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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for May North Texas PC NEWS: Friday, April 10th

Meeting Dates:

April Meeting - 3rd Sat.(18th)
May Meeting - 4th Sat.(23rd)
June Meeting - 3rd Sat. (tentative)

A few more good volunteers are needed!

Are you doing your part?

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Program for April — Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **The Computer Inside**

Intel Corporation
Dennis Lewis, Architecture Manager

This presentation will be an insightful look at the major trends and components driving the PC industry. It will provide an overview of the latest members of the Intel x86 architecture, including the upgradable I486SX and the I386SL, the first microprocessor designed for portable computing. The presentation will conclude with a brief look at Intel's future microprocessor plans, followed by a question and answer session. Don't miss this opportunity to influence the future of personal computing by telling Intel what features you will need in the years ahead. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Lotus Freelance for Windows**

Lotus Development Corporation
Speaker Unknown

Freelance Graphics for Windows makes creating a presentation a fun experience. Features include QuickStart (an animated on-line tutorial), SmartMasters to manage the design of the presentation for you, SmartFeatures to give you a complete range of drawing, charting and presentation management tools, an Outliner, and over 500 clip art symbols. Freelance has the tightest integration with the Lotus Suite of Windows products. There will be a drawing for free copies of software. *

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

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **Sales and Management Productivity with TeleMagic**

Computer Evaluations
Paul Schmidt, President

With the constrictive U.S. economy, sales and management productivity are more important than ever. This presentation will focus on the cost of doing business in a changing marketplace and how TeleMagic software can help successfully automate sales, customer service and management tasks to help a company sell more, maximize profits and compete with strength. The flexibility, ease of learning and use of TeleMagic has already increased the productivity of tens of thousands of companies. TeleMagic is available for DOS, Windows, Macintosh, Unix and AS/400. There will be free fully-functional demo copies available to attending NTPCUG members.

* 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.

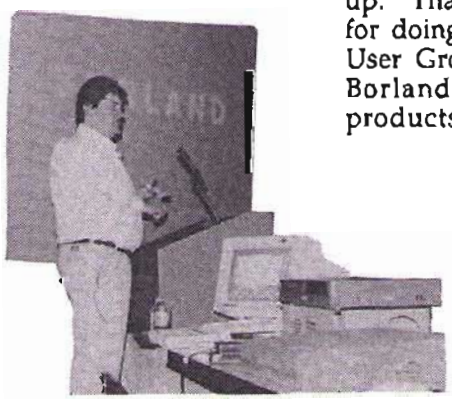
Prez Sez

Microsoft's Users Group Summit

Your President and President-Elect had the fortune to visit Microsoft for two days and to interact with some of the executives and many of the technical managers. Doug and I split up the reporting duties, so look elsewhere in this issue for our analyses.

Philippe Kahn

Thank you Philippe for giving us a sneak preview of Quattro Pro for Windows, Dbase for Windows, and Paradox for Windows. We counted approximately 1,000 people in the atrium at Infomart on a cold March 10th at 7:00 pm. Borland's staff did a great job of setting everything up. Thank you Tami Casey for doing a wonderful job as User Group Coordinator for Borland. Some of the products that were demo'd were pre-beta releases and we were witness to several [CTRL] [ALT] [DEL] three finger salutes. My wife mentioned that it was nice to see software misbehave in a



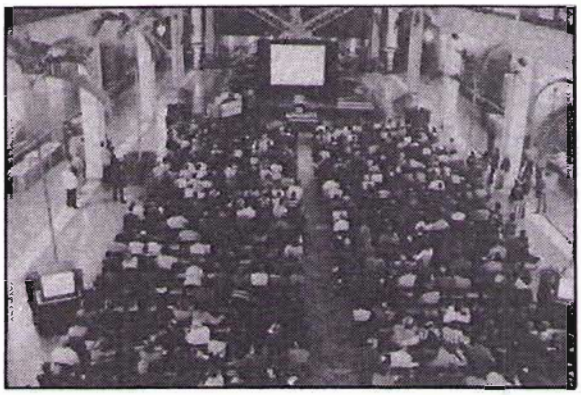
Philippe Kahn giving a special presentation at the InfoMart in Dallas.

Prez Sez continued

product demo, because many times when a product doesn't work right, the end user is made to feel idiotic. Philippe just shrugged it off and said this is why the product is not shipping. About half in attendance were NTPCUG members, and the others found out via a mailing that Borland made to registered product users in the area. I placed brochures and newsletters on the tables with Borland's product info, so we should see a jump in attendance as a result of this talk. We were sorry that an awaiting American Airlines flight preempted the Q&A, and we hope that Mr. Kahn will return to Dallas soon.

While in Seattle

We were treated to a tour of the Northwest PC User's Groups Resource Center. This facility has meeting rooms for SIG meetings, a central location for housing magazines, their disk library, and a place to work on donated equipment. The group volunteers spend time scavenging parts and making working p.c.'s that are then donated to charitable organizations. So far they have placed over 100 computers. They say the nice thing is that if you blow-up, burn-up or otherwise mess-up a system, you don't have to pay for it.



InfoMart, March 10, 1992.— A crowd of about 1000 greeted Philippe Kahn as he showed sneak previews of upcoming Borland database Windows products.

New SIGS

I forgot to mention the start of the ALPHA FOUR DATABASE SIG, the MICROSOFT WORKS SIG and the ACT Contact Management software SIG. If you are interested in either of these products, stop in on Saturday.

Less for More

Interesting thing happened on the way to the computer store. I phoned Dell in Austin to order a 486 for a user at my office. The sales rep told me that there was a special going on and went over the package of goods and the price. It sounded attractive, but more than this user needed. So, I asked about downgrading the monitor and dropping the Windows out of the package. It turns out that the special price was for the package and these downgrades would cost more. Wait a second. If I want less features, and the new catalog has them priced for less, I have to pay more for them. I understand that with the software being preloaded, it is difficult to take it off, but how much trouble is it to swap one monitor box for another. After some discussion, I settled on a system, but the credit arrangements turned into a hassle (and I've purchased systems from Dell in the past.) I still bought a Dell (because they are great machines), I just called my friendly account rep at CompUSA and he took care of me.

Andy Oliver

My Favorite Spelling Checker

I have a spelling checker,
It came with my PC.
It plainly marques four my revue,
Mistakes I cannot sea.

I've run this poem threw it,
I'm sure your please too no;
It's letter perfect in it's way,
My check her tolled me sew.

Anonymous

From The Philadelphia Area Computer Society newsletter The Data Bus, who lifted it from NAUG's Appleworks, who borrowed it from Northern Virginia's AUG's newsletter.

Batch File Tips and Utilities

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

The DOS Environment

This month the topic is nominally AUTOEXEC.BAT, but the first order of business is actually the DOS environment. The DOS environment is simply an area in main memory for storing string variables. By default, the size of the DOS environment is 256 bytes in DOS 5.0. In earlier DOS versions the default environment size was 160 bytes.

Each program in memory, including Terminate-and-Stay-Resident programs (TSRs for short), gets a copy of the DOS environment. To be precise, each program gets a copy of the all the DOS environment variables. To conserve memory, the size of the environment each program gets is only just large enough to hold the current variable names and values. DOS rounds each copy of the environment up to the next integer multiple of 16 bytes or to 160 bytes, whichever is larger. This is the reason why it is important to limit the number of DOS environment variables created prior to loading TSRs into memory. Batch files sometimes require a large primary DOS environment for storing temporary variables. Since DOS only loads the occupied part of the primary environment with each TSR, a large primary DOS environment does not have to waste a lot of memory.

In the early days of the PC, before Microsoft documented the DOS environment, a 160 byte environment provided plenty of room. Hardly anyone except Microsoft used it for anything. Today, 160 bytes is inadequate and in DOS 5.0 Microsoft increased the default size to 256 bytes. Batch file programs store permanent and/or temporary variables in the DOS environment. DOS stores the PROMPT and PATH variables there. Increasingly, applications look for DOS environment variables as pointers to directories where users keep their data files. The importance of the role played by the DOS environment continues to grow. Now, the first thing everyone needs to know about the DOS environment is how to make it bigger.

Increasing the DOS Environment Size

It is easy to increase the DOS environment size. It requires adding one line to the CONFIG.SYS file on computers running DOS 3.0 or higher. The example of CONFIG.SYS last month contained a line to increase the DOS environment to 656 bytes. (The DOS environment size has to be an integer multiple of 16 bytes.)

The syntax of the line in CONFIG.SYS that increases the DOS environment size for each of the DOS versions starting with DOS 3.0, appears in LISTING 1.

LISTING 1 - Syntax for the SHELL Command in DOS Versions 3.0 to 5.0

DOS Version	CONFIG.SYS Syntax
DOS 3.0	SHELL=[d:]\path1\COMMAND.COM [[d:]\path2\] /exx /p
DOS 3.1	SHELL=[d:]\path1\COMMAND.COM [[d:]\path2\] /exx /p
DOS 3.2	SHELL=[d:]\path1\COMMAND.COM [[d:]\path2\] /eyyyy /p
DOS 3.3	SHELL=[d:]\path1\COMMAND.COM [[d:]\path2\] /eyyyy /p
DOS 4.0	SHELL=[d:]\path1\COMMAND.COM [[d:]\path2\] /eyyyy /p
DOS 5.0	SHELL=[d:]\path1\COMMAND.COM [[d:]\path2\] /eyyyy /p

For information about the SHELL command and COMMAND.COM see the June 1988 issue of BYTE Magazine, page 189; the December 25, 1990 issue of PC Magazine, page 445; the December 1990 issue of Compute, page PC-9; "MS-DOS Batch File Programming - 2nd Edition" by Ronny Richardson, page 329; "DOS Power Tools - Techniques, Tricks and Utilities, 2nd Edition" by Paul Somerson, page 141; "MS-DOS Batch File Utilities" by Ronny Richardson, pages 334-335; and "Microsoft MS-DOS User's Guide and Reference" for DOS 5.0, pages 384-386 (COMMAND.COM) and 566-567 (SHELL).

In the SHELL command, [[d:]\path1] specifies the DOS drive and the DOS directory path to COMMAND.COM, [[d:]\path2\] specifies the drive and path where DOS should look for COMMAND.COM when the transient portion needs to be reloaded. The SHELL command must include this parameter if COMMAND.COM is not in the root directory. It sets the COMSPEC environment variable. The xx is a two digit number between 10 and 62, inclusive, and represents the number of 16-byte paragraphs in the DOS environment. The yyyy is a 3, 4 or 5 digit number between 160 and 32,768, inclusive, and represents the number of bytes in the DOS environment.

The best size for the DOS environment on a given PC depends on the jobs it is going to do. For most users not currently running DOS 5.0, an immediate increase to 256 bytes is in order. It will be necessary to increase the size beyond 256 every time an "Out of environment space" error message occurs. In this series, the DOS environment is going to get a thorough workout. A DOS environment size of 512 bytes is the minimum that serious batch file programmers should consider.

The Contents of the DOS Environment

Part of a typical DOS environment might look like LISTING 2. ►

LISTING 2 - Example of the contents of a typical DOS Environment

```
COMSPEC=C:\COMMAND.COM
BOOTCON=A
PROMPT=$p$g
PATH=C:\;C:\DOS_500
NU=C:\NORTON\ADV_601
XTGTEMP=n:\tempfile
TEMP=n:\tempfile
TMP=n:\tempfile
```

My full DOS environment contains 30 permanent environment variables and consumes 588 bytes. A DOS environment variable consists of the environment variable name, followed by an equal sign (=), followed by the value of the environment variable. All environment variables have string values. Even the numerals appearing in the variable value are simple string characters. DOS cannot perform arithmetic with environment variables. Each character in the environment variable's name, the equal sign following the variable name, and each character in the environment variable's value consumes one byte of the environment space. Short names and short values are definitely preferred.

Entering and Removing Environment Variables from the DOS Environment

BOOTCON, the configuration swapping device driver introduced last month, created the DOS environment variable named BOOTCON. BOOTCON has a value of "A" because the user selected the first menu definition block. BOOTCON assigns a value to its namesake environment variable that matches the users chosen configuration.

Other DOS environment variables come from a variety of sources. For example, DOS always places the variable named COMSPEC in the DOS environment and, by default, gives it the value C:\COMMAND.COM whenever the PC boots up from the hard disk. The SHELL command can change the COMSPEC value. The SET command can also change the value of COMSPEC.

PROMPT and PATH are special DOS environment variables that are user defined. To create these variables, enter the word PROMPT or PATH at the command line or on a line in a batch file. Follow the command with a space (or an equal sign) and the desired value of the variable.

The syntax for creating all other DOS environment variables is as follows.

```
SET variable_name=variable_value
```

Using this syntax, the SET command can create DOS environment variables with almost any name and almost any value. The SET command can change the value of any variable as often as required. The SET command can also delete variables from the DOS environment at any time.

Print the current contents of the entire DOS environment on the screen by typing the single word SET at the DOS prompt. (To try these commands at the DOS prompt, always press the [RETURN] to start the command processor after typing the command on the command line.)

If there are too many variables in the DOS environment to fit on one screen, then use the following command.

```
SET |more
```

It will display the DOS environment one page at a time. To redirect the environment list from the screen to a file on the disk, use the next command.

```
SET >filename.txt
```

To print out a copy, redirect the output to the printer using this command.

```
SET >prn
```

DOS itself uses the DOS environment variables COMSPEC, DIRCMD, PATH, PROMPT, TEMP and TMP. Other programs will use specifically named DOS environment variables for specific purposes. For example, the Norton Utilities will seek out and use the DOS environment variable NU. XTreeGold will use the DOS environment variable XTGTEMP. Batch file programmers can use the DOS environment to save temporary values and to pass data between batch files.

To remove a DOS environment variable from the DOS environment, type the following command.

```
SET variable_name=
```

That SET command clears the variable_value and deletes the variable_name from the DOS environment. The variable_name, the equal sign and the variable_value consume one byte of the DOS environment for each character they contain. It is good practice to remove temporary environment variables from the DOS environment when they have no further use. This makes room for additional environment variables. Removing COMSPEC from the DOS environment may cause the PC to crash.

Testing the Value of DOS Environment Variables in BATCH Files

Using batch file commands, it is easy to test the value of environment variables. Following that test, it is easy to alter the order of execution based on the results. The instrument for testing environment variables is the IF command.

The IF command has many uses. For our purposes here, the principle uses are the "IF-equal" and the "IF-NOT-equal" tests. Try to think of them as the "IF-" ►

same-string" and "IF-NOT-same- string" tests. The syntax for each of these two command sequences is as follows.

```
IF "%variable_name%"=="string_to_test" command_to_execute

and

IF NOT "%variable_name%"=="string_to_test" command_to_execute
```

The percent signs (%) must appear where shown. The variable_name with leading and trailing percent signs tells DOS to substitute the current variable_value in place of the variable_name before processing the command. Omitting the quotation marks is permissible, but including them is better. Do not add any quotation marks other than the ones shown.

The command_to_execute executes when the results of the IF test are true. An IF test is true when the variable_name and the string_to_test satisfy the specified test condition. In the first case that means that the value of the environment variable is the same as the string_to_test. In the second case, it means that the value of the environment variable is not the same as the string_to_test. Remember that each variable has both a name and a value. This is a test of the value even though it is the variable's name that appears in the IF statement.

When the IF test is false, the next line of the batch file executes, instead of the command_to_execute. The command_to_execute can be almost any DOS command. The examples below just happen to use ECHO commands.

A very popular command_to_execute is the GOTO command. GOTO moves the point of execution to another place in the batch file. Normal line by line execution continues from that point down through the batch file.

The GOTO command syntax looks like this.

```
GOTO label_name
```

The name that appears in label_name must exist somewhere in the same batch file preceded by a colon (:). The :label_name must occupy a line by itself.

The best way to demonstrate all this is with some examples. The method is very general and in the examples in LISTING 3 it is only incidentally that BOOTCON is the variable_name being tested.

The examples assume that if BOOTCON=B;

#1) a specific command will execute,

#2) a specific command will NOT execute,

#3) several lines of code will execute and

#4) several lines of code will NOT execute.

The results are based solely on the value of the BOOTCON variable.

LISTING 3 - Four Examples that test the BOOTCON Environment Variable

```
EXAMPLE #1:
    a specific ECHO command that executes when BOOTCON
    loads the second configuration:

    IF "%bootcon%"=="B" ECHO BOOTCON loaded the second Configuration

EXAMPLE #2:
    a specific ECHO command that does not execute
    when BOOTCON loads the second configuration:

    IF NOT "%bootcon%"=="B" ECHO BOOTCON didn't load the 2nd Config.

EXAMPLE #3:
    a consecutive set of batch file commands that execute
    when BOOTCON loads the second configuration:

    IF NOT "%bootcon%"=="B" GOTO go_there
    ECHO These lines execute when BOOTCON loads the 2nd configuration.
    ECHO If BOOTCON loads another configuration, the GOTO command
    ECHO moves the execution pointer to the line below the label_name on
    ECHO the next line.
    :go_there

EXAMPLE #4:
    a consecutive set of batch file commands that will
    not execute when BOOTCON loads the second configuration:

    IF "%bootcon%"=="B" GOTO go_there
    ECHO These lines execute when BOOTCON loads any configuration ex-
    ECHO cept the second one. If BOOTCON loads the second configuration,
    ECHO GOTO command moves the execution pointer to the line below the
    ECHO label_name on the next line.
    :go_there
```

Study these examples carefully. Working with single and multiple commands requires using the NOT parameter in two distinct ways.

Using a series of tests like these, it's possible to construct an AUTOEXEC.BAT file that executes separate and specific sections of the file for each of the specific configurations defined by different BOOTCON menu definition blocks.

LISTING 4 shows the schematic organization of such an AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

LISTING 4 - Scheme for AUTOEXEC.BAT that responds to the BOOTCON Configuration

```
Start of AUTOEXEC.BAT file
\
    Run all the early commands no matter which configuration
    BOOTCON loaded.
/

IF NOT "%bootcon%"=="A" GOTO skip_a
\
    Run commands in this section only if BOOTCON loaded the
    first configuration (A).
/
```

Listing continued on next page.

LISTING 4 - Scheme for AUTOEXEC.BAT that responds to the BOOTCON Configuration continued

```
:skip_a
IF NOT "%bootcon%"=="B" GOTO skip_b
\
   Run commands in this section only if BOOTCON loaded the
   second configuration (B).
/

:skip_b
IF NOT "%bootcon%"=="C" GOTO skip_c
\
   Run commands in this section only if BOOTCON loaded the
   third configuration (C).
/

:skip_c
\
   Run all remaining commands no matter which configuration
   BOOTCON loaded.
```

Checking for Device Drivers with ISDEV

The AUTOEXEC.BAT outlined in LISTING 4 will work. If the differences between the BOOTCON configurations involve loading or not loading only a small number of device drivers, or if the order of the menu definitions blocks in CONFIG.SYS is likely to change frequently, then there is a better way to write the AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

For example, with as few as four device drivers to load in CONFIG.SYS, it is possible to construct 16 different configurations in CONFIG.SYS. There is one way to load no device drivers, four ways to load one driver, six ways to load two drivers, four ways to load three drivers, and one way to load all four drivers. (This assumes that the loading order inside a each menu definition block is not important. It requires even more tests if the order is important.)

Rather than test 16 different values of the BOOTCON variable, it is simpler to test for the four device drivers. The keys to making such a scheme work are finding the batch file utility that tests for the presence of installed device drivers, and finding the names of the installed device drivers to test for. Installed device drivers almost always have installed names that are different from the file names that appear on the DEVICE= lines in the CONFIG.SYS file.

The first utility we need is ISDEV. I'll finish this report by describing how ISDEV works. Next month I'll describe a technique for creating ISDEV using the DOS DEBUG command. The second utility that we need is Manifest, from Quarterdeck Office Systems.

The command syntax for ISDEV has two forms, as follows.

```
ISDEV d:
```

or

```
ISDEV device_driver_name
```

The parameter d: is the drive letter of a diskette, hard disk partition or RAM drive and device_driver_name is the installed name of a device driver. CONFIG.SYS installs the device drivers. DOS uses drive names internally just like it uses installed device driver names. ISDEV can check for DOS drives just like it does any installed device_driver_name.

ISDEV sets a system variable called the exit code to zero (0) if it finds the listed device_driver_name or drive letter. It sets the exit code to one (1) if it does not find the listed drive letter or device_driver_name. In batch files, the IF command uses the ERRORLEVEL parameter to test the value of the most recently issued exit code.

The syntax for this version of the IF command looks like one of the following.

```
IF ERRORLEVEL test_value command_to_execute
```

or

```
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value command_to_execute
```

Test_value is a numerical value that DOS compares with the current value of the exit code. Exit codes take values from 0 to 255. The IF ERRORLEVEL command compares the value of the exit code with the test_value. The ERRORLEVEL test_value test is true, and command_to_execute executes, only if the exit code is greater than or equal to test_value. The IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value test is true, and the command_to_execute executes, only if the exit code is less than the test_value. This may seem unnecessarily complicated, but a couple of examples should help.

First, a list of device driver names, that are readily available, appears in LISTING 5. MANIFEST, a program available from Quarterdeck Office Systems, can read the installed device driver names. MAX, a similar program available from Qualitas, could have been used to obtain these installed device driver names.

LISTING 5 - Some Installed Device Driver Names

Installed Driver Name	Program that installs the named device driver
EGA$	DOS 5.0's EGA.SYS
EMSXXXX0	DOS 5.0's EMM386.EXE expanded memory manager
XMSXXXX0	DOS 5.0's HIMEM.SYS extended memory manager
SETVERXX	DOS 5.0's SETVER.SYS
SMARTAAR	DOS 5.0's SMARTDRV.SYS disk cache
EMMXXXX0	QEMM386 and 386MAX extended memory managers
QEMM386$	QEMM386 expanded memory manager
386MAX$$	386MAX expanded memory manager
PC$MOUSE	LogiTech or Mouse System's MOUSE.SYS
MS$MOUSE	Microsoft's MOUSE.SYS
BC	BOOTCON.SYS driver

It is not possible to use ISDEV to test for the device driver names of DOS's ANSI.SYS, DOSKEY.COM, PRINTER.SYS or DISPLAY.SYS. Each of these drivers

uses the name CON or PRN as its installed driver name. ISDEV always finds the devices named CON, PRN, AUX and NUL, whether CONFIG.SYS installs any device drivers. These names are always present because DOS uses them internally.

LISTING 6 contains the schematic version of an AUTOEXEC.BAT file that tests directly for the presence of four specific device drivers and executes specific commands for each driver that is present.

LISTING 6 - AUTOEXEC.BAT that uses ISDEV to respond to changing Configurations

```
Start of AUTOEXEC.BAT file
\
   Run all the early commands no matter which device drivers
   BOOTCON loaded. Then change to the drive and directory
   containing ISDEV.COM.
/

ISDEV QEMM386$
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO skipqemm
\
   Run commands in this section only if CONFIG.SYS loaded QEMM386.
/
:skipqemm

ISDEV 386MAX$$
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO skipmax
\
   Run commands in this section only if CONFIG.SYS loaded 386MAX.
/
:skipmax

ISDEV N:
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO no_n_drv
\
   Run commands in this section only if RAM drive N: exists.
/
:no_n_drv

ISDEV PC$MOUSE
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO no_mouse
\
   Run commands in this section only if CONFIG.SYS loaded the
   LogiTech Mouse driver.
/
:no_mouse

\
   Run all remaining commands no matter which device drivers
   CONFIG.SYS loaded.
/
```

To avoid execution of a series of commands when a specific device driver is installed, use the following command after ISDEV. It will force the execution pointer to skip over a series of command lines.

```
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO label_name
```

Next time, we'll create the ISDEV.COM program using DEBUG. That article will introduce the use of script files to create short utilities. Typing in a short script by hand is often easier than downloading the utility from a bulletin board. Using script files introduces the potential hazard that typos might create a rogue program. However, a script file can be proofread and edited as many times as it takes to get it right. With care, typos are not a problem. Using, even correctly typed, scripts with DEBUG has a few minor hazards. These are simply a matter of practice and are very easy to avoid.

Whenever possible, scripts will provide easy access to the small utilities introduced in this series.

KEY WORDS

386MAX$$ (386MAX Expanded Memory Manager)
ANSI.SYS
AUTOEXEC.BAT
AUX
Batch File Program
BOOTCON
Bulletin Board
BYTE Magazine - June 1988
COMMAND.COM
COMMAND.COM - transient portion
Command_to_Execute
COMPUTE magazine - December 1990
COMSPEC
CON
CONFIG.SYS
DEBUG
Default Environment Size
Device Driver
DEVICE=
Device_Driver_Name
DIRCMD
Diskette
DISPLAY.SYS
DOS
DOS Environment
DOS Power Tools-Techniques, Tricks, and Utilities, 2nd Edition by Paul Somerson
DOSKEY.COM
Downloading
d:
ECHO
EGA$ (DOS 5.0's EGA.SYS Device Driver)
EMMXXXX0 (386MAX and QEMM386 Extended Memory Managers)
EMSXXXX0 (DOS 5.0's EMM386.EXE Device Driver)
Environment
Environment Variable Name (Variable_Name)
Environment Variable Value (Variable_Value)
Error Message
ERRORLEVEL Parameter
Exit Code
GOTO
Hard Disk Partition
IF
IF ERRORLEVEL
IF NOT = (IF NOT equal)
IF = (IF equal)
ISDEV.COM
Label_Name
Main Memory
MANIFEST
Microsoft [Corporation]
Microsoft MS-DOS User's Guide and Reference, for DOS 5.0
MORE
MS-DOS Batch File Programming - 2nd Edition, by Ronny Richardson
MS-DOS Batch File Utilities, by Ronny Richardson
MS$MOUSE (Microsoft MOUSE.SYS)
NU (Norton Utilities)
NUL
Paragraph (16 bytes)
PATH
Paul Somerson
PC Magazine - December 25, 1990
PC (Personal Computer)
PC$MOUSE (LogiTech or Mouse Systems MOUSE.SYS)
Primary DOS Environment
PRINTER.SYS
PRN
PROMPT
QEMM386$ (QEMM386 Expanded Memory Manager)
Qualitas
Quarterdeck Office Systems
RAM DISK
Script File
SET
SETVERXX (DOS 5.0's SETVER.SYS Device Driver)
SHELL
SMARTAAR (DOS 5.0's SMARTDRV.SYS Device Driver)
String Value
String Variable
String_to_Test
TEMP
Temporary Variable
Test_Value
TMP
Transient Portion of COMMAND.COM
TSR (Terminate-and-Stay-Resident Program)
Variable_Name (Environment Variable Name)
Variable_Value (Environment Variable Value)
XMSXXXX0 (DOS 5.0's HIMEM.SYS Device Driver)
XTGTEMP (XTreeGold)
BC (BOOTCON.SYS Device Driver)

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

Membership Survey -- October 1991

The North Texas PC Users Group (NTPCUG) is an independent, nonprofit organization of approximately 1600 members who regularly meet to exchange ideas and facts about IBM and compatible personal computers. Beginning in February, 1987, the NTPCUG began regular surveys of its membership. These surveys sample members' occupations, corporate and personal computer purchases, current hardware and software, expected future purchases and general user personal demographics.

The following results are based on a survey conducted at the October, 1991, meeting at Infomart. 199 valid surveys were collected during the meeting, representing a 12% sample of NTPCUG membership current at the time of the October meeting. All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

NTPCUG -- 1991 Membership Demographics in Brief:

Based on the October, 1991, survey, the NTPCUG membership appears to be a group of people who are working in professional-level positions, and exert significant influence over corporate computer purchase decisions. Our members are evenly distributed in age, report median family income levels above $50,000, are well-educated and invested in continuing education efforts.

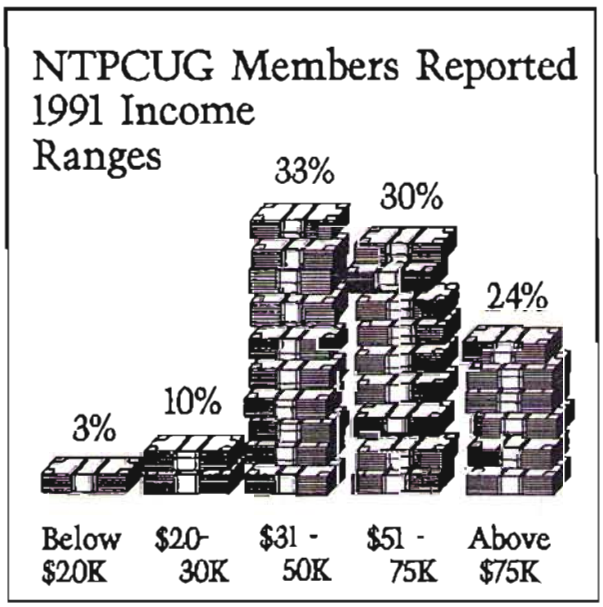
NTPCUG Members' professional Roles

In their professional roles, NTPCUG members felt the most appropriate description of their jobs were:

A) Chairman/ President CEO	7%	G) Software Engr./ Programmer	16%
B) MIS Manager	3%	H) Representative	1%
C) Engr./Hardware	7%	I) Educator	3%
D) Consultant	16%	J) Mgr. (Non-MIS)	8%
E) Systems Analyst	4%	K) Scientist	2%
F) Data Base Supervisor/Administrator	4%	L) Other	20%

Membership survey highlights

- 78% of NTPCUG members report a significant amount of their work involves them in evaluation, recommendation, design manufacture or sales of computer hardware or software:
  42% of total sample in computer hardware
  57% of total sample in software
- 49% of those members sampled who are not Computer Professionals state they are considered *PC Experts* in their area(s)
- 88% of NTPCUG members are males
  12% of NTPCUG members are females
- 73% of our members are married (this figure is not broken down by sex)
- 8% of our members bring their spouses or significant others to meetings
- 39% use their PC's more at work than at home while 25% report they work at home
- 83% report they are the primary PC user at home
- 76% of the 1991 membership sample had 4-year Bachelor degrees or higher,
  22% of members report degrees at the Masters level, M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.
  11% of the respondants hold doctoral level degrees, including Ph.D., L.L.D., Sc.D., M.D., etc.
- 58% report that they regularly participate in continuing education
- 86% classify themselves as skilled or expert PC users -- 26% report expert-level knowledge
- 79% have and regularly use modems with their PC's at home, 49% at work, and 25% report two or more telephone lines at their residences.



NTPCUG -- 1991 Membership Demographics

NTPCUG Members tend to use PC's widely both at work and at home. 100% of members in this sample report they use computers on the job.

Portables and laptop PC's accounted for 7% of members' primary at-work computing, and 41% of the sample reported mainframe computers as their primary work machines. Minicomputers lagged somewhat this year in reported usage, perhaps due to confusion over terminology, i.e., difference between minis and mainframes.

Home PC Purchase Patterns

Members personal home PC spending reported for the year increased approximately 20% over 1990 and were:

Hardware: 156 members reported they spent an average of **$1,883** on hardware in 1991 for a total of **$293,700** in purchases.

Software: 170 members said they spent an average of **$1,170** on software during 1991 for a total of **$199,050.**

Total: PC purchases averaged **$3,053** for 170 members responding to the survey. Total spent = **$492,750.** If carried across all 1650 members, that would represent about **$5,000,000** in NTPCUG members' personal purchases.

Home PC Use Patterns

Home PC ownership has continued shifting away from the "name brands" since the last survey. Largest group of members, 65%, said their primary home computer wasn't made by IBM or Compaq. Other brands, such as Dell, CompuAdd, Northgate or Zeos were not specified in the current survey.

IBM accounted for 15% of the primary home machines. Of the total sample, 12% were PC's and 3% were PS/2's. (IBM PC's, PC/XT's and PC/AT's were grouped as "PC's".) Compaq accounted for only 5% of members' primary home PC's.

Broken down by CPU's, results of the survey indicate that a majority of members have either an 80386-powered PC (41%) or an 80286-powered PC (26%).

18% of members still have 8088 or 8086 CPU's for primary home computing. "Other" accounted for 3%. 22% of the sample reported more than one home PC in this survey.

Planned Purchases: NTPC members state they are planning to upgrade their current systems by:

A) Adding a Hard Disk to a PC	12%
B) Adding a Larger Hard Disk	32%
C) Adding a (faster) Modem	21%
D) Adding an AT or Clone	3%
E) Adding Memory	39%
F) Adding an Impact Printer	3%
G) Adding a Laser Printer	25%
H) Adding Accelerator Board	3%
I) Adding 386 Machine	16%
J) Add high-quality color/graphics VGA+ etc.	16%
K) Add multiple scan-rate or high res monitor	18%
L) Adding 486 Machine	18%
M) Adding a CD/ROM to PC	20%
N) Adding a FAX Board to PC	12%
O) Adding a Tape Drive Backup	18%

NTPCUG Members exert significant influence on computer related purchasing decisions within their companies and organizations. Figures below are rounded to nearest whole percent based on survey responses.

NTPCUG Members report they recommend computer and software purchases, but have NO FINAL AUTHORY OVER them, in the following amounts:

A) Below $2,000.	57%
B) $ 2 - 5K	19%
C) $ 5 - 10K	10%
D) $10 - 20K	13%
E) $20 - 50K	11%
F) $50 - 100K	7%
G) Over $100K	13%
Other Code or No response	%

HARDWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer hardware annually:

A) Mainframe/s	4%
B) Minicomputers	12%
C) Microcomputers [PC's]	67%
D) LAN's	33%
E) Laser Printers	54%
F) Impact Printers	42%
G) Monitors	61%
H) Modems	59%
I) Hard Disks	63%
J) Tape Backup	46%
K) Add-in Cards	44%
L) Video Projection Systems	11%
M) Communications Equipment	30%
Z) Other	3%

NTPCUG Members report they recommend and HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY OVER the following amounts of computer-related purchases annually:

A) Below $2,000.	3
B) $ 2 - 5K	2
C) $ 5 - 10K	1
D) $ 10 - 20K	
E) $20 - 50K	
F) $50 - 100K	
G) Over $100K	
Other Code or No response	1

SOFTWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer software annually:

A) Accounting	2
B) Order Entry / Inventory	1
C) Payroll	1
D) Time Billing	
E) Spreadsheets	6
F) Word Processing	6
G) Communications	4
H) CAD / CAM	1
I) Project Managers	2
J) Database	5
K) Programming Tools	4
L) Graphics	4
M) Statistics / Analysis	
O) Electronic Mail (E-Mail)	2
Z) Other	

NTPCUG's 1991 *Demographics Survey* -- What do all those numbers mean anyway?

Every Fall, the NTPCUG conducts a membership demographics survey. We hit every Special Interest Group (SIG) and the presentations in the main auditorium in the once-a-year sample.

Results of the sample obtained at the October, 1991, NTPCUG meeting are shown on the following two pages. These surveys were gathered from 199 members and represented 12% of the general membership at the time of the sample.

Some of the results obtained are surprizing. Members sampled (199) at that meeting reported that they spent about $500,000 on PC hardware and software for use at home – not work, but home use. That 41% of this sample reported primary use of mainframe computers at work was equally surprizing -- and may not be an accurate picture of our average member.

Did we see changes?

Yes. We saw lots of changes since last year.

Most were in expected directions. Example, percentage of 8088 and 8086 powered PC's dropped (18% vs. 27%) and percentage of 80386DX and 80386SX PC's increased from 25% to 41%. This may have accounted for the 20% increase in personal PC spending noted in the survey – replacement of older 8088 and 80286 PC's for 32-bit, 80386 machines.

5% of the sample stated they were using 80486-powered PC's at the time of the survey. That's faster penetration than we had expected given the initially high (premium) prices asked for these early in the year. Nameplates continued previous trends with "IBM" slipping from 26% last year to 15% in this sample.

Composition of the NTPCUG stayed fairly stable with income ranges, ages, educational levels and marital status very close to those seen last year. Male vs. female percentages tipped further in favor of males, but not significantly, and not in keeping with "eyeball" estimates in SIG meetings and on the Infomart floor.

Are the results really accurate?

Yes, if we restrict ourselves to that single meeting. Probably, the results reflect characteristics of that portion of our membership who attend most NTPCUG meetings and vendor presentations.

"That single meeting" is the catch, and leads to problems involved in single-event sampling used to represent an entire organization? Question is whether participants in this sample are truly a good approximation of our PCUG. Sampling theory suggests that they probably are, within some limitations.

Major limitation is sample size. We only gathered 199 completed surveys this time. That's coming pretty close to the lower limit for an organization of our size – 1650 members. Also, this is a non-random sample, which is very important.

Characteristics of the event (the October NTPCUG Meeting) may have highly impacted on the characteristics of the individuals attending the meeting. That is, we may have "drawn" a portion of our membership to the meeting based on the main presentations offered. This might suggest that we need to sample across meetings, which we did in the past when the NTPCUG was much smaller, including those meetings which would represent most of our members' interests.

Why? Consider the following:

Members who come to see Lotus *1-2-3* may be different than those who come to see *Quicken*, or *Arts & Letters*, or a new C++ compiler.

Members who come to the October meeting may have different interests than those who come to the April or July meetings.

Members who come to meetings regularly may be quite different than members who don't normally come to meetings.

Members who live in Dallas and suburbs may be quite different than members who live in Fort Worth, Sherman or Mexia, Texas, or Shreveport, Louisiana.

The list goes on and on.

Are we asking the "right" questions?

Another problem is the nature of the survey itself. Many of the questions may be "wrong" for our typical member although "right" for an industrial software marketing target. Member responses to several of the survey questions tend to emphasize that possibility.

That's one of the reasons we are overhauling the survey in coming months. We'll also be looking at ways to broaden our sample population to reflect better the composition of the NTPCUG as a whole.

People who didn't complete the survey this year may have felt it wasn't worth the effort. They are wrong. ►

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)

ACT! SIG

The NTPCUG ACT! SIG met for the first time on March 7. ACT! is a software package used most commonly by people in sales to keep track of their clients, meeting and task scheduling, follow ups, etc. Nine of us spent the hour learning a few tricks, and some basics, from Greg Littleton, of Contract Software International, the company which produces ACT!.

Next month we will try and arrange to have another person demonstrate how they use the program in their routine. If you use ACT!, or if you're keeping track of your clients on 3" X 5" index cards, please join us so we can all learn from other's good, and not so good, experience in trying to keep track of clients, relatives, friends, or others.

Mike Hill

Alpha Four SIG

During our February meeting we distributed questionnaires to all attendees for the purpose of polling everyone on various interests, uses, and problems with ALPHA FOUR. The results released at our March meeting show that our greatest interests are primarily in database design, set design, and search and lookup procedures. Future meeting programs will address these interests.

The PRODIGY service has an ALPHA FOUR section in their Bulletin Board area. Look under "Computer Clubs; Data Bases." There is a considerable amount of activity from users throughout the country. Note: The ALPHA FOUR technical personnel monitor the PRODIGY "club" activity and respond to questions and problems.

The meeting then turned to a discussion of Version 2.0. ALPHA FOUR VER. 2.0 takes 5-6 MB of disk space ... introduces a new method of choosing databases (now more than one database can be open at one time) ... uses expanded and extended memory ... and so on. ALPHA SOFTWARE CORP. now has a "patch disk" that is intended to correct the bugs in Version 2.0. We understand that the patch disk is referred to as Ver. 2.00.02. The disk is free to owners of Ver. 2.0 but you will have to request it from ALPHA SOFTWARE ... supply name, address, product serial no., and disk size. (Tech Support FAX number is 617-273-1507.)

Miscellany: Que Publishing will be releasing a new book in April called "Using ALPHA FOUR". Houston has an ALPHA FOUR Users Group!

The scheduled subject for our April SIG meeting is "User Problems." It is suggested that members bring in a disk (version 1 or 2) that contains a problem that they are having...so that we all can review/learn about the situation. There is a possibility that the April meeting will be scheduled for 12:00 PM. Check the NTPCUG Newsletter and the bulletin board on SUPER SATURDAY for the time.

Mike Moore

Assembler SIG

Our March meeting featured a discussion of the quality of the ASM code used in the Library functions of various C compilers as well as the ASM code generated by the compilers. Frank Cavallito brought string function samples and Glynn Brooks brought samples of how MSC 6.0 sets up switch statements.

Demographics continued

All this is important because the NTPCUG officers and directors use these survey results in planning where we're going in the future. We consider the survey results when deciding on which vendors will be invited to show their products at meetings. We also use these results in helping those vendors "tailor" their presentations to our group.

Credit for a job well done

Credit for another successful survey effort belongs to a dedicated core of NTPCUG officers and members. A lot of hard work went into task, most of it "invisible" to casual observers.

K.B. Barton, SIG Coordinator, was instrumental i organizing and implementing data collection in th NTPCUG SIGs during the October Meeting. **Jud Griffiths** did the really hard work – inputting th data in the appropriate database files supplied by **Jli Hoisington,** (then) NTPCUG President.

Andy Oliver, (now) NTPCUG President, arrange transportation (carried) the data disks from Sout Dallas (DeSoto) to far North Dallas (Farmers Branc so that Hoisington could perform the necessai analysis.

I got the easy job – putting a few numbers on paper

Reagan Andrews

A quick canvass of the attendees indicated no known disk problems caused by Michelangelo, but a number of people mentioned that the virus had been found and disabled on a number of machines. A point was made that perhaps the best thing to come of this scare was the need to backup machines regularly.

Our April meeting will feature a discussion of the UCR (University of Cal, Riverside) Standard Library for 80x86 ASM programmers. See the article in the March 92 Dr. Dobbs Journal for information on this free library.

Remember - check BBS for any last minute changes. Hope to see you in April.

Frank Cavallito

Business Applications/DAC Accounting SIG

Due to the press of business (tax season, you know), there was no meeting of the Business Apps./DAC Accounting SIG on March 7, but ..... STAY TUNED!!!!!!!!!!

Are you getting bored with your computer? Tired of seeing the same old programs with a new name? Well, wake up and smell the coffee! Put a little fun in your CPU. See a working demo of electronic scanning at the Business Applications SIG meeting on April 18, 1992 at 1:00 pm.

This should be a great introduction to both the graphic and the character recognition side of digitized images and the printed word. For an investment of one hour of your time, you will have the opportunity to see whether this technology can be effective in your business or personal use of your computer. During the one hour presentation, we will show you how to convert photographs, drawings, and other images into computerized image files; how to alter these images electronically; and how to use these graphics in a desktop publisher or a graphics program.

In addition to the graphics use of electronic scanning, we will also present a working demonstration of optical character recognition (OCR). This is the method by which the written word on paper is converted to a usable computer text file. Who ever said that computers can't read books?

In case you think this technology is too expensive, think again! For an investment of less than $250.00 (in addition to your existing computer system), you could have all the necessary hardware and software to create some very impressive documents and graphics. Think this might be an hour well spent???

Bruce Schubert

Communications SIG

The March meeting of the Comm SIG centered on the new TBBS bulletin board system, cut "live" on March 15. At that time, the old Chairman system died (of course, it was never very alive anyway). The TBBS demo was intended to get users on board as quickly and easily as possible. Full details on its use are in the March issue of PC NEWS, and updated details will be maintained on the new board in a downloadable file.

In April, the folks at Dallas FAX will return to discuss, as you might guess, FAX boards and modems. A lot has changed in FAX technology since their last visit, and a lot of folks tell me they missed out. So, don't miss this one!

Also, in a separate hour that day, I'll try to schedule a loose discussion on the new board for those that missed out in March. Look for details.

In May, we meet on Memorial Day weekend, so I know that everyone will be staying close to home so they can attend the Comm SIG meeting. At present, we plan to take a break from presentations, and catch up on Q&A. So, bring some "Q", and we'll try to find an "A" to go with it.

Try the new TBBS board, if you haven't already.

Doug Gorrie

DOS SIG

April's DOS SIG Meeting will focus on DOS utilities, ATTRIB in particular, as Jim Hoisington opens this utility up for view. Jim will be going over the file attribute bits, what they do, and how to control them.

We'll also look at more rumors about coming attractions from Microsoft and DRI in the DOS world this Spring. The April DOS SIG will end on the usual Q & A session where members have an opportunity to get input on their particular DOS problems.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

The 8 Feb meeting in room 7001 had 57 attendees. The success of the 18 Jan workshop in Irving (GENTEC'92) sponsored by the Irving and Grand Prairie Genealogical Societies was reported on. There were over 200 in attendance, a number of them from Louisiana and Oklahoma. Collin County genealogy had also put on two workshops, both on PAF. The Dallas Genealogical Society put on their 36th annual Spring Seminar Saturday 28 Mar at the Richardson Civic Theater. Marsha Hoffman Rising, a professional genealogist and lecturer, headed the program which was on Problem Solving Techniques for Genealogists, Establishing Birth, Death, and Marriage Records before Vital Statistics, Ten Mistakes YOU Can Avoid In Research. Also, the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society (P.O. Box 532026, ZIP 75053 held a workshop on Indian Research (Sharon Aston, speaker) 14 Mar at the Jackson Middle School in Grand Prairie.

The program was brought by Mark Basham, a member of the genealogy SIG. He spoke on two topics, GIPSI and MAPPER. GIPSI is a shareware software program that allows IGI information to be taken from CD ROM disks at the Family History Center (FHC) to be put onto a floppy diskette that you can take home and use with a database program. These FHC's are located in the local Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) libraries. The format of the downloaded IGI is not easy to use, the information is hard to put into BK, PAF, Roots III, Family Roots, etc. A better way is to take the IGI GEDCOM format and input it to GIPSI which puts it in a form you can then input to your database software at your home. The advantages of a database program to use with this information is that you can sort records for a particular location, sort records chronologically, eliminate duplicate records, etc. Mark said the computer reads CD ROMs in 200 name blocks and therefore you can't fill up a 720K disk in an hour (normally the allotted time on the computer at the FHC.

►

The steps in using GIPSI are: Select the info to be researched; put the info on the floppy using GEDCOM 2.1 format; run the GIPSI program; specify GEDCOM file for LDS EHC as input to the program; specify appropriate database format as output (DBIII, RDF, formatted text, delimited text, Lotus, etc.); import the resulting file to our database program (or use directly for some programs).

MAPPER is a software program that takes survey information and plots a map. Put the play coordinates into a work processor. Enter the output of the work processor in ASCII format into the MAPPER program. MAPPER will then draw a plot of the land. At least 3 points have to be entered for MAPPER to complete the enclosure. If you have more than 3 inputs but 1 is unknown, a ? allows MAPPER to fill in the coordinates.

The March program covered how to use your computer to electronically file your genealogy correspondence so there is no wasted time looking for documents.

Al Sanford

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 April 1992 will be:

9:00 AM	Class 9.2 Genesis & Overview of Computer Languages
10:00 AM	Class 10.6 NTPCUG Disk of the Month (DOM) Library
12:00 Noon	Class 11.2 PC Graphics Modes
1:00 PM	Class 12.2 Bulletin Boards & Archiving Programs

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

The features of three C++ compilers were compared in a thorough study presented by Kent Cobb and Sid Nolte. The rest of the hour was devoted to common programming paradigms for C++.

April Fool!

As any veteran of the PRO SIG can tell you, we never discuss programming. Join us in May to see what new topic we won't discuss.

Jim Hoisington

Quicken SIG

Interesting results from the questionnaires you all were kind enough to fill out at the March meeting: just as Billy had suspected, most of us are barely into the first year of use of this software and the use is generally personal with some business and investment application. We should have a more formal tabulation next meeting.

The April meeting begins a series of sessions, roughly five, which Billy Pitts is presenting. Beginning with how to install the software and on to setting up accounts and categories, the series should get all of us up and running for a good start in the new accounting and tax year.

A substantial number of you have expressed an interest in a telephone exchange; we should soon have a list of telephone numbers from generous souls who are willing to help and, no doubt, commiserate. One of the benefits of this is that two people at the same stage of using the program can often figure out a solution together. So, along with a telephone number, experience level and experience with the Windows version will be noted for those who choose to participate.

A second source of first aid is from W. L. Harris who is monitoring his mailbox on the NTPCUG BBS. Please refer to your March '92 newsletter, page 2, for an article about recent changes in the BBS. W. L. will open the April meeting with an explanation of what a BBS is and how to send your comments to his mailbox. Often, a lively exchange of information can be made in this manner, since the electronic conversation is open to the membership. We have several experienced users of Quicken who are willing and able to be of enormous help to us all.

Last, but not least, is the Q & A portion of our monthly meeting...not a bad band aid.

Jo Johnston

Spreadsheet SIG

The Spreadsheet SIG meets at 1:00 p.m. and in April, Susanne Summers from the Dallas Lotus office will be present to address questions about Freelance Graphics for Windows which will have been shown at the 10:00 a.m. general meeting. Susanne will follow the presentation demonstrating how well the Lotus products work together, such as linking 1-2-3/W to Freelance. It can be done easily through either DDL or simple cut and paste. ►

SIG Directions

For those members who have been looking forward to Mark Gruner's presentation on using Solver and Backsolver, plan to attend the May meeting. He plans to be there to give the presentation this time, barring any more unforeseen business trips, etc!!!

Betty Brooks

Spreadsheet Developers SIG

The Spreadsheet Developers SIG meets at 11 a.m. each month to serve as a forum for discussion and interaction among the attending members. We keep the discussions open to problems and questions brought in by members. Hopefully the ensuing discussions will prove to be educational to all. The format of the meetings includes a short presentation by one of the SIG members on some type of spreadsheet/macro tip or technique as well as the question/answer session. Plan to attend and bring your problems with you.

Betty Brooks

Unix SIG

At the March meeting tried to wrap up the discussion of vi. I had planned to continue on into a discussion of regular expressions but the few loose ends took longer to wrap up than I thought so we didn't quite make it. Serves me right. You really need to devote an entire session to regular expressions anyway.

In April we will have Steve Moseley of Procase here to give a presentation of their product, SMARTsystem. SMARTsystem was reviewed in the Off the Shelf column of UNIX Review magazine last November. This is not, strictly speaking, a CASE tool. The emphasis of this system is more on examining existing code rather than designing new systems. After all more programming effort is spent of software maintenance than on writing new code. The system consists of five modules that work together but can be sold separately.

Douglas Scott

Word SIG

I'm going to take a deep breath, step back and open Pandora's Box – all by discussion MACROS and WordBasic in Word for Windows 2.0. This may take several Word SIG meetings, even, perhaps, years. Microsoft is determined that we'll all become BASIC programmers it appears, and Word seems to be their springboard to achieving that goal.

Don't worry, we are going to start at the basics of WordBasic, beginning with definitions and explanations of the various operators involved in making MACROS for use in Word. Much of what we'll cover will also be useful to DOS Word users since Word 5.0 marked the wide scale introduction of BASIC as the macro facility for Word.

It should be fun.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

WP51 DOS Tip of the Month! Printing the full document or just the page the cursor is on are easy choices when you use the Print Menu (Shift)(F7). But what if you need several pages at a time, but not the whole document? The option of "Multiple Pages" is what you want to use (sorry, Judy, 5.0 doesn't have this feature). Using Multiple Pages affects the document you have on the screen. When you press (Shift)(F7) and choose 5 Multiple Pages, a prompt displays at the bottom of the screen where you will type the page numbers you want printed. This prompt is called the "Selected Pages" prompt. Separate each page with a comma. Depending on the release date of your WordPerfect, you might be able to use spaces instead of, or in addition to, the commas.

If you need a range of pages, say from page 3 to page 11, use a dash (3-11). If you need to print from a specific page to the end of the document, but don't know how many pages are in the document, just type the starting page number and a dash but no ending number (12-). The Document Summary (if you use one) can also be printed by typing an S instead of page numbers.

Sometimes you may want to print on both sides of the paper but don't have duplex capabilities on your printer. You can still do it. Using the Multiple Pages feature, type O which indicates odd pages only. Then collate the pages backwards and put them back in the paper tray. This time at the selected pages prompt type E to indicate only the even pages. Voila!

If you want a printout of your List Files, press (Shift)(F7) while your cursor is anywhere in the List Files Menu.

Before you lose heart, Judy. You do have selected pages capabilities since it's found in two other menus for both 5.0 and 5.1 users. When you List Files and highlight a file, choose Print and type the page numbers you need. The other place is when you are in the Print Menu (Shift)(F7), choose Document on Disk. After you type the file name (possibly the entire path as well) you'll get the selected pages prompt.

Now, on to business. In the March meeting we discussed the Round Table session that we have planned. This special two-hour meeting will have eight different subjects taught at different tables. Each subject will have a leader and will last about 50 minutes. Then you'll change tables to get in on another subject. We'll cover:

- Basics on Tables
- Advanced Tables
- Merge
- Basics on Macros
- Macro Language
- Printing, Fonts and Memory Issues
- Potpourri: Columns, Index, Table of Contents, Outline
- Graphics

It's going to be great! But not for April. At the time we planned it, I didn't realize the April meeting was Easter weekend. Not only do I anticipate a low attendance that day, but many of our seminar leaders had out-of-town plans.

And we won't do it for May either - the SIG meeting may be scheduled on Memorial Day weekend. So we're going to postpone the Round Table until the June meeting.

But April is still going to be interesting: Quick Cursor Techniques, the almost infinite things to do with Blocked Text and some List Files tips. As always, bring your Q's and we'll have A's!

Lori Quinn

GEDCOM PAF DATA

A GEDCOM of PAF data is made in the following manner:

1. From the PAF ACCESS MENU select item 2 (Genealogical Information Exchange).

2. From the GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE menu, select item 1 (GEDCOM).

3. From the GEDCOM MENU, select 1 (Create a GEDCOM file).

The CREATE GEDCOM FILE menu is displayed. Be sure to note the file paths to the Family Records Data Disk and the GEDCOM Data Disk (your originally assigned 'scratch' file).

4. Assign a name (up to 8 digits) for your GEDCOM file. Do not assign an extension to this file as PAF will give it a .GED extension.

5. From the CREATE GEDCOM FILE MENU, select 5 (All Family Records Data).

Filling out the information on the CREATE GEDCOM FILE - SUBMITTER'S INFORMATION is optional and probably should be left alone while doing your first few GEDCOMs.

6. From the CREATE GEDCOM FILE - NOTE OPTIONS, select 2 (All).

7. From the CREATE GEDCOM FILE - PAF RELEASE NUMBER, select the PAF release (2.0, 2.1, 2.2) you are using. (If you do not have PAF release 2.2, you should upgrade. If you have 2.2 but not the 5 August 1992 upgrade, then you should get this upgrade from the proper person at the next Super Saturday.)

The comments requested by PAF at this point is optional and probably should be ignored by pressing ENTER.

The GEDCOM will process the Individual and the Marriage Records.

8. From the GENEALOGICAL DATA COMMUNICATIONS, GEDCOM MENU, select 0 (Return to Main Menu) as the GEDCOM is done.

9. From the GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE, MAIN MENU, select 0 (Return to System).

Import GEDCOM data to BK

There are two things to do before you start:

- Make sure you have a data and a notes file.
- Delete all data in the BK data and BK notes files.

1. Load BKGEDCOM.

When menu comes up, choose A (add GEDCOM file to Brother's Keeper - i.e. import GEDCOM).

2. On the next menu, type C to continue on the line that says 'Write to Brother's Keeper files on drive A: B: C: C:\path'.

3. Put the path and name of your BK data file i.e. mine is C:\family\bk\data.

4. On the line that says 'Name of GEDCOM file: example B:SMITH.GED', put the path and name of your GEDCOM file. i.e. my last GEDCOM was C:\family\paf\temp\al.ged (be sure and put the .ged).

You will now get a message stating BK has opened its four files .DT4 files. Check and make sure the message also says the four files each contain 0 data. BK will ask for a drive and path for your notes file. i.e. mine is C:\family\bk\notes. Then it will ask if want GEDCOM 2.0 or 2.1 format (if BK is v. 4.5) and 2.1 or 2.2 (if v.5.0).

Use the highest number your BK version allows.

5. For the Format, use 2 (Title field after the name).

6. For Ready to write to Brother's Keeper file, type Y.

When it is complete, it will advise you to run BrotherQ. I have never found this to be necessary.

BKREPORT disk or printout

1. Load BKREPORT.

You can either print out the report now, or use a word processor to edit the data before printing.

To use word processor before printing (optional), Toggle F9 to send Output to DISKS with CODES.

To print out the report now, toggle F9 to send Output to the printer.

2. Choose I for Indexed Report

BK will name your file todays date by default, unless you change the path and file name.

3. For 'Print DESCENDENTS of _____., type in the RIN number or the person's name. Type the first name, middle name, and the last name (in that order).

4. If it brings up the correct person, Press F1.

5. On the message line, type A (for all).

On the left margin, type 10 to allow for binding. Use 65, for characters per line.

For lines per page, use 52 if outputting to disk, and 57 if outputting to the printer.

For type of print use R (for regular).

For show code 's, type N (for no).

For show occupation, type N.

For Print how many generations, type a number higher than the number of generations there are.

After the report has been sent to the disk or to the printer it will ask if you want an alphabetical index.

6. Type Y.

7. Press 'enter' to sort.

You should now have a complete report, including the index.

Al Sanford

The Microsoft Users Group Summit Meeting

The Summit by Prez

Bill Gates started off our two days of product demos and technical insights with a talk on Microsoft's directions and a question and answer session. Bill said that Microsoft's commitment to Windows was evident in the numbers. There are 1,200 Windows developers at MS and 1,200 developers combined on Microsoft's other products. Windows 3.1 will debut at Spring Comdex/Windows World in Chicago in April.

On the subject of pen-based computing, the comment was that this is one area where the hardware is lagging behind the software. Prompted by an inquiring mind in the audience, Mr. Gates expressed a goal of having logos on p.c.'s that state WINDOWS COMPATIBLE or WINDOWS READY TO RUN, similar to the present MULTIMEDIA logo. This prompted the query and affirmation that in the future, p.c.'s may be referred to as Microsoft compatible instead of IBM compatible. It was pointed out that IBM was the only hardware vendor that did not provide Microsoft with machines to test prior to public availability.

On a different subject, customer support. Microsoft has a renewed commitment to lower response times and answering technical support questions accurately and courteously. They have installed TDD support for the hearing impaired on the MS support line. Berkeley is also working on computers for the visually impaired with a touch screen that talks to you. Microsoft samples their product support calls and asks those customers how they rate support from 1 to 5. Bill says that if they are not getting 90% 4's and 5's then they step in with direct monitoring. Product support receives a $100 million commitment for Microsoft and the man paying the bills wants that investment to pay off.

A lot of gritching about the cost of product upgrades. In particular, the $129 for WinWord 2.0. After you look at the numbers for Cost of Goods Sold, wholesale and retail pricing, you can conclude anything that you want, but remember, these people are in business to make money. You do not have to upgrade. More complaints came from the fact that the competitive product upgrade was selling for the same price as the upgrade for loyal users. I personally think that Microsoft did not realize that this would raise the dander of so many users and they will toss in extras in the future to keep their loyal users happy.

Absorbing statistics (we did a lot of that): #1) Only 20% of the users use the Tutorial whereas it costs almost as much to develop as the product itself. #2) Only 25-33% of MS software purchasers register their products. This is astounding. How do people expect to get notification of upgrades and bug fixes if they haven't sent in the postage-paid registration card? By the way, Microsoft is shipping a maintenance release of Word for Windows 2.0 free to registered users of the product. It goes under the title of 2.0a. Thank you again to Tonya Dressel and Kira Sorensen for the hospitality and arrangements, everything came off perfectly. The Seattle scenery was breathtaking, even a few people that I know watched it from the wrong ferry on Saturday. Who's to say that we didn't want to go to Bremerton anyway?

Andy Oliver

The Summit by Prez-Elect

Microsoft is to be congratulated on the resources they have put into supporting PC User Groups around the country. Significant effort and personnel have been invested in developing a program that is mutually beneficial to both the User Group community and to Microsoft. During our two day conference, I noted approximately 60 individuals attending, representing some 30 of the nation's largest PC clubs.

Presentations and discussion centered on Microsoft's various development efforts, and on how they might best meet the needs and expectations of the user community. Most of Microsoft's product line appeared to be undergoing enhancement, but only a percentage of what we were shown was considered printable due to competition in the industry. But, Andy and I want to bring you on board to as much as we can.

In general, we were pleased to note that Microsoft will continue to support DOS, even as they continue to enhance Windows, and as they develop the Windows NT operating system. As one whose hardware and software budget comes out of a cookie jar, ongoing enhancements to DOS will be much appreciated.

As if to confirm DOS support, Microsoft provided attendees with a disk of Support Engineer's Tools for DOS 5.0. One section contains answers to the most common questions asked of DOS 5.0 support personnel, including topics on installation, memory management and partitioning. Another section contains software utilities designed to help users take full advantage of DOS 5.0's new features. In reviewing the disk, I found answers to several issues that had interested me, plus procedures on how to ad- ➤

dress an EMM386 problem that had been locking up my PC. For those interested, this disk will be offered at the DOM desk in April.

By the time you read this, the formal release of Windows 3.1 should be proceeding at full gallop. A ten week product launch was scheduled to begin on March 21, much of which will be directed at various TV audiences. Of course, upgrade announcements will be sent to all registered users.

(Information Tidbit: At the Summit, one presenter indicated that about 3500 calls/day are received in Product Support on Windows 3.0. About 10,000 calls/day are expected when Windows 3.1 releases.)

Interestingly, Microsoft advised that only 25-33% of Windows purchasers actually register the product. Similar registration numbers apply to much of the remaining product line as well. You may want to confirm that you have registered you purchases, both to receive upgrade mailings as well as product maintenance advisories.

As an example of the value of registration, a maintenance release of Microsoft Word for Windows, version 2.00A, was completed during our visit. Registered users were to be mailed the upgrade shortly, while non-registered users, understandably, would be left out. If you are one of the forgotten, see the list of Microsoft phone numbers elsewhere in this article, and call in (or mail) your registration.

Multimedia is a big topic at Microsoft. The minimum standard for multimedia hardware was described as a 386SX or higher, 2 meg RAM, 30 meg hard disk, a MIDI I/O port (Musical Instrument Digital Interface), microphone, joystick, mouse, and CD-ROM capable of transferring data at 150 kilobits per second consistently. CD-ROM prices were noted at about $400, but expected to drop to $250-300 as sales pick up. Caution was suggested when buying multimedia equipment, to assure that equipment meets emerging standards for multimedia PCs.

Mike Maples, Executive Vice President Worldwide Products, talked about possible strategies in upcoming products, such as the addition of "help" files within applications that would contain the most common questions and answers, support phone numbers, and a list of everything needed when calling for sup- ►

Some comments about opportunities...

The word "opportunity" can mean different things to each of us. Personally, I view an opportunity as being involved in something that I find interesting and pleasant – something FUN!! My boss, however, views an opportunity as an occasion for me to something unusual, difficult, or unappealing, such as "Doug, I'm offering you an OPPORTUNITY to work 12 hour workdays for a few months!". (What a GOOD DEAL!?!)

A few months ago, Andy Oliver called to offer me the "opportunity" of running for the position of President-Elect within the NTPCUG. I accepted the offer to run, happy in the knowledge that I had not weaseled out of my civic duty, but convinced that the position would eventually go to a contestant with greater knowledge of our vast PC environment. Little did I realize that Andy "forgot" to call the other entrants, or, more properly, that the other entrants failed to respond to Andy's and Jim Hoisington's requests for volunteers. Given the limited competition, I "won" (although I narrowly beat out some of the write-in candidates, whose names shall not be mentioned herein).

For those that envision a Board of Director's (BOD) position as being all work, time consuming, and requiring a detailed knowledge of all aspects of personal computers, I beg to differ, for a couple of reasons. First, as a relative rookie to PCs, I am proof that you can contribute to the club's operation without being a Doctor of PCICT (PC Internals and Chip Technology). My profession is largely unrelated to PCs (regretfully), so my interest in computers is relegated to "hobby" status. As I am reminded by others, the BOD directs the business matters of the club, not its technical prowess. If you can manage a checkbook, or express an opinion as to what best benefits the club, you are BOD material. So, being as opinionated as the next guy, I fit right in!!

A second reason for becoming a BOD member is the occasional "opportunity" presented to you. The best ones are unexpected, such as when Microsoft Corporation invited two officers of NTPCUG to attend their User Group Summit Meeting in Redmond, Washington (just outside Seattle), this past February. As President-Elect, I had second option of going, and I don't turn down too many REAL opportunities. With Microsoft covering most of the expense, I felt compelled to represent you, the membership, at this grueling event.

Doug Gorrie

port. Mike was very interested in User Group ideas, so, naturally, several were offered (not a shy group, I guarantee!). Mike also elaborated on recent reorganizations occurring within Microsoft.

Other possible strategies include the joining of information transfer into the operating system, creating a seamless environment for moving data between systems. Going a step further, electronic mail may become a part of the "base" environment. Obviously, these are long range ideas, but they give you an idea of where things might be going.

Visual Basic is a hot topic, too. Microsoft is committed to seeing this product grow, and is willing to provide additional assistance to SIGs interested in getting into Visual Basic. Keep your eyes open to changes here.

Overall, the Summit was a great idea on Microsoft's part. Two top-notch employees address the User Group program for Microsoft, providing two way communication to/from User Groups. We anticipate seeing regular mailings, so will keep you informed via PC NEWS of what Microsoft is doing for us.

As an example, Microsoft has regular FREE seminars on use of Windows, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Project. If you are interested, call (800) 227-4679, and ask for department UG13.

Other numbers of interest at Microsoft:

(800) 426-9400 - Sales and Service. General info on products, upgrades, special offers; Check status of orders; Returns, replacements, repairs.

(206) 637-7098 - Product Support Services (MS Windows operation)

(206) 462-9673 - Product Support Services (MS Excel for Windows and OS/2)

(206) 462-9673 - Product Support Services (MS Word for Windows and OS/2)

(206) 646-5104 - MS DOS 5.0 Setup (Free setup and installation for 90 days)

More about Microsoft's User Group program in future issues.

Doug Gorrie

Accessing Bulletin Boards -- for First-time Users

by Doug Gorrie

This article details the initial installation and use of an inexpensive communications package on your PC. In order to access the NTPCUG BBS, you should be an NTPCUG member. Your membership will cost only $24/year, helps support operation of the club's BBS, and is an extremely good deal for all the computer expertise and camaraderie you will gain access to.

Several NOTES have been added at the end of the article to clarify the more involved material. When requested in the following text to *"see NOTE x"*, review the appropriate note, then return.

You may already be aware that there are numerous commercial, "shareware" and "freeware" communications software packages available *(see NOTE 1)*, and that you will need one of them in order to access a BBS with your PC. Communications software enables your PC to "talk" to modems and phone lines, and allows your PC to "act" as though it is on of the terminal types commonly used in PC and mainframe communications. The package chosen for this article is PROCOMM 2.4.3 (referred to below as PROCOMM). PROCOMM is the shareware version of PROCOMM PLUS, a highly successful commercial package used by both individuals and many corporations. PROCOMM is available at the NTPCUG Disk of the Month (DOM) table for $2.00, so even if you decide later that you would rather buy a different package, it won't cost you much to try it *(see NOTE 2.)*

The PROCOMM files on the diskette are contained in two separate archived, or compressed, files. They are "scrunched", or compressed, in order to fit onto a single diskette. Before using them, you will have to "unscrunch" the files by using a program such as PKUNZIP or PKUNPAK, which is typically placed on the PROCOMM diskette by the DOM group. *(See NOTE 3.)*

In the following paragraphs, I will describe the actual PC commands which you will need to enter to install and use PROCOMM. Sometimes you will need to enter exactly what I indicate; in that case, what I type will be in uppercase letters. I will indicate a Carriage Return (pressing of the "ENTER" key) by the phrase <cr>. Explanatory information and instructions will be in mixed uppercase and lowercase (like this sentence). Since most users today purchase systems with a hard disk, the following instructions will be based on your having a hard-disk system. ►

Okay, let's get started! First, we need to create a directory on the hard disk (Drive C, probably) to place PROCOMM into. Key in:

C: <cr> (Go to Drive C)

CD\ <cr> (Change to the Root Directory)

MD PROCOMM <cr> (Make a subdirectory called PROCOMM)

Now, put your PROCOMM diskette into Drive A or Drive B. In my example, I'll use Drive A.

We will "unscrunch" the software by using a decompression program such as PKUNZIP or PKUNPAK, depending on how the initial compression was done. A "README" file on your PROCOMM floppy diskette will give you specific details on how to install. Typically you would enter:

A:PKUNZIP A:PRCM243 C:\PROCOMM <cr> (Uses the PKUNZIP or the PKUNPAK program A:PKUNPAK A:PRCM243 C:\PROCOMM <cr> to uncrunch the diskette files and put them on Drive C in the PROCOMM directory).

CD \PROCOMM <cr> (Change to the PROCOMM subdirectory)

DIR <cr> (List the directory just to confirm that the files are there)

PROCOMM is now installed. *NOTE 4*, below, will describe how to uncrunch the documentation for use later. Or, do it now if you prefer, then return here.

Make sure your modem is turned on and ready to go. (We can't cover those procedures here, but see your modem installation manual. Also, *(see NOTE 5)*. Then, to set up your newly installed PROCOMM software to talk to your PC/modem/phone configuration, let's key in:

PROCOMM <cr> (This is normally all that is needed to get into the program, unless your PC has a menu system)

<cr> (Move to PROCOMM terminal screen)

As you learn more about PROCOMM, you will want to change various items, such as the sound effects, the "exploding windows", etc., but for now, let's take the shortest route to getting to the BBS. In the lower left corner of the screen, PROCOMM tells you that HELP is available by pressing ALT-F10. Request HELP now by holding the ALT key down, then simultaneously pressing F10. HELP can be requested almost anytime in this manner, and will remind you how to access PROCOMM functions. If you mis-key, pressing the ESC (Escape) key will get you out of trouble.

Select the dialing directory (from the first column of the HELP display, under Major Functions) by pressing ALT-D. The dialing directory can contain all phone numbers that you may want to call, and defines their associated attributes. Let's describe the NTPCUG BBS lines to the dialing directory now. Enter:

R (to Revise or add an entry - NO <cr> NEEDED HERE)

1 <cr> (selects entry number 1)

NTPCUG-LINE 1 <cr> (enter any descriptive name)

387-2751 <cr> (enter the first BBS number, just as you would if dialing a phone. Dashes are for clarity, but ignored by the modem)

PROCOMM now asks what BAUD, or transmission rate, you use. Our BBS's modems can use 300, 1200 or 2400 BPS (bits per second), and your modem may go to 300, 1200 or 2400 BPS. (There may be a 9600 bps modem available at a later date.) At this time, change the default BPS displayed in PROCOMM (1200) to the highest number your modem can handle (1200 or 2400) by pressing any keyboard key repeatedly until the desired number appears.

Once set as desired, press <cr>. Then key in:

<cr> (leave PARITY at "N") <cr> (leave DATA BITS at "8") <cr> (leave STOP BITS at "1") <cr> (leave ECHO ON at "N") <cr> (leave Command File blank) Y ("Y" to save this entry - NO <cr> NEEDED HERE)

With this last entry, we have described NTPCUG-LINE 1 to PROCOMM. Now define entry number 2 to describe the second BBS line. Its phone number is 387-2752. Define it to PROCOMM now by repeating the instructions above, starting with ALT-D.

A Dallas/Ft. Worth "metro" line is also available at 214-263-9036. Although primarily intended for members outside the Dallas area, it can be used by anyone, if necessary.

If you have a rotary phone rather than a touch tone phone, *see NOTE 6* for an additional change needed by PROCOMM.

Now that PROCOMM is ready, let's place a call to BBS Line 1. To do so, you must be at the dialing directory (ALT-D). Merely key in the number of the entry you want to dial ("1", in this case), and press <cr>. PROCOMM begins to dial. If you get a busy signal, or want to cancel for some other reason, press the ESC (Escape) key. Then, to dial again, press ALT-D, followed by the entry number to call, and <cr>.

Establishing Your Subscriber Account

When you get into the BBS, you will initially see what looks like a large Doric column, along with some introductory information about future NTPCUG meetings, etc. On this same screen you will also see instructions for getting a new user established on the BBS.

For users that have previously been validated (made known) to the BBS (whether or not they have connected before), enter your NTPCUG subscriber name and password when requested. ►

If you are connecting for the first time, and have never been validated, the BBS will ask you for all necessary information. You will need your most recent copy of PC NEWS, the monthly NTPCUG newsletter, in order to enter your membership number and name.

Upgrading of your account to full member status should take only 24 hours if you have been a member for at least a month, and if you have entered the requested material accurately. If you joined at the most recent meeting, it will take about 3 weeks to get your name into the BBS, and for you to receive your first newsletter. If you are a new member, please be patient, as all work is done by volunteers. Even if you do not have member status, you will still be able to access several conferences, so that should keep you entertained for a while.

Details for using the mail and conferencing features of the new BBS were covered in detail in the March, 1992 PC NEWS. They are also available on the BBS by downloading from the "DOWNLOAD" menu option. New members will receive these instructions as part of their NEW MEMBERS packet.

Remember that your membership pays for the BBS. Encourage those benefiting from the User's Group to join so that we might continue to serve you. Also, don't forget that NTPCUG consists of VOLUNTEERS; there is always a chance to help out in some capacity, so please consider doing your part. Tell your volunteer coordinator (by phone, BBS, or in person) that you wish to assist, or, ask at the information booth in the main lobby.

If you have additional questions about accessing or using the BBS, please leave a message to the SYSOP by entering "SYSOP" for the addressee. If you cannot access the BBS, or are unable to leave mail, you may secure help in any of several ways:

1) Visit the Communications SIG at the next NTPCUG meeting. 2) Leave a written message at the information booth, located in the lobby near the front doors. 3) Leave a message on the club's recorder, at 746-4699. 4) Call me. My numbers are on the inside back cover of the PC NEWS -- see the Communications SIG entry.

Good luck, and we hope you enjoy using the BBS!

Doug Gorrie

NOTE 1:

Software defined as "freeware" is generously written and donated by another computer user. You may use it for free, but typically cannot re-sell it.

"Shareware" is also written by another user (or company), and may be "trialed" for free. However, if you elect to continue using it, the honor system requires that you pay a fee to the developer. The fee, however, is typically only a fraction of any comparable commercial package.

Commercial software is sold by an individual or a firm for a fee. No trial period is normally included – you want it, you pay for it.

NOTE 2:

PROCOMM 2.4.3, as shareware, requires that you pay the developer a fee if use continues (about $50, I believe). The more advanced product, PROCOMM PLUS, sells for about $65 at CompUSA, making it only a little more expensive for a top-of-the-line package. My suggestion: Try PROCOMM for $2.00. If you like it, consider purchasing PROCOMM PLUS as your permanent software.

A trial version of the above mentioned PROCOMM PLUS is also available at the DOM desk, under the name of PROCOMM PLUS TEST DRIVE. This software was featured in a February, 1989 article in PC NEWS, which describes its use. However, TEST DRIVE, PROCOMM PLUS and PROCOMM 2.4.3 are all very similar, so knowing one gives you a good background in using the others.

Many other communications products are available as shareware, including Telix and Telemate. There is no "right" answer; everyone's needs and interests differ. Feel free to try different software.

NOTE 3:

The file named PRCM243.ARC contains all of the files needed to run PROCOMM. A second file named PRCMDOC.ARC contains the complete documentation for this shareware product.

NOTE 4:

To unarchive the documentation to the diskette, place the PROCOMM diskette into Drive A, and a blank formatted disk in Drive B, and type A:PKUNPAK A:PRCMDOC B: at the DOS prompt. Alternately, the documentation may be placed on hard disk by keying

A:PKUNPAK A:PRCMDOC C:\PROCOMM.

To print the manual after it has been unarchived, place the disk with the unarchived manual on it in Drive A and type COPY PROCOMM.DOC PRN at the DOS prompt. The 100+ page manual explains how to setup the program's parameters.

NOTE 5:

There is an excellent 108 page modem primer available, for FREE, from your friends at USRobotics. Call (800) DIAL-USR and ask for a copy of "Data Communications Concepts".

NOTE 6:

If you have a pulse phone line rather than touch-tone, you need to change one setup option. Press ALT-S to see the SETUP MENU. Select "1" for MODEM SETUP. Then select "2" (Dialing Command), which currently displays "ATDT". Key in "ATDP" <cr> for a Pulse phone. That's all you need right now, so press the ESC key once, then enter "S" <cr> to save this change to disk, then ESC again.

-END-

CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

Circle Your Spreadsheet Cell

Do you know how to put a circle around one of your spreadsheet cells? This is a tip I alluded to in my February article and it was also shown at the February SIG meetings by the speaker from Lotus. Since the procedure to do this is somewhat involved, I thought I would try to describe how to do it in this column.

First, select the cell where you want to place the circle, then invoke the WYSIWYG menu by pressing : (the colon key). Next, select Graph Add Blank and press enter to select the current cell for the location of the graph. Now select Edit and press enter to select the current cell for editing. Then select Add Ellipse and use the mouse to select the corners of the cell to create an ellipse which covers the rectangle in the center of the screen. Press Enter to tell the program when your ellipse is correctly drawn and then select quit. Next press : to bring up the WYSIWYG menu again and then select Graph Settings Opaque No and then press enter to select the current cell as the one for having the transparent background in the graph. Afterwards, you will need to select quit to leave the menu. Now you will find the current cell has a circle (actually an ellipse) surrounding it. This is a nice way to highlight a particular figure on you spreadsheet. Of course, you can add an arrow and other things to you cell using the same procedures.

New Lotus 1-2-3 in Future

Lotus is planning on a new update to 1-2-3 2.x and those User Group members who attended the February SIG meetings were treated with a quick sneak preview of the new product. What was shown, were SmartIcons that appear down the right hand side of the screen. They were in color and looked just like the SmartIcons that are in all the Lotus Windows Products. According to what we were told, the SmartIcons will be totally customizable and we will be able to attach macros to the custom icons. The SmartIcons were a big hit in the windows products and are now becoming an industry standard. It is nice to see that the DOS products will also be given this feature. The DOS market remains the largest market by far if the informal polls I have done at the User Group meetings are any indication. Very few members are using the Windows based spreadsheets yet, so it is good to see some of the better features being ported over to the DOS versions. Next month in my column I will be able to write about more of the features in the new products that Lotus will be shipping in the next few months.

Macro Technique When Looking For a Yes/No Answer

Many times in developing an application for clients, there is a need to obtain a yes or no answer from the user before continuing on with the macro commands. I have started using a menu to ask for the yes or no answer because the user only needs to press the y or n without having to press enter, which makes macro processing both faster and easier for the user. Below is the macro code for the menu:

```
YN_MENU          Choose > Yes          No
                 Yes or No?  Yes       No
                 {menubranch Y{let KEY,"Y"}{letKEY,"N"}
                             {indicate}{return}
```

Let me explain the setup since some of the cells are hidden. The left hand side shows the macro name, which is YN_MENU. The top line of the menu are the prompts which will appear at the top of the screen. They are: Choose Yes or No; Yes and No. The Choose Yes or No prompt is indented one space so that I can use the letter C if needed. Remember, the first letter of a menu choice will allow the user to type that letter and invoke that choice as long as the menu is built with unique first letters of the prompts. I always start my menu with a first prompt being the Choose option. The macro code connected with that choice is simply {menubranch YN_MENU} which will make the menu keep onscreen whenever the user presses enter on the first choice. This keeps the user from choosing the first menu choice by mistake and possibly getting into trouble. By having the first choice be something like the Choose, you can keep the user out of potential trouble. The next two prompts are simply the Yes and No answers the macro needs to look for. The second line of the menu contains the informational prompts that will appear on the second row at the top of the screen when you move the cursor to the particular menu choice. On this menu, I simply have the same type of prompt as the top line since it is a menu to return a yes or no answer to another macro. The third and fourth lines of the menu are the actual macros which will run when a particular prompt is chosen. I already described the macro which is attached to the first prompt. When the user chooses the Yes prompt, the macro code is as follows: {let KEY,"Y"}{indicate}{return} and the No prompt macro code is: {let ►

KEY,"N"}{indicate}{return}. I have a one cell range named KEY which is the input for the let command. The macro which calls the yes/no menu will look at the contents of the range named KEY to decide what the rest of the macro commands should do. The following is a simple example of how I use this YN_MENU in a macro:

```
{indicate "Do you want to Save this spreadsheet before
quitting?"} {menucall YN_MENU}{if KEY="Y"}/fs~~r /qyy
```

You might want to name the macro \Q for quit by placing your cursor on the first line of the macro and using /Range Name Create \Q and pressing enter to select the current cell for the location of the range name. The first line of the macro is an indicate command which will only work in 1-2-3 version 2.2 or higher because 2.2 was the first version to allow more than 5 characters in the indicate. The indicate command allows you to change the indicator prompt which appears in the top right hand corner of the screen. Therefore, the macro is able to display a custom prompt to help the user know just why he is answering the yes or no. The next line in the macro is a menucall to the YN_MENU which simply means that the macro should display the YN_MENU, wait for the user to make a choice, do the macro commands connected with that choice, then return to read the next command following the menucall command. Since the YN_MENU places a Y or N into the range named KEY and then does the {indicate}, which returns the indicator at the top right hand corner of the screen to the default condition and the reads the {return} command which returns the macro to the calling macro. The command following the menucall is an if command. The {if KEY="Y"} command looks at the range named KEY to see if Y is in it. If it is, then the macro keeps reading the commands on the same line following the {if} command. If the {if} returns a false because the range named KEY does not contain the letter Y, then the macro will start reading the commands on the line directly under the line with the {if} command. When KEY does have the letter Y in it, then the macro commands to do a /File Save Enter Replace are done to save the file before continuing onto the next line of macro commands. The last line of macro code is the commands to quit out of 1-2-3 (/Quit Yes Yes). Some versions of 1-2-3 need the second Yes depending upon if changes had been made in the spreadsheet and not previously saved. Since there are no more macro commands following, the macro is finished (of course you have quit 1-2-3, so no more would be read anyway!!!). Once a macro reads a blank line, it will quit. Once you start using the YN_MENU technique, you will find lots of places to use it, especially since you are able to create a custom prompt by using the indicate command.

I have begun to use the {indicate} command more and more in my macro programming. Many times when I have lot of levels of menus, I'll precede each menubranch or menucall command with an {indicate "menuname MENU"} command. By placing the unique menu name in the indicator, the user can have a better feel for where they are in the program. I have to be very careful to remember to change the indicator during the macro execution after leaving the menus. Also, it is important to remember to change the indicator with each change of menu level. Unless you want to have an orphan indicator with the menu name at the top of your screen when the user presses the escape key, you need to remember to place an {indicate} command following the original {menubranch} or {menucall} command. When the {esc} key is pressed the macro code following the {menubranch} or {menucall} command are executed. Most people leave it blank, since the {branch} command always takes the macro to a new location and never returns. If you want the menu to reappear rather than totally disappear when the {esc} key is pressed, you can place another {menubranch} or {menucall} command following the first one or else you can place a {branch} command which takes you to the beginning of the macro which did the original {menubranch}, etc. If, however, you are willing to allow the {esc} to let the user get out of menu control, you would want to place the {indicate} command after the {menubranch} or {menucall} command so that the default indicator (READY) will appear at the top of the screen. One reason for naming the menus and having the name appear in the indicator, is that support of other users is easier since they can tell me where they are in the menu system.

Lotus Announces Driver Update Disk

Lotus Development is now shipping a driver update disk for 1-2-3 2.3 for DOS. It provides overall improvements in printing performance, new and enhanced printer drivers that replace those originally shipped with release 2.3. Also, there is a new WYSIWYG printer driver that creates encapsulated PostScript files (EPS). Lotus has added a new Translate module that lets you translate .wk1 and .fmt files to .wk3 and .fm3 files. You can obtain the disk by calling Customer Support (800-343-5414) and asking for the 1-2-3 for DOS 2.3 driver update disk.

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.

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 62 in a Series

Operating Systems

by Jim Hoisington

It appears that 1992 will be the year of the OS wars. (OS being the computer acronym for operating systems.) My first reaction is that it's about time. DOS just isn't providing the services necessary to build software to meet our needs.

DOS is essentially an enhancement of Digital Research's CP/M operating system. Until IBM introduced their PC, CP/M was the most common operating system found on microcomputers. It provided services to manage disk(ette) files, load programs into memory, and occasionally trap errors.

When IBM announced their PC, they provided both CP/M from Digital Research and PC DOS from Microsoft as competing operating systems for their PC. CP/M cost considerably more than PC DOS. In addition, CP/M provided very little error trapping. The message "Error writing device PRN", "Abort, Retry, or Ignore?" may not be great, but it is a lot better than the occasional "PIP error" or the more common unexplained freeze up of the computer running CP/M.

Microsoft has made a few enhancements to DOS since 1981, but it remains essentially a disk(ette) file manager that can load programs into memory for execution. While DOS lacks many features, perhaps the most annoying is that it is limited to running programs in the first 640K of memory.

Digital Research continued to enhance CP/M. They even added error trapping. Their most successful version was MP/M which evolved into Concurrent DOS, a multiuser operating system. Still in use today, Concurrent DOS allows several users access to the same PC through terminals attached to serial ports.

Over the years, alternatives to DOS have been brought to market and have disappeared. The big three that came to market with a lot of hype and some good functionality were Vision from Software Arts, Topview from IBM and Windows 1.0 from Microsoft. I'm including Windows in this group because the original Windows made it to market over a year late and was so bad that it was never really used.

After this group quickly faded from existence, two products came out that used DOS as a basis but added some of the missing features. They are Windows 2.0 and Desqview and are being used today. Both DOS enhancers provide enough additional functionality to make it worth the effort for users to convert their programs to the new operating environment.

While there are some alternative PC operating systems out there that may or may not use DOS as a basis, none of them are used by great numbers of users except Unix. And, PC based implementations of the Unix system seemed to vary as much among themselves as between Unix and the other operating systems.

Starting this year, I think we'll see some real strong contenders that have a chance of gradually replacing DOS as the operating system of choice in our PC's. All of them provide many more services to our software and most importantly, they allow us to build programs that are bigger than 640K without doing a lot of contortions. All of them are "32-bit" operating systems and will only run on 386 or 486 processors.

The front running contenders are Unix (i.e. OSF/1 the "standardized" version of Unix), OS/2 2.0, and Windows NT. Unix and OS/2 will be available this year, Windows NT probably won't ship until 1993.

The winner will be the system that provides a reliable (read relatively bug free) operating environment that runs a wide range of existing software, allows for the easy development of new software, and runs on a lot of different kinds of PC's.

Each of the three operating systems mentioned above claim to have overcome the problems that have historically prevented a new operating system from capturing a large number of users from DOS. OSF/1 will have a new, user friendly, standardized, interface. Windows NT will be more reliable because Microsoft has redesigned the program control structures and memory management software. And, OS/2 will run on more than selected models of IBM PS/2's and will run most existing DOS and Windows software.

In the many years that I have been working with computers, I have had to use many operating systems. A good operating system can make it easy to for the programmer to get the job done. A bad operating system means it will take a little longer.

However, the average user views the operating system as an inconvenience. The users will choose that system that runs the software that they need and that is the least inconvenient to use.

I read that the average PC user uses 1.4 software packages on a regular basis. The average Macintosh user uses something like 4 software packages on a regular basis. I will be interesting to see if the PC users changes their habits as their operating environment changes.

Jim

The Variety Store

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

PC Industry churns with Alliances, Counter-alliances, and counter-Counter alliances this Spring

If PC users can keep track of what's going on in the industry, they're at least two steps ahead of the "experts." Media has gone crazy trying to keep up and stories followed by counter-stories have been the norm this month.

One thing is for sure – hardware prices keep dropping almost as fast as former "big names" merge or go Chapter 11. So many casualties in the last two months that nobody seems able to keep track of just who's still in business. Saw articles in both *Infoworld* and *PC Week* describing the latest Chapter 11 candidates in same issues with full-page ads from the same companies.

Sure hope they got their space checks in advance.

Who really loves you? IBM, Compaq or Cringely

Hope you made the March NTPCUG Meeting and saw Robert X. Cringely. *Infoworld's* prognosticator (and humorist) was at Infomart touting his new book and speaking to a packed auditorium at Noon. Also appeared at the Advanced Programmers SIG at 3:00 p.m.

Heard a lot of folks say they really wanted to see Pammy, though.

Depending on your outlook, Cringely's talk was either quite uplifting or quite depressing. He sees more consolidation in the PC industry and hinted that a lot of smaller companies would be gobbled up by larger, less compassionate giants. Also thinks Apple will prevail over Microsoft to the tune of $800,000,000 to $1,500,000,000 in damages.

So, who does Cringely think will get "gobbled" in the coming year?

One prediction was Borland to be gobbled/merged with Novell/DRI. He saw this as a natural progression of industry trends, but wouldn't bet on who would end up on top in that deal.

Survivors will be different according to Cringely. He sees a much larger influence from Intel as a systems maker that will threaten the "smaller" independents. Same for Microsoft. IBM, Compaq and Lotus don't seem to be among the winners/survivors in Cringely's brave new world.

IBM at heart of intense Media speculation now

Conspiracy theorists just love IBM. Amid raves over Blue's new 386 variations and their performance gains, rumors flourish that IBM will be releasing a super new RISC chip (set) to a major workstation vendor with mega MIPS for users.

IBM is also working with local TI on chip deals that some speculate may mean introduction of new CPU's to vanquish the Intel systems threat mentioned above. Meanwhile, officials of both companies deny that order of interaction.

Coupled with the rumors are further rumors that OS/2 has been seen running on a number of platforms not powered by Intel. Same things are floating around Microsoft's new NT.

What will that super, New, OS cost users?

Brings up the (soon to be announced) pricing battle between IBM and Microsoft over *OS/2 2.0* and *Windows 3.1*. Supermarket tactics will probably prevail with $49.95 being a reasonable estimate.

Microsoft's *DOS 5.0* upgrade price has already "fallen" to that level. Another issue is combination of DOS & Windows 3.1. Microsoft could use this as an entry for release of *DOS 5.1* and *Windows 3.1* as a "bundle" at a super low price.

►

That should settle the issue – unless – IBM decides to give *OS/2 2.0* away which has also been rumored.

Only problem is that both companies see OS releases as major cash flow items and pricing them too low doesn't make much sense from a profit point of view.

And the BIOS makers shrink As Phoenix takes Quadtel

Number of premium BIOS makers seems to be shrinking. Phoenix, one of the largest of the clone BIOS makers, announced they had merged with Quadtel in March. Phoenix has been in trouble for some time as a result of dropping sales and vanishing profits which made the merger somewhat surprizing.

Quadtel was originator of one of the first on-line setup programs in BIOS and has been responsible for a number of BIOS innovations that most of us take for granted, but make PC life much easier. One example is the hard disk setup area and Quadtel's recognition that there were a lot of "non-standard" hard disks being installed in PC's that didn't match IBM's original PC/AT list.

AMI (American Megatrends Incorporated) is one of the last major BIOS makers left outside of Phoenix/Quadtel, but has increasingly relied on motherboards to bolster their sales. That follows the trend set by DTK and Compaq who did BIOS sets as a part of their system manufacturing efforts.

On the legal front ... AMD wins Intel suit –

AMD (Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.) won (one of the rounds) with Intel in arbitration over the microcode in the 8087 coprocessor in February/March. This has significant impact on AMD's 386 chip struggles with Intel. Media analysts refused to speculate on the outcome of the forthcoming 486 fight(s) brewing between Intel and AMD, however.

Both sides claimed a victory in the suit.

Intel was allowed to keep $23 million in contested royalty payments and AMD won the right to produce 8087 math coprocessors. At heart of the suit is the microcode included in Intel CPU's and coprocessors that AMD claims license to – through 1995.

Intel officials announced their intention to challenge portions of the arbitration decision in Federal District Court in Austin, TX.

Meanwhile, C & T goes after Opti for "code violations"

Chips & Technologies, originators of the "Neat" chipsets that are the "glue" between 80X86 CPU's and their motherboards, have initiated proceedings against Opti for using portions of their code in their competing chip sets for 386 and 486 motherboards.

Lots of area users have probably got Opti motherboards in their new 386SX, 386DX and 486 PC's. Opti was started by a few, former, C & T employees two years ago, and has specialized in combination chip sets and motherboards.

Opti is also one of the early proponents of Local Bus option slots on several of their 386 and 486 motherboards that allow direct access to the CPU bus for video boards, disk-drive controllers, etc. Some cynical media types think the Opti suit is a smoke screen to avoid Intel and cover C & T's dismal performance over the past year.

Want to buy American? Look at the Destiny Ace

Really seems strange to write about an American-made PC motherboard as news. But, if you look at the small print on most motherboards, "Made in USA" won't be there.

Destiny Computer is selling a line of 386 motherboards designed by Destiny and manufactured by Lockheed Missiles and Space Company. Their Ace series are standard 33/40 MHz 386DX motherboards with 64K - 256K caches and 32M DRAM onboard capacity. Feature AMI BIOS sets and sockets for 80387 or Weitek 3167 coprocessors.

Ran into Destiny at Comdex (Fall) and impressed with their quality. Was nice to hear English at a motherboard exhibit.

But, first – a database that Apparently didn't/doesn't do What it says/said it does ...

Now I know why the cobbler's kids go barefoot. I'm ending this with a tragic tale of a premier database-oriented operating system (*PICK*) vendor and the database that doesn't. Participants at the DOS SIG have heard parts of this before.

Must have something to do databases and the people who make them.

►

Dropped by the PICK Pavilion at Fall Comdex '91. That was late October. PICK is always a lot of fun (put that in past tense), but had inadvertently listed me (and us) as a PICK Users Group in 1990. Explained the problem to one of the women at the exhibit and told her our sad tale of repeated, fruitless phone calls to Pick Systems trying to rectify the situation.

She looked like she understood.

Connie and I watched as she changed the reference and all the cross references to me and the NTPCUG in the *PICK* demo system she insisted was the "real" user database. Thought that would take care of it.

Late in November, received a box from Pick Systems. Had three *PICK* T-shirts inside along with a letter addressed to our *PICK* users group officers. Began receiving a number of long distance telephone calls from frantic *PICK* users, mostly running on minicomputers, who were in trouble and wanted help "from a fellow *PICK* user."

Did I have bad news for them.

Most kept their sense of humor when I explained the situation (I'm definitely not a *PICK* expert) and saw the funny side of the equation. Some didn't.

Now, I don't. Got the latest issue of *PICKWORLD*, Pick Systems' journal for PICK users in early March (just before the March NTPCUG Meeting, in fact? There we were – again – listed at the top of the Texas *PICK* Users Groups – with my name and phone number.

Reagan

NEW DISKS ...from the D O M Squad

Disk 704. Share-TAX/1040, 9/2/91 – Tax Return Preparer for 1991, Bammel Software, P.O. Box 382194, Duncanville, TX 75138-2194. Shareware registration is $15.00.

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

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

> **"WARNING": This and other tax preparation programs should be thought of as fast and semi-smart adding machines only. The program cannot contain all the logic necessary to connect all the provisions of the tax laws with the particular situations of all taxpayers. The IRS will hold you responsible for all errors in your return, whether mathematical or substantive. Reliance on a tax program will probably not save you from penalties (including fraud) or interest charges, if you claim some tax benefit you are not entitled to. Use this and other tax programs for preliminary calculations and "what if" scenarios to check the tax effects of making or not making IRA contributions, etc.**

Thoroughly check the instructions that the IRS furnishes with each form to be sure that you are entitled to use the form, and that the data is properly entered and that all adjustments and limitations have been applied. Be sure that you are not required to fill out additional forms or schedules not included in this package. And manually check all calculations, and table lookups to be sure that the figures are correct. There could always be obscure errors that do not show up in trial runs with sample data.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

Prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/92).

Disk 705. QEdit 2.15, 8/91 – Fast Multifile ASCII Text Editor, SemWare, 4343 Shallowford Rd, Suite C3A, Marietta, GA 30062-5022 USA. PHONE: (404) 641-9002 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm ET) FAX: (404) 640-6213 BBS: (404) 641-8968 (1200/2400/9600 HST, <N81>) COMPUSERVE: 71520,67.

This is the latest release of a straight forward, multifile, ASCII text editor. QEdit is a shareware product, which means that if you like it and use it, you must register the product for legal use. I enjoyed the program enough to send in my $57.95 ($54.95 + $3.00 S&H). I feel this is money well spent.

In the past year I have found that QEdit has become indispensable, mainly because of its flexibility and versatility. I use it mainly to ???, to edit multiple files, and to execute other programs (i.e. compilers). QEdit has powerful macro capabilities that can be used to map any of the hundreds of editing commands to any combination of keys. One of my favorite features of this editor is its ability to record a series of keystrokes and commands and assign the recording to a single key combination. This ability alone has saved me untold hours of labor.

I also use QEdit as a basic word processor to produce draft letters, documentation, and E-Mail letters. The only editing feature I miss is a spell checker, but with some experimentation I am sure I can create a macro to run one.

This editor has more features than I can possibly convey in one page, but its operation is straightforward. It has pulldown menus and a multi-window implementation. Its macro capabilities boggle the mind and are the heart of the product. The appearances and functions of the editor can be directly manipulated using the configuration utility that is supplied with the editor. The standard configuration file is supplied with the editor, but with the registered version are several alternate configuration files to emulate Word Star, BRIEF, and Word Perfect.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: QEdit will run on IBM PS/®, PC/AT, PC/XT, PC, PC/Jr., and on all compatibles. The minimum requirements are: 64K of memory (but QEdit can utilize up to 640K if available); PC-DOS 2.0, MS-DOS 2.0, or greater and 50K of disk space; 1 diskette drive and a monitor with 80-column display.

This disk was donated by NTPCUG member Stan Milam.

Prepared by Stan Milam, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/92).

Disk 706. PC Windows 1.2, 1/92 – Text Windows Library for C by Stan Milam. Shareware Fee: None

PC Windows is a high quality C language text windowing system that allows you to create and manipulate windows and menu's. Using these routines you can give your programs a professional looking user interface with minimal effort. It was terrific to find such a complete and easy to use package for such a reasonable fee (pronounced FREE). These routines have saved many weeks (pronounced MONTHS) of time writing my own.

This update has several new features and some changes in the input functions. The library comes with source code (with comments) for all library functions and good documentation (also for the above mentioned reasonable free). There are several kinds of pre-cooked menu's included and many examples and demo programs to help you come up to speed quickly.

The package now contains the two original kinds of menus: PMENU (pop-up) and LMENU (Lotus style), plus PLMENU (pick-list), and TMENU (top). The TMENU style is one I added by modifying the LMENU source to suit my fancy. INT29 functions have been added to redirect dos text output to a window (good for system calls with output redirected into a window or calls to routines that use puts(), printf() etc). A ##ifdef __cplusplus wrapper has also been put on the header files to make the routines callable from C++ programs.

The keyboard handling routines now return 'ints', returning the function code of the key for special keys or the ASCII character in the low byte. This makes handling of the special keys ►

easier. The Mouse functions are now integrated into the keyboard input routines and Window create functions now place the hardware cursor in the window when created or cleared.

Over 80 functions, over 30 demo's and examples (all with source code) are on this disk. The pcwdemo.c is a demo program I created to exercise some of the library functions and examples and pcw_qref is a quick-reference guide to the library.

Well done Stan! Thanks again!

Software donated by the author, and NTPCUG member, Stan Milam.

This review prepared by Chris Balthrop, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/92).

Disk 707. Play 'N Learn 2.12, 10/90 – Keyboard/Letter/Number Games (c) 1988, 1989, 1990, by Steve Hudgik, Homecraft Computer Products, PO Box 974, Tualatin, OR 97062 (503) 692-3732. Registration fee $10.

Reviewed with assistance from Judah (5), Ephraim (3), and Elijah (1).

Play'N Learn is a set of six tutorial games for keyboard, letter, and number mastery. The games and their variants are colorful, sonic, and have quick response -- just what young children love. The response is progressive: the first "game" merely giving response to keyboard activity, then scoring on recognition and keying of specific letters, then numbers, and finally cursor control.

There is one "bug": in "Next Number", if a key is not pressed within a certain time, the "Brrrr" sound blares, and the systems locks up, requiring a ALT-CTRL-DEL warm re-boot.

Overall, the game set is enjoyable, even by children younger than the recommended 18 months to 5 years. My one year old was fascinated by the screens, and crawled over to "help" my five year old with his keyboarding. Of course, "sophisticated" computerists like the reviewer would get bored quickly, well, except maybe for the last game, "Underground Letters".... ;-)

System requirements: IBM PC/XT/AT/PS1/PS2 or compatible, with DOS 2.0 or above. Many of the games require color graphics (and those that don't are not very satisfactory without it).

The source for this software was the author, Steve Hudgik.

This review prepared by Bolan Meek, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/92).

Disk 708. IRIS, 3/90 – Encryption and Decryption, DIGITAL CRYPTO, Peter Moreton, PO BOX 1, PENARTH, SOUTH GLAMORGAN, UNITED KINGDOM CF6 2WB. SHAREWARE FEE = $39 with discount for multiple purchases.

IRIS is a collection of programs which encrypt files, write encrypted files to floppies, authenticate messages and lock keyboards. The encryption algorithm is the U.S. Government Data Encryption Standard (DES), which has been authenticated by the National Bureau of Standards.

IRIS, the main encryption and decryption program, authenticates files using DES, and generates MAC (Message Authentication) for inter-bank financial message exchanges. It is driven from the command line with just the name of the file, the secret key, and whether the operation is to encrypt or decrypt.

LOCK is a short routine which locks the keyboard and is extremely easy to use. Upon invocation, it prompts for a password and verification. It then prompts for a password and will accept nothing else until the correct word is entered.

MERLIN, a clone for the DOS copy command, encrypts a source file and copies it to the destination file. This can be especially useful for people who want to exchange data with some security.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT with at least 512K RAM.

The source of this disk was the vendor, DIGITAL CRYPTO.

This review prepared by Charles Cashion, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/92).

Disk 709. Easy Format 3.10, 4/90 – Test and Format Disks, Falk Data Systems, 5322 Rockwood Court, El Paso, Tx 79932. Technical Support: (915) 584-7670 Orders: (800) 326- 5615. CompuServe: 71420,2431. Shareware registration $30.00.

When you format your floppies, are you sure that all the bad (and questionable) sectors have been identified and eliminated? EZFORMAT is a floppy test and format program.

Some of its features are:

- o four different methods for testing each disk as it is formatted.
- o six different options for marking bad spots as they are discovered.
- o turn error checking off completely for very fast formatting.
- o format continuously in two different drives, even if they are of different capacities.
- o place a volume label on each disk formatted while still retaining the ability to make the disk bootable with the DOS "SYS" command.
- o put your own custom "boot message" onto the disk that will appear any time someone boots their computer with that disk in the A: drive.
- o format a 360K disk in a 1.2M drive, then use that disk in a 360K drive.
- o a choice of 1 or 2 copies of the File Allocation Table (FAT).
- o automatically remem- ber all your current settings the next time Easy Format is used.
- o a choice of three languages: English, German, and Spanish. Just flip a switch and Easy Format changes languages.
- o customize every detail of the program.
- o Easy Format will not format hard disks, so there is no danger in accidentally choosing drive C: to be formatted. ►

DOM Mail Order Form

Mail to: NTPCUG, DOM Mail Order
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The source for this software was Richard Bauman.

This review prepared by Richard Bauman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/92).

Disk 710. Label Maker Supreme 1.0, 10/91 – Edit and Print Labels, RAY ZIMMERMAN, COMPUTER SPECIALTIES, P O Box 5694, Lake Charles, LA 70606. (318) 474-4635. SHAREWARE FEE = $25.00

Label Maker Supreme 1.0 is a very easy to use program for making labels for all occasions. Labels can be edited and viewed, and up to 94 labels can be saved to disk. You can select any of the labels previously saved to edit, print, or delete. You can enter commands from keyboard or mouse. A Border Designing Option is included so you can design custom borders for your labels. A number of Border Labels are already designed and saved for your use. By simply selecting one of these labels from the menu, you can edit the file, rename it, and save it for future use.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS - You need an IBM or IBM Compatible system, with a MONO/CGA/EGA/VGA monitor, and 256K RAM. A hard drive is desirable but not required. Registered users get customer service, and can participate in the "TRY ME FIRST MARKETING PROGRAM", where registered users are paid a finder's fee. Details are in file READ-ME.1ST.

The source of this disk is the author, Ray Zimmerman.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Kathryn Loafman (1/92).

Disk 712AB. ViruScan v86-b, 2/92 – McAfee DOS & Windows Virus Scan, McAfee Associates, 4423 Cheeney Street, Santa Clara, CA 95054-0253. (408) 988-3832 office, (408) 970-9727 fax, (408) 988-4004 BBS 2400 bps, (408) 988-5138 BBS HST 9600, (408) 988-5190 BBS v32 9600, Copyright (C) 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 by McAfee Associates.

CLEAN-UP Version v86-b -- CLEAN-UP (CLEAN) is a virus disinfection program for IBM PC and compatible computers. CLEAN- UP will search though the partition table, boot sector, or files of a PC and remove a virus specified by the user. In most instances CLEAN-UP is able to repair the infected area of the system and restore it to normal usage.

VIRUSCAN Version v86-b -- VIRUSCAN (SCAN) is a virus detection and identification program for the IBM PC and compatible computers. VIRUSCAN will search a PC for known computer viruses in memory, the boot sector, the partition table, and the files of a PC and its disks. VIRUSCAN will also detect the presence of unknown viruses.

NETSCAN Version v86-b -- NETSCAN is the network version of VIRUSCAN. It scans network virtual drives and identifies any pre-existing PC virus infection in the file servers.

VSHIELD Version v86-b -- VSHIELD is a virus prevention program for IBM PC and compatible computers. It will prevent viruses from infecting your system. When VSHIELD first loads it will search the PC for known computer viruses in memory, the partition table, boot sector, system files, and itself and then install itself as a Terminate- and-Stay-Resident (TSR) program. It will then scan all programs before allowing the system to execute them.

WSCAN Version v86-b -- VIRUSCAN for Windows 3.0. Please see the README.NOW file in the WSCAN archive for installation instructions.

This software was downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/92).

Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

The NTPCUG is as 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	___	Regular ($24.00)	___	New Member	___
Check	___	Student ($12.00)	___	Renewal	___
Credit Card	___	(full time with ID)		Address Change	___

Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066
(Make checks payable to NTPCUG)

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.

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

We have a new scheduler amongst us. "Scheduler" being a person who calls to persuade members to work on Super Saturday, be it the DOM Booth, the Information Booth, or the vendor setup/breakdown in the CCD area.

Charles Cashion has only recently taken on the task of calling to fill the volunteer schedule at the DOM booth, but he has been a regular volunteer at DOM for some years now. Charles also makes sure we get the DOM volunteer names for publication here. Thanks, Charles.

Also, many thanks to Randi Boucher, who has been a regular scheduler for the Information Booth these last several years. She's a fountain of energy and a real mainstay. And to Diane Arnold, who has recently come on board as an alternate Information Booth scheduler and Newsletter Exchange person.

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

PLEASE remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

INFOMART Liaison
- Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
- Anchor:
  - David Slavik
- Crew:
  - James Cuzzo
  - Robert Lozen
  - Michael Griffin
  - Anthony McCormick
  - Tom McCormick

Auditorium Presentations
- Timothy Carmichael
- Chris Jung
- Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth
- Statistician:
  - Connie Testa
- Scheduler:
  - Randi Boucher
- Anchors:
  - Conley Andrews
  - Harvey Andrews
  - Mike Ashley
  - Ralph Beaver
  - Randi Boucher
  - John Ferguson
  - Rick Griffith
  - Judy Griffiths
  - Allan Harbaugh
  - Hank Holt
  - David Huckabee
  - Claude McClure
  - Raymond Reyes
  - Everett Turner
  - Jean Waldrep
  - Peyton Weaver
  - Paul Williams
- Booth Crew:
  - Jim Caraway
  - Ned Keig
  - David Martin (2 hours)
  - Wade Mayfield
  - Ed Moreland
  - Darwin Ray
  - Pat Sims
  - Art Ullman
- Floater:
  - Pehl Lee

Disk of the Month (DOM)
- DOM Desk Crew:
  - Joe A. Allen
  - Charles Amy
  - Mike Ashley
  - Roy Bales
  - Ralph Beaver
  - Robert Bender
  - Stan Berlin
  - Gene Carleton
  - Charles Carter
  - Jay Chambliss
  - Bill Chambliss
  - Shawn Dunn
  - Thomas Goodwin
  - Robert Grabowski
  - Judy Griffiths
  - Kent Haven (2 hours)
  - Pat Henley (2 hours)
  - L. John Hopkins
  - Duane Martin
  - John Myers
  - Bob Post
  - Stuart Potter, Jr.
  - Robert F. Palmer
  - George Read
  - Virginia Salter
  - Shirley Z. Smith
  - Ed Snuggs
  - Elaine Stephens

With Special Thanks to:
- Set-Up Crew:
  - Jay Chambliss
  - Bill Chambliss
  - Kent Haven
  - Pat Henley
  - Stan Berlin
- Shift Supervisors:
  - Joe A. Allen
  - Stan Berlin
  - Kent Haven
  - Pat Henley
  - Nancy Ogden
  - Virginia Salter
- Inventory and Take-Down Crew:
  - Ralph Beaver
  - Charles Carter
  - Thomas Goodwin
  - Ed Snuggs
  - Robert F. Palmer
- DOM Desk Scheduler:
  - Charles Cashion
- Disks-for-Review Manager:
  - Howard Hamilton
- Disk Production:
  - Kathryn Loafman
  - Kenneth Loafman

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations	
Timothy Carmichael	661-4626 (w)
DOM Booth Scheduler	
Charles Cashion	881-0952 (h) 519-2583 (w)
DOM Software Review	
Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information	
Connie Andrews	828-0699 (h)

The Adventures of PC Tech

by Ben Thar

Chapter 11

Our heroine started reading more and more about networks. She read a lot of confusing terminology about topologies, operating systems, wiring, and horror stories about crashes, wiring problems, and upgrades. Mary Margaret decided to enroll in a course on the fundamentals before her boss asked her to explain all of this to him. (You can tell this is fiction because we are never this far ahead of our bosses.) Below is the beginning of the lecture:

Why network?

The first and most important reason to network is centralized backup. If senior management knew how much work is not backed up and how much it would cost the company to recover from a disaster, a network would not be an option; it would be a requirement.

On a network, users can share expensive peripherals like laser printers, color printers, CD-ROM's, modems, and fax machines. Also, individual hard disk drives could be replaced by large network hard drives (talk to them where it matters, in the Treasury).

Computer users can communicate with each other over a network through electronic mail, called E Mail for short. Files can be shared over a network, instead of copying them to a floppy disk and running the disk across the office. The latter is called sneaker net.

Additionally, a network allows the company to purchase fewer copies of software (more savings), because not every user is on every program all of the time. Therefore, a usage counter can be placed on the software and limit access to the number of legal copies owned. Software upgrades become less complicated because you only have to do one upgrade, the server, instead of one for each individual p.c. Again, utilizing resources more cost effectively.

What are the decisions?

How does the signal get from one place to another? What are NIC's, and why do they have the same name as a New York basketball team?

What are UTP, STP, Thin and Thick Ethernet, Fiber, Microwave?

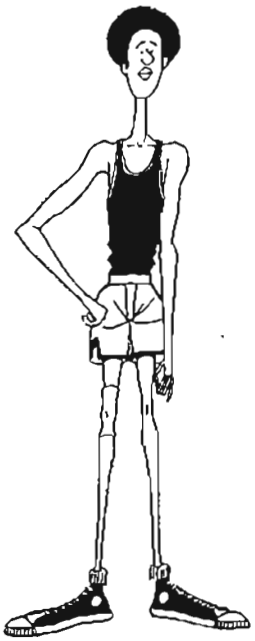
What are Peer-to-Peer, Token Ring, Ethernet, 10 Base-T, Arcnet, and FDDI?

How about Novell, Banyan, LAN Man, Lantastic, IBM, Microsoft?

After the professor started with these questions, and had the students write each one down, MM figured it was a test and she was going to fail and lose her tuition and never learn and this wasn't fair..... Everyone let out a collective, audible sigh of relief when the instructor said, "By the end of this semester, you will be able to answer these questions. All industries and professions have their jargon as do the computer industry, mainframers, mini programmers, personal computer users, and network administrators. It is a shorthand as well as a method of distinguishing their profession from all others. Kind of an informal club with initiation only through reading, asking questions, taking training, and doing. The personal computer has gained its popularity through the first word "personal" more so than the second. It is yours to learn, to use, and you are in control. But I've digressed from the subject of networks," the instructor laughed. He said, "go to a book store before next week and bring to class a count of the different titles of computer books also a list of the titles of all books related to networking. As you leave class tonight, I want you to draw one piece of paper from the box on my desk. On the paper is a term that I want you to be prepared to talk about for two minutes next week. Class dismissed."

Mary Margaret liked this teacher. He made each person assume responsibility for learning, and he made a commitment to the class to teach them the basics before the end of the semester. She picked up a slip of paper and it said NIC's. "Oh great, I got the thing that is not a basketball team."

stay tuned...



Meetings & Times

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	**The Computer Inside** Intel Corporation	*(See page 1 for description of programs.)*
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	**Lotus Freelance for Windows** Lotus Development Corporation	
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	**NTPCUG Business Meeting**	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	**Sales and Management Productivity with TeleMagic** Computer Evaluations	

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

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

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

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

11:00 - 11:55
Basic Programming
Community Service
Family Roots - Gnlgy.
MS Works
Roots III - Genealogy
Spreadsheet Developers
TI Pro General Mtg.
Windows Developers

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

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

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

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

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers

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

Andy Oliver, Chair — **Doug Gorrie**
Reagan Andrews — **Mark Gruner**
Jim Hoisington

Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h (214)871-5750 w
President-Elect	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
Program Chair.	Timothy Carmichael	(214)661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond Reyes	
Secretary	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101h
Advertising Dir.	John Pribyl	(817)275-4109 h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214)462-7980
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loafman	(214)596-2539
Group Statistician	Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699
BBS	Tom Prickett	

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain — Jim Hoisington
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 Moomey
	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	(915)675-5959 (w)
	David Thrash	(214)618-4130
ACTI	Michael Hill	(214)423-7585
Alpha Four	Michael Moore	(214)228-1646
	Ron Jackson	(214)278-3881
Assembler	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221 h
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	Steve Dixon	(214)271-2292 h (214)205-2215 w
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DAC Software	Purt Shaw	(214)669-9633 w (214)295-2559 h
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	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
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Hdw Solutions	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
	Gary Johnson	(214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h
Investors	Nash Kappoor	(214)458-9168
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekel	(817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
	Francis Bright	
LOTUS	Mark Gruner	(214)964-8174 h
	Pat Henley	(214)271-4911 h (214)229-9218 w
	Betty Brooks	(214)618-1608 h
MS Works	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734
OS/2 Dev	James Dunn	(214)279-1738 h (817)962-4596 w
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	((817)481-4966 w (817)481-6625 (h)
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315
	Greg Kane	(214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)867-1679 h
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
Programmers	Kent kingery	(214)458-9711 w (214)317-0125 h
	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101 h
Quicken	W L Harris	(214)291-5720
	Rex Gifford	(214)272-4127 h (214)404-8400 w
R:Base	Richard Hauslein	(817)467-4581 h
	Don Branham	(214)352-0888 h
Roots III	John Wylie	(214)495-4410
Software Review	Pat Henley	(214)271-4911 h (214)229-9216 w
Spreadsheet Dev.	Mark Gruner	(214)964-8174 h
	Betty Brooks	(214)618-1608 h
TI Pro	James Corbett	(214)821-4788 h (214)634-2360 w.
	Kurt Krider	(214)348-3766 h
Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w
	Jim Stallworth	(214)596-7807 h (214)604-2441 w
Windows Dev.	Arthur English	(214)618-1266 h
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699
	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
	Dorothy Bentine	(817)387-9993 h
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn	(214)255-0555 w
		Metro (817)481-6453 h
	Mitch Milam	(214)823-9837 w

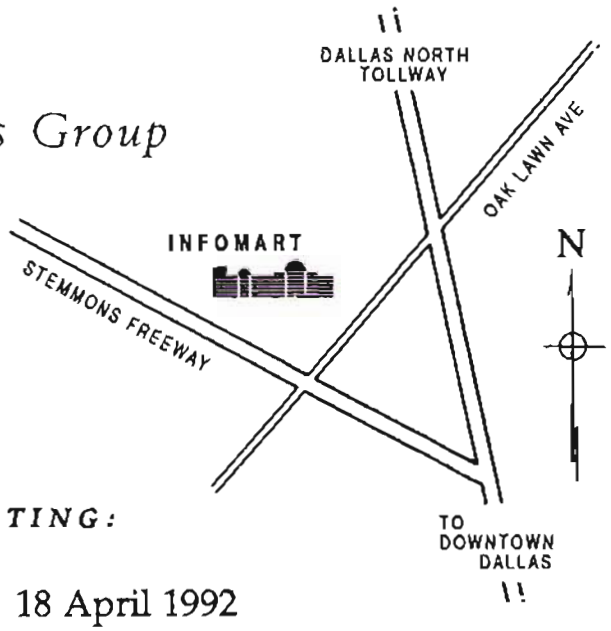
North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Address Correction Requested.

11.4

[redacted]

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

18 April 1992