

North Texas  **NEWS**

North Texas PC Users Group

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Meeting Dates:

December Meeting - 2nd Sat.(14th)
January Meeting - 3rd Sat.(18th)
February Meeting - 2nd Sat.
(tentative)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*Give a paid-up membership
to someone for Christmas.*

Program for December _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **The Changing Database World --
Slick Application Design Without Programming**

Alpha Software Corporation

Allx Ginsberg, Director of Corporate & Gov. Sales

Allx Ginsberg of Alpha Software Corporation will address the changing nature of the database marketplace, focusing on the solid emergence of a non-programmer business user niche. Through a demonstration of Alpha Four Version 2 (Alpha Softwares' newest networkable version), Ginsberg will show how Alpha Four meets the needs of business users. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **DeScribe Word Processor for
Windows and OS/2**

DeScribe, Inc.

Dave Howard, Western Division Sales Manager

The DeScribe Word Processor brings subtle power to Windows and OS/2. Tables, sort, mail merge and indexing are easy to use and understand. Use the macro language to automate repetitive tasks, integrating them into your Mission Critical applications. The Text Toolbox and graphic ruler allow instant reformatting of text. Verify mixed-language text with the thesaurus, spelling checker or definitions dictionary. Multiple search and replace, two-way DDE, unlimited Undo and user-defined text layout options are just a few of the advanced features found in DeScribe. There will be a drawing for a free copy. *

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

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **OS/2 2.0, The Integrating Platform**

IBM

Wayne Caswell, IBM Personal Systems Marketing

IBM's OS/2 2.0 will be supported on IBM PS/2s and dozens of compatibles Integrating DOS, Windows, and OS/2 applications and allowing them to run concurrently. Come see why IBM claims that OS/2 2.0 is a better DOS than DOS, a better Windows than Windows, and a better OS/2 than OS/2. (The IBM showroom will be open from 11 a.m. to 12:45 and from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. to allow you to test drive an early version.) There will be a drawing for free copies of OS/2 2.0 and information on how to get copies at a discount. *

* 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

No Dues Increase For Now

For the last six months the Board of Directors have looking at our income and expenses. We have been running at a slight loss for the last 18 months. While many other user groups in the country are in serious financial difficulty, we are not.

The North Texas PC User's Group has never had a dues increase! That is an incredible record given that we are going to celebrate our Tenth Anniversary in February. And it looks like we are going to be able to continue the record for a while longer. We've found some areas where we could trim expenses.

In addition, using our demographics survey, I've been able to sell our mailing list several times. In addition, the demographics survey has convinced some computer vendors to advertise in the North Texas PC News. It means that the President has to spend some time each week writing letters but it pays off in increased awareness of our group and it sometimes gives us some income.

At this time, eight percent of our members have student memberships. We loose about six dollars on each student membership. When our current supply of brochures (which have our dues structure printed

Prez Sez continued

in them) are exhausted, we will raise our student dues to at least cover the expense of membership.

Membership News

Beside being President, I've also been the acting Membership Director for the past 2 1/2 years. Each month the position brings some new and exciting challenge. This last month was no exception.

Our paid membership at the end of October was 1,596.

Quickie Book Review

The NTPCUG often receives unsolicited software, books and video tapes in the PO Box. Yesterday we got an unsolicited book offer from Mike Murach & Associates. If you live in the IBM mainframe world, you'll recognize the name as being associated with books primarily dealing with DOS/VSE (IBM midframe operating system).

Recognizing the inevitable, Mike Murach & Associates have produced their first PC book: *The Only DOS Book You'll Ever Need*.

Their pitch to us was that they would sell the book at 40% off list to our members if we handled the orders including collecting the money. That's some extra work but I thought it might be worth it to the regulars in the DOS SIG if the book lived up to it's title.

It didn't! Checking out the chapter titled "Other DOS commands and techniques and why you probably won't use them", I found the first two DOS commands were ATTRIB and XCOPY. I always use ATTRIB to set COMMAND.COM, CONFIG.SYS, and AUTOEXEC.BAT to Read-Only (+R) status so that if someone accidentally copies a bootable floppy to the

root directory of the hard disk, the system on the hard disk won't be changed.

I regard XCOPY as one of the few real improvements in DOS between version 2.0 and version 5.0. I use it all the time and rarely use COPY.

These people do a creditable job on mainframe books but then it isn't hard to top the system manuals that come with DOS/VSE. When it comes to MS-DOS, they should have called this book, "The Only DOS Book You'll NEVER Need!"

My Last Prez Sez

Well, here it is. I've been doing this column on alternate years for six years and I've finally reached the last one. That's right, I'm NOT running for President-Elect next year. I've been an officer for 7 1/2 years and it's time to take a break.

During my six years as President / President-Elect we've grown from 400 members to 1,600 members. If you use the way APCUG wants to determine the size of the group, we are probably the second largest group in the country. That's a long way from the 12 people who were at the second meeting in March of 1982 when I joined.

Being President has been a lot of work and a lot of fun. There are so many people to thank, naming them would fill up the next two pages of the newsletter. Let me just say thanks for all the advice, criticism, suggestions and support.

And to my ex-Boss in Beaumont who said I wouldn't last two weeks in Dallas, I'd like to say Well, maybe I'd better not say it here.

My condolences to Andy Oliver who has to do this next year. I think Andy's just beginning to realize what he's in for. And again, thanks for having me as your President.

Jim Hoisington

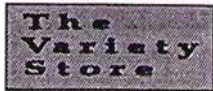
♠

Best Wishes

FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

AND FOR EVERY DAY OF THE COMING YEAR





COMDEX/Fall '91

by Reagan Andrews

386 Chips,
486 Chips,
Chips
and More Chips
Windows 3.1,
OS/2,
GUI,
GUI,
GUI,
Vaporware

A-T gone to Borland, but where was Compaq?

Ah, COMDEX/Fall '91 -- all the hype, glitter and promises from rug merchants anyone could wish. Interface Group's stellar computer show was everything we expected and more. It was also less than we really wanted. But, I still haven't found anything to match the "rush" of entering the first exhibit hall on the morning of the first day of the show. It's magnificent.

This year CPU chips were the stars of the show. CPU chips?

Software expectations were diminished by no-shows. WordPerfect still hadn't released *WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows*, IBM announced another delay in delivery of *OS/2 2.0*, *Windows 3.1* looked good, but still not released, Microsoft's rumored *Windows-NT* looked super -- what could be seen of it -- and no "stellar" surprises came forth from Novell/DRI or Apple/IBM.

I really wanted a "Block Buster" for this piece. Something to shout about in big (144 pt), bold, type (you know, the kind used to announce the US is at war -- or peace) and glowing prose.

People are the "real" Comdex

This year, like last year, the real stars of COMDEX/Fall '91 were the people there on both sides of the booths. Whether it was other spectators/participants swapping industry rumors in the halls, or just unusually candid exhibitors telling you, frankly, a competitor has a better product for your application, the people there make Comdex.

And, lots and lots of people make crowds -- Comdex crowds.

Crowds. Crowds were there, but not like those you'd expect at Comdex, or even like those at a Dallas Cowboys game with Washington. Crowds of eager (anxious) Comdex participants overflowed every non-Comdex facility after the show closed each day. Result was a mad dash for taxis and food. Restaurant seating was a premium commodity this year, but taxi lines were shorter than two years ago.

Did COMDEX/Fall '91 break records?

Probably not, in spite of Interface Group claims. Lack of real crowds made Comdex seem almost intimate for a change. Several exhibitors credited the flat economy and/or the rising tide of PC consolidations for the absence of real, Comdex-style crowds, but I felt maybe the show had reached saturation.

This year, Comdex followed on the heels of several major computer shows (just two weeks post-Networld) and lots of people are apparently cutting-back participation at the same time. Compaq (the Houston Clone Maker) cut back, and we discovered at the end of the show on Friday that Compaq's Rod Canion was cut as well.

Real indication of smaller-than-expected crowds was the aggressiveness of the exhibitors. More than once we had people from a nearby booth/exhibit approach us in the halls to come to their area and let them "run" our cards. This even occurred in the main convention area (Las Vegas Convention Center) on Thursday morning. Also saw lots of exhibitors playing computer games -- alone -- in other show areas.

Microsoft, Borland, WordPerfect and IBM saw crowds

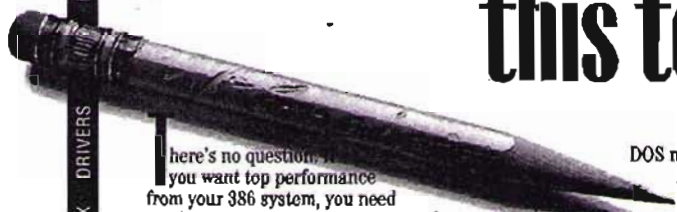
But, that ignores the big show. There were crowded areas at Comdex. Even by Friday, last day of the show, the Microsoft booth was so crowded that seeing *Windows 3.1*, *Works*, *Word for Windows 2.0*, and other Microsoft new releases was virtually impossible. Microsoft brought in 300 (according to rumor) people for Comdex which was believable.

Word for Windows 2.0 looked good. Microsoft may have solved a number of the problematic areas that have kept me from being very enthusiastic about this product in the past. *Works for Windows* looked just as good, and may surpass a number of other MS applications on the strength of its simplicity and ease of use.

Microsoft had several areas at Comdex in addition to the main Microsoft booth. This was also true of IBM,

RAM PAGEFRAME IPX MEMORY BIOS CACHE VGA MOUSE 386 BLUEMAX 486 HIGH DOS EGA INITIALIZE
640K WINDOWS ROM LIM EMS HMA DOS 5.0 XMS BUFFERS UMB 386MAX 486SX DRIVERS
NETWORKS TSRs BLUEMAX 386MAX
DRIVERS 386MAX 486SX UMB BUFFERS XMS DOS 5.0 HMA LIM EMS ROM WINDOWS 640K
INITIALIZE EGA HIGH DOS 486 BLUEMAX 386 MOUSE VGA CACHE BIOS MEMORY

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 means 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 \$156,* 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.

1-800-676-6386 ext. 417



*BlueMAX 174.95 386MAX 164.95 valid through October 31, 1991



The Intelligent Memory Managers™

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

COMDEX/Fall '91 continued

Novell/DRI and other exhibitors as well. Special areas for Multimedia and Local Area Networks (LANs) contributed to this trend which we saw last year as well.

The "Black Hole" -- Borland

Brigades of Borland folks started COMDEX/Fall '91 for us -- and everyone else. We were met at the Las Vegas airport Sunday by out-thrust T-shirts bearing the Borland message. I really used one of these, since I forgot my PJ's in the rush of packing. Thanks, Borland.

Borland had the most distinctive booth at Comdex (other than Seagate's spacious, easy-chair filled area that looked like an oasis for tired feet by Friday afternoon) which resembled the Tower of Mordor rising above the main hall clutter. Black and almost completely enclosed, the Borland booth was easily recognizable from any place in the hall.

The exhibit featured lots of Borland products, especially Windows versions of *Paradox* and *Quattro*, but gave me the creeps as a result of its darkness. May have been just my mood on first sight of the exhibit, but I found it slightly oppressive to be inside the area.

It was done with style, though, typical of Borland's founder Philippe Khan and may have been fun on another day.

IBM -- scored again?

IBM is the master of non-announcement announcements. They drew a standing crowd for their announcement that OS/2 2.0 would be delayed -- again -- during Comdex, but managed to pull off an excellent display area (or areas.) Although heavy on OS/2 and PS/2 PC's, the IBM area was set forth in a very convenient manner that allowed a lot of interaction with the various product experts.

First saw *Describe for OS/2* here last year and Describe, Inc. was back this year at both the IBM and Microsoft (*Windows*) exhibit areas. This is a super word processor that has an excellent grasp of the GUI interface and how to use it. Didn't seem to make any difference whether running on OS/2 or Windows, *Describe* is that good.

This was second year (in a row) that IBM has been gracious and allowed their exhibit employees to be candid about IBM products. Was really fun and refreshing when contrasted to Lotus and some other Comdex exhibitors.

"Hit" had to be WordPerfect

WordPerfect had the "Hit" display again this year if crowds are any criteria. Was somewhat quieter (lower in dB SPL), or my experience of last year's very high dB at WordPerfect may have sufficiently numbed by hearing that I couldn't tell how loud it was.

At any rate, by any SPL, WordPerfect drew the crowds -- even by late Friday afternoon. Don't know why. They had to have the silliest "show" since the infamous TOPS show two years ago. I was surprised that the *WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows* section wasn't equally crowded.

WP's Windows version looks OK, but somewhat strange compared to other Windows-based word processors. Recognized a lot of the DOS-based structure here which may be the reason, and which may attract former DOS users to the Windows product. Seemed a little faster than the ill-fated version shown last year, with no really significant crashes during the brief demo.

I think the straw cowboy hats may have been the real draw for WordPerfect this year, judging from the spectators I saw there. Had to be some reason for tolerating that show.

Chips - CPU Chips - 386 Chips

AMD showed a Cheshire-cat grin at Comdex when asked about possibility of following up on the 386 chip with a 486 chip. AMD also had a much larger booth at the Sands Convention Center than last year -- better sales?

Focus on the 287 market hasn't been lost, nor has multi-chip, 386 offerings for board makers. Almost every offshore clone maker had at least one or more boards powered by the AMD chip(s) -- repeating the trends seen locally.

AMD also had a Multimedia give away -- a disk touting the advantages of AMD chips with music and graphical interpretations. Would have been much more impressive if my PC had a good speaker attached. This trend may force me into purchase of a good audio board.

Chips & Technologies -- Best of breed

A good, really good, perspective on PC history came from an unexpected source -- Chips & Technologies. Basking in the recent release of their 386 and "Super" 386 chips, Chips and Technologies put on quite a show at the LVCC. ▶

Although C&T refused to comment on possible 486 chips to come, they did point out that the "Super" 386 chips had all the performance of the 486 and somewhat lower cost (so far) as a result of superior chip technology. (Yes, the play on words was intentional.)

I've always enjoyed visiting the C&T area (one of the few consistently good displays), but this year was special. C&T has always focused on OEM's in the past, but seemed to play to the casual Comdex visitor/ participant this year. Good marketing will always tell.

Cyrix -- Mum, but obviously active

Cyrix is a local, D/FW, concern. Saw them last year touting their very good math coprocessor (XXX87) chips. They were doing the same thing this year, but had moved further into the LVCC halls.

Industry rumors keep pointing to Cyrix as the next 386 chip maker. Asked about this at their Comdex booth and was met with yet another Cheshire-cat smile. Told Cyrix "Had no 386 announcement -- at this time," by one of the booth personnel.

Got back to Dallas after Comdex and saw (some time later, but within the margins allowed by *PC News* deadlines) that Cyrix had hired one of TI's (now former) patent attorneys. If you're getting ready to go head-to-head with Intel, you'll need somebody with this background.

Fun to talk to at any rate.

Intel -- King of the CPU Mountain

Intel is always fun. APCUG members were treated (see sidebar) to a brief talk from Intel viz their view of the future and thinly-veiled allusions to the coming XX586 chip Monday evening. ▶

PC User Group Events at COMDEX/Fall '91

NTPCUG President-Elect Oliver Scores H-P Printer at COMDEX

2 Years in a row for Dallas

Seemed like "deja vu all over again" when NTPCUG President-Elect Andy Oliver walked up to the stage at the Desert Inn Grand Ballroom.

Grinning all the way, Oliver graciously claimed the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet IIIP door-prize. Hewlett-Packard gave the new printer to the NTPCUG after the drawing at their Monday, October 21 Luncheon for PC Users Group officers on the opening day of COMDEX/Fall '91.

Andy will need it. He's looking forward to sending out 1600 membership renewal letters during his coming tenure as NTPCUG President. (Jim Hoisington, current NTPCUG President, gleefully emphasizes this all begins January 1, 1992.)

Last year, Nancy and Jim Hoisington (then President-Elect) scooped up a QMS 810 PostScript laser printer at a similar affair during COMDEX/Fall '90 sponsored by QMS. Both this year and last year's luncheons were functions arranged for PCUG officers by APCUG -- Association of PC Users Groups -- to establish better contact between PC vendors and PCUGs.

APCUG -- like NTPCUG -- keeps growing

Growth? This year, APCUG reflected its constant growth since its founding in 1987. More than 400 leaders and officers of PCUGs (PC Users Groups) from the US, Canada, Australia and Europe participated in COMDEX/Fall '91-related events throughout the show.

Major vendors hosted APCUG members to a series of receptions, dinners, breakfasts and luncheons organized

by APCUG. Even with a strictly-regimented RSVP system enforced by APCUG, attendance at these functions exceeded vendors' expectations -- and meeting room capacities. Jerry Schneider, former Capitol PCUG President and major force behind APCUG, reported that APCUG participation among PCUGs had doubled each year to everyone's surprise.

Seemed about right. Last year looked like about 200 participants, and the year before, about half that figure or roughly 100 PCUG officers.

PC Vendors excellent hosts

Vendor-sponsored events began early, with pre-Comdex functions beginning on Saturday and ending with a major reception/dinner hosted by IBM, Ziff-Davis and Lotus Sunday, October 20. Lots of interesting comments from IBM officials during the post-dinner talks, including a "historical" presentation on PC's.

Lots of makers were featuring the PC's 10th Anniversary with presentations based on their role in PC history. Some intended (and unintended) humor along with very different perspectives on who did what and when they did it. Even saw an early shot of an Apple founder with a "Blue Box." (Ask a member of the 60's counter-culture why that's funny.)

This pretty well set the pace for an extremely busy week.

Intel and Vivaldi: Intel sponsored a similar reception Monday evening with Intel VP Mike Aymar slipping out a few anecdotes about Intel CEO Andy Grove's opening presentation for COMDEX/Fall '91. These remarks included explanations of some very (now) humorous glitches in Grove's multimedia presentation. ▶

There's lots more here than CPU chips, though. Intel has their hands firmly entrenched in a number of interesting LAN products as well as one of the better Modem lines. It's always difficult to figure out which Intel booth to visit though.

I opted for the PCEO booth and the LAN products this year. Really impressed with their 9600 Modem featuring both V.32 bis and V.42. Intel's line of Ethernet boards equally impressive as were their entry into the memory market.

Speaking of Modems and FAX boards

Everybody was showing 9600 Modems and FAX boards this year. ATI had an impressive array of both 2400 and 9600 baud modems coupled with pretty decent FAX software.

Demonstration of the ATI products was smooth and almost seamless – with exception of clashes between

different sides of the ATI booth trying to access the FAX machine simultaneously. Although some glitches, the software looked very, very good.

Hayes branches out to LANs

In addition to showing their new line of "popular" (inexpensive) 9600 baud Modems, Hayes was also showing their peer-to-peer LAN. Not quite as impressive as the Lantastic and Novell "Lite" offerings, the Hayes LAN did seem to work well and was relatively simple to implement.

Novell, on the other hand, kept trying to push Peer-to-peer customers up to the full-blown *NetWare* product. Had a very informative conversation with DRI demonstrators (*DR DOS 6.0*) at the Mirage in the LAN area and may look more seriously at the DRI alternative to the Microsoft product (*MS DOS 5.0*). ▶

Events continued

Intel's reception following the presentation/talk was accompanied by Vivaldi via a local string quartet. The music was excellent and a soothing escape from the usual jazz, rock and glitter attending Comdex.

Symantec/Norton: Best talk to PCUG officers had to be part of a one-two surprise at the Symantec/Norton Breakfast. Symantec's CEO Gordon Eubanks gave a short talk at the beginning of the affair that was sparkling compared to a similar talk last year.

He was followed by approximately 30 minutes of Peter Norton answering questions about his views of the PC world and its future. Norton was candid, openly less than enthusiastic about UNIX, Pen-based computing and Multimedia as "Giant" PC development areas. Peter Norton for 30 minutes is worth a year of any PC magazine.

Borland & Philippe: Borland, Philippe Kahn and CorelDRAW grabbed Thursday. Borland's breakfast at Caesar's Palace was immensely entertaining with name illusionists, good magic and showmanship. Philippe Kahn's concluding talk was both brief and socially aware – revealing Kahn's dedication to education. Borland's CEO suggested an excellent use for a lot of Ashton-Tate PC hardware via donations to school systems.

Borland really does these events with a style that is becoming increasingly rare at Comdex.

Corel: Corel hosted a Thursday luncheon that was gracious, merciful and brief. No presentation, no multimedia, no marketing hype and no speeches. Corel's key software people and area representatives were introduced to the PCUG officers and mingled. Corel was candid about present problems and about forthcoming product releases. That's why we all came to Las Vegas and COMDEX/Fall '91 in the first place.

APCUG Summit/Microsoft: Every APCUG/Comdex gathering winds up with an unexpected theme. This year it was "feminism" and a verbal row between APCUG participants over feminism and women in computing. A quite heated discussion, occasionally quite loud, too long and vented in the wrong forum.

(Last year it was the "Greening" of the PCUG newsletter editors when one of the participants asked (seriously) "How many trees had to die to publish these newsletters?")

Much, much more: There was a lot more. Adobe with an excellent presentation on printing history and font terminology, Software Publishing, Aldus, Intuit, "PC World" and WordPerfect sponsored APCUG events at COMDEX/Fall '91 in addition to APCUG roundtables and other meetings.

Decisions, decisions

Left me with a major scheduling problem. If we attended all the events scheduled, there would be little time to actually walk the halls and see COMDEX/Fall '91's 2000 exhibits. There were a lot of people hidden in the 1,000,000+ square feet of Comdex display area I wanted to see this year.

As usual, it was a compromise. Andy Oliver and I divvied up the meeting schedule in a manner that allowed optimum participation in APCUG events and left some time on the show floors.

* I think I stole this quote (Yes, it's redundant) from somebody involved with professional athletics. At least it sounds like something you'd hear coming from that linguistic arena.

What happened to Comdex themes?

There were themes at COMDEX/Fall '91, however. Actually two "themes" and each was somewhat short of expectations. Multimedia and Pen-based PC's were present in numbers. Neither was very exciting given all the pre-Comdex hype in the media.

First impression from both was that each needed lots more work to make the kind of impact promised.

Multimedia started with problems

Multimedia had problems from the start – Intel CEO Andy Grove's opening presentation Monday morning – when several "glitches" (crashes) crept into his Multimedia demonstration.

Multimedia may also have been "killed" by moving the thematic display area to the Bally's Comdex area where it was somewhat cramped. Either the Sands Convention area or the Hilton would have been much, much better. Bally's and the Riviera were the unofficial offshore and Pacific Rim display areas with seas of clones, motherboards, accessory boards and PC cases on display.

Not a good showcase.

Best description of Multimedia was heard from another disgruntled spectator – "Loud Saturday-morning cartoons with graphs shown on PC monitors." My impression from Comdex was that

Multimedia looked most promising for marketing demonstrations and educational efforts.

Pens are for people who don't like keyboards

Pen-based computing was another disappointment. This year may have been a little premature given the hardware and software seen.

Did give rise to some interesting moments – like when vendors discovered the need for absolutely clean monitor screens for operation – after several thousand Comdex participants had handled the machines. Also gave rise to some less than stellar answers from vendors concerning their machines.

Actually talked with one designer (!) who failed to see any reason why a Pen-based notebook should be ruggedized beyond typical notebook specifications. My comment that these PC's were likely to be seen, and handled, just like any other clipboards sure didn't make a dent in his logic.

Think this criticism may also be premature. But, after all the hype, really expected to be more impressed by hardware design, software execution and thoughtfulness. Last point came to mind when I watched a left-handed person try to operate one of the pen-based notebooks and found the task overwhelming as a result of "right-only" design.

Reagan

Tales from the restroom

*A tale of too much communication—
or, too much accessibility*

This piece was incredibly hard to write for a number of reasons that will become quite obvious. I know I'll probably offend somebody (perhaps, lots of "somebodies"), but I couldn't resist.

But, first, I have to establish grounds for understanding.

First point: Enhanced communication is theme of the 90's. There are speakerphones – so you won't know who (all) you are talking to – mobile phones – so the Bozo talking with his booke at 75 MPH on Woodall Rogers can terrify you with his driving (or lack thereof) – and, now, the *personal* cellular phones you can carry everywhere.

The latter – and their impact – are subjects here.

Second point: COMDEX/Fall '91 was a product of marketing and people involved in marketing and sales. These folks hate to be out of telephone communication for any period of time.

To meet these needs/desires, an enterprising group made cellular, hand-held, portable phones available to participants at COMDEX/Fall '91 for a reasonable rate. Saw them everywhere.

Final point: Eventually everyone at the show had to use the restroom(s) available. (This is entering dangerous turf.) The restrooms at the Sands Convention Center are new,

kept in immaculate condition, and feature (on the male persons' side) rows of sparkling urinals that seemingly extend to infinity. Very busy locations during COMDEX. And, featured long lines in spite of the above.

The actors:

Me, standing quietly, attending to the business at hand while rehashing Peter Norton's talk at the Symantec/Norton breakfast meeting earlier that day.

At the next location, similarly employed, stood a gentleman of marketing persuasion, I guess, since he had a cellular phone firmly clipped on to his belt on his right side.

The action:

His phone began ringing. He was otherwise occupied. He tried reaching the portable telephone with his (unoccupied) left hand. Too far to reach, I guess.

He panicked. Dropped everything and grabbed the phone with his (formerly-occupied) right hand. Forgot in the confusion to employ his left hand.

Lost control. Completely.

The outcome:

Glad I stepped back quickly. Got a little blood from biting my lip, but managed to keep a "straight" face. Other spectators also seemed inclined to kindness rather than derision. Only a few laughed openly at the marketing gentleman's plight.

Perhaps they were somehow involved in the dry-cleaning business.



Who is running this Group anyway?

by Andy Oliver
President-Elect

Some of you have noticed a list of names on the inside back cover of your North Texas PC News. It enumerates the Board of Directors, Officers and other people who volunteer their time to help run this group. The North Texas PC Users Group is a non-profit corporation. As a corporation, we have bylaws that guide us in how we can run the organization.

If you observe, the same names sometimes crop up in the B.O.D. and Officer's sections. Some Board members serve in multiple areas, most board members have been officer's in the past. However, this is not a requirement. Any member of the group can run for a board or the president-elect position. If elected by the membership, you serve for one year.

The group has five voting board members. The President, the President-Elect, and three other elected directors. My only designated duties as president-

elect are to attend monthly board/officer meetings, and to form a nominating committee to select recommendations for next year's President-Elect and Board. I am preparing this article for the December PC News, which has a November 10th submissions deadline. If you want to run for one of these positions or you know someone that you want to nominate, the only requirements are that the nominee be a member of the NTPCUG in good standing and that he or she is willing to serve for one year. Nominations can be made to me at 214-871-5854 (w) or 214-223-4044 (h) or at the following meeting:

North Texas PC Users Group Business Meeting Saturday, December 14, 1991 11:00-11:30 am Alexandria Auditorium at the Infomart. After the meeting, the nominations will be closed and the ballots will be printed in the January news letter along with biographies and pictures of all of the candidates. ■

Current nominations are:

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Doug Gorrie

If you attend the Communications SIG at 12:00 on Saturday, you have probably met Doug. He is the SIG leader. This SIG deals with modems, BBS's, fax boards, and emerging telecommunications standards. An interesting side note is Doug's real job; he works for Southwestern Bell Telephone. Doug is also part of the team that supports the user group's Bulletin Board System.

BOARD MEMBER: Jim Hoisington

Jim is the current president of the NTPCUG. He helped start this group. Jim has been acting Membership Director for over the past year, and he is the groups "postal carrier" in that he picks up and distributes the mail from our P.O. Box. He co-leads the DOS SIG, and hangs around the Advanced Programmers SIG to dig up dirt to print in the newsletter. Jim serves as North Texas' representative to the international Association of PC Users Groups. In his other life, Jim is a husband, father, and I think he finds time to consult/contract program to get a paycheck.

BOARD MEMBER: Reagan Andrews

Reagan is a board member now. He is the other co-leader of the DOS SIG and the leader of the Microsoft Word SIG. You may have noticed his by-line in the newsletter on the column VARIETYSTORE. Reagan works for the federal government (VA Hospital) where he treats veterans suffering from delayed stress syndrome, and he has a private practice. He and his wife have made the annual pilgrimage to the Fall COMDEX computer show, and Reagan always has an interesting commentary on this event.

BOARD MEMBER: Mark Gruner

Mark is currently on the Board of Directors, too. He leads the Lotus and related spreadsheet SIG along with helping with two of the sixteen Personal Users SIG series that deal with Lotus 1-2-3. Mark has served in the past as NTPCUG's representative to the Computer Council of Dallas. His real life includes being an Accountant for EDS, husband, and most recently, a proud father. Again, these are the current list of nominees. The final list, with bio's and photos will be printed along with the ballot, in the January newsletter. Ballots can then be mailed in or dropped off at the January meeting. Please remember to vote.

The Adventures of PC Tech

Chapter 9

by Ben Thar

The basic hardware literacy class went well. The number of stupid questions dropped by a third. Now Mary was receiving more sophisticated questions about things that she didn't even consider. Also, the emphasis of the questions turned from hardware to software. Her next logical step was to teach the basics of understanding software. Again, she includes her outline:

Q. What Is Software?

A. - The programs and your data.

A) Programming languages - software that helps programmers write software applications.

- 1) Basic, C, Cobol, Fortran, Pascal (sounds like an ancient Greek football team)
- 2) Most college introductory computer classes make you do some programming to make you aware of the thought process.

B) Disk Operating Systems

- 1) Microsoft's DOS is the most popular. All p.c.'s need DOS to run. It guides your other programs and sets up procedures to allow them to talk to your disk drives, monitor, and printer.
- 2) Other operating systems include UNIX, OS/2, Apple, and network operating systems like Novell and Banyan.
- 3) The operating system was written to allow you to do things like format diskettes, copy files, list a directory of files.

NOTE: THERE ARE DANGEROUS DOS COMMANDS. PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

a) For example, If you FORMAT a floppy disk with data on it, the data is destroyed. If you format a hard disk, and you do not have a backup of everything, you are in serious trouble. Fortunately, there are programs now that will try to recover your accidentally formatted disk.

b) DOS has BACKUP and RESTORE programs that have been troublesome in the past.

c) There is a command called RECOVER that should be deleted from your DOS subdirectory. You may not be able to recover from a RECOVER.

C) Application Programs

- 1) SPREADSHEETS - probably the main reason for the growth and acceptance of personal computers. A spreadsheet is a software program that replaces a columnar pad. It allows you to not only add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers, but also to quickly revise calculations and automate routine tasks. Learn how the program works and it will make your life easier.
- 2) WORD PROCESSORS - writing letters, memos, proposals, procedure manuals, school term papers. These jobs are simplified with a word processor. It allows you do the work, check the spelling, and make minor revisions instantaneously.
- 3) DATABASES - If you have a list of information that you would like to keep, sort, and print, then you probably need a database. Mailing lists, manufacturing parts, sales information, a pharmacy's list of drugs are all good examples of databases.
- 4) UTILITY PROGRAMS - Programs to do backups faster and more accurately than DOS. Programs to diagnose hardware problems. Programs to manage the computers memory.
- 5) Much more specialized software exists than there is time to talk about, like programs to balance your checkbook. Just remember, these are tools to help to automate a task. They are not designed to replace you and they are not designed to do the work for you. Always check the results of your software because you are responsible for the outcome, not the computer.

D) Your Data

- 1) Protect it. Make several copies of it. If you spent a lot of time creating and inputting it, you do not want to tell your boss why you have to go back and do it again. HARDWARE FAILS. SOFTWARE MALFUNCTIONS. You must guard against the inevitable.
- 2) On shared p.c.'s respect your co-workers work and as I stated in the hardware class, take care of the equipment and it will last longer.

E) Who's software is it?

The software is licensed to the company. The company purchases one copy for each computer. It is against the law to copy the programs and put them on other machines. The Freshman Corporation has a strict policy against violators. You will not have a job if you are caught stealing company property.

This concludes our introduction to software. Use the correct tool for the job and you will impress your boss and justify the company's investment in the hardware and software.

Mary Margaret
PC Technician

■

CELLS & RANGES

an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

A Few Macro Tips & Techniques

In this column, I am going to show you a few ideas I have put to use in one of the applications that I've written for a client's template. This column will not be particularly detailed enough for many beginners to totally understand all the macro code, but at least people should be able to get some ideas for techniques to use in their own macro applications. Each of the macros ends with a {quit} or {return} in its last line whether they need it or not. That way, I can put all the macros together without lines in between.

These macros are just a small part of a very large application using several different macro libraries which need to conserve as much memory as possible. There are lots of range names, typed in all caps, which are used throughout the macros. Sometimes I had to use actual column indications rather than range names in the macro, which is a method I try not to use, but in this case, it was easier to implement.

Please Note: ALL THE INDENTED LINES OF MACRO CODE ACTUALLY NEED TO BE PART OF THE CELL ABOVE, BUT WERE TOO LONG FOR THE PRINTED PAGE. The range names within curly brackets are actually calls to another macro. The original macro is \I which was created to add a new item to a database of items in a price list database. The database has a special code as the first field. This code is created from a list of operation codes and material codes and the combination of the two should be unique. In other words, there should be no other record in the database with the same operation/material code combination. The macro calls a couple macros at the beginning to save the row number to a range named CELL_ROW where the cursor is at the time the macro (WHICH_ROW) was invoked. This is done because the macro needs to move around the spreadsheet and needs to know where to return to place the information for the new record. The next macro called, CHECK_ROW, makes sure that the row where the cursor is located is within the bounds of the database which has been given the range name DBASE.

Next the cursor is moved to column AH of the row. The (CELL_ROW) is actually a call of the contents of the range named CELL_ROW. It was setup with the row number by (WHICH_ROW). Next the macro (FIND_OPER) is called and the user is shown a list of the operation codes and allowed to use the up and down arrows (plus PgUp and PgDn) to move the cursor to highlight their choice for the operation. The indicator is used to tell the user to move to the choice and press Enter. Once Enter is pressed, the macro uses @cellpointer("contents") to copy the contents of the cell to a cell named KEY and then moves to the left and copies the code to a cell named CELL_LOC using the same method (which is used many times in the macros). The range KEY was first used as a holder cell for each of the keystrokes used during the running of FIND_OPER. The (get KEY) command placed the keystrokes there. KEY_TABLE2 is a list of the keystrokes allowed and FIND_OPER, after placing the keystroke into KEY, compares the contents of KEY to the keystrokes listed in KEY_TABLE2 and if the keystroke is not in the list, then it is ignored and the macro loops back to read the next keystroke. If the keystroke is listed, then the macro goes on to read the "if" statements and does the operations listed for that keystroke. For instance, if the down arrow was pressed, then the macro would check to make sure that the cursor remains within the range named OPER_LIST and if it is, then does a down. Because this column has a lack of space, I'll leave the rest of this macro for you to look at yourself.

When the macro returns to the calling macro (\I) with the information saved in KEY and CELL_LOC, it moves the cursor to column AI of the row indicated in CELL_ROW. It then checks the contents of CELL_LOC, which either holds the operation description or is blank because the user had pressed (ESC) earlier. If it is blank, then the macro aborts and deletes the row which had been inserted earlier. Otherwise, the macro moves to the left and enters the contents of CELL_LOC into the current cell, then moves back to the right and copies the contents of KEY into the current cell and moves right to the next column and calls the macro (A_LINE2).

A_LINE2 asks the user to enter the material description and then transforms the entry into all capitals in case it was not entered that way. Next the entry is checked for length in case it is longer than 20 characters. If it is longer, then the user is given a message letting them know the entry was too long and loops back to the beginning of A_LINE2 again. Once the entry is correct and entered into the current cell, then it returns to \I. By the way, the range name INPUT_CELL is used throughout all my macros as a place to put the data entered by the user. I can then do checks on the entry in INPUT_CELL before copying it to the current cell. In some places, it is very

►

necessary to use this intermediate place because the user is given a chance to keep the contents of the current cell by pressing Enter in the {getlabel....} command. Since I use this technique so much, it shows up in macros where it is not as important, like the A_LINE2 macro.

Next the FIND_MATERIAL macro is called. This macro uses the range search function to look through the entire materials column of the database for other entries using the same material. The contents of INPUT_CELL, which still holds the material description just entered, is used for the search string. If the range search lands on the row where the material was just entered, (remember - CELL_ROW contains that row number) the macro will tell the search to go to the next occurrence, otherwise it then quits out of the search when it finds an occurrence.

Please notice that you can put the {if ...} command right in the middle of your command sequence. This is a method that many people may not realize is even able to be done (which is worth trying). When the search finds an occurrence, then the cursor is moved over to the code field column and the contents of the cell are used to help build the code for the new record. Since the operation code has already been placed into the new record, the material part of this code is all that is needed. The @right and @find are used to take the material code which is the part after the "-" in the current code. This partial code is then entered into the range CELL_LOC. Before the range search is started, an {onerror ...} command is put into place, in case the search does not find any occurrences of the string. The error generated by the failure of the range search is one which will be picked up by the onerror. If this happens CELL_LOC is blanked out and the macro named A_LINE1 will be called, which then prompts the user to enter a material code, which shouldn't exceed 5 characters in length. ➤

```

WHICH_ROW {let CELL_ROW,@string(@cellpointer("row"),0)}~{return}
CHECK_ROW {if @cellpointer("row")=@cell("row",DBASE)}{Indicate "This row
can not be deleted or changed"}{wait @now+@time(0,0,3)
}Indicate}{branch \B}
{if @cellpointer("row")=@cell("row",DBASE)+1}{Indicate "This row
can not be deleted or changed"}{wait @now+@time(0,0,3)
}Indicate}{branch \B}
{if @cellpointer("row")=@cell("row",LAST_ITEM)}{Indicate "This
row can not be deleted or changed"}{wait @now+@time
(0,0,3)}{Indicate}{branch \B}
}
{return}
\I
{WHICH_ROW}{CHECK_ROW}/wgp{goto}AH{CELL_ROW}~/wir~
{Indicate}
{FIND_OPER}{goto}AI{CELL_ROW}~{if @cell("type",CELL_LOC)="b"}
~/wdr~{branch \B}
{if @cell("type",CELL_LOC)<"b"}{let @cellpointer("address")
,@cell("contents",CELL_LOC)&"-"}~{r}
{let @cellpointer("address"),@cell("contents",KEY)}
{r}{A_LINE2}{FIND_MAT}{goto}AJ{CELL_ROW}~
{if @cell("type",CELL_LOC)="b"}{A_LINE1}{r}{branch A_LINE3}
{1 2}{CHK_CODE}
{let @cellpointer("address"),@cellpointer("contents")&
@cell("contents",CELL_LOC)}{r 3}{branch A_LINE3}
A_LINE1 {getlabel "Enter New Material Code (5 Characters or
Less): ",INPUT_CELL}
{1 2}{if @length(INPUT_CELL)<1}/wdr~{branch \B}
{if @length(INPUT_CELL)>5}{branch A_LINE1}
{let INPUT_CELL,@cellpointer("contents")&@upper(INPUT_CELL)}~
CHK_CODE {let INPUT_CELL,@cellpointer("contents")}
{if @vlookup(@upper(INPUT_CELL),DBASE,0)>0}{Indicate "THIS
CODE ALREADY EXISTS IN DATABASE"}{wait @now+
@time(0,0,2)}{Indicate}/wdr~{end}{u}/rs{bs}.{end}{d}~
{INPUT_CELL}~/fq{return}
{let @cellpointer("address"),INPUT_CELL}~{r 2}
{return}
A_LINE2 {getlabel "Enter MATERIAL: ",INPUT_CELL}
{let @cellpointer("address"),@upper(INPUT_CELL)}~
{if @length(@cellpointer("contents"))>20}MATERIAL MUST BE
20 CHARACTERS OR LESS{wait @now+@time(0,0,3)}
{esc}{branch A_LINE2}
{return}
A_LINE3 {goto}AH{CELL_ROW}~{quit}
FIND_OPER {goto}OPER_LIST~{Indicate " Move CURSOR to
Choice and Press ENTER or <Esc> for No Choice "}
F_LOOP {get KEY}{if @iserr{@vlookup(KEY,KEY_TABLE2,0)}}
{branch F_LOOP}
{if KEY="UP"}#and#@cellpointer("row")<=@cell("row",OPER_
LIST)}{branch F_LOOP}
{if KEY="PGUP"}{goto}OPER_LIST~{branch F_LOOP}
{if KEY="DOWN"}#and#@cellpointer("row")>=@cell("row",
OPER_LIST+@rows(OPER_LIST))}{branch F_LOOP}
{if KEY="PGDN"}{goto}OPER_LIST~{end}{d}{branch P_LOOP}
{if KEY="BSC"}{blank CELL_LOC}{return}
{KEY}{if KEY="-"}{let KEY,@cellpointer("contents")}|l}
{let CELL_LOC,@cellpointer("contents")}{return}
{branch F_LOOP}
KEY_TABLE2 {DOWN}
|
| {UP}
| {BND}
| {PGDN}
| {PGUP}
|
KEY_TABLE2 {ESC}
{quit}
FIND_MAT {goto}DBASE~{r 2}{d 2}{Indicate "Checking Material Codes"}
{onerror A_LINE1}{blank CELL_LOC}
F_LOOP1 /rs{bs}.{end}{d}~{INPUT_CELL}~/f
{if @cellpointer("row")=@value(CELL_ROW)}n
q{1 2}{let CELL_LOC,@right(@cellpointer("contents"),@length(
@cellpointer("contents"))-@find("-",@cellpointer("
contents"),0)-1)}
{r 2}{return}

```

Once the materials part of the code is obtained, either through the search or through A_LINE1, then the code is placed into the code field of the new record. A check (CHK_CODE) is done through an @vlookup of the code column of the database using the new code. If there is an err returned from the @vlookup, then the code is unique, which is acceptable, otherwise the new record is deleted and the user is moved to the record with the duplicate code. As long as the code was a unique code, then the macro branches to A_LINE3 which moves the cursor back to first column of the database in the new record and quits.

Hopefully the tips and ideas I've described and shown in the above macros will inspire some ideas for using the techniques in your own applications. This is not meant to be a total tutorial since there was just too much material to cover in order to show the full macro. It is quite complicated to follow, but was used to show the techniques rather than "how to do it". Please give me feedback on what you think of this column as it is a departure from what I have done in the past.

Forms-To-Go

Intex Solutions (617-449-6222) has introduced a new product called *Forms-To-Go*, which works with any version of 1-2-3 or Symphony that has ALWAYS or WYSIWYG invoked. They are offering a special User Group discount of \$85 for the product.

Forms-To-Go is really a collection of worksheets and FMT/ALL files that give you access to a group of 50 common forms, such as human resource forms, job contracting forms, purchasing forms, shipping/receiving forms, finance/accounting forms, general business forms, small business forms, personal forms and tax forms. Any one of these forms is equally impressive with the others to view on screen.

Even if you have no immediate need for any of the forms, you will find that pulling the various forms up on the screen and studying them is an excellent tutorial in spreadsheet publishing techniques. I am totally impressed by the number of hours and days the author had to have spent in building these templates! They are generic enough that a person can easily make changes where needed and have a professional form to use. Intex has been adding quite a few new add-ins and other programs to their catalog offerings. You should be sure to ask for a copy of their current catalog and see the other interesting programs they offer.

Forms-To-Go is definitely a worthwhile product to use for learning spreadsheet publishing and for supplying useful forms for your home and business.

Betty

Betty Brooks 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.

A mini-review

AMI PRO 2.0

by Betty Brooks

By the time you read this, Ami Pro should be shipping. It is a significant upgrade of an already good word processor. Lotus showed the North Texas PC User Group a sneak preview of the new version at their July meeting, which I attended as a new member. This was one new product that was not shown much at Lotus Week, so the July meeting was my first chance to see what was new.

Ami Pro provides a lot of useful features which spreadsheet users will appreciate. The charting feature allows column, bar, pie, area, and symbol charts either built in 1-2-3 or in Ami Pro. If you did import the information from 1-2-3, you can build a table and a chart to support it. By using the windows features of DDE included in 1-2-3 for Windows, you can cre-

ate a live table and chart which will update from any changes made while in 1-2-3.

The SmartIcons included in all Lotus windows products allow you to easily and quickly move from 1-2-3 to Ami Pro and back again. Although the first version of 1-2-3/W will not have OLE, Ami Pro does, which enhances the way it will interact with other windows applications that also include OLE.

Ami Pro 2.0 also has an equations editor which makes it nice for writing documentation for that complicated spreadsheet project or any other document which needs to include equations. It will create scientific and mathematical equations using the math and Greek characters.

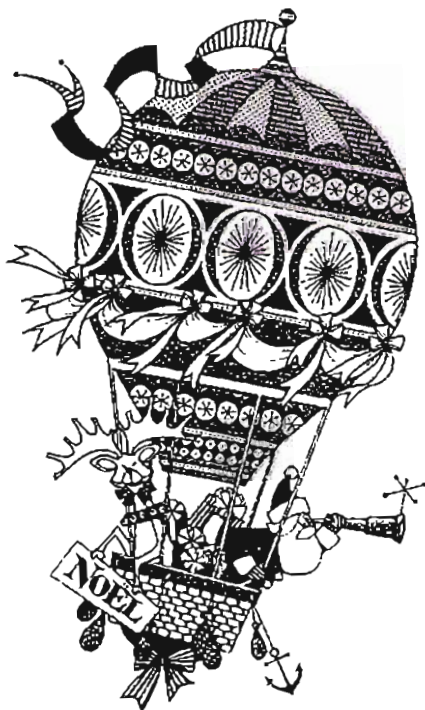
People using Ami Pro 2.0 will be happy to find outlining and several other enhancements like the ability to add notes and to do revision marking. Many of the other features expected in high end word processors were already in Ami Pro, but have been improved in lots of different ways. For instance, the frames feature now allows you to have automatic

shadowing, rounded corners, user controlled size and position via a menu besides using the mouse. The SmartIcons are as extensive in types and numbers as they are in 1-2-3/W.

The more I get to use them, the more I like the idea of these customizable SmartIcon bars. I have gone into the setup program and customized the combination of SmartIcons to reflect the types of operations I do most. Using the SmartIcons saves lots of time and keystrokes. I think we will be seeing them in many other vendor's products.

If you use Lotus 1-2-3 and need a word processor which can interact, Ami Pro is definitely the way to go (as long as you have windows). I found Ami Pro very easy to learn to use the first time I tried it a year or so ago. Even if you don't need to have spreadsheet or table information imbedded in your word processor, you might want to try out Ami Pro. It has very good graphic file import abilities and can import 12 types of graphic files. Last Christmas, I scanned pictures of the family and included them in our Christmas letter which was written in Ami Pro 1.2. I think I have become a big fan of WYSIWYG computing, which is partly why I like writing in Ami Pro and using the newer versions of the spreadsheets.

Betty



A book review by Jim Holsington

Microsoft Word For Windows Revealed

By Herbert L. Tyson
Windcrest/McGraw-Hill

Have you been using Microsoft Word For Windows. Are you frustrated with Microsoft's minimalis documentation that comes with the product? Are you afraid to get your phone bill because you've spent hours on the Microsoft technical support line waiting for a technician to tell you that you can't do what you want to do in Word For Windows? Do you suspect that Word For Windows has the same features as other word processing packages but the Microsoft developers forgot to document how to use them? Then this book is for you.

The author got the basis for this book by monitoring the questions asked on Bulletin Board Systems (BBS) about Word For Windows. He then attempted to get the answers to the questions by calling Microsoft Technical Support and by experimentation with the software.

The first chapter of the book lists the top 73 questions about Word For Windows and their answers. (This chapter will save you the price of the book in telephone calls to the technical support line.) The second chapter lists the things that you want to do that cannot be done in version 1.1 of Word For Windows. When he started writing the book, chapter 2 was much larger than chapter 1. By the time he finished the book, chapter 2 was 18 pages long and chapter 1 was 60 pages long.

The rest of the book extensively documents the features of Word For Windows. Some of the documentation borders on trivia but there may be a time when the knowledge would prove useful. For example, in the discussion of Autoexec macros, the author points out that if you hold down the shift key after double clicking on the Word For Windows icon, Autoexec macros will not be run. However, if the shift key is held down while clicking on the icon, Word For Windows will start but run in the background.

The topical index is good but there is so much material in each paragraph that you almost have to read each chapter a couple of times because there are bound to be features mentioned that you never even thought about but would be useful in your writing environment.

This book is not for beginners. The author assumes that you regularly use Word For Windows and know the basic keystrokes. But if you are trying to use Word For Windows as your word processor, this book will save you a lot of time and frustration.

Jim

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What is Multimedia?

Part IV

by Bernard F. Mayoff

So far we have talked about the hardware aspects of multimedia. We have mentioned MIDI adapters, audio digitizing adapters, CD-ROM drives, videodisc players, VCRs, displays, cameras, scanners, compression and decompression hardware, and touch screens. Let's briefly consider software, which is what makes it all come together.

Most devices come with a software device driver so that applications that need them can use the devices. Some devices, like the IBM M-Motion card, also come with a library of routines that developers can take advantage of. A set of multimedia interfaces have been defined by Microsoft and IBM and should be added to Windows and to OS/2. The new agreement between IBM and Apple calls for further work in defining and extending multimedia operating system interfaces.

Several programming languages, also known as authoring systems, have been developed to help build multimedia applications. These authoring systems are actually applications in their own right, tailored to specific groups of users and specific applications. I'll mention a representative, but by no means exhaustive, set. Most of these authoring environments are built around the idea of images, audio segments, and scripts that put them together.

It is hard to talk about low end products, because all of today's products are high in function and usability. Some products are designed to run in minimal hardware environments, though, and one of these is IBM LinkwayO. Linkway is an application designed primarily for elementary and secondary schools where small PS/2s and compatibles are common. It has many of the functions of Hypercard on the Mac-Intosh, and a variety of other functions. A set of multimedia extensions to Linkway is available enabling the use of sound cards and the M-Motion card. The Mammals product was developed using Linkway. The Ulysses demonstration, which many of us have seen at IBM presentations, was also developed with Linkway and the multimedia extensions. Ulysses is the first in a five part classics in literature series that IBM is producing and that should be available in schools eventually. Linkway is a graphic, object oriented development environment that runs under DOS with no expanded memory requirements. It lends itself to presentation and information retrieval applications.

Moving up in terms of hardware requirements is StoryboardLive! It runs in a DOS environment and is

a follow-on to StoryboardPlusO. Storyboard users find it powerful and friendly, and it can use audio cards and the M-Motion card in its presentations. The runtime version may be distributed free so that only authors need to buy the package. Storyboard-Live! has a menu driven, highly prompted development environment and includes an animation editor. It is oriented toward developing presentations and holding the interest of the audience.

The Audio Visual Connection is a very powerful authoring environment with capabilities for developing presentations with a lot of interaction. It can even interface to database programs and communicate with other applications or other systems if necessary. AVC has been used in training applications, catalog applications, real estate and of course in marketing. AVC can run under DOS if enough memory is available but it offers more function in an OS/2 environment and takes advantage of the better memory management and the multitasking that are built into OS/2. AVC offers a structured, powerful programming language that is very much like REXX, and extensive on-line help. In fact, all of the help in AVC is done as AVC presentations. The AVC includes sophisticated controls for sound recording and mixing, using the Audio Capture and Playback Adapter; still picture creation, compression and optimization using the Video Capture Adapter; full motion video using the M-Motion adapter; video output using the Video Capture Adapter; the IBM and Elographics touchscreens; and the ability to synchronize pictures and sound with a high degree of precision. The run time modules can be distributed without charge so that only the authoring environment needs to purchase the software.

Authoring programs tailored to course development, such as AuthorwareO and TenCOREO, are available, and companies that specialize in courseware development have developed some of their own languages. Most of these languages supported the Infowindow and have been updated to support the newer technologies. Courseware authoring languages may be aware of objects such as questions, answers, tests, presentations and responses. They can greatly reduce the development time for a course and can help produce more effective, and interesting, courses.

What's next? Industry is seeing growing use of multimedia to reduce time away from the job and increase the effectiveness of employees and service to customers. Consumer acceptance depends on the availability of affordable hardware and the availability of a large selection of affordable, quality, and appealing applications. A lot of creative people are looking for ways to make it happen.

Bernard

■

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)

Assembler SIG

Our November meeting featured a presentation by Glynn Brooks on the differences between MASM 6.0 and 5.1. This was the SIG's first presentation on the new MASM, much thanks to Glynn. Our December meeting will be a discussion of the review in the December 1991 issue of Dr. Dobbs of Assemblers and Dis-Assemblers. Given the publication lead time, please check the club BBS for any last minute changes, etc.

Frank Cavallito

Beginners C SIG

In October we discussed using the librarian utility program provided with C compilers to modify existing libraries or using it to build your own. These libraries contain tested program code functions that can be used over and over again. When you want to use one in a program, simply point to the library when compiling and linking your program.

In November, we used this lead-in to continue the discussion by looking at commercially available libraries. If you have never noticed, computer magazines are full of ads for such libraries, and so is the NTPCUG DOM. The great advantage to purchasing libraries is someone has already written and tested the code which you can implement in your programs, thus saving you time (and money). We looked at one particular library the "C Database Toolchest" available from MIX Software. This package features a very good B+Tree library which I personally use a lot.

In December, we will continue this thread and I will present a database library that I have built on top of the above mentioned B+Tree library. In January, we will begin a year long

study of the C language in which we will cover all major topics. We plan to start with basic concepts and build to more advanced studies.

We hope to see you there!

Stan Milam

Communications SIG

Ah, Murphy's Law. What would life be without it. And unbeknownst to the general public, Murphy has several brothers who continually try to match the exploits of "older brother". In October, Murphy held a family reunion at the Comm SIG, bent on complicating the life of Steve Stone as he stood in for the unavoidably absent SIG leadership. Steve had graciously offered to demonstrate Bitcom communications software. However, with Murphy and family present, everything that COULD go wrong DID go wrong, in the form of late arriving and cantankerous equipment, as well as a significant oversight on my part. Steve is to be congratulated for maintaining a positive attitude throughout the ordeal. The difficulties encountered were no fault of his.

In November, the illustrious Bill Green detailed Mirror software, one of his favorites. Murphy and family (hopefully) failed to attend, being caught up in traffic on Central Expressway. In December, Charles Jacobus will present Carbon Copy, another of the commercially available communications products. We'll do our best to assure that Charles' equipment does not fall prey to gremlins.

As the Comm SIG completes another successful year, we wish to thank our membership by hosting an informal Christmas party in your honor. Please come join us. Initial plans for 1992 are still in the works. A pre-

viously postponed demo of the giant CompuServe online service (BIG brother to Prodigy) is back in the works, plus a visit by various manufacturers of modem and fax equipment. Another survey of YOUR interests will take place in January, so we might continue to meet your needs and interests.

See you at the Comm SIG, and have a Merry Christmas!!

Doug Gorrie

C++ SIG

At the November C++ SIG, V2.2, Arthur English of Digital Artistry treated us to a demonstration of Quick C for Windows. The presentation was enlightening, the discussion stimulating, and the sun rose in the east.

In December, we'll move back to the project, but with a new twist. We'll be talking about a couple of C routines I've written, `read_string` and `read_form`. These routines will eventually form the basis of some C++ classes, but for now we'll concentrate on C. `read_string` can be thought of as `scanf` the way `scanf` should have been; `read_form` is essentially a dialog-box-processor. For once, I've got the code written before the SIG HAPS, so I can guarantee that there will be source code on the bulletin board before the December meeting. Join us for a return to the good ol' days of ordinary C.

Kent Cobb

DOS SIG

DOS SIG Meeting for December should be a lot of fun. Jim Holsington is rested and eagerly anticipating the 10th Anniversary of the IBM PC, and PC-DOS 1.0. Quite a celebration is in store.

Where have we gone? Jim and Reagan can contrast the many, many improvements in DOS over the past 10 years, and add a few tips to enhance operation with current versions of PC- and MS-DOS for DOS SIG participants at the December Meeting. One area we'll address is what seems to be coming down the road for DOS from Microsoft, IBM and DRI/Novell.

The December DOS SIG Meeting will conclude with the usual Q & A ses-



sion with SIG participants — hopefully before the gathered OS/2 and CP/M enthusiasts can mount a counter-offensive.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

The General Genealogy SIG always meets in Room 7001 from 9 to 10 a.m. There were 63 present for the last SIG meeting. A portion of each program is currently being devoted to MS DOS basics as applied to genealogy. Banks McLaurin, a retired engineer who has been in the genealogy business for over 35 years, brought the program in October. He has researched very thoroughly several family histories and has written several books. He described the process of writing and publishing a genealogy book. The book was for a specific genealogical family and had a ten month deadline to complete. He has sold several hundred copies. He told about the printing methods examined and used and the reasoning behind the type he chose. He also explained some of the genealogy numbering systems in use. If you have any questions or interest, he will be happy to respond to you. His phone is 214-368-4357. His address is 5843 Royal crest, Dallas 75230.

The November program included a discussion on the use of a calendar software program in genealogy. Leonard McCown has put out a calendar for a reunion that includes an old photograph as a leader and tear sheets for each month. The 14 December program will give a quick overlay of the various genealogy software and the types and prices of hardware available. GENTEX-92 has been canceled for this year. It was deemed too major an undertaking for the time left to prepare for the January 18, 1992 date. Instead, the Irving and Grand Prairie Computer Genealogical Societies are putting on GENTEC-92 on the same date at the Plymouth Park Methodist Church in Irving. The expertise already expended on GENTEX-92 (which is now being looked into for 1993) has been put into this effort, so it should be a great workshop. It will be a hands-on all day (9 am to 5 pm) workshop that will include all major genealogy

software programs, all electronic services (CompuServe, Genie, America On-Line, etc), and a large array of vendor tables. The price will be \$10 if paid in advance and \$12 at the gate. Phone Joe Sissom at 214 650-9026 for further information.

Alfred Sanford

PAF SIG

The Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG met in Room 7001 on Oct 19, from 10 to 11 a.m. Sept. 28 with 41 present. PAF is a \$35 software genealogy program good for beginners or experts with versions available for IBM compatible or Macintosh computers. SIG leader, Travis Morris, is still bed-ridden due to back problems. He will undergo an operation Nov 18, we wish him well. Art Rubeck brought the 16 November program. Art is the disk librarian for the General Genealogy SIG, an avid genealogist and a frequent visitor to Salt Lake. One reason Art is a frequent visitor to Salt Lake for genealogy is that he is also a skier. Banks McLaurin, who gave the October program for the General Genealogy SIG, said that's where the good skiing is. He has learned to ski because of his frequent trips to the LDS facilities in Utah.

The program on 14 December will be on the Research Data Filer (RDF) of PAF. A representative from the Collin County Computer Genealogy Society will probably be bringing the program. The Collin County Computer Genealogy Society has worked up a variety of programs to use with the RDF. In addition, they will be doing a one day workshop in January (date unknown at present) on the RDF. (Also in January they will be doing a one day workshop on the regular PAF data files.)

The program in Oct included DOS commands for genealogy and specific features of the upgrades (latest is 5 Aug 1991) of PAF 2.2. A handout entitled MS-DOS Basics for Genealogy was passed out and this handout will be made available at the future SIGs. It is considered of the utmost importance that each PAF genealogy user learn these DOS rudiments so when they have trouble with their program they will know how to investigate the trouble area. Another (two page) handout that will be always be available to the SIG members is the PAF

SIG Tip Sheet #1 revised. This sheet explains the important settings in the CONFIG.EXE program that must be run every time an update of PAF is loaded into your machine and also every time you wish to change some of the preset PAF program operating parameters (such as using a different printer, etc.). It also gives hints on how to enter data (lower case vs upper case) and the different Function Key commands to get help commands, save on retyping, etc. The 5 Aug 1991 upgrade of PAF 2.2 has a text file that allows a hard copy printout of all changes that have been incorporated into PAF 2.2 since the 27 October 1989 version. Some of the major changes are new printer support, being able to use Pedigree Search almost entirely for all editing, modifying, etc., ability to go to CONFIG without leaving the program, entering a parent even if the sex is unknown, an improve dahnentafel chart, the printing of Family Group Records with descendants charts, direct line of children marked with an X during cascading pedigree, ability to Focus on empty fields, as well as numerous improvements and updates to the GEDCOM program which is now called Genealogical Information Exchange Program (GIE.EXE).

Alfred Sanford

Investors SIG

We have a Texan from DeSoto whose opinion on the stock market is of such merit that he has been quoted in the Barron's Market Watch column (a sampling of advisory opinion) which probably means that Bob Mumm is more right than wrong. Bob publishes his own stock market newsletter and manages accounts for traders. His strategy is, in a nutshell, to find stocks which have a growth rate of 20 percent in earnings, a strong balance sheet and low institutional holdings. He suggests that you note the rationale for buying each stock as a reference point for later decisions.

The next meeting, in November, will have a guest speaker, William Housey, who will present a market approach which he includes in his publication call Fractal Information. If this program is as interesting as the past few which Nash has offered us, I wouldn't miss it. ▶



Please bring your questions and concerns, suggestions for future meetings, and sit back for the market update which precedes the program. If you have an area of expertise which you would like to share, please contact Nash Kapoor at 458-9158. It gets lonely for the person who shoulders all the responsibilities for the monthly meetings. Many of you have approaches to investment with respect to strategies and software that the rest of us would find helpful and worth a ten or fifteen-minute presentation.

Jo Johnston

LAN SIG

At the LAN SIG last month, we talked about LAN installation considerations. I hope that it was helpful and informative for everyone. Has everyone bought their radio controlled model truck by now? In keeping with the well-known principle of designing and documenting after the system is built, we will be discussing "LAN Design Considerations" during our December meeting. When you are working on your LAN please remember to do these two steps in the reverse order - design first, then install.

In January, we will talk about "LAN Administration Considerations" - how we keep our perfectly designed and expertly installed LAN running smoothly. We have tentatively scheduled a presentation of Lantastic in February by a local Artisoft representative. I'll get back to you with more details.

Bernie VanRoekel

Lotus SIG

At the November meeting, we learned that Mark became the proud father of a baby boy. The Lotus SIG had a get acquainted meeting featuring 1-2-3 for Windows. Betty gave most of the presentation since she has had more experience with the product. 1-2-3 for Windows has received much press lately, some good and some bad. I am very impressed with package. It is the first version from Lotus Development. I

can't recall how many people I know that were cursing previous versions of Excel 3.0. It is rather unfair, but obvious, to compare 1-2-3 for Windows and Excel. After all, it took Microsoft 3 versions to get an outstanding product.

At the December meeting, the topic will be WYSIWYG, a spreadsheet add-in to compliment Lotus spreadsheets including release 2.3, 3.1+, and 1-2-3 for Windows. Betty is quite an aficionado of WYSIWYG. She has discovered several undocumented features to get even more out of WYSIWYG. Join us at the next meeting for a list of these options.

Our user group was listed as a source of help for Lotus product users in the November issue of LOTUS magazine. Both Mark and Betty were listed as user group contacts. Readers have contacted them about joining our user group. We welcome all new users.

The Lotus SIG always addresses any user questions about spreadsheets and other Lotus products. Bring your questions to our next meeting and we'll help find answers.

Mark Gruner

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 December 1991 will be:

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

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

Rumors from Fall COMDEX dominated the Pro SIG this month. Is a new version of DOS about to be released? Will the new DOS run multiple Windows sessions better than Windows? Who is John Fitzgerald and what does he really know?

Stay tuned to the Pro SIG for more investigative reporting and rumor mongering.

Jim Hoisington

Unix SIG

If all went well then at our November meeting I presented a brief history of the origins of UNIX. UNIX differs from most other operating systems in that it was not planned by a commit-



tee of computer experts. Rather it was developed by programmers who wanted to improve the environment they programmed in. Also while most operating systems of the time were designed to work on one type of computer UNIX was designed with no special machine in mind, a circumstance that would later make it relatively easy to port to other machines. And as a bonus we got the C language which was written to help develop the system and was actually modified at one point to make porting UNIX easier.

At the December meeting Jim is going to present a discussion of how to recover from a disk crash.

Doug Scott

Windows Applications SIG

The December Windows Application SIG meeting will look Personal Information Managers (PIM) for Windows. I will give a demonstration of Packrat 4.0 for Windows and discuss how it helps to organize my business. After the demonstration, we will open up our talk to discuss what PIMs do and compare Packrat to the other PIMs SIG members have used.

Arthur English

Windows Developers SIG

The December Windows Developers SIG meeting will look the different development environments available for building Windows applications and compare their tool sets. We will be looking at QuickC for Windows, Borland C++, and Microsoft C + the Windows SDK. If you have any experience with other development environments like Zortech C++, please show up to give us the benefits of your experience. If you are just getting started in Windows programming and you are trying to decide

which development system to purchase, this meeting may help your decision making process or confuse you even more.

Whatever your goals are, drop by if you are a Windows developer (or an aspiring one) to get acquainted and learn more about what other Windows programmers are working on in North Texas.

Arthur English

WORD SIG

Word for Windows 2.0 looked good at COMDEX/Fall '91 and may put to rest some of the early WfW criticisms. Reagan may have a copy by the December WORD SIG Meeting and, if so, will arrange a demonstration of the improved product's enhancements.

DOS-based, Word 5.5 has been gathering momentum over the past year and we'll look at this version as well in terms of operation on "smaller" machines (i.e., non-Windows PC's) and how this word processor can work for users. Comparisons between the DOS and Windows major products and the new MS Works for Windows (and MS Works for DOS) are inevitable.

The December WORD SIG Meeting will look at the above, but terminate in the usual Q & A format to address SIG members current problems working with the Microsoft WP's.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

Q: "I use Tables a lot. Sometimes I have to move or copy text from several different cells to another area in the table. But the text ends up in the same cell. How can I get the text to end up in individual cells?"

A: You're blocking the text while in the regular editing screen. WordPerfect only sees the text, not the delimiters of the cells. This works fine if you're manipulating text one

cell at a time. The trick to moving or copying multiple cells of information is to be in Table Edit mode before turning on block. Once you've blocked the targeted text, choose (Ctrl)(F4) - WordPerfect's Move feature. You can move/copy the entire row or column the cursor is sitting in without blocking it first. But for the scenario we're describing here, you've got text blocked so choose the "Block" option. Follow the prompts from there. Once you've got the information stored in the Table block buffer, you get that familiar prompt to move the cursor and press (Enter). Reposition the cursor where you want to reinsert it and press (Enter) to dump it. If you wanted to move the information from one table to another, press F1 to cancel the prompt (assuming you didn't already move it). Even if you already moved the information you can still retrieve again into another table. Exit this table. Edit the target table. Position the cursor where you want the first line of information to be inserted. Without turning block on, choose the Move feature ~ (Ctrl)(F4). Select the "Retrieve" option, then the "Block" option.

For those of you have more questions about WordPerfect, you'll have to come to the WordPerfect SIG meetings. The December meeting will concentrate on fonts and related issues. We'll talk about why you get the message "Not Enough Memory" when you view or print, how soft-fonts work (or don't work at times), and give you some tips on speeding up the printing process. By popular demand, we'll also include an introduction into WordPerfect's PTR program. Among other things, this is how you can decrease the minimum top/bottom and left/right margins. On most lasers, the unprintable area is much less a quarter of an inch. Yet when you try to put in a right margin of .1 it defaults to .31. So come to the WordPerfect SIG meeting. I promise, you won't be bored!

Lori Quinn

▲

NEW DISKS



...from the DOM Squad

Disk 652. Poetry 1.0, 8/88 - An Entertaining Poetry Generator by R. K. West, P.O. Box 8044, Mission Hills, CA 91346. Shareware Fee \$30.

This entertaining program randomly generates poems from 5 to 8 lines long that emulate "real poetry". The number of lines of poetry in the files is so great that you are not aware of any repetition. This is a fun program for people who like to poke fun at poems. Here is an example creation:

```

WHILE
WE CELEBRATE OUR IGNORANCE
AND I HAVE NO MORE PRAYERS
I CANNOT LOOK AT
THE THINGS I CARE ABOUT
IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THAT
THIS ENDING IS ONLY A NEW BEGINNING
  
```

When you register the software, you will be sent the latest version. Version 2.0 permits personalizing poems, printing them, and screen color.

This software was contributed by Gene Carlton.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Kathryn Loafman (10/91).

Disk 653. Sign Language 3.0, 1989 - Sign Language Tutor - Sign Friends, 79 Glenmere Ave., Florida, NY 10921. Shareware Registration Fee \$30.

This interactive tutorial is designed to teach children and adults the hand positions and motions for signing used by the hearing impaired. The program consists of 28 programs written in BASIC. There are three menus which list the topics available. Topics are:

Alphabet	In the Morning
Numbers	In the Evening
Colors	Seasons
Days	Prepositions
Interrogative Words	Basic Survival Words
Emotions	Cognitive Words
Places	Fingerspelling
Important Persons	More Persons

For the selected topic, you may choose Practice or a Test. Drawings of the hands/fingers are displayed on the screen, and animated when appropriate.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Color and graphics are required. You MUST have a BASIC interpreter. The author used GWBASIC, but indicates that you can use any version of BASICA that has advanced graphic commands.

NOTE: When using a 386 or other fast processor, the movements may be too fast to follow. Place a delay loop in the program, or use any means of slowing processing.

This disk was downloaded by Mark Gruner.

This readme by Virginia Salter, edited by Kathryn Loafman(10/91).

Disk 654. TrackIt 1.0, 8/91 - Library Management System, A "point and shoot" library environment. Publisher: Clear Software, Author: Rob DeYonker. Shareware: \$15.

Saving time and wasted effort is what TRACKIT is all about. Much of this time is saved by using a "point and shoot" library management environment instead of typing long DOS command lines. Even new libraries can be built with TRACKIT in seconds and typos at the DOS prompt are virtually eliminated.

A "point and shoot" library management environment allows you to build stand alone and quick libraries with the touch of a button. You start by naming your library, then choose the library and object files by simply tagging them in a pop up window. Next select the type of library to build from the menu and press enter. That's it, your done.

To make keeping track of your libraries easy, TRACKIT also has an integrated database which stores your library information by name in a small database file. The file tracks the name, object and library files, and your notes for the library.

Once saved, this file can be pulled up at any time to rebuild your library in seconds. No more typing out long DOS commands, or wondering what files were included in your libraries.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible computer running DOS 2.1 or higher, a color monitor, MSDOS LIB.EXE and LINK.EXE.

The source for this software was the publisher, Clear Software.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (10/91).

Disk 655. QuikZip! 1.2, 7/91 - Postnet Barcode Printer, WESTCOAST SOFTWARE, 1788 Danbury Road, Claremont, CA 91711. Shareware Fee: \$49.

The U.S. Postal Service is now using Optical Scanners to speed up (sic?) mail processing. Scanners now read the Zip Code you include with the address and their equipment prints a Postnet Bar Code on the envelope. This is a two step operation. If the Postnet Bar Code is already on the envelope only one step is needed. The Postal Service is or will be offering a Discount on First Class Mail that already has the Bar Code printed on it. The present equipment available to do this costs \$4000.

This program will print the Postnet Bar Code on Envelopes, Post Cards, Shipping Labels and Address Labels. At present (12/19/90), the Bar Code MUST be printed in a specific area on the Envelope. The Postal Service plans that by the fall of 1991 the Bar Code can be printed anywhere on the envelope and their optical scanners will read the code. When this happens you will be able to put the Bar Code on Shipping Labels and Address Labels.

The QuikZip Program is already programmed to place the Bar Code on Shipping and Address Labels but you need a special code which will be supplied when you register. Notice the Bar Codes on the mail you are now receiving. The Return Payment envelopes have the Bar Code on them to speed up their return. If you are in business you can now have these same benefits with the QuikZip Program.

The initial setup procedure lets you establish the Return Address you want printed on Envelopes and Shipping Labels, plus all adjustments needed to print correctly. The ADDRESS RECORDS option establishes a database containing frequently used addresses.

The source of this disk is the publisher, Westcoast Software.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Kenneth Loafman(10/91).

Disk 656. ViruScan v84, 10/91 - McAfee DOS & Windows Virus Scan, McAfee Associates, 43 Cheney Street, Santa Clara, CA 95054-0253.

WSCAN Version V84 - VIRUSCAN for Windows 3.0. NEW in this release. VIRUSCAN Version V84 - VIRUSCAN (SCAN) is a virus detection and identification program for the IBM PC and compatible computers. VIRUSCAN will search a PC for known computer viruses in memory, the boot sector, the partition table, and the files of a PC and its disks. VIRUSCAN will also detect the presence of unknown viruses.

CLEAN-UP Version V84 - CLEAN-UP (CLEAN) is a virus disinfection program for IBM PC, and compatible computers. CLEAN-UP will search through the partition table, boot sector, or files of a PC and remove a virus specified by the user. In most instances CLEAN-UP is able to repair the infected area of the system and restore it to normal usage.

VSHIELD Version V84 - VSHIELD is a virus prevention program for IBM PC and compatible computers. It will prevent viruses from infecting your system. When VSHIELD first loads it will search the PC for known computer viruses in memory, the partition table, boot sector, system files, and itself and then install itself as a Terminate-and-Stay-Resident (TSR) program. It will then scan all programs before allowing the system to execute them.

NETSCAN Version V84 - NETSCAN is the network version of VIRUSCAN. It scans network virtual drives and identifies any pre-existing PC virus infection in the file servers.

VCOPY Version V84 - VCOPY is a replacement for the DOS COPY command for IBM PC and compatible machines. VCOPY will search a PC for known viruses in memory, then search the partition table and boot sector of the source and destination disks, in addition to the files being copied. This prevents viruses from entering your system and identifies infected diskettes.

This software was downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (10/91).

Disk 657. Sue's Ornament Master 1.62, 4/91 - Xmas Ornament Database & More, by Joey Robichaux, PO Box 94016-199, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Registration Fee: \$10 + \$2.50 S/H.

Sue's Ornament Master not only maintains a database of Christmas ornaments, it also helps to organize shopping trips, and maintain your Christmas card list, and even a Christmas party list.

The main menu has 6 items including Ornament Maintenance, Christmas Card List, Shopping List, Party List, Utilities, and Terminate. Ornament Maintenance is where you add, delete, and edit the database of Xmas ornaments for your tree.

Christmas Card List is for maintaining your card list in a database including name, 2 address fields, city, state, zip, and a free-form notes field.

Shopping List maintains a database for Xmas shopping including the person's name, gift ideas, and a store field. Party List maintains a database of your Xmas party invitees including name, address, and a notes field.

Utilities most important feature is the Print List option which includes 12 different reports. Utilities also allows you to change the screen from Sue's Ornament Master to your own name's Ornament Master. This menu also includes build a new index, and selecting a printer.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible, and 640K of memory (although the author thinks it will work with less).

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 658. Lotus User Group Support #3 - Technical Info on Lotus Products FALL 1991.

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

Also included on this disk is a 1-2-3 and Symphony file called IMPORT.WK1 and IMPORT.WRI respectively. Mark Gruner created these two spreadsheet files so that he could import the files quickly and then print them out. To use either of the two spreadsheets, the user need to enter the file prefix, the start value, and the maximum value. To make the data input easier, the filenames above provide the key to use the spreadsheet files. The hyphen divides the name prefix from the maximum number of that series. Make sure that 123 as a prefix is a label instead of a number. Put the prefix such as "FL" in cell B1, the Maximum number such as "7" in cell B3, and the start value is usually 1 and is in cell B4. Make sure that the data files are in the default 1-2-3 or Symphony directory. To start the macro, press ALT-I.

The topics on this disk include the following:

Questions on 1-2-3 release 3.1, Questions on 1-2-3 for Windows, Questions on Ami Pro 2.0, Titles of the Ami Pro 2.0 questions, Speech Jim Manzi (Lotus CEO) gave to the Boston Computer Society, Press releases from Lotus Development, and Titles of the 1-2-3 for Windows question.

This software was downloaded and donated by Lotus Development Corporation.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 659. Clip-Artist & Fontasia DEMO - 1-2-3 Add-Ins from PC Publishing by PC Publishing.

Clip-Artist and Fontasia are add-ins for 1-2-3 that provide marvelous spreadsheet publishing capabilities to 1-2-3. Clip-Artist is a collection of graphics that can be brought into to 1-2-3 through spreadsheet the publishing capabilities of Impress or WYSIWYG. Fontasia is a collection of 15 typefaces that can be used in Impress or WYSIWYG.

This demonstration of the programs shows off the capabilities of both programs through a 1-2-3 spreadsheet running a macro. If you like to work with the publishing capabilities of 1-2-3, then this demo will tempt you to buy Clip-Artist and/or Fontasia.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM XT/AT, PS/2, or compatible with 1-2-3 Release 2.2 and Impress, or 1-2-3 Release 2.3. Approximately 200K of memory must be available after all add-ins are attached.

In order to run the DEMO, it is necessary that Impress or WYSIWYG be attached. Impress can be used with 1-2-3 Release 2.2, and WYSIWYG is shipped with 1-2-3 Release 2.3. One final aspect to get the demo to run is that Auto-Executing macros must be turned on. In most cases, this feature is turned on. To check, select /, Worksheet, Global, Default, and view the screen and check to ensure that these is an "x" next to Auto-Executing macros.

Once Impress or WYSIWYG is attached, simply retrieve the spreadsheet named PCPDEMO.WK1 and sit back and watch the spectacular publishing stunts before your eyes. The demo occasionally asks the user to press enter to continue. While watching this demo, you may forget that you are using 1-2-3. After the demo, you may find yourself buying one or both of these products.

This software was donated by PC Publishing.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 660. Writer's Tools, 4/91 - Ideas and Helps for Writers by Jeff Napier - Another Company, PO Box 298, Applegate, Oregon 97530. Registration Fees: Writer's Dream - \$19.95; The Comedy Generator - \$9.95; Datakeeper - \$29.95.

WRITERS DREAM:

This program is a source of information for those desiring to publish electronic books - what to say and when to say it. Gives you ideas on how to construct your writing such that the reader will read through the entire disk and not just the first screen or so. This starts off with a text tutorial that explains the three programs. This program is not confined to electronic books. The ideas and help are applicable to other means of communication. To publish an electronic book, use any word processor, then use Writers Dream to put it into "book" form, ready to distribute as shareware.

DATAKEEPER:

Datakeeper replaces a notepad, an appointment schedule, phone book, address book, idea processor and more. Access to these files is obtained by typing one key word. The program comes with a fair sized library of interesting information. For example, were you aware that the temperature of alligator eggs at hatching time determines their sex? Run the program for more information. The databank you create is quickly updated and simple to recall.

COMEDY GENERATOR:

Type in a sentence, then ask for a substitute for one word. Comedy generator will provide the word from an internal listing. Helpful in writing speeches and poems and associated types of writing. More for fun than serious work.

These programs will run on any PC. There are no special requirements.

The source for this software was the author, Jeff Napier.

This review was prepared by Frank Miller, edited by Virginia Salter (11/91).

Disk 661. Boxer 3.03, 6/91 - Full Function Text Editor by David R. Hamel, Route #2-74, Temple, NH 03084. (603) 924-6602. Registration: \$50.00 with printed, bound manual, \$35.00 without manual.

BOXER 3.03 is a full function, full screen text editor. It is designed to be run on IBM compatible computers. Upon invoking BOXER.EXE the user is prompted through a series of setup routines to choose such features as printers, compilers and destination drives and directories.

BOXER has full mouse support and is capable of editing multiple files by utilizing windows defined by the user. Editing features are quite generous and include the ability to "UNDO" up to 512 commands. After BOXER is installed it embarks on a demonstration of its features. The user is given a very extensive overview of BOXER'S many features and options.

The BOXER program utilizes drop down menus accessible by both keyboard and mouse. Context sensitive Help Screens are complete and very informative and the commands utilized are mostly intuitive in nature. In addition, during the setup routine you can configure boxer to recognize the command structure of several popular text editors including Q-Edit.

BOXER'S Miscellaneous (MISC) menu yields some interesting surprises including a calculator, calendar and a utility to give character/word/line counts. A graphic drawing mode allows line drawings and there is a full ASCII chart for those users like myself who can never seem to find the proper ASCII code when needed.

The only disappointing feature I found with BOXER was the documentation. The Distribution Disk contains a utility to print out the manual as well as a one page "QUICK REFERENCE CARD". The 58 page documentation deals with each feature of the program in a descriptive form, however it is devoid of any examples. There is no section describing how to modify features originally set in the setup procedure. While an experienced user will probably only be inconvenienced by these omissions, but to

the new user these shortcomings could make the use of this excellent program unnecessarily difficult.

The source of this disk is the author, David R. Hamel.

This review prepared by Steven C. Hull, edited by John Puckette (11/91).

Disk 662. Print-Plus 5.6, 6/91 - File Printing/Viewing/Utilities, by Lambert Klein, 3853 Grace, Wayne, MI 48184. 313-326-1583. Shareware Fee = \$19.00.

PrintPlus was written to print files to the printer with options to save printing paper by skipping extra blank lines.

PrintPlus can view files, redirect output to an ASCII file, Tag and copy, move or delete files and more. The program interfaces with the user with pull down menus and optional mouse support for ease of use. The program is robust, as evidenced by the 26-page document included on the diskette.

You can change the configurations for printer setup, screen colors, mouse functions, text output, etc. You can print filename, current date/time and the file's date/time at the top of the first page.

Some other optional features are:

- Print file from page n to page n.
- Print line numbers.
- Replace IBM box characters with user-defined characters.
- Auto-advance toggle when marking files.
- Toggle all marks.
- Preview # of pages to print for each Pmode.
- Sound on/off.
- Mouse left/right buttons reverse toggle.
- Rename files.

This program should be of interest if you want a program for viewing files with printing capabilities.

The source of this disk is the author, Lambert Klein.

This review prepared by Frank Miller, edited by John Puckette (11/91).

Disk 663. For Stamp Collectors 1.02, 3/90 - Stamp Collector's Database by Steven C. Hudgik, Homecraft Computer Products, PO Box 974, Tualatin, OR 97062. Shareware: \$59.95.

For Stamp Collectors is a simple collector's database manager. It can store 10,000 entries in each data file. Multiple files can be used. Files stored on floppies are limited to 2,000 entries.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Any IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with 256K of RAM, Color and monochrome monitors will work, an 80 column by 66 line per page printer is required for printing.

For Stamp Collectors offers basic data base features for entering, editing, deleting, copying and condensing files, and for printing and viewing catalogs created by the search function. It offers indexing, to speed up searches. There is no on-line help. It has a customizing option, but no documentation.

The program offers three user levels: Collector, Advanced and Description. The Collector level makes the most compact files. The data entry form has spaces for a Catalog #, the country, denomination, year, description and value. The Advanced level adds another form with entries for type, condition, gum condition, comment, storage, year purchased, quantity, cost and sold. The Description level, the "Note Pad", is an extension of the Advanced level that adds to each entry a small free-form data sheet for descriptions.

This software was donated to the NTPCUG by the author.

This review prepared by Mitch Hoselton, edited by Mark Gruner (11/91).

Disk 664AB. PC Magazine Labs Benchmarks 6.0, 10/91 - Benchmark Tests for PCs by PC Magazine

PC Magazine Benchmarks Version 6.0 provides a standard comparison between PC systems. Speed benchmarks are provided for Processor, Coprocessor, Disk, Printer, BIOS, and Memory. A Compatibility benchmark is provided for VGA, and Quality benchmarks are provided for CGA/EGA hardware. This series of benchmark tests is remarkably easy to use, follow, and understand.

One of the new aspects of this version is the program is object oriented. The program also adapts to the type of monitor instead of defaulting to text mode. A database is now an integral part of the engine. The tests are now modular so that tests are loaded and unloaded from memory as needed. In this version, results are measured as throughput such as bytes per second instead of seconds. Also added are some additional EGA and VGA benchmarks.

PC Magazine uses these benchmark tests in their review of PC systems and related hardware. By using these tests, PC Magazine presents a consistent and comparable review and analysis of hardware. This feature is particularly useful since hardware is constantly being reviewed throughout the year in the magazine. You can use the results of the tests to see how your PC at work or home stack up. You can also use them when evaluating future purchases.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with a hard disk. At least 512K of memory, however some tests require 640K of memory.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information applies to DOM Disks No's 665 - 670.

Each disk is the source code for the programs presented in the "Utilities" section of PC Magazine, see the issue cited for documentation and use. These utilities are copyright to PC Magazine (upgrades can be found on the PCMagNet) and are made available by the NTPCUG as a service to our members.

Disk 665. PC Magazine Utilities 1988 Ja-MY - Source Code For Programmers

v7n01 -- .ASM, .BAS and .COM for the utilities cited in the 1/12/88 issue (CAPTURE and HELP).

v7n02 -- .ASM, .BAS and .COM for the utilities cited in the 1/26/88 issue (PAINT, MODENV, PUTENV, and TP4).

v7n03 -- .ASM, .BAS and .COM for the utilities cited in the 2/16/88 issue (RUN, LANDPAGE, PORTPAGE, and PP703).

v7n05 -- .ASM, .BAS and .COM for the utilities cited in the 3/15/88 issue (ASPRN).

v7n07 -- .ASM, .BAS and .COM for the utilities cited in the 4/12/88 issue (TOUCH).

v7n08 -- Contains files from Volume 7, No.8 including STAYDOWN.COM, etc.

v7n09 -- Includes RECORDER.ASM, RECORDER.COM, RECORDER.BAS, DUMP.ASM, DUMP.BAS, DUMP.EXE, TD.C, TRYTD.C, EXTENDED.BAS, and WRITE.PAS.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 666. PC Magazine Utilities 1988 Je-S - Source Code For Programmers

v7n10 -- Includes TOGGLE, INFO, RHCTRL, and MENU.C

v7n11 -- Includes COMPARE, PRNBYLIN, SCANTD.ASM, TRYSTD.ASM, and others.

v7n12 -- Includes ALLKEYS.COM, ALLKEYS.ASM, ALLKEYS.BAS, AND ALLKEYS.DOC

It also contains code from other productivity columns, including, FSB from Environments, SCANTD.C and TRYSTD.C from Power Programming, and the Debug scripts to create many COM files from User-to-User. Also, the Turbo Pascal routines from Languages are included.

v7n16 -- Contains MAKEBAS.ASM, MAKEBAS.COM, MAKEBAS.BAS, MAKEBAS.DOC, QSORTI.C, QSORTI.ASM, TRYQSI.ASM, TRYQSI.EXE, NEWNODE.ASM, NEWNODE.COM, NEWNODE.B, AT, SENDCODE.COM, FND.BAT, EXAMPLE.BAT, SPIND.C, SELFMOD.PAS, and BOXES3.ARC.

This software was downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 667. PC Magazine Utilities 1988 O-D - Source Code For Programmers

v7n17 -- Includes DCACHE.ASM, DCACHE.BAS, DCACHE.COM, DCACHE.DOC, PP717.ARC, ENV717.ARC, LINEBROW.PAS, NEWVAL, PAUSEPOP, DO.BAT, INSTALL.BAT, and MCOPY.BAT.

v7n18 -- Includes XPANDISK.SYS, XPANDISK.ASM, XPANDISK.BAS, XPANBOSS.ASM, XPANBOSS.BAS, XPANBOSS.COM, XPANDISK.DOC, SHFTPICK.COM, MULTCOPY.COM, ASC2PS.ARC, ASC2PSO.ARC, DOSFUNC.ASM, CTRLCAP.ASM, CTRLCAP.BAS, CTRLCAP.COM, and PCNET.BAT.

v7n20 -- Includes CONFIG.ASM, CONFIG.BAS, CONFIG.CTL, CONFIG.DOC, ENV720.ARC, PP720.ARC, BIGGER.PAS, CURSOR.PAS, VIDEOMOD.PAS, MEMSIZE.PAS, GETKEY.COM, and BAT_CASE.BAT.

v7n21 -- Includes LOG.ASM, LOG.BAS, LOG.COM, LOG.DOC, ANSI.COM, ANSIKEY.BAT, ANSIKEYL.BAT, ANSIKEYI.BAT, STRINGS3.ASM, TRYSTR3.EXE, TRYSTR3.ASM, TRYQSORT.ASM, TRYQSORT.EXE, FNGETKEY.BAS, COPY.BAS, DELETE.PAS, GETASCII.PAS, WSXLATE.C, READ123.BAS, READ123.EXE, WRITE123.BAS, WRITE123.EXE, BIOSDATE.COM, and VIDEOPX.COM.

v7n22 -- Includes ENVELOPE.ASM, ENVELOPE.BAS, ENVELOPE.COM, ENVELOPE.DOC, ARG.C.ASM, ARG.V.ASM, SHOWARGS.ZIP, MOUSEDemo.ZIP, QWRITE.C, SIDEWRITE.BAS, QSORTPL.BAS, BREAK.BAS, MAIN.C, FREQ.ASM, PECHO.BAT, HIDE.BAT, LTR.ASM, QUICKFMT.BAT, DO_CRLF.COM, and DO_CRLFSCR.

This software was downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 668. PC Magazine Utilities 1989 Ja-Ap - Source Code For Programmers

v8n01 -- Includes BCOPY.ASM, BCOPY.BAS, BCOPY.COM, BCOPY.DOC, CATALOG.BAT, CATALOGX.BAT, CATALOGD.BAT, CHEKVOL1.BAT, CHEKVOL2.BAT, VOLUME.BAT, NOISE.BAT, EXBCDEMO.PAS, DIRTREE.PAS, EXP.C, IMPORT.ASM.

v8n02 -- ANSI.SYS replacement (faster). Input subroutine with defaults. Use DEBUG to disassemble programs. Export files across a network. Get replies from DOS. Set date/time on files.

Calculate space used by files. Read environment variables. Time/date conversions.

v8n03 - Includes SMOOTH.ASM, SMOOTH.BAS, SMOOTH.COM, SMOOTH.DOC, CURRENT.BAT, DOCLIST.BAT, PCPRINT.C, QB.BAT, QC.BAT, QFN.ASM, QFN.C, RCOPY.BAT, TRYQFN.ARC, TSO.C, WHATEVER.EX1, and WHATEVER.EX2.

v8n04 - Convert scan codes in basic to function keys. Two ways to log everytime your computer boots up. Searching for a file in a list of directories from Turbo Pascal. An accurate DELAY function for Turbo Pascal. Transfer files at high speed over a serial connection. And More.

v8n05 - Monitor RS-232 status in background; delay subroutine for BASIC; simultaneous operation in BASIC; use keyboard indicators for display; text file I/O in C and assembly; network log-on procedures; wipe files from a floppy disk; move files; use wildcards on the command line; custom menu macro for WordPerfect 5.0.

v8n06 - Binary search routine. Convert ASCII database files to WP merge. Disk info from BASIC. Random access data files. Send/receive messages across a network. OS/2 PM Time/Date display. Make color applications readable in mono. Word/linecount ASCII files. Batch check dir structure.

v8n07 - Align variables on word boundary in TP 5.0. Generic menu system. Return machine type/ID in environment variable. Print two pages of text on one laser printer page. Create a singly linked list from a text file. Reboot with maximum available RAM. Make/search indexed data files with ASCII keys. Time/date display under OS/2. String array searching in BASIC.

v8n08 - Change screen colors in BASIC. Fast clear screen in BASIC. Turn off display during batch processing. Limit FORMAT to drives A: and B:. Run programs from a BASIC program. Create/search a list based on hash tables. Enhance mouse sensitivity control. Roundoff error. Delete multiple files.

This software was downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 669. PC Magazine Utilities 1989 My-S - Source Code For Programmers

v8n09 -- Includes version 1.3 of SLICE.ASM, SLICE.BAS, SLICE.COM, SLICE.DOC; also DBACK.BAT, CALC.BAT, DISASM.BAT, NUMODE.COM, ANSIMODE.BAT, MOUDEM01.C, MOUDEM01.EXE, MOUDEM02.C, MOUDEM02.EXE, MOUSE.ASM, MOUDEM03.C, and MOUDEM03.EXE.

v8n10 - Create a printer menu accessible from any application or DOS. Compare two directories and list all unique files. Move files to a TRASH subdirectory rather than deleting them. Restore files from TRASH subdirectory. Replace DEL command in COMMAND.COM.

v8n11 - OS/2 Color with ANSI ESC sequences. Accessing extended memory in C. View OS2.INI file. dBASE IV User defined functions for menu and window control. dBASE IV SCAN statement.

v8n12 -- Includes EMS40.ASM, EMS40.BAS, EMS40.SYS, EMS40.DOC, XMSDISK.ASM, CTRLD.WK1 RANGE.WK1, TAQUIN.ARC, FOOTNOTE.ARC, CHECK.BAT, SUBSTDOT.BAT, and TURNDemo.BAT.

v8n13 - Convert a number to different base notations. A simple Heap manager in assembly. Substitute ASCII strings in files. Pop-up and pull-down windows in C. Help from batch files. Warmboot the computer. Move files between directories.

v8n14 - Includes version 1.3 of CHKFRAG.C, CHKFRAG.DOC, CHKFRAG.EXE; also DEFRAG.BAT, EMS.TST, NOVIRUS.C, PATCH.C, PMASC.ARC, PP814.ARC, RUN.BAT, and SLOWFAST.PAS.

v8n15 - Includes EMSCACHE.ASM, CONFIG.ARC, CONFIG.DOC, DCOPI.BAT, RUN.C, WRITEVAR.C, PMASC.C, and PMASC.EXE.

This software was downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 670. PC Magazine Utilities 1989 S-D - Source Code For Programmers

v8n16 - Includes v2.0 of DIRMATCH.COM (updated 2/3/91), DIRMATCH.ASM, and the original DIRMATCH.DOC; also SCREEN.BAT, TOA.BAT, FROMA.BAT, WIPE1.BAT, QUIT.BAT, DEHYPER.BAT, SOUNDEX.PAS, HARDWARE.BAS, ONEDRIVE.PAS, DOSTERM.EXE, DOSTERM.ASM, SAVEA.XLM, SAVEB.XLM and AUTOSAVE.WK1.

v8n17 - Includes DIMMER.ASM, DIMMER.BAS, DIMMER.COM, OS2TERM.C, OS2TERM.EXE, FLAGS.ASM, FLAGS.BAS, ALPHACOL.PAS, HD2FLOPY.PRG, BAT_CASE.BAT, CONFIG.BAT, C.BAT, BRKSTATE.COM, BRKSTATE.SCR, COMSET.ARC, and PF2.ARC.

v8n18 - Includes updates to MENU.COM, MENU.ASM, VARMAC.WPM, DEMO.WPM, STATE.WPM and MOVEONLY.WPM. Also included: FAX.BAT, FAX.TPL, MENU.BAS, MENU.DOC, SUBTEST.BAT, SUBTEST2.BAT, DUMPL.ASM, ARGCI.ASM, ARGV1.ASM, HEXASC.ASM, BIRTHDAY.BAS, SCRNDUMP.PAS, SCRNTTEST.PAS, GRAPPATH, SAVEA.XLM, SAVEB.XLM, AUTOSAVE.WK1, CURPATH.BAS.

v8n19 - Includes version 1.4 of EMMA.ASM, .BAS, .COM, .DOC, and version 1.3 of BESS.ASM, .BAS, .COM, DMUL.ASM, DDIV.ASM, DMUL386.ASM, DDIV386.ASM, ENUMLAST.PAS, FIRSLAST.PAS, RSPATH.BAT, COMPILE.BAT, BEZIER.C, .DEF, .EXE, .MAK, TEMPLATE.FAX, .MBX, PAP, TYMNET.CSF, LOCAL.CSF, 800.CSF, MNP.CSF, EMMA.TBL <IMPORTANT: EMMA was previously called 1STCLASS and BESS was previously called COURIERS.ASM.>

v8n20 - Includes CONSTRUCT.PAS, CURSOR.COM, DEBUGSCR.ASM, DEBUGSCR.BSA, DEBUGSCR.COM, FINDENV.PAS, FINDENV.EXE, HIDE.COM.WPM, M_CURSOR.BAT, MPADD.ASM, MPIMUL.ASM, MPMUL1.ASM, MPNEG.ASM, MPSUB.ASM, POPMENU.C, POPMENU.DEF, POPMENU.EXE, POPMENU.MAK, POPMENU.RC, RED.COM, SHOW.COM.WPM, SHUFFLE.C and WAIT10.COM.

v8n21 -- Includes PCMANAGE.C, PCMANAGE.EXE, PCMANAGE.DOC, DCOMPRES.ASM, DCOMPRES.COM, TRXTCOM.BAT, CHG.BAT, CHG.SET1.BAT, CHG.SET2.BAT, CHG.SET3.BAT, UPCASE.BAT, TRIG.PAS, TRIGDEMO.PAS, EDITOR.BAS, MPMUL2.ASM, MPDIV.ASM, MPIDIV.ASM, TRYMPMUL.ASM, TRYMPDIV.ASM, TRYMPMUL.EXE, TRYMPDIV.EXE, COL.WK1, MCOL.WK1, CASE.WK1, and QCASE.WK1.

v8n22 - Includes ALIAS1.ASM, ALIAS1.COM, ALIAS1.UPD (all updates), ALIAS.DOC, UNIQUE.WPM, SRCHDEL.MAC, QBI.BAT, LOG.BAT, BACKUPX.BAT, NOTES.BAT, TEENY.ASM, JUMP.PAS, SETJMP.ASM, JUMPTTEST.PAS, NETADD.SCR, NETADD.COM, NETNUM.ASM, and NETNUM.COM.

This software was downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 671. ZBasic-PC & PC/386 4.6 DEMO, 9/91 - Basic Language Demo by Harry Gish, President, 32 Bit Software, Inc., 3232 McKinney, Suite 865, Dallas, TX 75204. 214-720-2051 or 800-32-BITSW.

This LIMITED functional version of the ZBasic-PC V4.6 Basic Compiler is a working DEMO of the full 16-bit BCD Version. This demo version has the following limitations: ➤

- Only 1 File Open - 8k Maximum Program Size - 2k Maximum INDEXS Size - No Object File or Chaining - 14 Digits Precision Maximum

Its purpose is to allow you to learn a lot about ZBasic prior to purchase. There is a large number of working programs and other support files included on the disk which show many examples of the ZBasic dialect.

For the list price of \$149.95 (less by mail from several sources) you get three versions of the compiler. The 16-bit BCD version allows high-precision math up to 54 significant digits. A faster 16-bit binary math version offers 6 and 14 significant digits of accuracy. A third version for the 386 and 486 machines offers 32-bit arithmetic. A sub-compiler is available to allow you to compile programs for, say, a 386/486 machine, on an XT, and take the executable module to the 386/486 machine, and execute it there.

Features: configurable options, compilation within the editor or from the command line, small object modules, unlimited program size through chaining, enhanced command set, device independent graphics for addressing a variety of video cards, dual monitor support, no 64K limit to arrays, direct printer port commands for faster laser printer output, file redirection options, mouse support, pop-up windows, extended key access, high-speed communications support, and full network support with automatic record locking.

A Windows version is imminent.

The source of this disk is the vendor, 32 Bit Software, Inc.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Virginia Salter (11/91).

- Full support for MS-DOS 5 (including LOADHIGH and UMB access); supports DR-DOS 6 HILOAD and passwords as well. Still fully compatible with earlier versions of MS-DOS and PC-DOS (2.0+), and DR-DOS (3.4+). - New 4DOS.INI file gives you complete control over 4DOS setup, and lets you reassign virtually all the keystrokes 4DOS uses. - "Key aliases" let you assign complex commands to a single keystroke. - Popup history window lets you view and execute any command in the history. - New filename wildcard type to select specific characters or ranges. - On-line HELP supports line scrolling and has many other improvements. - "Include lists" allow you to mix several file specifications in all commands that accept filenames (eg copy c:\utf1*.com;*.exe a:). - Dozens of new variable functions and internal variables for aliases and batch files that are more powerful and flexible than ever. - 4DOS is now a single file (4DOS.COM), and is fully relocatable to allow reduced swapping size in all secondary shells. The resident size of secondary shells has been reduced from 3K to 1.5K. - Programmers can add internal commands using "installable commands". - COPY can copy entire subdirectory trees, and hidden and system files. - DEL can delete a subdirectory tree and delete hidden and system files. - IF and IFF have new AND, OR, and XOR operators. - MOVE can create the target directory and can move an entire subdirectory. - The PROMPT can include any environment variable, internal variable, or variable function, giving enormous flexibility in displaying data on system resources or other information.

This software was downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/91).

Disk 672AB. 4DOS 4.0, 11/91 - Replacement Shell for COMMAND.COM, Released 11/4/91, JP Software Inc., PO Box 1470, East Arlington, MA 02174. Shareware Fee \$69.

This readme taken directly from their release notice on Compuserve. With this product, no introduction or fanfare is needed. This is their biggest upgrade ever, and it's packed with the new features:

Order blank for disks is on page 28.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION North Texas PC Users Group

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

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Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

It is November 10th as I write this. You will see this in your December newsletter if I finish it and get it off to the newsletter in a timely manner. The 10th is our newsletter deadline - for the next month's newsletter.

With that in mind, I especially get a kick out of looking at the SIG notes each month. Not to name any names, here, but I think some of our SIG folks have strayed to the far side of fantasy in reporting what does/may go on in their SIGs.

Even so, most of them hit the mark. Have you been looking?

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers listed below who served for the month of OCTOBER. In addition to those listed below, our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter publisher, editor, staff and writers, newsletter exchange, and BBS SYSOP and staff are all volunteers; their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter.

PLEASE remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

INFOMART Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/ Breakdown
Cary Hocker
Whitcomb Johnstone
James Menefee
David Slavik
Walter Wilson

BBS Champion
Fred Williams

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

Information/ Registration Booth
C. D. Agee
Conley Andrews (Anchor)
Harvey Andrews
Mike Asheley (Anchor)
Ralph Beaver (Anchor)

Brad Bellue
Randl Boucher (Anchor)
Rodger Bradley
Ronald Fairbrother
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)
Jim Hall (extra duty)
Cindy Hanifen
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)
David Huckabee
Glenn Hunt
Pehl. Lee (extra duty)
David Martin
Wade Mayfield (Anchor & extra duty)
Claude McClure (Anchor)
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
John Serrano
Conule Testa (Statistician)
Everett Turner (Anchor)
Jean Waldrep (Anchor)
Peyton Weaver (Anchor)
Paul Williams (Anchor)
Bob Wuller
Tom Zabel

Disk of the Month (DOM):
SEPTEMBER only:

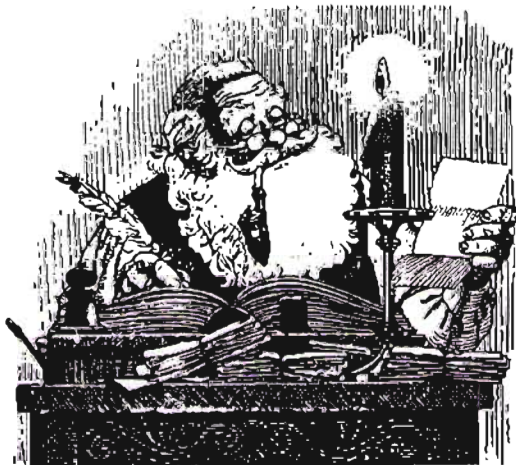
DOM Squad
Roy Bales
Preston Brashear
Charles Carter
Mark "new daddy" Gruner
Howard Hamilton
Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman
John Puckette
Virginia Salter
Ben Weatherall

DOM Booth
Roy Bales
Richard Bauman
Robert Bender
Stan Berlin
Gene Carleton
Charles Carter
Charles Cashion
Bill Chambliss
Bill Drissel

Judy Griffiths
Howard Hamilton
Kathryn Loafman
Duane Martin
Jerry Stone
Oscar Tyler
Claude Walston

With Special Thanks to:
Jay Chambliss
Bob Karleback
Paul Corbett
Jo Johnston
Kenneth Loafman
Pat Henley
Ralph Beaver
Don Chick

DOM Review/Presentation
Mark Gruner
Kathryn Loafman
Shawn Dunn



Hm-m-m. Another willing volunteer...

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	661-4628 (w)
DOM Booth Activities	
Bill Drissel	284-9680 (h)
DOM Software Review	
Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information	
Connie Andrews	828-0899 (h)



Education

by Jim Hoisington

In reaction to the massive changes being brought about in our society by economical access to computers, our schools are going to have to change. Change will be necessary because the nature of the society for which they are preparing the students will have already changed.

Consider the change in our economy as we move from a manufacturing economy to a service and information based economy. We are moving away from working with things and toward working with information. Working with things is increasingly being left to automation.

However, our schools are still modelled around an agrarian and a manufacturing society. While

automation has touched almost every economic endeavor in our society, it has scarcely begun to be implemented in our schools. We still have a teacher, communicating facts and ideas to students using mostly written media.

Outside of the school, today's students increasingly gather information from screens (television and computer) and from sound (television, telephone, and other humans). The teaching model using books increasingly out of touch with modern society.

Universities were first established by scholars clustered around scarce and precious books. The advent of the printing press made the university library less essential to learning since the books were no longer scarce. With today's proliferating on-line knowledge bases and cheap telecommunications and VCR's, large geographical concentrations of scholars and books are even less essential to acquiring knowledge.

At the secondary and primary level, I think that the role of the teacher must and will change. More and more communication of facts and drills will be handled by video tapes and computers. Students' progress will be monitored by the computers rather than the teacher.

While the primary and secondary will spend less time conveying knowledge in the classroom, there is a growing need for the teacher to teach basic human relations. This need comes about because parents are spending less time with their children.

At the university level, I think the scholars will spend less time working for the university and more time working with publishers who publish their knowledge as courseware. This means that the students will spend less time in class and more time in front of VCRs and computer terminals. Class work will probably resemble discussion groups where a monitor, probably a graduate student, makes sure that the ideas and information are being learned.

Whether this means that existing universities will offer more extensive coursework to a larger percentage of the population or whether there will be just a few national universities offering courses via 1-800 telephone numbers and credit cards, I don't know. What I am sure of is that schools will need to change as our society changes.

Jim



DOM Mail Order Form

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

Specify disk size:
5.25" 3.5"

Disk No.	No. of disks	Title/Description

TOTAL DISKS _____ @ \$2.00 each \$ _____

SHIPPING & HANDLING @ \$1.00 for each 6 disks \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ORDER \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

The Changing Database World - Slick Application Design Without Programming

Alpha Software Corporation
DeScribe Word Processor for Windows and OS/2
DeScribe, Inc.
NTPCUG Business Meeting

OS/2 2.0, The Integrating Platform
IBM

(See page 1 for
description of
programs.)

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

9:00 - 9:55
Assembler
DOS
General Genealogy
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users
Quicken
Software Review
Windows Applications
WordPerfect

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

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

11:00 - 11:55
Basic Programming
Community Service
Family Roots - Gnlgy.
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)349-9690 h (214)747-0209 w (214)223-4044 h (214)871-5854 w (214)423-9221 h (214)317-0308 w (214)317-0125 h (214)271-2292 h (214)205-2215 w (214)775-1603 (214)233-8363 w (214)343-8662 h (214)341-1890 w (214)618-8002 h (214)484-7942 w (817)731-1308 h (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w (214)298-1799 w (214)635-9379 h (214)669-9633 w (214)235-2559 h (214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h (214)644-7536 (214)278-7888 h (214)681-0202 h (214)937-9678 w (214)937-5851 h (214)458-9158 (817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
Andy Oliver		
Assembler	Frank Cavalitto	
Basic Programming	Kent Kingery	
	Steve Dixon	
Beginners C Lang.	Stan Milam	
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	
	Tom Cook	
Communications	Doug Gorrie	
	Bill Green	
Community Svc	Jay Shilstone	
Comp Aided Design	Bill Saphion	
Computer Law	Debra Rangel	
DAC Software	Putt Shaw	
DOS	Jim Holsington	
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	
Fox Pro	Kevin White	
Genealogy	Al Sanford	
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee	
	Gary Johnson	
Investors	Nash Kappoor	
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekel	
	Francis Bright	
LOTUS	Mark Gruner	
	Pat Henley	
	Betty Brooks	
OS/2- Windows Dev	James Dunn	
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fernler	
	Fred Williams	
Paradox	Bob Presley	
Personal Users	Bob Russell	
	Kent Kingery	
Programmers		
	Jim Holsington	
Quicken	Buddy Kulick	
	Rex Gifford	
	Richard Hauslein	
R:Base	Don Branham	
	Pat Henley	
Software Review		
	James Corbett	
TI Pro		
	Kurt Krider	
Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	
	Jim Stallworth	
Windows Applic.	Arthur English	
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	
	David McGehee	
	Dorothy Benline	
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn	
	Mitch 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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Jim Holsington, Chairman	Mark Gruner
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	Kathrine Loafman Andy Oliver

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from
outside Area Code 214, use Area Code 214.
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(214)387-2752
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Asst. SYSOP.- Maggie Moomey
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa

User Relations: Kent Cobb
Information Mgrt: Doug Gorrie
Technical Services: Leroy Tennison

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Disk of the Month Group Statistician	Kathryn Loafman	(214)596-2539
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Testa Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain	John Pribyl	Stuart Yanus
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Address Changes, etc...

Payment of dues, address changes, and
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directed to

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal
date.)



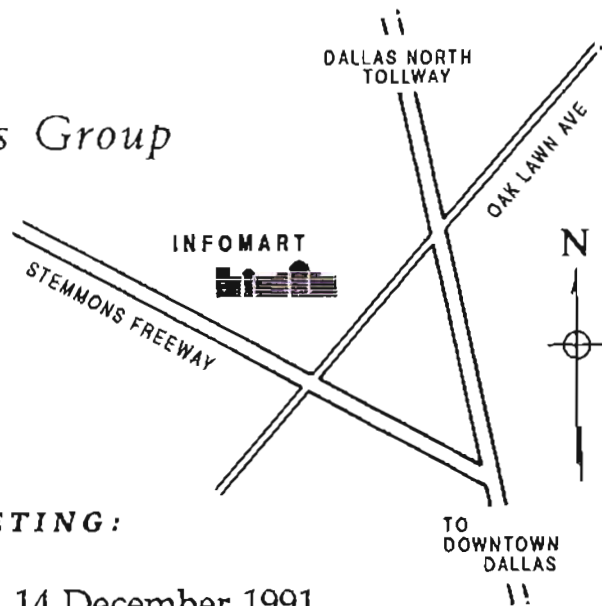
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North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

14 December 1991