



North Texas PC Users Group

11.2

February 1992



North Texas PC NEWS

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

Publisher
John Pribyl (817)275-4109

Editor
Doug McQuaid (214)402-0538

Assistant Editors
Gerry Heine (214)938-7266
Alan Lintel (214)220-8285
Randy Lakti (817)861-1979

Newsletter Exchange Editor
Francis Bright

Advertising Director
John Pribyl, (acting) - (817)275-4109

Mail all advertising material and ad payments to:
North Texas PC NEWS
2025 Rockwood Drive
Arlington TX 76010

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or its members. Copyright © 1992 by North Texas PC NEWS. (Articles without specific copyright notices may be reproduced unchanged by other not-for-profit User Groups if credit is given to the author and the publication.)

Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 1938 last month. Member distribution was 1587; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for March
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, February 10th

Meeting Dates:

February Meeting - 2nd Sat.(8th)
March Meeting - 1st Sat.(7th)
April Meeting - 3rd Sat.
(tentative)

Note

We have a very short turnaround production schedule for the March issue. Please get your articles in early.

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Andy Oliver	
On Complexity, No. 60 Standards	2
Jim Hoisington	
Batch File Tips and Utilities <i>Second of a series.</i>	3
Mitchel A. Hoselton	
Word for Windows 2.0 <i>Upgrade or major rewrite?</i>	9
Reagan Andrews	
Livermore Labs Discover New Element	11
Arthur Taber	
Cells & Ranges	12
Betty Brooks	
Nine Ways to Kill any Organization	20
The grapevine	
CA-Compete <i>A review</i>	21
Pat Henley	
How to catch an elephant...	22
Peter Theobald	
The Adventures of PC Tech <i>Chapter 10</i>	24
Ben Thar	

Special Items:

Agenda	1
Volunteer Guide	8
Variety Store	14
SIG Reports	17
Member Application Blank	23
Officers, Meetings & Times	25

Program for February _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM PostScript Solutions for the PC Environment

Adobe Systems Incorporated
Tom McKeown, Sales Manager

Come to a discussion of where PC applications are going and how PostScript is an integral part of that direction. Specifics will include software strategies for the Windows environment and PCL5 comparisons. Some of the Adobe products presented will be Adobe Type Manager, all Level II printer products, Adobe Plus Pack and Font Sets, and Multiple Master font technology.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Database Strategies

Borland Corporation

Borland will present an overview of a database strategy which now includes dBase as well as Paradox products. The presentation will also include a preview of Paradox for Windows, which brings new standards of ease of use, database compatibility and powerful application creation to the world of database management. Borland will also provide free copies of software for a drawing.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Word for Windows Version 2

Microsoft Corporation

You have heard about it and read about it — now you can see it demonstrated by a live product manager. The leading word processor designed for the Windows environment makes everyday work easy with a customizable toolbar, ribbon and ruler, drag and drop, tables, print merge helper, grammar checker, styles and templates. There will be a drawing for free copies of software. *

* 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

Elections

We conducted our annual meeting in January which included the election of President-Elect and three Board members for 1992. I would announce the results, but the February column is due at the printer prior to the January meeting.

The Computer Council of Dallas has re-elected Stuart Yarus as President and elected David Harned of the Apple group as Vice-President. Congratulations. The NTPCUG is a member of the Computer Council, and the CCD runs the basement vendor area along with interfacing with Infomart on behalf of all of the user's groups that meet on Saturday.

Dates

The following are tentative dates for our meetings in 1992:

FEB 8	MAR 7	APR 18	MAY 23	JUN 20
JUL 11	AUG 8	SEP 12	OCT 17	NOV 14
				DEC 19

The contract with Infomart states that we will have one Saturday, but the date is subject to change up to

120 days in advance. So, the dates through April are firm as of this writing.

USERS Group

The emphasis should always be on the word "USERS." We need to make sure that we not only provide a service to our membership, but also continue to explore ways to help the user group community. One idea comes from Stephen Longo of the Philadelphia Area Computer Society (PACS), who says his group has targeted high school computer teachers with a feature on their BBS that allows the high school teachers to get help from the PACS users. After setting this up on the BBS, the only other job is making sure that the teachers organizations and school districts know about the service.

Another good idea came from Robert Todd of the Philadelphia Heath User's Group where they have set up a computer lab for the Presbyterian Children's Village home for junior high and high school aged children from unstable family environments. The group provided computers, software, and instruction for the school's teachers. They have budgeted \$4500 for 1992 along with volunteers to keep the lab open and operational. ▶

ON COMPLEXITY



No. 60 in a Series

Standards

by Jim Hoisington

A lot is written about "standards" in the trade press. Almost every where you look, there are committees setting standards of one sort or another. There are language standards, operating system standards, networking standards, electronic mail standards. The list is endless.

While having standards is generally a good thing, most people do not understand the purpose of a standard as used in the computer industry. The purpose of a standard is to provide a floor not a ceiling.

Said another way, a standard provides a core technology which is always implemented in the same way. However, what few people seem to realize is that having implemented the core technology in a standard way, each vendor is free to go beyond and extend the language, operating system, network, whatever, in any way they choose. Generally, the best of these extensions are then incorporated into the standard the next time it is revised.

Some years ago, I participated on a sub-committee of an ANSI language standard committee. It was one of the most educational things that I have ever done.

This particular committee and its sub-committees were updating an existing ANSI standard for a commonly used programming language. That made the work doubly hard, because we always had to think about the millions of lines of existing programming code that was written to conform to the prior stand-

Prez Sez continued

Our group has the Community Services Special Interest Group led by Jay Shilstone. Jay's SIG matches non-profit organizations needing computer assistance with volunteers from our group who want to use what they have learned and help other organizations as well. Jay sets up shop at the Information Booth each month from 11:00-Noon. Drop by and look over his list of jobs that need doing. You might find something that you want to do.

If you have ideas, and the desire to help implement them, contact me or another NTPCUG board member (listed in the back of the newsletter.)

Andy Oliver 

ard. Any change in the old standard by the new standard was not to be taken lightly.

Consider the case where the prior standard was poorly written and commonly misunderstood. (Actually some of us felt that the prior standard made a mistake in a certain area but we weren't allowed to say that.) The particular language feature had been implemented in a variety of ways by compiler vendors. None of the implementations in this area of the prior standard were particularly good and all were incompatible with each other.

Whatever we wrote as the new standard would "break" at least some existing program code and we really wanted to break it all because that feature has been a source of problems since the existing standard had been implemented.

What did we do? We choose the most politically expeditious route. We cleaned up the language describing the feature in the previous standard a little bit. We did it in a manner that only "broke" the code from a few of the most sloppy compiler implementations.

We then created a "new" feature that did what the feature in the prior standard was supposed to do and changed the syntax just enough so that the new compilers could distinguish it from the old feature. Hopefully, the next revision of the standard will mark the old feature for deletion in some future revision and warn people to eliminate it from their code.

Those were the hard decisions that consumed a lot of time and adrenalin. The easy part of revising the standard was looking over the features that were not in the old standard but were commonly implemented by compiler vendors.

When adding features, we found that we almost always agreed immediately that a feature should be added. If we didn't immediately agree, we would leave the feature out of the new standard for lack of a common need by users of the language.

The standard was eventually blessed by the members of ANSI and has been in use for many years now. In fact, there is a new committee being formed to update the standard once again.

I came away from my involvement in the standard setting process with a new appreciation for standards. I realize the long hard work that goes into writing a standard. And I realize that there are strong differences of opinion by people who thoroughly understand and use the product being standardized. It is only through debate and compromise that a good standard can be written. Finally, I learned that a standard is only a floor and not a ceiling.

Jim 

Batch File Tips and Utilities

The Second in a series by Mitchell A. Hoselton, Ph.D.

An introduction to CONFIG.SYS

CONFIG.SYS is not a batch file. CONFIG.SYS can do things no batch file can do. It contains commands that no batch file can use. Except for RBM, the initial colon (:) and BREAK, it can't use any of the commands or syntax that work in batch files. Nevertheless, this second article in the series will concentrate on CONFIG.SYS. CONFIG.SYS creates the environment in which all the batch files must work. Like air, its effects are everywhere.

This is only the first pass through CONFIG.SYS. It will make other appearances later in this series. That's because batch file authors inevitably end up writing and rewriting the CONFIG.SYS file, too. AUTOEXEC.BAT is the most important batch file on any PC. CONFIG.SYS limits or expands the options available for inclusion in AUTOEXEC.BAT. Changing CONFIG.SYS often justifies making changes to AUTOEXEC.BAT and vice versa. There are only a few utilities that can enhance the performance of CONFIG.SYS. This article introduces the best of the bunch.

Creating and editing CONFIG.SYS, AUTOEXEC.BAT and other batch files

To create and edit CONFIG.SYS, AUTOEXEC.BAT or any batch file, all anyone needs is an ASCII text editor. It is even possible to use a more elaborate word processor and EXPORT or PRINT the text into an ASCII file. There are lots of options in the choice of ASCII editor. Every version of DOS includes a line editor called EDLIN. It isn't much of an editor, but a lot of batch files have been written with it. DOS 5.0 includes its own improved editor utility called EDIT. I prefer 1WORD, the editor built into XTreeGold version 2.5, a commercially available disk manager. The point is, there are lots of available and easy to use ASCII editors. Any ASCII text editor will do. Find one, or get a friend to recommend one. After you find one you like, stick with it.

The whole reason for writing CONFIG.SYS is to install various device drivers and to set some crucial system parameters, in other words to configure the PC system, whenever the computer is turned on or rebooted. Not too surprisingly, some of the common device drivers conflict with each other, with resident programs that can be loaded from AUTOEXEC.BAT and/or with some application programs. The con-

figuration and device driver choices made while writing CONFIG.SYS can, therefore, limit the compatible choices of resident programs and applications. This is the situation that forces some users to create libraries of different CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files.

There is a more fundamental problem with editing CONFIG.SYS than just finding an ASCII editor. After boot-up, there is no way to change the configuration without rewriting the CONFIG.SYS file and rebooting the computer. Most of us have learned to live with that. But, if there happens to be a fatal error (either a typo or a device driver conflict) in the revised CONFIG.SYS, the computer will crash during the boot process. In that circumstance there is no easy way to modify CONFIG.SYS in order to correct the error. If the PC is not working, because it crashed during boot-up, then the ASCII editor that runs on the PC cannot be working either.

BOOTCON prevents reconfiguration catastrophe

The tried and true method for working around this difficulty is to prepare a boot floppy diskette in advance of any work with CONFIG.SYS. In the event of a fatal CONFIG.SYS error, reboot with the boot floppy in the A: drive. Every PC user should have a boot floppy available in the event of a catastrophe. This makes working with CONFIG.SYS excruciatingly tedious. Now there is a better way. BOOTCON is the answer.

This month's report introduces BOOTCON, a utility that can switch among 26 different user defined configurations on the fly during the boot process. BOOTCON can be compared with the MBOOT utility introduced last month. MBOOT can switch among four different operating systems on the fly during the boot process. Both utilities let the user make a selection from a menu at boot-up. MBOOT provides a selection among operating systems and BOOTCON provides a selection among groups of device drivers and system configuration parameters. It is possible to use both utilities on one system at the same time.

I currently use BOOTCON alone since only one operating system, DOS 5.0, is installed on my system. It provides an easy and safe way to select different configurations at boot-up and avoids the old fashioned necessity of manually swapping different CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files.

Best of all, BOOTCON virtually removes fatal crash worries while experimenting with different combinations of device drivers and system parameters. As long as one of the user defined configurations in BOOTCON works properly, the system can always be rebooted by selecting the working configuration from the BOOTCON menu. Once the system is successfully booted, the CONFIG.SYS file can always be edited. ▶

BOOTCON is published by Modular Software Systems, 115 W. California Blvd, Suite 113, Pasadena, CA 91105. It can be ordered from Modular Systems at (818) 440-9104 or from The Programmers Shop at (800) 421-8006. The price is \$60. BOOTCON version 1.6 is compatible with all versions of DOS from 3.0 through 5.0. Features of the newly released version 1.6 include full DOS 5.0 compatibility, more customization options, a syntax checker for CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT, enhanced password protection, and a new auto-boot utility.

BOOTCON has a menu driven interface. It is customizable and has context sensitive help. It also offers password protection (but not against someone with a boot floppy to stick in the A: drive). After it has done its work, BOOTCON shrinks down to occupy 176 bytes of memory.

Using BOOTCON to create a multiple configuration CONFIG.SYS file

Using BOOTCON requires three steps. The first is to add the BOOTCON device driver to the CONFIG.SYS file. Normally this command appears early in the CONFIG.SYS file. Other device drivers and configuration commands can be listed first if that is necessary or more convenient. Adding BOOTCON to CONFIG.SYS requires typing in the following line:

```
DEVICE=C:\BOOTCON\BOOTCON.SYS
```

which assumes that BOOTCON.SYS is stored in the BOOTCON directory on the C: drive.

The second step in using BOOTCON is to define up to 26 "menu definition blocks" (MDBs for short) inside the CONFIG.SYS file. The MDBs appear after the BOOTCON.SYS command in CONFIG.SYS. Each MDB begins with a line that looks like the following:

```
REM BC=[[ Menu Definition Block Label]
```

Each MDB ends with a line that looks like the following:

```
REM BC=]
```

The command lines between the REM BC=[[and REM BC=]] will be executed only if the appropriate selection is made from the opening BOOTCON menu. The text that constitutes the MDB label will appear on the menu and should, at the very least, tell the user something distinctive about that selection. The choices of text for the MDB label and of the lines within the MDB itself are entirely up to the CONFIG.SYS author.

The third step in using BOOTCON is to add the following line at the very end of the CONFIG.SYS file:

```
REM BC=[[END]]
```

An example: BOOTCON in a realistic CONFIG.SYS file

In reading through the example in LISTING 1, it may be helpful to recognize a few important points as you go along.

a) DOS allows blank lines to appear anywhere in CONFIG.SYS. In the example, they enhance readability both for this article and in the actual file on the hard disk.

b) Under DOS versions prior to 4.00, MSDOS.SYS could only transmit capital letters from the CONFIG.SYS file to BOOTCON, so no matter how an MDB label appeared in the CONFIG.SYS file, the label would contain only capital letters when it was displayed in the BOOTCON menu. In DOS 5.0 both capital and small letters are displayed the way they are typed in the CONFIG.SYS file.

c) CONFIG.SYS statements that appear before, between and after the MDBs are always executed no matter which MDB was selected from the BOOTCON menu.

d) One MDB, usually the first one, is the default configuration. If no configuration is selected from the BOOTCON menu within a specified time, BOOTCON selects the default configuration. This relieves the user of any obligation to sit in front of the keyboard and monitor the boot process. Once the "normal" configuration is identified, it can be designated as the new default configuration.

e) The MDB labels will appear on the BOOTCON menu in the order in which the MDBs appear in CONFIG.SYS. Each one will have a letter appended in front of it. The letters appear in order from "A" to "Z". Selections from the menu can be made either by typing the letter that appears in front of the desired MDB label or by moving a cursor to the label and pressing [[RETURN]].

f) Commands like BUFFERS and FILES can appear multiple times in CONFIG.SYS. Only the last one encountered has any effect on the final configuration. The default value for each of these commands should be listed before the first MDB. Any MDB that requires another value should include the correct value for that configuration. MDBs that can use the default value do not need to include it again.

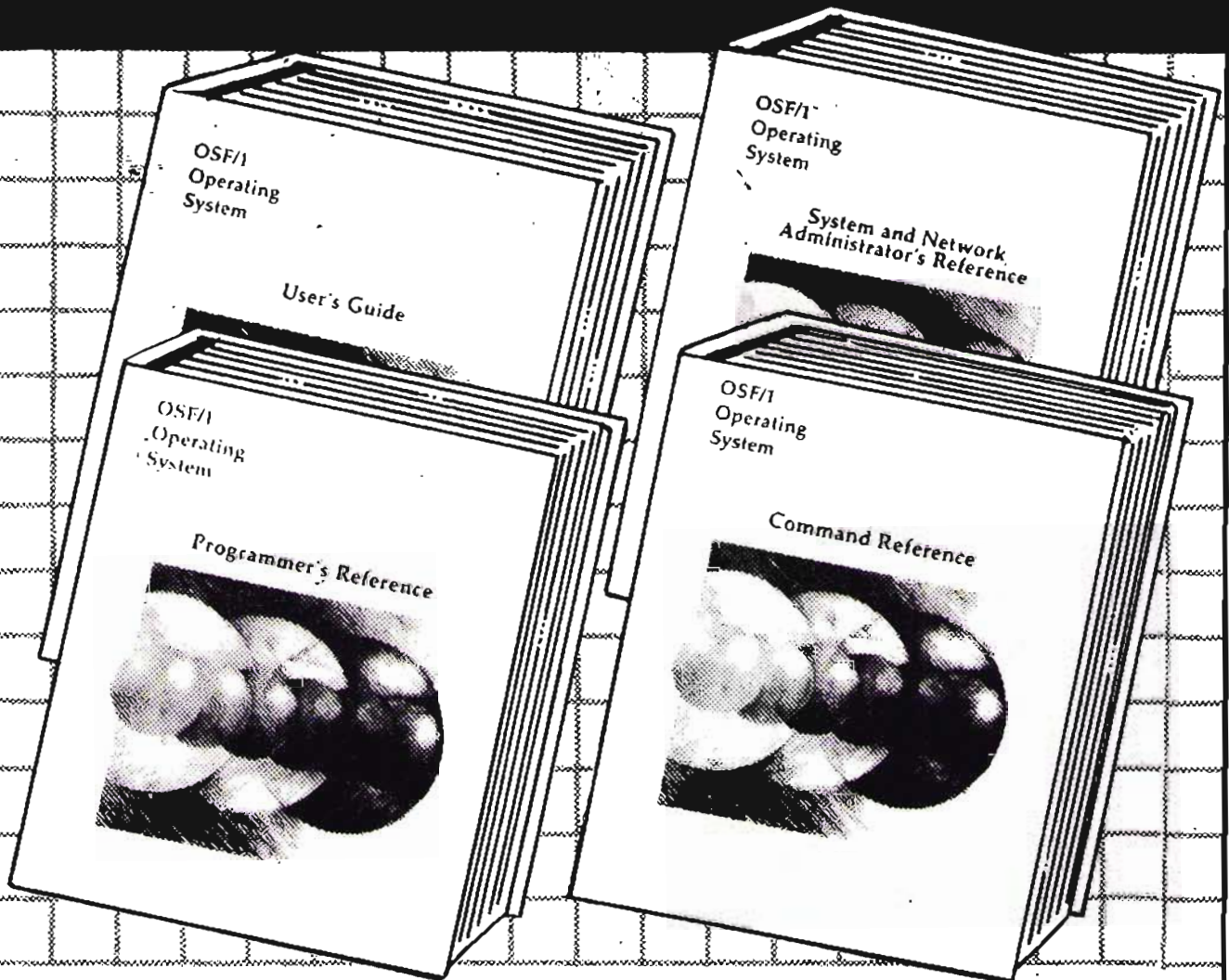
g) Finally, the DOS= command represents a new type of DOS command. This particular command should only appear once in any CONFIG.SYS file. MSDOS.SYS will find this command even if it is in one of the MDBs not selected from the BOOTCON menu. The best way to handle this situation is to always include the DOS=HIGH (or DOS=HIGH,UMB) command near the beginning of CONFIG.SYS. DOS will then load itself HIGH whenever it can, but will load DOS low when no memory manager is installed. BOOTCON includes a special syntax convention that can override the DOS= statement inside particular MDBs that require loading DOS low or disabling the UMB even if a memory manager is installed.

A simplified version of a real CONFIG.SYS file containing BOOTCON and several MDBs might look like LISTING 1.

LISTING 1

```
1 DEVICE=C:\QEMM\HOOKROM.SYS
2
3 DOS=HIGH
4 BREAK=ON
5 BUFFERS=36
6 FILES=25
7 LASTDRIVE=P
8 STACKS 0,0
9 SWITCHES=/K
10
```

OPEN SOFTWARE



The essential guides to one of the most exciting operating systems around: OSF/1. Whether you're an experienced UNIX user or neophyte, these authoritative volumes are the place to start. (Prentice Hall)

OSF/1 User's Guide

OSF/1 Programmer's Reference

OSF/1 Command Reference

OSF/1 System and Network Administrator's Reference

TAYLORS
TECHNICAL
BOOKS

TAYLORS TECHNICAL BOOKS, Second Floor, 5455 Belt Line Rd., (214) 239-TECH

FAX — 239-8527 1-800-926-READ


```

11 DEVICE=C:\BOOTCON\BOOTCON.SYS
12
13 REM BC=[DOS 5.0 w/QEMM386, ANSI and DOS=HIGH
14 DEVICE=C:\QEMM\QEMM386.SYS RAM ROM
15 DEVICE=C:\DOS_500\RAMDRIVE.SYS 352 /A
16 DEVICE=C:\QEMM\LOADHI.SYS /R:2
C:\DOS_500\SETVER.EXE
17 DEVICE=C:\QEMM\LOADHI.SYS /R:2 C:\DOS_500\ANSI.SYS
18 REM BC=]
19
20 REM BC=[DOS 5.0 w/386MAX, ANSI and DOS=HIGH
21 DEVICE=C:\386MAX\386MAX.SYS
PRO=C:\386MAX\386MAX.PRO
22 DEVICE=C:\386MAX\386LOAD.SYS PRGREG=2 PROG=
C:\DOS_500\SETVER.EXE
23 DEVICE=C:\386MAX\386LOAD.SYS PRGREG=2 PROG=
C:\DOS_500\ANSI.SYS
24 REM BC=]
25
26 REM BC=[DOS 5 w/HIMEM w/DOS HIGH
27 BUFFERS=25
28 FILES=20
29 DEVICE=C:\DOS_500\HIMEM.SYS
30 DEVICE=C:\DOS_500\SETVER.EXE
31 REM BC=]
32
33 REM BC=[DOS 5 w/HIMEM w/DOS LOW
34 REM BC=[DOS=LOW]
35 DEVICE=C:\DOS_500\HIMEM.SYS
36 DEVICE=C:\DOS_500\SETVER.EXE
37 REM BC=]
38
39 SHELL=C:\COMMAND.COM /P /E:656
40
41 REM BC = [[END]]
    
```

Lines 14-17: Will be executed if the first MDB is selected from the menu.

Line 18: End of the first MDB.

Line 20: Start of the second MDB; includes the second MDB label.

Lines 21-23: Will be executed if the second MDB is selected from the menu.

Line 24: End of the second MDB.

Line 26: Start of the third MDB; includes the third MDB label.

Lines 27-28: Override the BUFFERS and FILES commands at the beginning of the CONFIG.SYS file if the third MDB is selected from the menu.

Lines 29-30: Will be executed if the third MDB is selected from the menu.

Line 31: End of the third MDB.

Line 33: Start of the fourth MDB; includes the fourth MDB label.

Line 34: Overrides the DOS=HIGH command at the beginning of CONFIG.SYS if the fourth MDB is selected from the menu. This is a special BOOTCON syntax.

Lines 35-36: Will be executed if the fourth MDB is selected from the menu.

Line 37: End of the fourth MDB.

Line 39: The SHELL command increases the DOS environment to 656 bytes.

Line 41: Marks the last line in the CONFIG.SYS file; required by BOOTCON.

There will be more to say in later articles about the specific commands in LISTING 1. For now the emphasis is on BOOTCON and its own particular capabilities.

The following is a summary of what each statement or group of statements in the CONFIG.SYS file in LISTING 1 accomplishes:

Line 1: Loads the HOOKROM.SYS device driver. This is required by QEMM386 when it is not the first statement in CONFIG.SYS. HOOKROM.SYS does not interfere with 386MAX or HIMEM drivers.

Line 3: Instructs DOS 5.0 to load itself into the high memory area. This command should be put early in the file. Even BOOTCON cannot prevent DOS from finding it, so it does no good to include it in one of the "menu definition blocks". Including this line in CONFIG.SYS ensures that DOS will be loaded HIGH if a suitable memory manager is included in the selected MDB.

Lines 4-9: Typical CONFIG.SYS statements, they do not effect BOOTCON, are not effected by BOOTCON and will be executed no matter which MDB is selected from the BOOTCON menu. Some of these may be overridden by other commands in particular MDBs. BOOTCON cannot protect against fatal errors that appear outside of one of the MDBs, therefore, these lines should be edited with great care.

Line 11: Installs the BOOTCON.SYS driver.

Line 13: Start of the first MDB; includes first MDB label.

DOS starts processing this CONFIG.SYS file and eventually gets around to loading and executing BOOTCON. BOOTCON reads the entire CONFIG.SYS file and presents a four item menu that looks something like LISTING 2.

LISTING 2

```

=====
| Select A Configuration...          F1=Help |
=====
| A - DOS 5.0 w/QEMM386, ANSI and DOS=HIGH |
| B - DOS 5.0 w/386MAX, ANSI and DOS=HIGH |
| C - DOS 5 w/HIMEM w/DOS HIGH          |
| D - DOS 5 w/HIMEM w/DOS LOW          |
=====
| Auto Select Countdown...  9 Seconds Remain |
|                                     |
| Press [[Spacebar]] to abort Auto Select, |
| or any other key to continue...       |
=====
    
```

The BOOTCON menu can be set to display up to 15 selections on one page. If more than 15 MDBs are defined in the CONFIG.SYS file, the extra MDBs can

be accessed directly by their prefix letter or by scrolling down through the list with the cursor.

Pressing the F1 key while the BOOTCON menu is active, resets the Auto Select timer and displays the BOOTCON Help menu shown in LISTING 3.

```

=====
LISTING 3
=====
--BOOTCONHelp--
| Move the highlighted selection bar to the boot option you
| want to use and press [[ENTER]], or press the letter next to
| the option you want to select. Press [[ESCAPE]] if you don't
| want any of the options.
|
| Other options are:
|   F1 - Display this help window
|   F2 - Display system information
|   F3 - Program Configuration Menu
|   F9 - View the CONFIG.SYS file
|  F10 - View the AUTOEXEC.BAT file
|   ESC - Exit the program
|
| Press any key to continue...
=====
    
```

Exiting from the BOOTCON Help menu and pressing F3 displays the BOOTCON Configuration menu shown in LISTING 4.

```

=====
LISTING 4
=====
==Program Configuration==
|
| BOOTCON Customization
| Advanced Options
| Set System Password
| Set Advanced Password
| Lose Changes and Exit
| Save Changes and Exit
|
=====
    
```

Selecting BOOTCON Customization from the configuration menu produces the LISTING 5 menu.

```

=====
LISTING 5
=====
--BOOTCON Customization--
| Default Menu Selection :      A (A-Z, blank=last used)
| Audio Enabled :              N (y/n)
| Phaser Count :              0 (0-9)
| Auto Select :                15 (1-999), 0 to disable)
| Exploding Windows :         Y (y/n)
| Remove Video Snow :         Y (y/n)
| Clear Screen on Startup :    Y (y/n)
| Maximum Vertical Menu Height: 15 (0-15 rows)
| Maximum Horizontal Menu Width: 55 (0 or 30-74 columns)
|
|   OK      Cancel      Revert      Defaults
=====
    
```

In LISTING 2 and LISTING 5 Auto Select indicates the count-down time in seconds to make a selection. Moving the cursor halts the Auto Select timer. If the Auto Select timer runs out before the user makes a

selection, the default configuration is selected. From the BOOTCON Customization menu it is possible to select the default configuration, control the sound effects that alert the user to the appearance of the BOOTCON menu, control whether or not the windows around the menus are exploding, adjust the size of the window and adjust the video driver for the clearest display. The BOOTCON defaults can be reselected as a last resort. Any changes can be saved on the Program Configuration menu.

Effects of BOOTCON on AUTOEXEC.BAT

Using BOOTCON does not necessarily require any changes in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file. But, almost inevitably, what goes on in CONFIG.SYS effects what can be done in AUTOEXEC.BAT. For example, installation of a memory manager makes it possible to load some programs into high memory. The syntax of loading commands for these programs in AUTOEXEC.BAT is different when loading them into high memory or low memory. Clearly, there are command lines in AUTOEXEC.BAT that should be executed only if that memory manager is installed by CONFIG.SYS. Three different memory managers can be selected from the sample menu. Each uses its own commands. AUTOEXEC.BAT must be able to distinguish which memory manager is loaded and execute the appropriate code. What is needed is some way to control which commands get executed and which ones don't.

To help work around these complications, BOOTCON creates a DOS environment variable called BOOTCON. If the second menu item is chosen from the BOOTCON menu, then the string

BOOTCON=B

will be added to the DOS environment. BFCL commands in AUTOEXEC.BAT can check the value of this environment variable and chose which commands to execute based on the value of the BOOTCON environment variable.

Next month we'll see how this works as we begin examining AUTOEXEC.BAT and the DOS environment. I will also introduce a new utility, called ISDEV, that can directly detect the presence of a device driver that CONFIG.SYS installed.

KEY WORDS

386MAX.PRO	drive on a PC)	Boot-Up
386MAX.SYS	Batch File	BREAK
ANSI.SYS	Boot Floppy Diskette	BUFFERS
ASCII Text Editor	Boot Process	Colon (:)
ASCII (American	BOOTCON	COMMAND.COM
Standard Codes for	Customization	CONFIG.SYS
Information	BOOTCON Help	CONFIG.SYS - Blank
Interchange)	BOOTCON Menu	lines in
AUTOEXEC.BAT	BOOTCON - Default	Crash (PC keyboard
A: (A Colon - 1st	Configuration	lookup, general PC
floppy diskette	BOOTCON.SYS	system failure)



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

Most of the time our volunteer efforts are so coordinated that they are seamless to our members. Lately, however, I've become very aware of how tenuous some of those bonds can be when other priorities "hit the fan" for our volunteers.

Other priorities being family emergencies, personal emergencies, and work emergencies. In any given month, our volunteers have faced surgery personally or are looking at the same in support of a father, mother, spouse or children.

Some of our folks are also facing job crisis. Feast or famine. There is either too much work at once, or job layoffs are in the offing, or even simply the fact that there is not enough work out there for the independent contractors among us.

Given all of the above and that we pride ourselves on being a community, most of us are and want to be there for our friends and fellow members. To the spirit of our togetherness - THANKS, everybody...

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

BBS Champion
Bill Drissel

Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)
Hank Holt (Anchor)
David Huckabee (Anchor)
Glenn Hunt
Ed Kelg
Mary Laughlin
Pehl Lee
Claude McClure (Anchor)
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Fred Toulmin
Everett Turner (Anchor)

Peyton Weaver (Anchor)
Paul Williams (Anchor)
Bob Wuller (Anchor)

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Michael Griffin (extra duty)
Mike Momen
Fernando Rojas
David Slavik (Anchor)
David Temple

Information/Registration Booth
Harvey Andrews
Dianne Arnold (Anchor)
John Arnold (Anchor)
Mike Ashley (Anchor)
Ralph Beaver (Anchor)
Cliff Bishop
Randi Boucher
(Anchor/Scheduler)
John Ferguson

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

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

Key Words continued

Device Drivers	MDB (Menu	Rebooting
Device=	Definition Block)	Reconfiguration
DOS	Memory Manager	Catastrophe
DOS Environment	(386MAX, OEMM386,	REM
DOS=		REM BC=[[
EDIT	HIMEM, NETROOM	REM
EDLIN	etc.)	BC=[[DOS=LOW]]
FILES	Modular Software	REM BC=[[END]]
HIMEM.SYS	Systems	REM BC=]]
HOOKROM.SYS	Operating System	SETVER.EXE
(OEMM386 support	PC (Personal	SHELL
utility)	Computer)	STACKS
LASTDRIVE	Programmers Shop,	SWITCHES
LOADHI.SYS	The	XTreeGold (by XTree
MBOOT	OEMM386.SYS	Company)
MDB Label	RAMDRIVE.SYS	

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)263-8036 (meuro). 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	264-9680 (h)
DOM Software Review Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information Connie Andrews	828-0699 (h)

Word for Windows 2.0

Is this an upgrade or a major rewrite?

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

New features, ease of use Mark Microsoft's W4W 2.0

Microsoft's new *Word for Windows 2.0* (W4W 2.0) is so improved, it looks and feels like an entirely different product than version 1.1. This new version is actually fun to use – and useful.

So many new features and improvements were brought into W4W 2.0 that listing and describing all of them would take several issues of the PC News. I won't even try, but will highlight those new features that appealed to me most.

Is W4W 2.0 all wonderful and perfect? No. There are still some nagging problems and bugs, some more than minor. I'll get to them later.

Somebody at Microsoft must have listened, though. Most apparent, and major, improvement on opening the box is the new documentation. This is real, helpful, documentation. (I defy anyone to find a specific subject item quickly in the original doc's!) The new doc's are organized and arranged in traditional *Microsoft Word* (DOS) manner and should be familiar and (relatively) easy to use for most users.

Installation and setup

Installing W4W 2.0 was a snap. Microsoft really does have this process under control and it's less annoying than most other application packages. User has a choice between "full-blown", i.e., 15 M of disk space with all options installed, and incrementally smaller, and less option laden, versions.

Process seemed faster than usual (even for Microsoft) and included a mini-tutorial on W4W 2.0's new features and changes. I actually enjoyed the first installation as a result.

At the conclusion, I had a faster, more usable and enjoyable word processor in *Windows*. Improvements were noticeable throughout to the point that I began to suspect this is an entirely new product and not just an upgrade. There are a number of reasons to harbor that suspicion as you'll discover.

I also noticed what has become a trend – creation of a new product group in *Windows*' Program Manager,

including the setup utility. Why? I've organized my *Windows* groupings to reflect my preferred working patterns and don't appreciate the new group. Why leave the setup program? Is there more to come? I don't know.

Improved W4W 2.0 structure

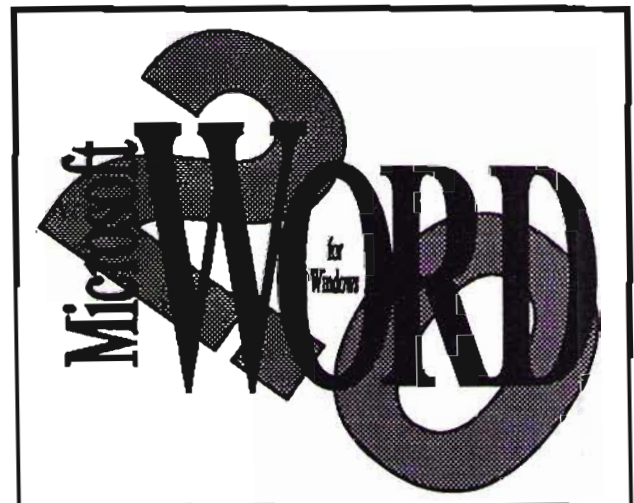
The new Toolbar is customizable, a major improvement and quickly transforms previously tedious functions such as basic file management, printing, editing and multi-column formatting into rapid, logical aids to work with both long and short documents. This so logical and easy to use it is one of the things that should have been in the original version.

There's a problem here (at least for me), though. I usually run *Windows* 3.0 at SVGA (800 x 600) on a 13", NEC MultiSync 3D monitor and the icon buttons are hard to distinguish at this resolution.

W4W 2.0's new "Zoom" feature is great. Like the Toolbar, this is something that definitely should have been in version 1.0 and 1.1. This feature alone will hasten the switch from page-layout software back to doing everything in *Word*. Zoom allows almost infinite increments of document screen size and when coupled with *ATM* or *FaceLift*, really makes layout fun.

"Drag and Drop" text movement is another powerful new feature that will make editing much, much easier – once the user becomes accustomed to the feature. I kept "re-discovering" Drag and Drop (accidentally) when I began exploring W4W 2.0.

Spell checking has been significantly improved and now has grammar checking available as well. It works, it's customizable to fit the user's preferences, and has been subject of a number of bug reports in the press. More on the last later.



Merge features easy – and powerful

Word users who cursed label making, mail and print merging will also appreciate the (revolutionary?) improvements available in *W4W 2.0*. Labels (if you use standard Avery products) are so easy it's embarrassing. Microsoft also devoted some very thoughtful space to explaining the logic in *WordBasic*, *W4W 2.0's* MACRO language, in the documentation and Help files that facilitates the label process.

W4W 2.0 steps the user through the process so logically that use of the Help button is rare. These really are well designed graphical screens that go a long way to explain the escalating popularity of good GUI operation.

New tools – just a Button away

Want to setup an Excel-style chart or table? It's easy and available on the Toolbar. Need to whip up a quick graphic or design for illustration? Same answer.

Microsoft Draw is one of the stronger new modules in *W4W 2.0*. It's much more than a simple paintbrush program and should prove very useful for people who need to create quick graphics and special effects for documents. A really nice aspect is Draw's ability to incorporate previously-installed PostScript faces to match (if the user wants) typefaces in the body copy.

WordArt & Bullets ...

Want to play with type effects? That's almost as easy and has some surprises in store for users. Use a lot of bulleted text formatting? It's been included too just as shading, frame manipulation and improved borders have also been added to *W4W 2.0*.

WordArt is fun to play with and makes (some) type effects easy to accomplish. It's not as easy to get to, or as well documented, as some of the other new features – you have to select Insert, Object, and then WordArt to obtain the sub-program. Once you are there, you'll find some surprises. Most pleasant is the ease of use to create type effects that might take hours in one of the art programs.

One of WordArt's surprises is 18 typefaces with names that are totally alien to familiar typeface names. I'm not sure, but I suspect this is one of the first previews of Microsoft's TrueType. The faces are fun and appropriate for small graphics or logos. Unfortunately, they don't reproduce particularly well on my printer. Unlike Microsoft Draw, WordArt won't (or I couldn't figure out how to) take advantage of PostScript or Bitstream fonts already installed. Hmmmnm ...

W4W 2.0's Dark Side (bugs)

Unfortunately, the new Envelope Generator didn't work very well with my H-P LJ IIP printer. That's OK, since none of Microsoft's other envelope MACRO's in various Word versions have worked for me either. This is not a "picky" complaint. The H-P LJ IIP is one of the best-selling laser printers around, and an envelope MACRO that doesn't recognize it seems foolish.

Notorious spelling ...

Spelling. Yes, Virginia, the bug reports you've heard are at least partially true. *W4W 2.0* does have problems in the spell checker routines, and they do occur in the footers as advertised. What's worse, they don't crash consistently. I only "UAE'd" once trying to check this one out.

Also, I have never been able to understand why contemporary spelling utilities (Microsoft isn't alone here) don't know about common, computer-related terminology. Spell checking an article for the *PC News* can be a real pain for this reason.

Grammar checking is another source of irritation. Not all writers are involved in producing hard-driving, zippy, direct sales propaganda or "dun" letters for bill collectors. Turn off the "passive voice" warnings, please, unless they are desired.

Import/Export warnings ...

Alien file import and export, particularly with *WordPerfect 5.1* files, does need some work. I spent an entire evening with this with very mixed results in both the Import and Export modes. Relatively simple WP 5.1 files with Courier fonts did best of all in both directions. *W4W 2.0's* WP 5.1 Export filter interpreted tabs well most of the time, but would really produce some strange results, especially if a proportionally-spaced font was involved.

The important thing was that the files were usable although they would require at least some reformatting in most cases. What was really impressive was *W4W 2.0's* ability to both Import and Export tables generated in WP 5.1.

Between Word versions ...

RTF document transfers continued to be the most reliable means of exchanging documents between *Word 4.0* (Macintosh) and *W4W 2.0*. Import of DOS Word files was quite good, but occasionally very frustrating, especially when *W4W 2.0* interpreted dot-matrix fonts as a Zapf decorative typeface. ▶

Printer Fonts problem ...

This latter point leads to another suggestion – some facility for "matching" style sheets from DOS versions and creating new W4W 2.0 style sheets as part of the Import process. Best of all would be another Dialog Box that would facilitate global font selection during the conversion.

W4W 2.0 knows what printer it's hooked to, and what fonts are available. Making everything default to Courier seems a little clumsy when it doesn't recognize the incoming font specifications.

Conclusions about W4W 2.0

Make no mistake, this is a significant upgrade if not a totally new program. I like it a lot and use it much more often than version 1.1. W4W 2.0 has many strong points that heavily outweigh the deficits and bugs noted above. Although I still prefer generating text in the DOS *Word* version, 2.0 is not nearly as aversive as previous versions, and actually is preferable for formatting long documents than DOS *Word*.

Would I buy it? Yes. I intend to upgrade all three of my registered copies of *Word for Windows 1.1*, in spite of Microsoft's "unfriendly" current upgrade pricing.

Reagan

a

Technology

Livermore Labs Discover New Element

A bit of anonymous computer folklore, passed along by Arthur Taber via the KALW BBS.

PRESS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The heaviest element known to science was discovered today by physicists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories

The element, tentatively known as Administratium, has no protons or electrons and thus has an atomic number of 0. However it does have one neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice neutrons, and 111 assistant vice neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These particles are held together in a nucleus by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles, called morons.

Since it has no electrons, Administratium is inert. However, it can be detected chemically, since it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. According to the discoverers (now employed by Hewlett-Packard), a minute amount of Administratium caused one reaction to take over four days to complete when it normally would occur in less than one second.

Administratium has a normal half life of approximately three years at which time it does not actually decay, but, instead, undergoes a reorganization in which the

assistant neutrons, vice neutrons, and assistant vice neutrons exchange places. Some studies have shown that the atomic weight actually increases after each reorganization.

Research at other laboratories indicates that Administratium occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to concentrate at certain points, such as government agencies, large computer or aerospace corporations, and universities, and can actually be found in the newest, best-maintained buildings.

Scientists point out that Administratium is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reaction where it is allowed to accumulate. Frantic attempts are being made to determine how Administratium can be controlled to prevent irreversible damage, but results to date are not promising, since attempts to control it simply cause more Administratium to be created.

Reprinted from Phoenix PCUG News, December 1991 which reprinted it from Blue Notes, the newsletter of the San Francisco Personal Computer Users Group.

CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

WYSIWYG Tips

When you are real comfortable with using the menu features of WYSIWYG, you will be interested in trying some of the attributes allowed by using the formatting sequences. To begin a formatting sequence, type <CTRL-A> followed by the code in the table. To end a formatting sequence, type <CTRL-E> followed by the code you want to stop using. To end all formatting sequences in a cell, type <CTRL-N> after the last character you want formatted. One thing to remember about using the attributes, is that they can be mixed within the cell entry. This allows you to do things like underlining only one part of the cell entry rather than the whole cell.

The table included below was reproduced from Appendix A & B of 1- 2-3 WYSIWYG TIPS AND TECHNIQUES - published by Lotus Product Technical Marketing). To obtain a copy of 1-2-3 WYSIWYG TIPS AND TECHNIQUES, call Lori at 1-617-693-1554 please spell your name and address carefully on the recording so it will be sent to the right place. This booklet is well worth reading because it not only shows more attributes than are published in the manuals, but it also shares a lot of other information about using the colors, graphics and other more advanced functions of WYSIWYG. Much of the information is not found anywhere else!

One example of something I learned from the booklet, was how to get rid of the white opaque background in some of my imported CGM graphics (called metafiles in the WYSIWYG menu). You need to go into : Graph Edit Color Map and then change the background color to transparent. The procedure to do this is spelled out in detail in the booklet. Once I used the procedure, the CGM graphics could then "float" over the background of other information on the spreadsheet.

Please note, the codes in the table below must be in the proper case in order to work.

CODE FORMATS DATA AS:

b	Bold
d	Subscript
2d	Lower Subscript
i	Italics
1g to 6g	Greying (mixes with background color)
1k to 127k	Kerning (positive)
-1k to -247k	Kerning (negative)
1o to 225o	Outline of characters
1r to 3r	Rotate 90, 180, 270 degrees
t	Thick (filled outlining)
u	Superscript
2u	Higher superscript
x	Data flipped on its x axis (backwards)
y	Data flipped on its y axis (upside down)
1_	Single underlining
2_	Double underlining
3_	Wide underlining
4_	Outline around characters
5_	Strike-through characters
6_ to 31_	Additional strike-through, underlining, outlining
	"Not" (following text is invisible)
	Start entry back at beginning of cell
f	Blinking
0c	Current text color
1c	Black (or White, if background is Black)
2c	Red
3c	Green
4c	Dark Blue
5c	Cyan
6c	Yellow
7c	Magenta
8c	White (if background is White, otherwise Black)
9c	Permanent Light Brown
10c	Permanent Orange
11c	Permanent Green
12c	Permanent Blue
13c	Permanent Pink
14c	Permanent Brown
15c	Permanent Magenta
1F	Font 1 from the current font set
2F	Font 2 from the current font set
3F	Font 3 from the current font set
4F	Font 4 from the current font set
5F	Font 5 from the current font set
6F	Font 6 from the current font set
7F	Font 7 from the current font set
8F	Font 8 from the current font set
A to H	Font 1 to Font 8 from the current font set

It is interesting to note that these attribute sequences will work in WYSIWYG for 1-2-3 2.3 and 3.1, but not in 1-2-3 for Windows. If you have a spreadsheet formatted using the attributes created in 2.3 or 3.1 and retrieved in 1-2-3/W, many of the formatted cells will look as they should, but some things like the outlining of letters do not work at all. You can't use the <Ctrl><a>, etc. to place any formatting into a cell while in 1-2-3/W, which is something I hope will be present in the next version.

Two of the attributes in the above list are not in the Tips and Techniques booklet. I found out about them elsewhere. The | (verticle bar) is an interesting technique to use in co- ordination with the outlined letters and with different colors. You will have to experiment with kerning to get letters to line up, but it is possible to fill the outlined letters with the same

letters that are solid and another color. It makes a nice effect. I have found that many times using 2k before the first part of the cell entry will move the outlined letters over enough to match up with the solid letters that follow the verticle bar attribute. The f attribute will make whatever follows it blink on the screen. This can be helpful when you want to make something catch the eye of the spreadsheet user. It can also be annoying after awhile, so try not to over do it!

If you have created a graph from your spreadsheet data and then embedded it in the spreadsheet, you will find that you can do a whole lot of additional annotation and editing of the graph through WYSIWYG. When you want the font size of the labels and titles in the graph to be larger, you use : Graph Edit Options Font-Magnification, then choose the size which can go up to 1000. This makes the labels much easier to read on screen and on the paper if you had created a small area to display the graph. When you want to get rid of the labels on the graph, it is easy to create a blank graph using the WYSIWYG menu. Then you edit the blank graph and create a rectangle about the size of the label. Next you place the blank graph over the cell(s) containing the label(s). The background needs to be transparent on the blank graph in order to allow the underlying graph to show through. The rectangle needs to be white like the background of the original graph. There is more detail on this procedure and other ideas like it in the Tips and Techniques booklet mentioned at the beginning of this article. Of course, you can create your own new labels in the blank graph to superimpose over the original labels, too.

I have had a lot of fun doing some unusual things in the spreadsheet using WYSIWYG. When I needed to make a map to show friends the way to our house, I decided it would be easy to do in 1-2-3. I created a grid on the spreadsheet by changing the global column width to 2, which made each cell a square. Then I used the : Format Lines and Shade commands to create the streets. Once the grid of streets was set up, I then typed in the street names typing a letter in each cell going down the spreadsheet for the verticle streets or just typing the whole name into one cell when the streets were horizontal. I used the Xsymbol font which has a arrow. In order to have the arrow go in the direction I wanted, I had to use the attributes for rotating the arrow and the x and y commands to flip the arrow. Using these attributes, I was able to get the arrow to point in any direction I needed. I even made a little compass with north, south, east and west indicated on the map. I used the Xsymbol font again. There is a symbol for a line with arrows on each end. One is verticle and the other is horizontal. I used the | (verticle bar) attribute to make the two symbols show up like crossed arrows. It made a nice map and was a good

experiment in using some of the lesser known parts of WYSIWYG. I decided that using 1-2-3 was easier than using a draw program because the streets would have been more difficult to line up and get the correct size in the drawing program. It was fun to try too.

Betty ■

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

APL Conference slated for February

"APL for fun and experiment" is the theme of the upcoming conference sponsored by the Southwest APL Users' Group in conjunction with the Computer Council of Dallas. It will be held on February 8, 1992, from 2 to 5 pm at INFOMART. There is no charge to attend, and the young and young-at-heart are invited to attend.

Even though APL is in its twenty-sixth year as a language, the developers are still trying hard to keep it up with the times. New additions to the language include interfaces to X-Windows, Windows 3.0, graphics, animation, inferencing engines, windowed debugging environment, etc. Most of these facilities will be on display during the conference, and representatives of the major vendors will be there to discuss their products.

APL has long been heralded as a language especially suited to modelling, prototyping, and experimentation. It is a very convenient and easy tool to use to get to know your data. We will be emphasizing this aspect of the language, and hope to attract young people interested in the "fun" of programming, as well as the professional that has to sort through large amounts of data, poking and probing it to discover its secrets.

The conference takes place on a Computer Council of Dallas "Super Saturday", so if you are already there, drop by in the afternoon to see what APL is doing these days. Please join us. We'll make you feel welcome, and assure that you will get a lot out of it (like a free shareware APL interpreter).

Stuart Yarus ■

The Variety Store

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper -- Pioneer Computer Giant's Passing Marks a sad beginning for 1992

Computer history in the 20th Century has been molded by the drive and personalities of the pioneering giants of the industry. Grace Murray Hopper, Rear Admiral (Ret), was certainly a leader among leaders and her passing may mark the end of the era.

Admiral Hopper's life and career were uniquely tied to the Navy and to computers. She became one of the first women raised to Flag Rank in the Navy when she was recipient of a special presidential appointment to the rank of Rear Admiral in 1983, capping a Navy career as a mathematician and computer development specialist which began during World War II when she worked on early ship fire control systems.

When she retired at age 80 in 1986, Admiral Hopper was the oldest Navy officer on active duty. She may be best known for her instrumental role in the development of COBOL, a widely used programming language in the business world, and for her origination of the term "bug" for computer problems. This latter came from her early work with the ENIAC, an early, electronic-relay driven digital computer, when an errant moth became entangled in the contacts of one of the ENIAC relays. The moth corpse was carefully taped to the computer operation log.

Enhance enhanced Comdex -- Early UNIVAC on display

It wasn't Grace Hopper's ENIAC, but Enhance Memory Products, Inc.'s display of a UNIVAC computer (module) was one of the highlights of Comdex for me. UNIVAC was a vacuum-tube driven digital computer from the 1950's and a generation leap from the relay-driven ENIAC.

Standing by the machine, one could almost smell the ozone and heated phenolic -- and be

bathed in the red-violet glow produced by banks of vacuum tubes in operation. (No, it wasn't operational -- that came from my imagination and memories of the UNIVAC I saw at SMU's early computer lab.) Enhance also had an early Apollo memory module on display among their more contemporary memory product lines.

Enhance specializes in Macintosh, PC, minicomputer and printer memory enhancement modules,

upgrades and expansion boards. Inclusion of the historical UNIVAC and Apollo modules added interest and style to what could have been just another vendor display. Really glad I stopped by and indulged in a little pleasant nostalgia.

Jovian -- multimedia oasis, Surrounded by Comdex frenzy

Everybody at Comdex "shouts" at you it seems. The vendor display areas compete with each other to see who can be the loudest, most colorful and/or most garish.

Not Jovian. Jovian Logic Corporation produces state of the art video imaging and sound equipment. It works, and works very well. This year, their exhibit area at the Multimedia Showcase at Bally's centered on color. Color provided by tropical fish lazily swimming in a large tank surrounded by comfortable chairs and couches.

Was easily one of the most soothing and relaxing displays at Comdex. A very pleasant change of pace from other multimedia vendors. Did see a lot of other people who just stopped for a moment to watch the fish and let things tone down a little.

I remembered Jovian long after the show closed. Can't say the same for their competition at Bally's.

WordPerfect adopts realistic "User-Friendly" licenses

Sometimes the little guy wins. WordPerfect Corporation, publishers of *WordPerfect 5.1* and other products, apparently has listened to the screams of anguish from the user community over software licensing problems.

PC reality is incorporated in the new WordPerfect licensing for end users that allows a copies of *WordPerfect* to be placed on home and laptop or notebook computers in addition to office machines. Under terms of the new agreement, users may have additional copies of *WordPerfect* installed at work, at home and on their portables as long as only one copy is loaded into memory at one time.

Makes a lot of sense. Users who wanted to adhere to the letter of the old license agreements had to "de-install" the program from their work machine if they loaded it on their home PC to work after hours. If they wanted it on both (or all three PC's) they had to purchase a copy of the program for each machine involved. I don't think that's how most folks really worked, though.

Borland recognized this a long time ago.

Hopefully, other vendors (and this is a long list) will follow WordPerfect's lead in adoption of more realistic, user-friendly license agreements as well.

Environmental/safety concerns Major display vendor theme As Comdex goes Green in '91

Is concern over work environments alive? Yes. One of the most general sales pitches this year was "low VDT magnetic radiation." Almost every vendor of monitors was showing

present low emission monitors or promising future products that featured reduced magnetic fields. Problem was, only a few vendors were quoting numbers for their products.

This will continue to be an issue for individual PC users and for IS and LAN managers responsible for hundreds of PC's and VDT's in their organizations. Emission standards are almost nonexistent and there is no general agreement over how much emission is dangerous, and in what spectra. Also, questions about "older" monitors will undoubtedly plague managers and worried users.

Shield has one answer

Shield Corporation of Eugene, Oregon, may have an answer for some of the problems surrounding electromagnetic emissions levels. Shield is distributor for the Tracer TR100 radiation monitor.

The TR100 is a small, hand-held instrument capable of measuring magnetic field radiation in the ELF (50 Hz - 1000 Hz) and VLF (10 KHZ - 150 KHZ) ranges. In the ELF range the TR100 measures 1.0 - 100 milli-Gauss fields and 0.1 - 10 milli Gauss fields in the VLF range. Price for the TR100 is \$425 from Shield Corporation.

Tracer manufactures a range of calibrated electromagnetic field meters in addition to the TR100. Their MR100S extends the range to 400 KHZ and produces true RMS measurements to assure accurate measurements of complex wave forms over the frequency range. The ER100 is calibrated in Volts per meter (V/m) and is used for electric field measurement corresponding to published Swedish guidelines and costs \$475.

Sounds like something out of *Popular Mechanics*, doesn't it? This may be the wave of the future, however, and a quick measurement could go a long way to soothing frayed nerves of a VDT operator worried about their terminal or PC. Might also tell management it's time for some new, less radiating equipment.

Copam's recipes for health

I'm not sure how this ties in, but couldn't resist. Copam USA is a PC and VDT producer who is also concerned about health, but took a slightly different tack at Comdex this year. One of their handouts was a small pamphlet titled *Recipes for Healthy People and Healthy Business*.

Covering a range from Grilled Caribbean Chicken to Nepalese Lentil Stew, the pamphlet contained 10 recipes for dishes that were from the *Gourmet Treasure Hunter*. Although I haven't tried any yet, was fascinated since I hit their booth just before lunch and scanning a few really gave me some ideas. Unfortunately I had a hamburger (grilled outside at the Las Vegas Hilton) instead of the *Fettucine with Asparagus and Porcini Mushrooms* that first got my attention in the Copam booklet. Was neatly blended with Copam USA's pitch for low emissions VDT's and monitors as well as their line of complete PC systems.

This had to be a significant "First" for me - recipes at Comdex?

Go for size or color? Pointing devices Show style this year

(Both of the following are currently available in the area at local PC vendors.)

The Variety Store *continued*

Thumbelina

Thumbelina is a mouse, a really small mouse. It's made by Ap-point who introduced a pen mouse last year with somewhat mixed results. It's designed for the notebook/laptop market and is really a very small trackball that comes in models suitable for Macintoshes, portables and PC's.

Thumbelina emulates a standard two-button mouse or three-button mouse, is about 2.5" x 2.5" x 1.5", and can be handheld or mounted on a portable keyboard in a manner similar to Microsoft and Logitech designs. The ones I tried were a little sticky and seemed to move in jumps rather than in a smooth line I associate with the larger, full-sized mice from Microsoft.

I could use it pretty successfully for Windows menu selections, but wouldn't attempt use with any of the drawing programs. Probably improves with practice.

Colorful companions for Grey computer worlds ...

If you like color, New Idea Electronic Co.'s Beetle Mouse has it to spare. Available in

two and three-button models, and in any color combination you could imagine, these have got to be "New Wave" mice.

Actually, they are very good mice - even without color. I was surprized at the smooth action and natural feel of these mice while I was playing with them on the last day of Comdex. And, that's a severe test - to be handled by thousands of hands (and very very few could resist them after the colors sunk the hook) and still function as smoothly as they did.

The subhead isn't mine - it's part of one of the New Idea brochures - but I liked it enough to steal it. The company seems to have fun with the mice as well as building very good, inexpensive products.

Statistical wars heat up with claims of Plagiarism, wrong results

Statistics at the academic level can be an unbearably, excruciatingly dry, boring subject. That is until you get in the middle of a war between producers of statistical analysis software.

Then, blood runs in the campus streets.

Systat is a very good statistical analysis program for the PC, probably one of the best available. It's been around since 1984 when Dr. Leland Wilkinson incorporated the company and began selling the software package - and generally comes out at the top of the statistical analysis software heap when reviewed against competing packages.

Recently received a booklet outlining and detailing *Systat's* claims that a competing product actually stole a lot of their algorithms and code, yet produces wrong results. The booklet is fascinating and, although I'm quite familiar with inferential statistics and multivariate analysis, goes into areas well into the stratosphere.

Wilkinson is obviously angry. The style with which he vents his anger and illustrates his case is clearly superior and reminiscent of Computer Support's allegations against Harvard Graphics' publisher last year for much the same reasons.

Reagan **A**



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 January meeting featured an interesting and informative presentation by Glynn Brooks on programming for the various keyboards possible on the PC.

Our February meeting will feature a discussion by Frank Cavallito on C and Assembler programming, with emphasis on compiler library code (some of which is quite good), compiler generated code and in-line assembler code.

In honor of APLTEX2 being held as part of the Feb meeting, we may even discuss Assembler coding for APL. As usual, check BBS for any last minute changes.

Frank Cavallito

Communications SIG

Your Communications SIG had a change of plans during the December Super Saturday. Rather than covering the Carbon Copy communications package as planned, we had a very informative question/answer session. It seems that issues/concerns accumulate over time, so it proved to be a good time to catch up. Despite the change in plans, however, we still had a drawing for two copies of Carbon Copy. In January, David Martin took the floor to demonstrate the Compuserve online "BBS". Compuserve is the largest such service available, providing a wealth of information to users throughout the world. David did an admirable job in providing a general overview of a very detailed service. Thanks, David. Thanks, too, to all the others who have been sharing their knowledge of communications products and issues in past months!

As of this writing (January 10), plans for the February meeting are not yet firmed up. A lot of the uncertainty hinges on the club's plans to implement a new BBS, to replace the once liked Chairman BBS currently in use. The top contender is TBBS (The Bread Board System), release 2.2, a product of eSoft Corporation, and a well respected BBS. TBBS offers true multi-line capabilities, a full screen editor, ZMODEM file transfer protocol (among others), and is user friendly to both users and SYSOPs. A NTPCUG beta version has been in place since Christmas, and all is going well to date. Stay tuned for future details.

Doug Gorrie

C++ SIG

In January, we continued our discussion of read_string and read_form. With a little more luck and fewer technical difficulties, we actually got to see a demonstration. We also discussed some of the techniques used to make read_string device independent.

At this point, we really have no definite plans for February. Unless one of us unexpectedly finds some extra time and energy, we'll probably reserve February for a question and answer session. OH! And we'll also discuss the absurdity of Fred Williams lamenting the death of "C Gazette". You won't want to miss that!

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

DOS SIG

What should a well-equipped DOS include? Looks like we'll have to add peer-to-peer networks and file-com-

pression/disk-space enhancement to the expected mix. DR DOS 6.0 already sports a version of SuperStor and is rumored to be adding a "stripped" version of Novell Lite for its future releases.

How long before Microsoft follows DRI/Novell's lead with DOS 5X incorporating the above?

And, how well do the space multipliers work? The February DOS SIG will be looking at this question in some depth. Reagan will address the burning question of adding another 200M drive vs. using Stacker or SuperStor while Jim debates the peer-to-peer LAN issues vs. "real" networks.

Terminus of the February DOS SIG Meeting will, of course, be the accustomed Q & A free-for-all session covering PC users' questions concerning day-to-day use of their PC's and how to make DOS work more effectively/efficiently.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG

There were approximately 60 present at the Genealogy SIG in room 7001 14 Dec to 10 a.m. There was no Genealogy SIG on 18 January as everyone was encouraged to attend the GEN-TEC workshop of the same date.

The 14 Dec program was expanded into a 65 page syllabus titled "Computers and Genealogy for the Genealogy SIG". The syllabus sold at cost for \$2 and covered why and how to use computers in genealogy, including: genealogy program installation, entering your genealogy data, genealogy computer tools available, and data outputs available with current genealogy software.

The booklet also included: PC basics, the basic DOS commands required for a genealogy user, lists of genealogy orientated bulletin boards, LDS branch library branches in the Dallas area.

The most interesting part of the program was Jim Rash's "Computer Tools for Genealogy" lecture illustrating exciting computer applications for genealogy work beyond the genealogy software program itself. For example, there are word proces-



sors (e.g. WordPerfect) and editors (QEdit), spreadsheets (Lotus, AsEasy-As, QuatroPro), genealogy specific Databases (PAF, Roots III) general Databases, (e.g. dBase III, Paradox, etc.), Communication programs (ProComm), graphic programs (Harvard Graphics, Org Plus, Calendar Creator Plus, Mapper etc.), utilities and tools (List and Browse), sort programs (QSort, FSort), data conversions (IGI255, GIPSI), backup and archive (PKZIP). The February program will feature Mapper, GIPSI, and the Genealogical Toolkit with Mike Basham.

Alfred Sanford

PAF SIG

The Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG meets every Super Saturday in Room 7001 from 10 to 11 a.m. PAF is a \$35 software genealogy program good for beginners or experts with versions available for IBM compatible or Macintosh computers. There were 50 present for the Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG 14 Dec 1991.

Art Rubeck, the disk librarian for the General Genealogy SIG, brought the program, that included two new software programs designed to work with note keeping in PAF. Both of these program disks are available in the PAF disk library. The two programs are "Hot Notes" and "PAFAbility". Art stressed the importance of documentation in family histories and genealogical records. He also recommended a book "Cite Your Sources" by Robert Lackey, University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson MS 39211 (available at most book stores). Art suggests that, as a minimum, data should be considered in three forms:

- 1) Reminder: For research needs, errors, and private notes
- 2) Data Sources: Vital for others, Ancestral File Requirement
- 3) Biography: Adds file to facts, use in reports.

Hot Notes is a software program developed by a PAF Users Group in California. Its purpose is to encourage the use of notes to eliminate retyping. Its main features are: having to enter data only once; TSR for PAF; Pop Up help screens; offers 40 standard note tags; user defined tags; provides automatic prefix. It

comes complete with a PAF.DOC file on the disk that will print out complete documentation for the program. It is shareware with \$15 registration.

PAFAbility produces a registry file from PAF data. It allows a book or report to be printed directly from PAF without having to, for instance, GEDCOM from PAF to Brothers Keeper and prints out from BK. It allows front and back page printing. It is shareware with \$10 registration.

The PAF SIG will not meet at the Infomart on 18 Jan due to an all day genealogy workshop at Plymouth Park United Methodist Church, 1615 W Airport Freeway (SH 183) Irving, TX. Phone 214 986-1964 for more information.

We hope Travis Morris, recovering from back surgery, will be back with us for the February meeting featuring RDF.

Alfred Sanford

LAN SIG

In January we got back to the LAN seminar series with a presentation on "LAN Design Considerations". In February we will have a presentation on Lantastic by Ron Ogden, the local Business Development Representative for Artisoft. Lantastic is the best selling peer-to-peer network operating system on the market today.

Come join us at 10 a.m. for this is sure to be an interesting presentation. See ya' there!

Bernie VanRoekel

Lotus SIG

In the January meeting Mark presented the Solver and BackSolver add-ins that are being shipped with current releases of 1-2-3 including 2.3, 3.1+, and 1-2-3 for Windows. The Solver helps to solve what-if problems that helps to find the best answer that meets your needs. The Backsolver add-in will calculate the input needed so that a formula will result in a specific result. Since the products are shipped with 1-2-3, they are available to all users. Unfortunately, not very many users know about them or use them. The February meeting should be really good. Lotus Development is sending a few software engineers and other reps to talk about tips and tricks in 1-2-3 and perhaps other

products. This trip is part of Lotus' increased support of user groups. Further details were not available at this time, but if all goes well, you can talk to Lotus representatives and get their insights into 1-2-3 and perhaps other products. Hopefully, all the plans will fall neatly into place.

Incidentally, if you haven't noticed, there is a new SIG called the Spreadsheet Developers SIG which is designed to be a workshop for intermediate and advanced spreadsheet users. The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that users are having with spreadsheet products. If you have one come on by and see us.

Mark Gruner

Spreadsheet Developers SIG

The first Spreadsheet Developers SIG was held in January. The purpose was to discuss the future of the SIG and how to handle future meetings. Results of this first meeting, however, were not available at this time. But don't wait for the results, come by and see for yourself. The February meeting will be given by Lotus Development. Lotus is sending some software engineers and others to show off some of the tricks and tips that should help users with 1-2-3. This presentation is part of Lotus' increased support for user groups. Some of the details have not been finalized, but if all goes as planned, it should be a meeting that would be a shame to miss.

The Spreadsheet Developers SIG is designed to be a workshop to help users solve spreadsheet program problems. So if you have a problem that you do not know how to solve, come by and see if one of those attending the SIG can help you. In the absence of problems, the SIG would discuss tips and tricks that users have come up with.

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 February 1992 will be:

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

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

Fred Williams gave a presentation of real time data collection using the Paradox PAL programming language. As usual, Leroy Tennison managed to antagonize Fred by asking if he could use the same techniques to control a serial printer. Fred got so upset that he threatened to tie Leroy in his chair and make watch all four hours of the Borland video tapes on Object Oriented programming. Next month the group will see some reruns of Mr.Ed played backwards. It's rumored that they reveal secret DOS calls.

Jim Holsington

Windows Applications SIG

The February, 1992 Windows Applications SIG meeting will focus on the new 2.0 version of Word for Windows. This meeting will prepare you for the 1:00 p.m. presentation by Microsoft on Word for Windows by letting you learn what other users feel about the new version.

I have been a Microsoft Word user for five years now. As a writer, I use Word for Windows almost every day. I personally feel that Word for Windows 2.0 is the best PC word processor available. There were many things that I was displeased with in previous versions of Word for Windows, such as importing graphics, ease of use, and lack of an integrated drawing program. Word for Windows 2.0 has solved all of these problems for me — and added more features than I will ever hope to learn.

Come to this meeting if you are interested in Windows word processors. Even if you like WordPerfect, we will let you attend. Maybe we can convince you to switch!

Arthur English

Windows Developers SIG

The February, 1992 Windows Developers SIG meeting will focus on nasty little creatures called BUGS. Several weeks ago when I was interviewing Windows programmers for a customer, one of the programmers I interviewed stated he spent more time working with CodeView for Windows than his program editor. At that point, I knew this person was

a real Windows programmer. Windows is a complex programming environment and a good debugger is a necessity. At this meeting we will discuss: designing a Windows program for debugging, how to avoid common Windows programming errors, and overview the available Windows debuggers (QuickC, CodeView, Turbo Debugger, and MultiScope).

If you feel like learning or contributing thoughts about how to stomp on these little creatures that pop up in Windows programs, please show up at this meeting. This meeting is not designed for the squeamish Windows programmer.

Arthur English

Word SIG

The February Word SIG meeting will adjourn to the Main Auditorium where Microsoft will be demonstrating Word for Windows 2.0. This should provide an excellent opportunity to see the folks who wrote the program put it through its paces — and answer some of the "hotter" questions about this new Microsoft release.

We will resume "normal" SIG operations with the March Word SIG meeting where we'll look at features available in Word 5.5 (DOS) that are still unavailable in the Windows product to date.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

DOS Tip of the Month! Pressing {F5} and {ENTER} lists files in the default directory. Sometimes you may want to list files on a different directory, maybe a floppy drive or another directory on the hard drive. One way is to press {F5} one time and type the pathname you need, then press {ENTER}. If the directory you want is a subdirectory of the default, simply highlight the directory (you'll know it's a subdirectory because it has <Dir> instead of the file size) and press {ENTER} twice. If you need to step back up one level, highlight the entry at the top of the right column called <Parent> before pressing {ENTER} twice. If you move around in directories frequently, you may find it cumbersome to go through several steps to get where you want to go. There's a couple of things you can do to speed up the process.



Change the default directory: When you press (F5) and (ENTER) you always list files in the default directory. And it's always an accurate list of the files you have and the last time they were revised. The default directory can be changed anytime you see the prompt "New Directory = XXX" (where the X's represent the path). Press (F5) once and then the equals sign (=). Or at the List Files menu, choose the option "Other Directory" and you'll see the prompt.

List Files Twice: Pressing (F5) twice is a memory of the last list you viewed. This is real handy if you are on a network and pick up documents from someone else's directory. Often mistaken for the regular List Files feature, don't be alarmed if you have pressed (F5) twice and don't see the document that you just saved listed. It just means that the document was saved after you listed files the last time. To get an up-to-the-minute listing, highlight the option <Current> at the top of the left column and press (ENTER) twice.

On to our next meeting! Merge was a subject many of you expressed an interest in learning more about. Simple merge and sorting will be the topic for February. I will be handling the presentation and will give you some tips on the most common errors users make when sorting and merging. As always, we'll have a few minutes for Q's and A's!

Lori Quinn

Nine Ways to Kill any Organization

Reprinted from the Consultants Forum on Compuserve via The 08/91 Virginia PC Newsletter, Richmond PCUG via November 1991 edition of the Wichita PC News.

1. Don't participate beyond paying your dues (let "them" handle things), then complain that members have no voice in the management of the organization.
2. Decline all committee appointments and offices (because you're too busy and your time is too important), then offer vociferous advice on how they should do things.
3. If appointed to a committee, don't work (it's a courtesy appointment) and then complain that the organization has stagnated.
4. If you attend meetings, don't initiate new ideas ... and then play "devil's advocate" to those ideas submitted by others.
5. Don't rush to pay your dues (they're too high anyway), then complain about the lack of quality or sparse number of services offered.
6. Don't encourage others to become members (that's selling!), then complain that the membership is not growing.
7. Don't read the newsletter or other communications (they're not important), then complain that you're not kept informed.
8. Don't volunteer your talents (that's ego fulfillment), then complain that you're never asked, never appreciated, and never recognized as the "expert" you obviously are.
9. Have faith in no one and nothing; don't take any chances on untried procedures (after all, you're not a gambler). Let someone else put their reputation on the line and take the risks, then be sure to enjoy the benefits that result from another's leap of faith.

AND IF BY CHANCE the group grows in spite of your contributions, grasp every opportunity to tell the youngsters how tough it was; how hard you worked "in the old days" to bring the group to its present level of success.

CA-Compete!,

A review by Pat Henley

When I read the product description of CA-Compete! it seemed vague and ethereal, similar to my first reactions to the promotional literature for Bell Atlantic's Thinx, the parade of PIMs and other solutions looking for a problem. Once I fired it up, I began to see immediate uses for it in my business as you probably can in your own.

For the previous three weeks I had been making serious studies of Excel 3.0, 1-2-3 for Windows and Quattro Pro 3.0. When I noticed that "..Compete.." looked and felt like Excel 3.0 I thought, "Ho, hum, another flavor of vanilla..." (French, homemade, Vanilla bean, ad nauseam...). Hey, folks, this ain't vanilla. Any similarity between this program and the others is purely superficial. This very clever analyst's tool is pure hypertext for Number Crunchers.

The initial example is already laid out for you. The documentation is error-free, straightforward and terse. The terse part scared me at first. I am so accustomed to being spoon-fed by Que and Sybex with pages of illustrated screens and accompanying text describing how to get those screens on my monitor. Computer Associates' documentation team assumes that you are a big camper. Until you use this program you can't imagine how slick and immediate its presentations are. It is described as a multi-dimensional spreadsheet, among other things.

For those of us tied to the classic four dimensions, it takes contact with the program to realize what the authors are trying to suggest. We all know length, width, height and time. This program ignores those limits and allows you to track as many as a dozen of such things as activities, quantities, times, and results (but certainly not limited to those descriptions) of several entities and then change the mix and view them from other angles. It is a kaleidoscope of facts and figures which evokes awe initially with the programming magic which created it and then the same level of awe when you begin to comprehend how it can be of value in your enterprise.

To reorder a matrix of many variables with a normal spreadsheet product is an arduous process, more than merely pushing the "Transpose" key once. Indeed, if the phone rings while you are in the process, you may spend twenty minutes trying to figure out where you were three minutes ago when the caller interrupted your thought processes; not so with "..Compete..". If you wish to rearrange regions, products, years, units, prices, cost-of-goods sold et al vis-a-vis each other, you drag and click over any one of the representative items of that dimension, e.g.: "East", "Miracle Eggbeater" or "1991" - quick as a wink there's the new view.

For veteran spreadsheet users the thought of viewing data without the familiar cell reference indicator following every cursor movement may be uncomfortable. You get over that after about the second or third movement from one cell to another. Since all the columns and rows are labeled by object names, you have a much clearer sense of where you are.

Unit price for the Miracle Eggbeater in First Quarter 1990 means a lot more than 4.95 in cell C14. Whether your purposes are data security or clarity, the labels can be as cryptic or explicit as you want. Global creations of or changes to formulae could hardly be easier. No longer do you battle with the relative/absolute reference concept, how could you on a mobile playing field? Since everything is an object you call it by its name and the program finds it even when you can't see it and executes the associated formula giving you the results you want RIGHT NOW!

One exercise demonstrates the ease with which you can export .WK1 or .XLS files. Worksheet files can be imported from the 2.x series of 1-2-3 and Excel according to the tutorial. The 3.x and Windows versions of 1-2-3 on my machine did not make the translation. (In defense of "..Compete.." no allusion in the documentation is made as to an ability of the program to communicate with the later versions of 1-2-3. My computer and many of yours contain only the latest versions of 1-2-3, Quattro Pro and/or Excel, only one of which can go directly back and forth into "..Compete..". Since this is a very sophisticated and useful product, it would be in the author's interest to add the latest versions of the major sheets to the repertoire.)

Another exercise demonstrates the ease with which the user can follow an audit trail which can be vital in debugging or simply understanding how a particular transaction unfolds. It is a reverse step/trace activity which goes backward through the generation of a transaction.

The Forecasting tool permits a variety of assumptions to generate potential results. Compound and simple growth rates, regression, constant rate and interpolation are built-in techniques. You are not limited to these.

"..Compete.." also provides Curve Builder to construct standard bell-shaped and other curves to illustrate statistics being studied.

The product has only one direct competitor to my knowledge, Sinper's TM11, which I have never seen. The 12-dimensional version is now offered at the \$995 list price of the now discontinued 4-dimensional product. Local suppliers include Computer Associates International, Inc., 909 Las Colinas Boulevard East, Irving TX 75039-3906. You may phone Jake Kiskin there at 556-7196, fax him at 556-7457. Tell him you read about it in this newsletter.

Pat

■

How to catch an elephant

By Peter Theobald, National Center for Software Technology, Bombay, India, reprinted from Phoenix PCUG News, December 1991.

A Bold New Proposal for Matching High-Technology People and Professions

Over the years, the problem of finding the right job has consumed thousands of worker-years of research and millions of dollars in funding. This is particularly true for high-technology organizations where talent is scarce and expensive. Recently, however, years of dedicated study by the finest minds in the field of psychoindustrial interpersonal optimization have resulted in the development of a simple and foolproof test to determine the best match between personality and profession. Now, at last, people can be infallibly assigned to the jobs for which they are truly best suited.

The procedure is simple: Each subject is sent to Africa to hunt elephants. The subsequent elephant-hunting behavior is then categorized by comparison to the classification rules outlined below. The subject should be assigned to the general job classification that best matches the observed behavior.



Classification Guidelines

Mathematicians hunt elephants by going to Africa, throwing out everything that is not an elephant, and catching one of what is left.

Experienced mathematicians will attempt to prove the existence of at least one unique elephant before proceeding to step 1 as a subordinate exercise.

Professors of mathematics will prove the existence of at least one unique elephant and then leave the detection and capture of an adult elephant as an exercise for their graduate students.

Computer scientists hunt elephants by exercising Algorithm A:

1. Go to Africa.
2. Start at the Cape of Good Hope.
3. Work northward in an orderly manner, traversing the continent alternately east and west.
4. During each traverse pass,
 - a. Catch each animal seen.
 - b. Compare each animal caught to a known elephant.
 - c. Stop when a match is detected.

Experienced computer programmers modify Algorithm A by placing a known elephant in Cairo to ensure that the algorithm will terminate.

Assembly language programmers prefer to execute Algorithm A on their hands and knees.

Engineers hunt elephants by going to Africa, catching gray animals at random, and stopping when any one of them weighs within plus or minus 15% of any previously observed elephant.

Economists don't hunt elephants, but they believe that if elephants are paid enough, they will hunt themselves.

Statisticians hunt the first animal they see N times and call it an elephant.

Consultants don't hunt elephants, and many have never hunted anything at all, but they can be hired by the hour to advise those people who do.

Operations research consultants can measure the correlation of hat size and bullet color to hunt efficiency of elephant hunting strategies, if someone else will only identify the elephants. ▶

Politicians don't hunt elephants but they will share the elephants that you catch with the people who voted for them.

Lawyers don't hunt elephants, but they do follow the herds around arguing about who owns the droppings.

Software Lawyers will claim that they own an entire herd based on the look and feel of one dropping.

Vice presidents of engineering, research and development try hard to hunt elephants, but their staffs are designed to prevent it. When the vice president does get to hunt elephants, the staff will try to ensure that all possible elephants are completely pre-hunted before the vice president sees them. If the vice president does see a non-prehunted elephant, the staff will (1) compliment the vice president's keen eyesight and (2) enlarge itself to prevent any recurrence.

Senior managers set broad elephant-hunting policy based on the assumption that elephants are just like field mice, but with deeper voices.

Quality assurance inspectors ignore the elephants but look for mistakes the other hunters made when they were packing the jeep.

Salespeople don't hunt elephants but spend their time selling elephants they haven't caught, for delivery two days before the season starts.

Software salespeople ship the first thing they catch and write up an invoice for an elephant.

Hardware salespeople catch rabbits, paint them gray and sell them as desktop elephants.

Validation

A validation survey was conducted about these rules. Almost all the people surveyed about these rules were valid. A few were invalid, but they expected to recover soon. Based on the survey, a statistical confidence level was determined. Ninety-five percent of the people surveyed have at least 67 percent in statistics.

Acknowledgement

This study has benefitted from the suggestions and observations of many people, all of whom would prefer not to be mentioned by name.

■



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
North Texas PC Users Group

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Work _____ Ext. _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below:		
Payment:	Membership Classification:	Application Status:
Cash <input type="checkbox"/>	Regular (\$24.00) <input type="checkbox"/>	New Member <input type="checkbox"/>
Check <input type="checkbox"/>	Student (\$12.00) <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>
Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/>	(full-time with ID) <input type="checkbox"/>	Address Change <input type="checkbox"/>

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

The Adventures of PC Tech

Chapter 10

by Ben Thar

The days grow colder, the static electricity increases, and PC Tech's phone rings more with unexplained occurrences. Systems that mysteriously reboot, floppy disks that become unreadable while carrying them down the hall.

The economic times have improved customer service and response from PC Tech's vendors. Ten new p.c.'s arrived configured, tested, and software loaded. Mary talked with her peers and knew what to negotiate for and what to check when the order arrived. She learned to always check for damage in shipment, to make sure that she received all of the documentation and diskettes for the software ordered, and to open each machine and be sure that the vendor configured each similarly.

Because of the economy, some employees are being asked to justify their positions. No one asked, but Mary Margaret decided to start keeping a log of her day to see where her services were being utilized and to determine if there is a better way to control her workload. Below is a typical day:

- 7:30 Arrive at work. Start reviewing trade publications piled up on desk. Decide that today is a good day to load the new release of the PAT software on my machine to test it.
- 8:00 Phone call from Ann in Accounting, her computer won't come on. Walk downstairs to Ann's desk. Found someone had turned down the brightness. Showed Ann how to correct the problem if it happens again.
- 8:15 Return to desk. One voice mail message from John, his dot matrix printer ribbon needs changing. I took a new ribbon to him, let him change it while I watched, and then told him where the ribbons were stored for next time. I figure the end users aren't helpless and there is only one of me to go around.
- 8:35 Stopped for a cup of coffee on my way back. Finished reading one magazine, my goal, and started reading the PAT upgrade manual.
- 9:10 Printer jam in the Purchasing Department. Major emergency/crisis (I found out from other techs that this is what all end users say.) It turned out that someone tried to feed non-laser labels through the

laser printer. I had to take it apart (luckily I have a video on doing this) and clean it out completely. This took until lunch time.

11:30-12:15 Lunch. Continued reading PAT instructions.

12:15 Started installation of PAT upgrade. First ran a complete backup of my machine to the tape backup unit. The install was straight forward, it detected the old version of the software, deleted everything except the configuration file, and gave me step-by-step directions on which disk to put in next. Like I wouldn't know that disk 4 follows disk 3, except after disk 6 it asked a few more questions and wanted disk 5 again. Called Mom while I waited and chatted about the holidays.

12:40 Backup and install complete. Rebooted my p.c. and got an error message. (I forgot to take the last disk out of the A: drive. Maybe I do need those detailed instructions.)

1:05 After testing the new program on my old data, I am about to look at the new features when the phone rings. The person doing graphics is out of color ink for his color ink jet printer. I ask him where he gets his supply from, and he says that he is using the cartridge that came with the printer. And by the way, the graphs are for the president doing a presentation tomorrow. So I find a supplier with stock on hand, and go pick up three (giving the user one of them.)

3:20 I've decided to use my inventory tracking program to keep track of p.c. supplies. I catalog all supplies on hand, place an order for those that are dangerously low, and start a login/logout tracking system to keep up with who is using them.

5:00 I never got back to looking at the new feature of the software, so I take the new features manual home to read.

On the way out the door, I stopped in my boss's office. He said, "Mary, I been looking at the supply costs for the past two months and have noticed a dramatic increase." I said, "Yes sir, that is because we have doubled the number of personal computers in the company over that period." With which he followed, "I would like to put a system in place to track the usage, and make sure that we have inventory on hand to cover emergencies."

Mary Margaret smiled and said, "I will have something for you to look at tomorrow, and we can discuss it." Mary decided that she could polish the data input and output in the morning.

Ben Thar

21

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	PostScript Solutions for the PC Environment Adobe Systems Incorporated
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Database Strategies Borland Corporation
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	NTPCUG Business Meeting
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Word for Windows Version 2 Microsoft Corporation

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

9:00 - 9:55 Assembler DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Personal Users Quicken Software Review Windows Applications WordPerfect	10:00 - 10:55 cont Paradox Personal Users Unix/Xenix	12:00 - 12:55 cont Communications Computer Law Investors OS/2 for End Users Personal Users R:Base
10:00 - 10:55 Basic Programming CAD dBase for TI Pro Fox Pro Database Local Area Networks PAF -Genealogy	11:00 - 11:55 Basic Programming Community Service Family Roots - Gnlgy. MS Works Roots III - Genealogy Spreadsheet Developers TI Pro General Mgt. Windows Developers	1:00 - 1:55 Beginners C Language Business Apps./DAC Easy LOTUS OS/2 Developers Personal Users TI Pro - New Users WORD
	11:30 - 11:55 Orientation	2:00 - 2:55 Advanced Programmers
	12:00 - 12:55 C++/Advanced C	



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

Board of Directors

Election results not in at press time.

Officers		
President	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h (214)871-5854 w
President-Elect		
Program Chair	Timothy Carmichael	(214)681-4626 w
Treasurer	Ken Conner, CPA	(214)669-3377 w
Secretary	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101h
Advertising Dir.	John Pribyl	(817)275-4109 h
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loafman	(214)596-2539
Group Statistician	Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain	John Pribyl	Stuart Yarus
------------------	-------------	--------------

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from outside Area Code 214, use Area Code 214. (This is NOT a toll call from Area Code 817.)

NTPCUG BULLETIN BOARD (214)387-2751
(214)387-2752
(214)263-9036 (Metro)

SYSOP: - Tom Prickett
Asst. SYSOP.- Maggie Mootney
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa
User Relations: Kent Cobb
Information Mgt: Doug Gorrie
Technical Services: Leroy Tennison

Address Changes, etc...

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

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date.)

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	K. B. Barton	(214)349-9690 h (214)747-0209 w (214)618-4130
Assembler	David Thrash Frank Cavallo	(214)423-9221 h (214)317-0308 w (214)317-0125 h (214)271-2292 h (214)205-2216 w (214)775-1503
Basic Programming	Kent Kingery	(214)203-8353 w (214)349-3862 h (214)341-1890 w (214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w (817)731-1308 h (214)827-6751 h (214)381-9881 w (214)296-1799 w (214)635-9379 h (214)437-0322
Beginners C Lang.	Stan Milam	(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)937-9876 w (214)937-5851 h (214)458-9158 (817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	
Communications	Tom Cook Doug Gorrie	
Community Svc	Bill Green Jay Shilstone	
Comp. Aided Design	Bill Saphion	
Computer Law	Debra Rangel Martin Moomaw Putt Shaw	
DAC Software	Putt Shaw	
DOS	Jim Hoisington 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 Roskel	
LOTUS	Francis Bright Mark Gruner Pat Hanley	(214)964-8174 h (214)271-4911 h (214)229-9216 w (214)618-1608 h (214)827-7734 (214)279-1738 h (817)962-4596 w (817)481-4966 w (817)481-6625 (h)
MS Works	Betty Brooks	
OS/2 Dev	Mike Firth James Dunn	
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fernier	
Paradox	Fred Williams Greg Kane	(214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)887-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)458-9711 w (214)317-0125 h (214)416-3101 h (214)291-5720 (214)272-4127 h (214)404-8400 w (817)467-4581 h (214)352-0888 h (214)495-4410 (214)271-4911 h (214)229-9216 w (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (214)821-4788 h (214)634-2360 w (214)348-3766 h (817)267-0758 h (817)879-0087 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2441 w (214)616-1265 h (214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-9993 h (214)255-0555 w Metro (817)481-6453 h (214)823-9837 w
Personal Users	Bob Presley Bob Russell	
Programmers	Kent Kingery	
Quicken	Jim Hoisington W L Harris Rex Gifford	
R:Base	Richard Hauslein Don Branham	
Roots III	John Wylie	
Software Review	Pat Hanley	
Spreadsheet Dev.	Mark Gruner Betty Brooks James Corbett	
TI Pro	James Corbett	
Unix/Xenix	Kurt Krider Doug Scott Jim Stallworth	
Windows Dev.	Arthur English	
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Barrina Lori Quinn	
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn Mitch Milam	



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

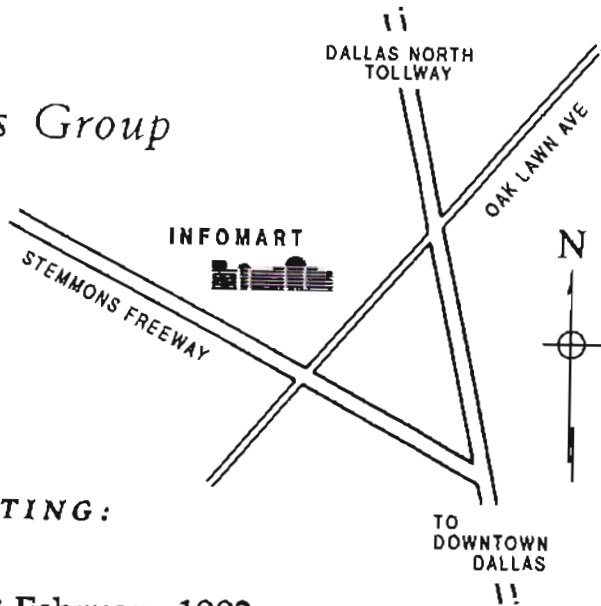
Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Arlington, TX
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.

11.2

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

8 February 1992