve the speed because vector-based graphics require lots of trigonometric calculations. Hopefully, the next release will add coprocessor support.

The final beef I have with Corel DRAW is the lack of on-line help. When I started moving to Windows applications, I came to rely on the Help menu to get me out of little jams. With Corel you have to have the manual handy, in case you get stuck. This is inexcusable.

With the exceptions noted above, I really like Corel DRAW. I have grown accustomed to the interface and it is becoming one of my main applications. But Corel needs to address their problems or they may lose out to Arts & Letters or Designer. If you need a simple graphics package for business presentations, you probably should take a look at Charisma, Hollywood, Harvard Graphics, and other programs. If you really want to get into serious graphics creation and manipulation then definitely check out Corel DRAW.

Douglas

■

Douglas McQuaid is a technical writer for Tandy Corporation. He is also the senior editor of the North Texas PC News.

What is Multimedia?

Part II

by Bernard F. Mayoff

Last month we discussed the historical aspects of multimedia and the Infowindow. The Infowindow introduced a system that had almost all of the elements of multimedia combined in one device. Often all of the elements aren't needed or can't be cost-justified. Next, we'll explore individual hardware elements to gain a greater understanding of each element and when we might need it.

Computer Generated Graphics

There are two kinds of computer generated graphics: bit maps and vectors. Bit maps are created by paint programs. Each bit of the graphic is drawn and colored, either by the user or by some algorithm within an application. Bit maps can be edited by replacing any of the bits in the drawing and sometimes they can be made larger or smaller. Changing the size of a bitmap (scaling) is difficult and results are not always satisfactory. Suppose an original bitmap drawing is three inches by three inches and it must be enlarged. In the enlargement each individual bit must become several bits. The challenge is in how a single bit should be expanded to produce an acceptable result. Should a bit be expanded in a rectangular pattern? A diamond? A circle? Bitmaps can also take a lot of room to store since there is color information for every bit that will be shown on your display. An advantage of bitmaps is that there is no processing required to display them. Just read the file off a disk and pass it to the display. If a set of similar bitmaps is displayed in rapid succession it appears to be a moving picture! The limitations on the quality of the moving picture are the transfer speed from the storage device or the buffer areas in memory, the speed of the graphics controller, and the capacity of the storage device to contain enough images.

Vector graphics are stored as a set of commands telling where to draw lines or shapes, the size of the lines, the color, the style, the curvature, and how to fill enclosed areas. These commands can be manipulated mathematically to create larger or smaller images. They can even be rotated. Vector graphics are created by most of the graphics products used today, such as Arts and Letters, Designer and Draw! They will often take up less space on a storage device than a bitmap image. A disadvantage of vector graphics is that they must be processed by the CPU in order to be seen. Smooth animation requires a more powerful processor.

Images

Scanning a photograph produces a bit map of the photograph. An advantage of scanning is that the image doesn't have to be drawn by an artist or generated by a program; it is a reproduction of something real. It doesn't even have to be a photograph (or a slide) that is scanned, and the image doesn't have to be digitized using a scanner. An image of an actual object can be created using a video camera, one of the new video disc (zap shot) cameras, and a digitizing card. An image can even be captured from a VCR or a TV broadcast.

Creating a bit map with a scanner is exactly the same process as creating a scanned image for desktop publishing, and requires the same equipment. Taking a video signal and digitizing it requires a hardware device such as the IBM Video Capture Adapter™ (VCA). The VCA will accept almost any video source and, with supporting software, create a bit map image. Want to include a picture of your team, the house you're trying to sell, your office or your product? This is a way to do it.

Since bit map graphics and images can quickly consume large amounts of space, a high capacity storage device is needed – and the CD-ROM drive can provide it. When the cost of creating the photographic library, digitizing it and creating a CD match the value of the CD or can be distributed across a large enough audience, CDs provide a solution. The Mammals product produced by National Geographic and IBM is distributed on CD because of this. It stores a wealth of textual information, bitmap photographs of the animals, and in some cases digitized sound or a sequence of stills to produce short "movies" of animals in motion.

Sometimes bit maps are stored in a compressed form. This is done to save space. Done well, it preserves all the integrity of the original image, can be compressed quickly and can be reconstructed quickly. The IBM Audio Visual Connection™ software stores images created with the Video Capture Adapter in a compressed format and optimizes the image to the color palette in use. If you prefer, it will create a palette optimized to the image. No hardware assist is required to decompress and display the images.

What is a color palette? Since the quality of your images will have an impact on how well your system maps the original to a color palette, let's spend a moment explaining.

Since the displays in use today are almost all CRTs (like your television), the colors you see are a combination of Red, Green and Blue (and none). By varying the intensity of each color an unlimited number of colors is possible. So how does your

computer tell the display which of this huge number of alternatives to display? A device in your computer maintains a palette of the colors that can be displayed at any time. If this device has limited speed and limited memory you may only be able to display four colors, or sixteen colors. With more high speed memory and a faster processor you can display 256 colors or even more. If you visualize a spreadsheet you'll get the idea. Make the spreadsheet four columns wide, the first with a color number and the next three columns with the amount of red, green and blue that should be turned on to display that color. That is a color palette. If you have sixteen rows in your spreadsheet you can display sixteen colors at once. Whatever the size of your palette, the image you capture must use the right-mix of those colors or you will see very strange results. If a program changes the palette while you have an image on the screen, or you display an image with a palette other than the one it expects, you'll learn what "palette shift" means as the colors of your scene become, well, awesome.

Methods of storing and compressing bit maps differ by developer. Some of the more common storage formats in use today are TIFF and GIF, but there are a host of others. As long as there are multiple formats, there will be chaos in the marketplace and developers will be faced with the risk of making the wrong choice as they create CD image libraries or products. The International Standards Organization (ISO) is working toward finalizing an image compression algorithm known as the JPEG standard. JPEG is the Joint Photographic Expert Group. For an excellent description of their work and plans see the April, 1991 issue of Communications of the ACM.

Libraries of digitized photographs are available on CD-ROM in several formats. Some of these CDs also have sound clips recorded on them. Like other clipart, these discs include the right to reproduce the images and sounds in your presentations.

Animation

Animation means tricking the eye into thinking it is seeing continuous motion by showing a series of slightly different pictures in rapid succession. This is how cartoons and movies work, and how television works. Television pictures in the United States are refreshed thirty times per second. Thirty pictures shown in sequence in one second are good enough to let us think we are actually seeing continuous motion. In fact if the motion slows to only fifteen to eighteen frames per second the motion will still be acceptable for many situations. For higher quality and dramatically better quality higher refresh rates can be used. Some of us still

remember the experimental high quality films that were being shown at the Chuck E. Cheese™ theater several years ago.

Those films were shown at sixty frames per second. Usually when we think of animation we think of a sequence of images or photographs that were not recorded by a motion picture camera. Some programs, such as StoryboardLive!™ have animation editors built into them that allow you to create cartoon sequences where drawings, known as sprites, can be manipulated to create a series of bit maps that will be played back fast enough to simulate motion. Of course text also can be maneuvered this way. The effects can be quite impressive. Many of the presentation systems on the market today, including Hollywood™ and Persuasion™, offer numerous fades and wipes and other animation effects when the presentations are shown on a PC. Next month we'll delve into audio, full-motion video, and touch as well as the hardware available to implement these.

Bernard

▲

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CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

Lotus Week and SIG Leader Conference Continued ...

I was lucky enough to attend the special meetings for Lotus SIG leaders as well as the all the interesting presentations given during the Lotus Technology Conference at the beginning of June. During the three days of the conference, I learned many new ideas, met lots of other user group people, finally met many people I knew from phone calls and Compu-Serve and saw several new products. In last month's column I wrote about many of the products and people. This month I would like to tell you about some of the interesting tips and techniques gleaned during the presentations at Lotus Week.

One of my favorite book authors and speakers, Scott Tucker, gave a presentation with John Shepard, a consultant. Scott co-authored the book, "Inside Lotus 1-2-3 Macros" as well as a couple of other books which I feel should be in every Lotus user's reference library. They showed some interesting techniques to use in 1-2-3 2.3 and 3.1. One technique was a very pretty menu system which was really macros using the {form} commands along with a series of <blank> graphs set up on the spreadsheet. Each of the <blank> graphs had been edited in the annotation mode to create meaningful pictures of the particular menu choice. Since the macro code behind this technique is rather large, I will not be going into more detail, but just think of the possibility of using the {form} command in unconventional ways.

The following macro code is from one of the files Scott and John passed out after their presentation. These are handy utility macros to be used in applications. The \F macro works in the WYSIWYG mode to toggle the frame on and off and \C also works in the WYSIWYG mode to toggle the cellpointer display on and off. The \D macro will delete the FMT file for the current file name. Notice that the \D macro makes use of the @cellpointer("filename") function to pull the current file name in a range (F_NAME) on the spreadsheet, then it concatenates the contents of that range with FMT after using the @left function to get rid of the WK1 extension. Once the correct file name is setup in the range, the macro continues through the menu sequence of /File Erase Other and

then uses the contents of the range, F_NAME, as a subroutine to fill in the name of the file to erase. This is a handy technique which can be used in many other procedures. I use the (subroutine) method for entering parts of ranges in copy and move commands during macros frequently, so the technique is a good one to learn and use.

```
..... Toggle Frame display
\F      :do{if FRAME="NO"}rqq{let FRAME;"YES"}~{quit}
        nqcfwqq{let FRAME;"NO"}~{quit}
FRAME  NO
```

```
..... Toggle Cellpointer display
\C      :dcc{if CP="NO"}cqq{let CP;"YES"}~{quit}
        wqq{let CP;"NO"}~{quit}
CP      NO
```

```
..... Delete FMT file
\D      {onerror STOP}
        {paneloff}
        {let F_NAME:@cellpointer("filename")}
        {let F_NAME:@left(F_NAME,@length(F_NAME)-3)&"FMT"}
        /foX{esc}{F_NAME}-y
```

F_NAME

STOP {quit}

Scott and John also shared another useful macro for making sure that WYSIWYG is loaded. It only works in version 3.x of 1-2-3 because it uses the @info("mode") function to test what mode the spreadsheet is in. So, when the colon is pressed to bring up the WYSIWYG menu, if a WYSIWYG menu appears, the @info("mode") function will return the number 14, otherwise it will return a 2 for label (the colon being typed). The macro follows:

```
\T      :{let MODE,@info("mode")}{esc}
        {if MODE=14}{let MSG,"WYSIWYG is Loaded"}~{quit}
        {let MSG,"WYSIWYG is Not Loaded"}~{quit}
```

MODE

MSG

As you can see, the first line of the macro tries to invoke the WYSIWYG menu and then tests the mode. The second line checks the range named MODE to see if the test had placed a 14 into it. If it was a 14, then the rest of the macro code in that line will be implemented by letting the range named MSG contain the message "WYSIWYG is Loaded", the tilde is to make a screen refresh to allow you to see the message. Then the macro will quit before trying to go down to the next line of code. Thus, the only time the last line of macro code is processed, is when the range named MODE does not equal 14. It then would place the message "WYSIWYG is Not Loaded" into the range named MSG, refresh the screen and then quit. This is a useful macro for a spreadsheet application being used by other people who may detach the WYSIWYG add-in, when it is still needed by the application. ▶

If you have ever needed to use a flag in a macro for a multi-user situation or with multiple files, Scott suggested an excellent idea. You can create a zero byte file and then test for its existence in a macro. Use the following macro code to create the zero byte file:

```
{open "zero.prn","w"}
{close}
```

Test for the existence of the file with: {open "zero.prn","r"}. The reason to use a zero byte, is only for conserving disk space. If you need multiple flags, then just change the file names. This is a method which could prove very useful for people using networks.

When you are using WYSIWYG and have graphs on the screen, you can save data entry time by making sure to keep the graphs at the top of the screen since the screen refresh works from the top of the screen on down.

Now that 1-2-3 2.3 and 3.x have the {appendbelow} and {appendright} macro commands along with the {form} command, you can create some great looking data entry forms on your screen. Behind the screen, you would then have a row set up with formulas to reference each of the different input spaces on the form. Using the {append...} command, you could recalc that formula row and then send the information to the end of your database without making the screen jump all over the spreadsheet. This will work quickly and makes the data input task simple and quick. Keep these macro commands in mind when designing your next application.

Some of the other interesting tips and techniques Scott and John passed along to the audience revolved around using the WYSIWYG mode and refining your output. For instance, if you have ever noticed that underlining tends to cut off the letters g, j, p, q and y, you should consider using the shading (:Format Shade) feature on the row underneath the row where the text is located. Once you use shading, you will need to shrink the row to a narrow height. Of course, you will not be able to display any other information on that row, since the height would end up hiding the information. You can also use a top line (:Format Lines Top) rather than shading on the row below or combine shading in some cells with just a top line in others to help emphasize portions of your text.

There are times when it looks nice to place your title in a box using white letters on a black background. If you have tried this, you noticed that the letters do not show up in the middle of the box as far as the vertical alignment is concerned. You can adjust this by adding a narrow row below the box and shading the cells in the corresponding columns to make the box look larger. By adjusting the new row to the correct height, you will end up with a title in a box that

is centered both vertically and horizontally (by using the :Text Align menu sequence).

You can use formatting sequences to do many things within WYSIWYG. You press <Ctrl> <A> to start the formatting, then type in one of the codes for the type of formatting you want to use. Kerning of the letters in the text, is one of these features. When you are working on the large title for your spreadsheet, many times the letter combination will look rather spaced out. Look at the word "WATERGATE" for instance. The letters W and A usually look better when they are kerned (placed closer together). The code to type in after the <Ctrl><A> is k. The k can be preceded by a positive or negative number indicating the amount of kerning to apply. When you are finished with applying the special feature, you need to press <Ctrl><N> to stop the feature. You are able to mix all types of other features into your text besides just the kerning. There are things like, drop caps, subscripts, superscripts, greying, outline of characters, rotating of characters, underlining, double underlining, strike-throughs, and making the text invisible. These features can be applied to all or part of any cell's entry, and in any combination. They are fun to experiment with.

If you are interested in seeing more of the ideas that Scott presented, you ought to look for the book, "1-2-3 Power Tools". It is by Scott Tucker and Michael Lunsford and is published by Bantam Electronic Publishing. Although, I have not been lucky enough to come across it in a store, you might find it. Some of the presentation involved templates from the book. There is a very interesting calendar created by macros and formulas, for instance, that makes the book worth finding.

Some interesting announcements have crossed my desk in the past month. Blossom Software has had a word processing add-in (Write-In) on the market for 1-2-3 2.2 for several years. They now have upgraded it to work with release 2.3. It also features a more compact file format, a file delete command, and more control over the printer. With the new file format, the documents can be viewed by the viewer add-in, which makes it easier for the user to decide which file is needed. Write-In is a full-featured word processor that can exchange data with a live worksheet, which allows generation of form letters and reports based on the worksheet data. The documents can include graphs, multi-line headers and footers and uses style sheets for paragraphs and documents. User Group members can upgrade for \$29 if they are registered users of earlier versions, or they can purchase Write-In for \$79.95, which is \$50 off the retail price. Be sure to call 617-738-1516 to order and mention that you are a User Group member. ▶



by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

The Variety Store

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

Mini-minds (legal) churn and burn as AMD Plays "Tit-for-tat" with Intel - While flood of new products await COMDEX

COMDEX/Fall '91 is going to be more fun than I thought at the beginning of the summer. There are so many twists, turns, warps and reverses in the PC industry now that even a good-sized database can't keep track. Everybody's in the act with new acquisitions/owners, new legal actions, new products and cross-licensing agreements that would make a Persian rug merchant's head swim.

On the down side, see a lot less largess (floor passes) than in previous years as hardware makers and publishers find themselves having to choose between three or four major industry shows in the same one-month window.

Intel slugged with AMD's Massive antitrust suit

Guess I'll have to really spend some time at the AMD and Intel booths at COMDEX/Fall '91 this year (two weeks after this hits the streets). AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) really slammed into print with their \$2 billion (\$2,000,000,000) antitrust suit against Intel in September.

Guess AMD figured it was their turn after all the legal acrimony they've felt at Intel's hands for the past two years. The Suit "demands \$2 billion in damages and injunctive relief," according to *the Wall Street Journal* August 30 story. ▶

CELLS & RANGES continued

I have had some time to try out PC Publishing's new add-in, CLIP-ARTIST and am really impressed with it. The CGM to FMT conversion utility is worth the price alone (\$85 for User Group members - call 800-634-4555). When you use the CGM2FMT program, the CGM file is converted to the FMT format and you then import it into the spreadsheet by :Special Import Graph. Once it is imported and the spreadsheet saved, you will not need the extra graph file since the graphic becomes a permanent part of the spreadsheet's FMT file when it is saved by /File Save. The clip art library that comes with the package contains many very usable pictures both in grey scale and in color versions. I like being able to convert the graphic to the FMT file and then do all the editing of that file while it is resident on the spreadsheet. In fact, I used a neat graphic depicting many types of monetary symbols in an application for a client with a bank. I will not have to worry about him losing the extra graphics file because it is all part of the regular FMT file saved with the WK3 file.

I have just received my upgrade to Arts & Letters Graphics Composer and am happy to report that it's CGM export files are now compatible with the type of CGM files 1-2-3 with WYSIWYG can import. In fact, the monetary graphic file I mentioned above came from A&L's clip art collection, which has about 5000 different symbols and pictures. If you are looking for a product to supply lots of useful clip art which can be created in the CGM format, then look at Arts & Letters Graphics Composer 3.0. It has something for everyone and the art is plain and stylistic rather than ornate, which I think makes it easier to work with. Unfortunately at this time, they are not offering any type of User Group discount, so look for it at your local discount software dealer. If you are going to use clip art in the spreadsheets, this is the product I would recommend.

Betty ▲

Betty has a spreadsheet and database consulting business called Records & Ranges. She can be reached at 214-618-1608 (4312 Bragg Place, Plano, TX 75024) if you have any questions or suggestions for this column.

Timing may be everything. The WSJ article reminds that Intel is also in the middle of an FTC investigation at this time. Sorta like rubbing salt in the wound(s).

Meanwhile, AMD's clone 386 chips are showing up everywhere. This must be both surprizing and dismaying to Intel - and to a lot of media "experts" who guessed (wrongly) that the AMD chips were too late to have much of an impact on the market. As it stands (as of last "First Saturday") the AMD 386/40 has become the "premium" 386 chip vendors are hawking.

And, AMD says we ain't seen nothing yet. Their low-power, 25-MHz, SX clone should turn the laptop and notebook upside-down this year. AST is supposed to be first to market with this screamer.

Intel and AMD were about a mile apart (physically) last year. AMD had a booth at the (then) new Sands Convention Center while Intel occupied two booths on the premium Las Vegas Convention Center turf.

That might be pretty good spacing this year too.

Kahn hits the big-time as FTC investigates Borland's A-T acquisition in August

How do you know you've really reached the upper PC echelons? When the FTC investigators descend on your company. Philippe Kahn must be pretty ambivalent after the FTC's announcement that they would be looking into Borland's affairs.

What was surprizing was the relative lack of media space given to the FTC action. Nothing like the feet of column space Microsoft earned earlier this year, the Borland affair was almost hidden in *the Wall Street Journal* and didn't get that

much play in either *InfoWorld* or *PC Week*, for that matter.

Borland isn't standing still though. Lot of the investigation appears to be focused on a possible Borland database "monopoly" when the A-T deal is finalized. Know these things are planned well ahead, but media blurbs about new "personal" versions of Paradox and Quattro can't help matters.

Clipper ad sleaze shows Nantucket evidently not All that happy either --

Nantucket, maker of *Clipper*, has embarked on a new ad campaign.

Seems aimed at convincing dBASE users that Borland's acquisition of Ashton-Tate would bring great peril to the PC world.

Last time we saw this approach was when Intel attempted to convince the world that all 286 chips (now 386 chips) were obsolete since they (Intel) didn't have a sole source position in the market. Guess Nantucket saw A-T (of late) as an easy target and is now worried about Borland (not an easy target.)

Problem with this type of advertising is that you have to be able to deliver after you've knocked the competition.

Speaking of competition ... Novell to enter peer-to-peer LAN market with *NetWare Lite*

Rumors that Novell is able to think in smaller numbers than 100's must be true. The Utah NetWare maker is set to enter the peer-to-peer, low cost LAN market in October according to media sources. A preemptive *Infoworld* article September 2, 1991, described prices as low as \$99 per user for *NetWare Lite*.

According to early reports, the new LAN would use the NetWare IPX transport protocol.

InfoWorld also reported the Novell peer-to-peer LAN would also use the Open Datalink Interface hardware driver and be compatible with other Novell network products.

Novell's entry into the low end of the market came as somewhat of a surprize, but is seen as a strategy to move entry-level customers to the larger (and much more expensive) Novell systems as their users and interconnection needs grow.

Where does DR DOS 6.0 fit?

Media speculation is wonderful. Ink on the *NetWare Lite* story (above) couldn't have dried before rumors about the new Novell LAN and the release of DRI's DR DOS 6.0 began flying, with some rumors stating the peer-to-peer LAN would be built into the new DOS release.

DR DOS 6.0 should be a handful all by itself. Called a further extension of the "already superior" DRI DOS by some columnists, 6.0 will include enhanced task switching, memory management and an improved file system. *PC Week* reported that the new DOS will also include data compression capabilities allowing a doubling of hard disk capacity and a "hypertext on-line help system".

Price for DR DOS 6.0 was reported at \$99 in the September 2, *PC Week* story.

Microsoft moves DOS, Windows Product support to Dallas - Hoisington may get some rest

Microsoft is establishing a Dallas DOS and Windows Product Support facility that will employ approximately 100 staff in its first year. That's good news. Jim Hoisington, DOS SIG Co-Leader, may finally see the last of the late night - early morning pleas for help from frustrated users. ▶

According to the July press release from Microsoft, the new facility will also support LAN Manager in addition to DOS 5.0 and Windows, and will be headed by Glenn Young, "central region manager (sic)".

Microsoft "expects to staff the site from Dallas's (sic) large population of students and highly qualified office workers," the July press release stated. Release also stated that Microsoft is anxious to hear from persons interested in applying for positions as customer support engineers, technical systems engineers or other related positions.

Interested members should send resumes to: Microsoft Corporation, Attention: Recruiting, code MC, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052-6399.

Quadram, Insite shipping 20M, 3.5" floppy drives

We've been waiting since COMDEX/Fall '88 and they've finally arrived! The 20+ M, 3.5" floppy drives promised three years ago are shipping from Quadram (Brier Technologies drives) and Insite Peripherals.

Four years ago, either the Brier Technologies or Insite drives would have been almost revolutionary. Featuring 21 M of storage on 3.5" floppy disks, the two drives now will have to compete with other resources for PC user attention.

Hard pricing has been announced for the Quadram/Brier QuadFlextra drive with internal kits at \$995 (list) and QuadFlextra media at \$25 per disk (list). The drives use either an SCSI or parallel adapter and feature average access rates of 35 milliseconds.

Colorado Startup Banks on small!

New definition of small is 1.8". Integral Peripherals, Inc., an-

nounced pending production of their Mustang 20M hard disk drives and 40M Stingray drives on a 1.8" form factor for "sub-notebook" and other PC's.

That's about the width of these columns. That's small for a sub-20 ms access rate hard disk drive by any standard. Makes sense though.

Reason for increasing movement to smaller drives isn't just physical size, although that's important in applications such as notebook PC's. Smaller and lighter the platters, the less energy necessary to turn them at the standard 3600 RPM. Also, the distance the heads need to travel to access data decreases as platter size decreases, and average access times can decrease accordingly.

If this trend continues, term "mass storage" may become an oxymoron.

OEM prices for the drives were announced at \$385 for the Mustang drive while pricing for the Stingray was not revealed in the initial release. The Mustang is shipping now and the Stingray is scheduled for shipping in early 1992.

Xerox announces new Ventura Publisher 4.0 Upgrade for Windows

Ventura Software announced a new *Ventura Publisher, Windows Edition 4.0* in August that includes an 88,000-word spelling checker, undo/redo, search and replace facility for text, attributes and flags, and, irregular text wrap.

The upgrade will also allow importation of Microsoft *Word for Windows* files and supports DDE/OLE client support. According to the press release from Ventura Software (a Xerox subsidiary), the new release will support 24-bit color, CMYK, CMY, RGB, HLS and PANTONE color models, and

also supports TIFF, PCX and EPS file formats in the 24-bit mode.

Ventura simultaneously announced a suite of color extension products including *Ventura Scan*, *Ventura Separator*, *Ventura PhotoTouch* and *Ventura ColorPro*, ranging in price from the color scanning module at \$395, to the *ColorPro* color correction and separation module that lists at \$3995.

Owners of *Ventura Publisher* DOS/GEM and Windows versions can upgrade to 4.0 for \$129. OS/2 and Macintosh owners can upgrade for \$195, and the retail cost of the new Ventura version lists at \$795.

Back on the convenience Front -- LaserTools' new Printer Control Panel

Thought I'd end on a fun note this month. I reported on the LaserTools *Printer Control Panel* utility for PostScript printers much earlier this year as part of the review of the Adobe PostScript cartridge for the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet II printer.

I really liked the utility which switches the printing mode between PostScript, HP PCL (Printer Command Language) and ASCII text modes on PostScript and PostScript cartridge-equipped laser printers. You only have to send a PostScript job to a printer in PCL mode once to have similar feelings.

The Printer Control Panel is a TSR that takes 6K of DOS memory. I normally don't like, and won't use, TSR's, but this one is different because it's truly useful -- especially for printers on a network. Glad they released it for the general market.

Printer Control Panel lists at \$149. Contact LaserTools at (800) 767-8004.

Reagan

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 56 in a Series



Telecommunications

by Jim Hoisington

Technological innovation usually leads to broad economic and political changes. Consider the impact of the innovation in transportation; the steam ship, the railroads, and the automobile on the history of the United States. I have been involved with computers since 1961 and seen their immense impact on the world. But, if I had to pick a technology that will have the most impact on our lives in the last decade of this millennium, it would be telecommunications.

The revolution in telecommunications is already changing the way we live. By the year 2000, many institutions that Americans take for granted will either be totally changed or no longer in existence. This column will focus on the impact that telecommunications technology is having on the U.S. Postal Service.

A software company recently sent me an invitation to attend a conference for user group presidents. To make sure that I received the invitation, they sent it by Express Mail. Since the NTPCUG maintains a Post Office Box as its address, the Postal Service did NOT deliver the letter. Instead they left a notice in the P.O. Box telling me that I had a package at the Post Office that services our P.O. Box. (Our Box is not located in a Post Office but it is a real US Postal Service box.)

Since I normally pick up our box on the weekend, it was Monday before I could take off from work and drive over to the Post Office to get the Express Mail letter. The clerk informed me that I was lucky because the Postal Service was about to return the letter to the sender because I didn't pick it up within 5 days.

Contrast that with the invitation from Software Publishing that I received this spring. Prior to publishing the invitation, they left a message on my answering machine telling me to call their voice mail 800 number and leave a fax number or an address where I could receive a Federal Express overnight letter. Guess which conference was best attended.

It used to be that the Postal Service made money by delivering mail to businesses. A lot of heavy documents and packages in one truck going to one location generated a lot of revenue. This "profit" or surplus revenue was used to pay for all those Postal Service people walking from house to house deliver-

ing just a few relatively light letters and packages which generated much less revenue.

The package delivery services, fax machines, and computers have eliminated most of the mail going to businesses. Recently, telecommunications technology has started to reduce the amount of mail going to homes.

The first to disappear were personal letters. The economics of long distance telephone service have made it economical to call someone rather than writing them a letter.

That left home delivery with bills, magazines and advertising flyers. Banks are now beginning to offer automated billing and bill paying by telephone.

With the reduced income from first class mail, the Postal Service is forced to raise rates on the remaining items they deliver. However, raising rates will eventually make it profitable for other companies to come in and offer to deliver magazines and advertising flyers on a once a week or twice a week basis.

The Postal Service has made a lot of progress using bar coding and character recognition device to automate the handling of documents once they enter the system. But, no matter how efficient they become at handling documents, it cannot match the speed of electronic delivery of high priority documents via computer and facsimile.

With the loss of first class mail, I doubt that the taxpayers can afford to pay the true cost of home delivery as it now exists. By the year 2000, daily home delivery of documents will probably only exist in the history books.

Jim

Case Management Forum

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, October 19, 1991

WHO: Bachman Information Systems, Inc. will be demonstrating their Model Driven Development and Re-Engineering CASE tool.

WHEN: Presentation at 9:00 a.m. with a Demonstration beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed immediately by a question and answer session.

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Selected **SIG Happenings**

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to K.B. Barton, SIG Coordination, before the 10th day of each month)

A message from the SIG Coordinator

My replacement is here. No I'm not leaving. Next year, as President, will be enough to keep me busy. Jim Hoisington can attest to that, since he has been doing three jobs; President, Membership Director, and Mailman.

K.B. Barton, who has served in the capacity of Assistant SIG Coordinator, is now the SIG Coordinator. These duties include completion of the following newsletter "SIG Happenings", scheduling meeting rooms with the CCD, scheduling equipment for the Saturday SIG meetings, and helping new Special Interest Groups get started.

I want to thank the SIG Leaders and Assistant Leaders for their patience, support, and dedication. As volunteers they spend a great amount of time preparing and teaching on Saturday. They made my job as SIG Coordinator much easier.

Andy Oliver

Assembler SIG

Our September meeting featured a presentation and discussion on the use of a C compiler in generating Assembler code. With the use of inline Assembly and modified startup code, one can generate relatively small programs.

Our October meeting will feature a presentation by Andrew Chalk on Serial Communications.

Frank Cavallito

Business Applications/DacEasy SIG

The "Express Publisher" from Power-Up! Software presentation by Bruce Schubert at the August meeting was both well attended and well received, according to all reports. Bruce reported better than average attendance and made me wish that I could have been there.

By the time you read this, we will have had the long awaited presentation of one of the PC/VCR interface

programs. If I don't ever use this technology, I still want to see this demo and be aware of what can be done.

In October, we are going to review the new Dac Accounting version 4.2 Upgrade and have an opportunity to respond to present and prospective users of Dac Accounting Software. We have scheduled a demonstration of Version 4.2 for our meeting on November 16, but we will have some handouts at the October 19th meeting so that those interested will be ready to ask all the right questions in November. We would have had the demo in October if our meeting hadn't coincided with Fall Comdex! I'm sure that, by November, we will have some users who have already upgraded to 4.2 and will have a few meaningful questions and comments.

Putt Shaw

Communications SIG

We're continuing to utilize the expertise of our membership to demo various types of communications

software, and to review the pros and cons of their favorite on-line systems. In September, David Martin demonstrated the CompuServe on-line system, a pay as you go service containing a wealth of information, software, etc. In addition, we examined yet another communications software package, Telix, while connecting to Compuserve.

In October, plans are to demo Bltcom communications software. In the months thereafter, we plan to review other communications packages such as Mirror, Hyperaccess, Carbon Copy, etc. And UDS, a maker of modems, has expressed an interest in updating us on ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), a high speed way of communicating over phone lines in either voice or data format. Details later.

Do you have a favorite communications package, BBS or on-line service? Show us! Just contact Bill Green or myself, and we'll make you a Comm SIG star!! Remember, we are an organization of volunteers, and none of us are experts on EVERYTHING. So, please share your knowledge.

See you at the Comm SIG!!

Doug Gorrie

C++ SIG

In September, we began our discussions with a look at the assembly language code that is generated by virtual and non-virtual functions. We used the examples that Tom presented in August as our first samples, and then moved on to some of the ones used in the project.

In October, we will take a look at how well C++ lives up to its claims of reusability. We'll be building a new application, a text file viewer, from the base classes we're using for the shell, and examining how much of the effort we put into the shell carries over to the file viewer. (The source code for the file viewer should be available on the BBS a week or so before the meeting.)

Also in October, time permitting, we'll start looking at the next major project phase, data input. This will be an area that should be of interest to the C programmers as well as the plus-plusers.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

DOS SIG

What will be the impact of DOS 5.0 support from Microsoft moving to Dallas? Does this mean we'll be able to get these new DOS experts involved in the DOS SIG?

Meanwhile, will Jim Holsington, NTPCUG past and present President, really switch to DR DOS 6.0 out of frustration? Since Novell will be entering the OS picture in a big way, this may be down the road for LAN users if media rumors are to be believed concerning Novell's plans for their new acquisition.

October's DOS SIG Meeting should be a lot of fun, coming a few days before COMDEX/Fall '91 and expected announcements from IBM, Microsoft, Novell/DRI, et al. We'll terminate (with no prejudice at all) in the usual Q & A session devoted to untangling the twisted morass of device drivers, TSR's, BIOS versions and other diversions enjoyed by our members (usually late at night or early in the morning hours) in their pursuit of the perfect system.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

The August 24 meeting had 43 members. The first portion of the meeting was devoted to teaching of MS DOS basic principals to help genealogy people better understand how to organize and troubleshoot their genealogy data. The latter portion was a continuation of the family reunion program from the month before.

The September 28 meeting will again present MS DOS basic principals for the first 15 minutes, followed by a presentation by Banks McLaurin who has written a book on the Bledsoe Family History.

GENTEX 92 is coming next January, most probably January 18. Funding is being underwritten by the CCD and the NTPCUG. Certain committee chairpersons have been appointed. These are Program Coordinator Travis Morris, Facilities Coordinator A.C. Williams, Promotional Materials, Joyce Jones, Syllabus Content and Preparation, Art Ruback and Joe Sissom, Discussion Moderator, Pat Hatcher, Treasurer Ray Burton, and Vendor Table Participation DeWayne Lener.

Al Sanford

LAN SIG

WordPerfect Corp. did an excellent job presenting the features of WordPerfect Office to us in the August meeting. The September LAN SIG meeting was led by Francis Bright who discussed the latest version of Novell Netware for the 386 - Netware 3.11.

In October we will resume our LAN seminar series. The schedule for the remaining sessions is: @LIST HV SMTAB = Oct Topologies & Access Methods - Part 2

NovInstallation Considerations
DecLAN Case Studies
JanAdministration Considerations
FebSeminar Summary
MarVendor Presentation

Come join us at 10am.

Bernie VanRoekel

Computer Law SIG

Nikole McBride, Regional Manager for WordPerfect Corporation and her associate, Tom Crabb, Large Account Director, will be at our OCTOBER Computer Law SIG meeting demonstrating how WordPerfect benefits the legal industry. Ms. McBride plans to raffle off some gifts from WordPerfect at our meeting. So if you have any questions regarding WordPerfect in the legal industry, this is the place to be! See ya at noon!

Debra Rangel

Lotus SIG

At the September meeting, Betty Brooks presented an application that she has been working on called Fast-Est. Betty is our new Assistant Lotus SIG Leader fresh from her duties as Lotus SIG Leader from the Houston user group. Fast-Est is a 1-2-3 estimating model for insurance adjusters and building contractors. As of this writing (9/8/91), Betty's client, Kelly Tay, who is vice president of Fast-Est, Inc. was also planning to attend the meeting. Betty presented several tips, tricks, and techniques that she used in developing the application. Among the items presented were some pitfalls of the Macro Manager add-in - particularly with respect when changing libraries. This presentation was Betty's first to the group, but certainly not her last.

At the October meeting, a number of things will happen. One quick item will be the vital statistics of Mark's first baby. After the statistics, the Lotus stuff will commence. The first item will be a review and demonstration of the WorkSheet Optimizer (WSO) from Brubaker Software. WSO optimizes your spreadsheet by eliminating unused cells, shortening macro commands, streamlining formulas, and other optimization techniques. For a complete evaluation, see the review in next month's issue. After WSO, Viewer and Auditor will be presented. Viewer and Auditor are two new add-ins that are shipped with 1-2-3 release 2.3. Viewer allows users to easily link to other 1-2-3 files and essentially adds Magellan capabilities of viewing files to 1-2-3. Auditor brings some spreadsheet auditing capabilities to 1-2-3. While the auditing capabilities are not as complete as some stand alone programs, they do help to insure that formulas are correct. If you have to figure out someone else's spreadsheet, Auditor is a lifesaver. Finally, Betty will present Forms-To-Go from Intex Solutions. Forms-To-Go is a collection of standard business forms done with 1-2-3 and the spreadsheet publishing capabilities of WYSIWYG and/or Allways.

WANTED: The Lotus SIG is looking for a computer for use during monthly user group meetings. Specifically, a small footprint 386 or 386SX PC with VGA, 4M of RAM, 60-80M hard disk. From 8:45 am to approximately 12:30 pm the computer would be used by group members to access CD\Prompt which is a CD containing Lotus product demonstrations, technical support notes, Lotus Magazine, updated add-ins, updated print and display drivers and other information. During the Lotus SIG the p.c. would be used to give the presentation. The machine might also be used for other purposes. If you would like more information or wish to donate a machine, please contact Mark Gruner at his home phone number on the back cover of this newsletter.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions concerning spreadsheet products. If you have one, come on by in October.

Mark Gruner

Paradox SIG

I have tentative plans for the Quattro/Paradox linking presentation originally scheduled for the May meeting to be presented at the October SIG.

Big things are imminent from Borland in the Last Quarter 91/First Quarter 92 time frame. Those of you who attended the September SIG know what I'm talking about. AND the upgrade will only be \$139.00!

Although it is not a done deal even as I write this, it looks like the future of DBase is very much secure. But I do foresee a time in the future when relational databases will have evolved to an "open" architecture and you will be free to mix and match the "front end" (other common names: client, user interface, GUI, Windows, etc.) of your choice with any "Back end" (other common names: server, database engine, etc.)

We already know that the next release of Paradox will have a much greater freedom from the actual source of data be it Dbase files, Paradox tables, Novell Btrieve, and etc. You can bet that future versions of DBase will offer the same data source transparency.

Well, drop by and see what's happening this month with Quattro and Paradox. I'm still promoting a pre-release show of the new Paradoxes. So far I'm not making much progress, but as time passes the possibility increases.

A word of warning. I have to do these reports so far in advance that you will not know I have preempted any scheduled meeting for a new product "preview" presentation if it happens. I recommend checking the BBS near meeting time each month, or drop by the SIG on meeting day.

See you at the next SIG meeting.
Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

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

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the "fundamentals of personal computers." Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (2nd or 3rd Saturday on the 7th floor of the Infomart in Dallas). After four monthly meetings (covering four classes each), we take a month off and then 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 (except our month off) 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 October 1991 will be:

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

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

Kent Kingery started the SIG with a presentation of Visual Basic.

A few minutes into the presentation, a tall gentleman in the back of the room with an Australian accent challenged Kent. He claimed it was neither visual nor was it Basic. With many comparisons to the process visualization techniques used in Professional Basic, he convinced the SIG that Visual Basic just didn't make the grade.

Check out the PRO Sig this month when Dr. Neil Bennett, the originator of the PRO Sig, returns with his latest product - Professional Autocoder.

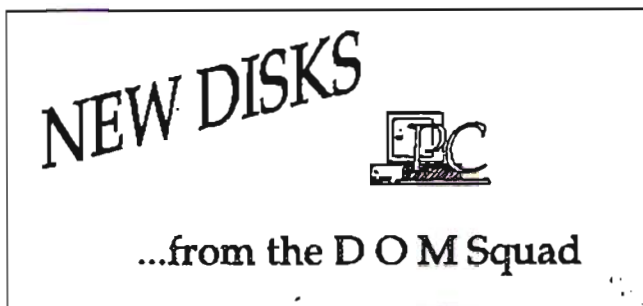
Jim Hoisington

TI Pro SIG

Well, folks, it's deadline time for the old column again, and your sometime columnist has, uh, what do you call it when, uh..., you know, when you can't think of, uh, what to, uh, you know, like, write about...? It's right on the tip of my tongue, but I can't quite think of it. Oh well, it'll come to me sooner or later.

I guess I could report what happened at the September meeting. Oh, wait a minute, the September meeting hasn't been held yet. Well, then maybe I could describe what it's like to be caught in a time warp. I have experience with that (trying to write a column for this newsletter, among other things).

Nah, you don't care about that. So what is the subject of this column going to be? I suppose I could mention that there was a new TI Pro disk of the month at the August meeting. But those of you who were there aren't interested in that. You already know it contained CONTACT v.3.21, the new version of the mail and phone list program created by Orion Hill of the Santa Clara Valley TIPC Users' Group; DDIR21, a subdirectory lister; FCOPY, a flexible and selective copy command; FF-LF, a pair of programs that send a formfeed command or from 1 to 30 linefeed commands to your printer; KA, a kaleidoscope-type graphics program; PKLITE v.1.12, the newest version of PKWare's program that compresses executable files and leaves them executable; PROMPTS, a collection of six prompts; and VIEW, an improved ASCII file browser that lets you choose between two combinations of colors.



Disk 640. DARK AGES, Vol. I: Prince of Destiny, 7/91 - Arcade Game, Apogee Software Productions, P.O. Box 476389, Garland, Texas 75047-6389. 214/240-0614, Programmed by Todd Replogue, Allen Blum and Keith Scheled. Shareware Fee = \$15 or \$30.

Dark Ages is the first shareware game to support (but not require) the Ad Lib and Sound Blaster music cards. The EGA or VGA graphics are colorful and stunning, with fast scrolling screens and high-speed animation. Dark Ages has such demanding graphics and animation that it requires an 80286 (or 80386) machine to run at proper speed, otherwise it may run too slowly.

In the game, you're the Prince of the Great Kingdom, who, as a child watched your father die at the hands of Garth, a power mad warlord with uncanny magical abilities. Garth sent you away from the Great Kingdom to be raised as a peasant, and to never fulfill your destiny as the future King.

But Garth made a terrible mistake. The very peasant he choose to raise you was once the Kingdom's greatest hero, long since retired and forgotten. And over the years you were raised as a warrior and as champion of justice, and the time has come for you to claim your heritage, and free the Great Kingdom from the dark age of Garth.

"Prince of Destiny" is volume one of the Dark Ages trilogy (\$15). Only part one is available via shareware distribution, the other two volumes ("The Undead Kingdom" and "Dungeons of Doom") may be purchased directly from Apogee Software Productions (ASP).

You can order (and register) all three volumes for just \$30. Each volume has its own unique appearance, with different goals, level designs and locations. Each volume has 10 huge scrolling levels packed with devious traps, creatures and treasures.

Registered players will also receive a secret password, which can be used to activate a "child level" mode, and also an auto-fire mode, so you can hold down the fire key for continuous shots! As an incentive to order all three volumes, you'll also receive a hint sheet, a cheat mode password, and new bonus games from ASP, plus, you'll be able to call the Dark Ages hints line or mail questions to ASP for assistance.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 400k free RAM, and EGA or VGA (CGA is not supported). Other features include built in instructions, save and restore, permanent high scores, sound on/off, flexible keyboard configuration, and three skill levels.

This disk was donated by Shawn Dunn.

Review was prepared by Shawn Dunn, edited by John Puckette (8/91).

Disk 641. Brandon's Lunchbox, 11/90 - Educational Games for Kids 3-7 Years, Joey Robichaux, P.O. Box 91016-199, Baton Rouge, La. 70821. Shareware registration fee: \$5.00.

Brandon's Lunchbox is a series of educational programs for kids 3 to 7 years old. There are six games in The Lunchbox:

Game 1. Upper Case Letter Matching. The Lunchbox displays an upper case letter. The player tries to press the upper case key matching this letter.

Game 2. Upper and Lower case letter matching. The Lunchbox displays a lower case letter. The player tries to press the upper case key corresponding with this lower case letter.

Game 3. Memory / Problem Solving. The Lunchbox displays a series of ten doors. They are number "1", "2", "3", "4", "5", "6", "7", "8", "9", and "0". The Lunchbox displays a picture of an object in the center of the screen. The player tries to guess which door conceals a matching object.

Game 4. Counting Game. They must press the number key that describes the number of objects on the screen.

Selected SIG Happenings continued

Since you don't want to read about any of that, what shall I write about? I've been thinking and thinking, and nothing is coming to me. There's a name for this condition. It's, uh, it's.... Eureka!! I've got it: Writer's block! Finally, I've thought of a subject I know enough to write about. It's too bad I'm out of time and space. See you at the October meeting.

Norman Rogers

Word SIG

Because of COMDEX/Fall '91, and expected announcements from

Microsoft concerning Word for Windows 2.0, and the DOS Word product(s), we'll have a general Q & A session in the October Word SIG Meeting.

We're planning presentations on Word's MACRO language utilization in versions 5.0, 5.5 and WfW 1.1 for later this Fall, as well as a demonstration of Word for Windows 2.0 as soon as it's reasonably out of Beta Testing.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

THE WAIT IS OVER

The long awaited WP for Windows is finally here and is scheduled for its official release during October or November of this year. October 15 at 9:00 a.m. is the day to pencil in on your calendar for the sneak preview of this exciting new product. Visit with WP representatives that will be on hand to assist you in exploring the possibilities of WP for Windows and answer any questions that you may have.

K.B. Barton

Game 5. Numeric Sequence Game. Players are drilled in number relationships on a number line. Players receive a starting number between 1 and 9. They must first select the proper number just less than the given number, then select the next number greater than the given number. They'll receive a hint if they guess wrong.

Game 6. Addition drill. Player is given an addition problem. If an incorrect answer is given, pictorial helps are given.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: CGA Graphics, 640K memory, DOS 2.1 or higher.

This disk was donated by the author, Joey Robichaux.

This review prepared by K.M. Branscome, edited by Virginia Salter (8/91).

Disk 642. Publish your Programs 1.1, 8/90 - How to Publish Your Programs. Taegan D. Goddard, 35 Woodside Circle, Hartford, CT 06105. Shareware registration fee: \$20.00.

GUIDE.EXE is a text reading program that allows the user to read any of the very well written topics on the steps necessary to successfully publish a program. The information is highly recommended for all you budding program authors who wish to publish programs.

Some of the topics covered are: Software market characteristics, Business Software, Educational Software, Recreational Software, Personal and Home Productivity Software. Developing your software package, choosing a programming language, compatibility with other platforms, writing efficient code, choosing a program name, writing the manual, finding a publisher. Publishing it yourself, marketing your software package, market research, packaging your software, listings in software directories, breaking into the software distribution channels, and Shareware distribution.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 256K RAM and DOS 2.1 or higher; will work with any monitor.

The source of this disk was the author, Taegan D. Goddard.

This review prepared by K.M. Branscome, edited by Virginia Salter (8/91).

Disk 643. Mail List Manager 3.34, 10/89 - A Mail List Manager, Port Finder 2.3, 10/89, I/O Port Lister & Swapper, & Port Test Utilities. James D. McDaniel, 7426 Cornwall Bridge Ln., Houston, TX 77041-1709, (713) 462-7687. Shareware registration fee: \$27.50.

MAILALL is a versatile mail list manager program. It will maintain addresses, phone numbers and the like, and print mailing labels. It will accommodate 4000 addresses per 1 Meg of hard disk, or 1440 addresses on a 360K floppy. Features include: user selected colors, State abbreviation help, case conversion, search, records saved on entry, records retrieved by any field or by several fields, supports MailMerge files in WordStar and Multimate Advantage formats, single and dual field sorting, print sprocket feed and single envelopes, mouse support, Novell network COMPATIBLE, and full file locking is present. There are 12 fields of information for each record.

MAILALL supports practically any monitor, needs 512K RAM under DOS, and 640K under Windows, requires DOS 2.1, but DOS 3.1 or later is recommended, and requires 2 floppies minimum, hard disk recommended.

PORT FINDER, PF.COM 2.3 by James D. McDaniel: PF.COM when executed with no command line parameters displays System type, Bios Date, DOS version, Display Adapter type as well as COM and LPT ports responding with corresponding addresses. PT.ZIP contains the 3 self-documenting Port Test Utilities.

This disk was donated by Terry Knudson.

This review prepared by K.M. Branscome, edited by John Puckette(8/91).

Disk 644. ASQ 1.3, 4/91 - Memory Analysis and Training Product. Qualitas, Inc., 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

ASQ is an analysis and training product from Qualitas, Inc. ASQ will: analyze your computer system, display useful information about its configuration, teach you memory management, system configuration, and hardware concepts.

ASQ shows how your computer's memory resources are currently being used, and introduces the concept of memory management. Memory management is necessary in today's powerful personal computers to work around the limitations imposed by DOS and to provide complex application programs with the memory they need. ASQ helps you learn how a memory management program might make your system more productive.

ASQ can be used as a learning tool, an analysis tool, or both. To receive the most value from ASQ, you may want to use the features in this order: Finish reading Introduction to ASQ (this section). Choose About Memory Management from the Main Menu for an introduction to memory management concepts. Choose Tutorial Introduction from the Tutorial Menu to learn about the tutorial system. Scan the Glossary topics on the Tutorial Menu to refresh your knowledge of computer terms used in the tutorial lessons. Read the tutorial lessons on computer memory, configuration, and hardware for an in-depth study of these topics. Using the System Analysis Menu, learn about your computer system's components, configuration, and technical attributes. For a taste of the features in ASQ, a self-running demo option allows you to sit back and watch each ASQ analysis function execute automatically.

How you set up and configure your computer's memory has a dramatic impact on its effectiveness. If you decide that a memory management program might increase your efficiency, read the Qualitas Products lesson on the Main Menu for information on specific memory managers.

Software donated by the publisher, Qualitas, Inc.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (8/91).

Disk 645. What's Best DEMO, 2/91 - 1-2-3 Solution Optimizer Add-in. Lindo Systems, Inc., PO Box 148231, Chicago, IL 60614, (800) 441-BEST.

What's Best is an add-in for 1-2-3 version 2.01 and higher (including 3.1), Symphony version 1.1 and higher, or Quattro 2.0 and higher. What's Best determines the optimal solution of a spreadsheet based on user defined inputs, constraints, and other parameters and is published by Lindo Systems. The personal version handles 400 variables, 200 constraints, requires 256K of memory, and retails for \$149.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: This demo requires an IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2, or compatible with 512K of memory.

The demo includes a list of commands to run the demo. The F6 function key causes the demo to operate with much keyboard activity. The demo includes four sample applications including manufacturing, staff scheduling, finance, and agriculture. Other menu items in the demo include, Introduction, responses (to What's Best), hardware and software requirements, and other Lindo Systems products.

This demonstration disk was prepared with IBM StoryBoard and walks the user through several sample applications of What's Best.

What's Best relies on linear programming to determine the optimal solution of spreadsheets. Consequently, all optimized formulas in a spreadsheet must be linear. Essentially linear equations include two cells on two different rows. For instance, the formula +A1*B1 is a linear equation while +A1*A2 is not. Linear programming is a technique that uses straight lines to define the parameters of a problem. While this type of optimization works great for many situations, it does not work well on non-linear functions. Linear

programming is generally used to allocate limited resources for maximum effectiveness.

Examples include determining the production mix based on current inventory to produce the maximum profit, or scheduling staffing needs at a minimal cost.

What's Best requires several steps to optimize a spreadsheet. Step 1 is to specify constraints. To identify constraints, invoke the add-in and press the <, >, or = key to specify less than, greater than, or equal as constraints. Step 2 is to identify those cells that can be adjustable during the optimization. Step 3 specifies the cell to maximize or minimize. And the final step is to optimize the spreadsheet. There are additional options, but these 3 steps are all that is needed.

This software was donated by Lindo Systems.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(8/91).

Disk 646. Ice DEMO from Baler, 8/91 - 1-2-3 Compiler-like Add-in. By Baler Software, 1400 Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, (800) 327-1608.

Ice is a 1-2-3 release 2.2 or 2.3 add-in that turns 1-2-3 into a better, more powerful, and more secure application development environment. Ice is published by Baler Software which also publishes the 1-2-3 spreadsheet compiler named Baler. Ice essentially brings the capabilities of Baler into the 1-2-3 spreadsheet environment as an add-in. Ice adds better security, screen and interface customization, and a host of other capabilities. All this and a run time engine so that others can use your "Iced" applications. Ice brings these capabilities by adding over 70 macro commands to 1-2-3. Ice is also compatible with Baler's spreadsheet compiler - Baler.

This demo of Ice was created with 1-2-3 and Ice and then compiled with Baler XE 1.0. Baler XE is a spreadsheet compiler that does not require 1-2-3. However, everything seen in this demo is possible from the combination of 1-2-3 and Ice.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: This demo requires an IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with 640K of memory.

One major advantage that Ice has over spreadsheet compilers is that Ice is compatible with many other add-ins. Ice is compatible with Wyslywyg, Auditor, and Viewer that are shipped with 1-2-3 version 2.3. Ice, however, is not compatible with the Macro Manager add-in. Other add-ins that Ice is compatible with include @BASE (Personics), SeeMore (Personics), Sideways (Punk), and others. The ability to use the security of Ice as well as your favorite add-ins can be a real plus - particularly if you are a 1-2-3 consultant or if you have to have your favorite add-ins.

One advantage that Ice brings to 1-2-3 is better security. Consider an invoicing application that you want your clerical staff to use. In a 1-2-3 model, they might inadvertently delete rows in your inventory database, change formulas, or create other problems. Ice could secure this application so that none of these problems would happen. The result is a cleaner and more secure model. Further, you and your staff would feel better about the integrity of the spreadsheet and sleep better at night.

Ice can also change the 1-2-3 interface so that it does not even look like 1-2-3. How about changing colors of 17 different screen items - Ice can do that. If you like pull-down menus, Ice can do that too. Ice can also do dialog boxes, user defined and user placed messages, adding titles to the top and bottom of the screen, and eliminate the 1-2-3 border. As you can imagine, 1-2-3 may look like 1-2-3 ever again with Ice.

This software was donated by Baler Software.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(8/91).

Disk 647. Excel 3.0 DEMO, 12/90 - Demo of Windows Spreadsheet. Microsoft Corporation, Demo written by Accent Software, Inc.

Excel 3.0 is the latest version of Microsoft's spreadsheet for Windows. This new version includes an icon Toolbar to provide easy access to common commands such as summing a range, bold, italics, graphs, and justification. Version 3.0 is also significantly faster than the previous version. Excel also offers a wide assortment of drawing tools.

This demonstration illustrates some of the many features of Excel, including: the icon bar and how to use it, on-screen graphs, annotation features, intelligent consolidations, and help for 1-2-3 users.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Hardware requirements for the demo disk are unknown, but it was reviewed on a VGA monitor. A high density disk drive is also required.

This software was donated by Microsoft.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (8/91).

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A Shorter Path to Windows Data Files

by Bob Fowler

By placing Windows programs (such as Word for Windows, Excel, or Ami, etc.) in subdirectories under the "windows" directory, I can keep my root directory better organized, with fewer directories to clutter the screen. I also like to keep the data files associated with these programs in a subdirectory under the parent directory (e.g., "xldata" as a subdirectory under "excel" and "wvdocs" as a subdirectory under "winword"). Doing this makes it easier to identify data files that I have created as opposed to those that might have come with the program. It also allows me to back up my data files more easily and quickly.

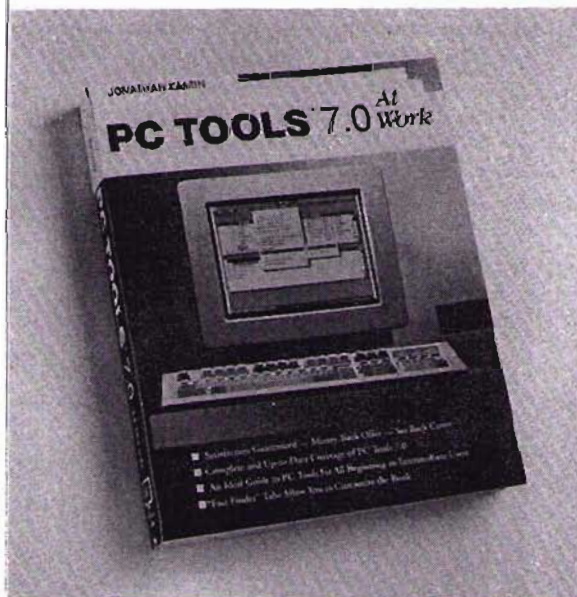
This method of organization creates problems with my path statement if I want quick access to these programs without having to initiate Windows, select the program icon, wait for the program to load, select the proper subdirectory, and then select the data file I need to work on. For example, if I want to work on

an Excel data file named "budget.xls" by typing "win excel budget" at the command prompt, my path statement must contain "C:\windows", "C:\windows\excel", and "C:\windows\excel\xldata" or I will receive the error message "file not found." Furthermore, this expression uses 51 (including separating semicolons) of the maximum 126 characters that are allowed in a path statement, so that several of these expressions severely limit the number of directories that can be included in the path.

Moreover, if I enter Excel by typing "win excel" at the command prompt and create a new data file, I must remember to switch to the data subdirectory before saving the file. If I don't, my data file will be placed in the directory from which I started Windows. It is disconcerting to have worked on a file for some time and then realize that it does not exist where I expect it to be, only somewhat later to find that I have saved it in my root directory.

I have solved the problem of a too-long path statement and "lost" data files while maintaining my preferred organization by creating short batch files for each of my Windows programs that have data subdirectories. An example and explanation follows.

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All of my Windows programs reside on my C drive. If you want to use a similar batch file, you will need to adapt it for your logical drive and directory structure. I have placed this batch file (and all of my batch files) in a subdirectory named "BAT", which I included in my path statement (requiring only 17 characters instead of 51 - the number 17 includes the "C:\windows" directory, which must also be in the path statement for this batch file to work).

```
XL.BAT
cd c:\windows\excel\xldata
win c:\windows\excel\excel %1
cd c:\
```

The first line of the batch file "xl.bat" moves to the data subdirectory "xldata" of the subdirectory "excel". The second line opens Windows and Excel from the xldata subdirectory. This line allows me to begin a new data file with Excel and save it in the xldata subdirectory without having to remember to select that subdirectory. The replaceable parameter "%1" allows me to open an existing data file, for example "budget.xls", in the xldata subdirectory by typing "xl budget" at the command prompt. The last line merely brings me back to the root directory when I exit Windows. Similar batch files should work as well with other Windows programs that use data files.

Bob

Where did he come from, and does he have any brothers?

A hand came up in the back of the auditorium. One hundred people, two hundred arms, and my eyes instinctively narrowed in on the one that was raised. After being recognized, he stood up slowly and said, "I would like to volunteer." The crowd became still. Several in the audience knew this guy, and they thought that in his professional capacity he would not have the time nor the inclination to volunteer. I didn't know that, because in the User's Group, everyone is equal.

The crowd remained silent—then, as if a vow of silence was lifted, several more hands were in the air. Before the meeting was over, I had all of the volunteers needed for next month, and the person who normally did the telephoning could take the month off.

The group does not survive without volunteers. If the volunteers stop, or if the regulars "burn out", then the group cannot accomplish it's mission. You can help. You can make a difference.

Andy Oliver



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION North Texas PC Users Group

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Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

At the June meeting, David McGehee was seen wearing a VERY RED, very colorful "Hawaiian" shirt. David is NTPCUG Secretary, Hardware SIG Leader and Word SIG Co-Leader.

After much encouragement from other members who also showed up, coincidentally, wearing Hawaiian shirts, David posted himself outside the auditorium in an all-out lobbying effort to make each June meeting hereafter an annual Hawaiian shirt event. He is seen here trying to persuade skeptics Timothy Charmichael (our Program Chair) and Patrick Dryden.



Timothy Carmichael (left foreground), talking with David McGehee and Patrick Dryden. (Onlookers in background were not identified.)

What do you say, should we mark our calendars now for our **SECOND ANNUAL HAWAIIAN SHIRT FESTIVAL** next June?

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers listed below who served for the month of AUGUST. DOM volunteers are listed for the months of JULY and AUGUST. 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.

Thanks everyone!

INFOMART Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Gee Haleh
Chris Hugman
Tom McCormick
Charles Mattern
David Slavik
Stephanie Smith

BBS Champion
Leroy Tension

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

Information/Registration Booth
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Harvey Andrews
Dianne Arnold (Anchor)
John Arnold (Anchor)
Ralph Beaver (Anchor)
Randi Boucher (Anchor)
Walter Carroll
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)
Ralph Jackson
Edward Kelg
George LaBrie
Pehl. Lee
John Mackay
David Martin
Claude McClure (Anchor)
Charles Mooney (Anchor)
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
John Serrano
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)
Everett Turner (Anchor)

Jose Valendano (Anchor)
David Waldrup
Peyton Weaver (Anchor)
Paul Williams (Anchor)
Bob Wuller (Anchor)

Disk of the Month (DOM):

DOM Squad
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
Ron Anderson
Roy Bales
Ralph Beaver
Robert Bender
Stan Berlin
Ken Branscome
Gene Carleton
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Bill Drissel
Shawn Dunn
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Pat Henley
John Hopkins
Jo Johnston
Bob Karleback
Duane Martin
Bob Post

R. B. Reynolds
Virginia Salter
Elaine Stephens
Jerry Stone
Tom Theurer
Oscar Tyler
Claude Walston

With Special Thanks to:

Joe A. Allen
Ron Anderson
Roy Bales
Rob Bender
Gene Carleton
Charles Carter

Shawn Dunn
Pat Henley
John Hopkins
Virginia Salter
Oscar Tyler

DOM Review/Presentation
Mike Ashley (2 reviews)
K. M. Branscome (4 reviews)
Shawn Dunn
Mark Gruner (8 reviews)
Keruneth Loafman (3 reviews)
Ben Weatherall

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:

Auditorium Presentations	
Timothy Carmichael	681-4826 (w)
DOM Booth Activities	
Bill Drissel	284-9680 (h)
DOM Software Review	
Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information	
Connie Andrews	628-0699 (h)

The Adventures of PC Tech

Chapter 7

by Ben Thar

Training was progressing. New users were at the p.c.'s, and Mary started overhearing arguments about priorities and "It's my turn." After deliberating on whether to just ask management for more machines, PCT decided to set up sign-out sheets at each computer. When a user sat down, he/she was asked to log the time, their name, and the project. If a user needed to reserve time, up to one hour, they would use the same sheet. Mary Margaret figured that the sheets would show a pattern of usage and help justify additional equipment. Personnel attitudes improved once they understood that the monitoring was designed to get more equipment and to relieve congestion at the terminals.

The next problem to arrive was super-secretary. She had computer experience, she knew everything there was to know, and she demanded a 486 computer with eight megabytes of RAM, Super VGA color, a mouse, a 9600 baud modem, and a copy of the Iam-Perfect word processing program. She also reported to one of the mucky-mucks. PC Tech wrote up a proposal for purchase of a 386SX p.c. with 3 MB of RAM, VGA color, and the P.A.T. program that had a built-in word processor. Then, she explained to her boss what was going on. He said to proceed with caution, so as not to antagonize the user or her boss. PCT made an appointment with the boss, telling him the subject of the meeting and advising him that it was quite all right to have his new secretary involved in the meeting.

M.M. explained, "The 386SX with the following configuration is our standard machine. The programs that we run do not show a noticeable improvement on the 386DX or 486 machines that would justify the additional expenditure. The 3 MB of RAM are in consideration of future needs. Also, the programs that we currently use do not work or appear any better under Super VGA as opposed to VGA. The P.A.T. program is comprehensive and has suited our needs, and it is easy to learn and use. However, I will certainly look for reviews and comparisons of it versus the IamPerfect word processor. Our objective is to provide the user with the tools to do his or her job." The Vice President deferred to his new secretary with the comment, "Well, that sounds reasonable to me. Do you have any questions, comments or suggestions?" She thought fast and asked, "What about the modem?" Mary asked, "What will it be used for; and how often will it be needed?" The secretary said that she needed to do legal research through a database for her boss, because it was invaluable to her previous boss. Well, this was the first time that

her new boss had heard of this. He quickly took control of the situation and asked his secretary, "Would you please write up a proposal on the costs (which I'm sure Mary will help you with), the benefits, and the productivity gains that can be accomplished through such a system?" "Mary, can this modem be added at a later point?" Mary replied, "Yes, sir."

The meeting concluded with the VP thanking everyone for their time, and he asked Mary to order the equipment as she specified. Mary knew she had not heard the last from s.s. Another new hire came to PCT's attention when the new person called to say some of his Disk Operating System commands would not work, yet they would work on other machines. PCT found this to be curiously true. The FORMAT and EDLIN commands gave a message of "Incorrect DOS Version." Yet Mary knew that she had carefully ordered and used the same DOS version since the first computer appeared. She did a DIR of the root directory to the printer with the DIR PRN command, followed by a copy of the DOS sub-directory. Surprisingly enough, the COMMAND.COM files were different sizes and dates. Since Mary knew nothing of viruses, she did not suspect them. She talked with the user and the other users in the department and was finally able to extract the fact that the new guy, Freddie Bob Mack, was having difficulty with a program and figured that his home version of DOS was newer, therefore better, therefore he would load it and fix his problem. What Mary Margaret had to explain to Freddie Bob Mack was that mixing versions of DOS on a hard drive could have catastrophic consequences due to the different hard disk formatting schemes used from version to version. She was able to convince Freddie Bob Mack, somewhat, that she knew what she was doing, she was capable of resolving or finding someone who could resolve the problems he was experiencing, and to please call on her in the future when p.c. problems or questions arise. Freddie Bob appeared at her office door one day and asked, "If a person were to attempt to repair a noisy computer by tapping it on the side with a hammer (like he would with a stuck wheel on his office chair), could that cause it to give a message like HARD DISK DRIVE FAILURE?" PCT decided it was time for an end user literacy class.

stay tuned...





9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Video Image Processing With Your PC

Kinney Electronics Inc.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Introducing Legacy 2.0 for Windows

NBI

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Microsoft Solutions Series for Windows

Microsoft Corporation

(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
Quicklan
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
Basic Programming
Community Service
Family Roots - Grngly.
Roots III - Genealogy
TI Pro General Mtg.

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

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

12:00 - 12:55 cont
Computer Law
Investors
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
R:Base

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

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	K. B. Barton	(214)348-8690 h
	Andy Oliver	(214)747-0209 w
		(214)223-4044 h
		(214)871-5854 w
Assembler	Frank Cavallio	(214)423-9221 h
Basic Programming	Kent Kingery	(214)317-0308 w
		(214)317-0125 h
	Steve Dixon	(214)271-2292 h
		(214)205-2215 w
		(214)775-1503
Beginners C Lang.	Stan Milam	(214)233-8353 w
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)343-3862 h
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	(214)341-1890 w
	Tom Cook	(214)618-8002 h
Communications	Doug Gorrle	(214)484-7942 w
		(817)731-1308 h
Community Svc	Bill Green	(214)827-5751 h
	Jay Shalstone	(214)361-9681 w
Comp Aided Design	Bill Sephton	(214)296-1799 w
Computer Law	Debra Rangol	(214)635-8379 h
DAC Software	Purt Shaw	(214)689-9633 w
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		(817)962-4596 w
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		(817)481-6625 (h)
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	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
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		(214)317-0125 h
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		(214)229-9216 w
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		(214)634-2380 w
	Kurt Krider	(214)348-3766 h
Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	(817)287-0758 h
		(817)878-0367 w
	Jim Stallworth	(214)596-7807 h
		(214)604-2441 h
Windows Applic.	Arthur English	(214)828-0699
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)881-0202 h
	David McGehee	(817)387-9993 h
	Dorothy Bertina	(214)349-8690 h
WordPerfect	K.B. Barton	(214)747-0209 w
		(214)252-3514
	Mich Milam	



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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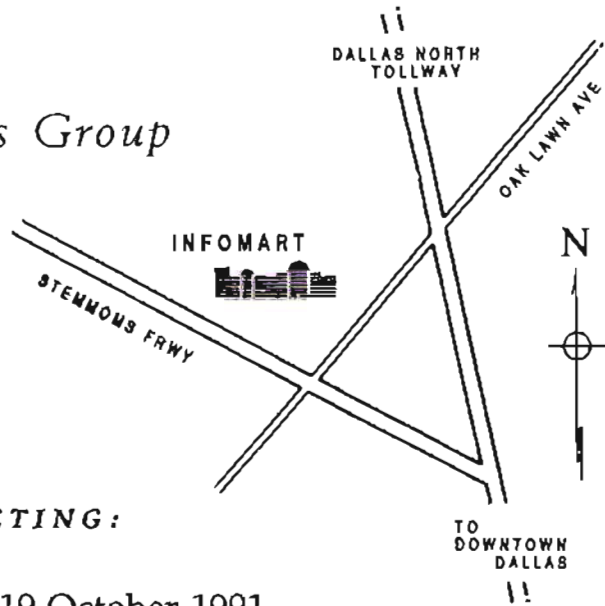
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