

North Texas  
**NEWS**

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*North Texas PC Users Group*

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# North Texas PC NEWS

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### Deadline:

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

### Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 1974 last month.

Member distribution was 1659; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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**DEADLINE**  
Copy deadline for June  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Sunday, May 10th

### Meeting Dates:

May Meeting - 4th Sat. (23rd)  
June Meeting - 3rd Sat. (20th)  
July Meeting - 2nd Sat  
(tentative)

**SPF!**  
*Write an article about  
your PC Experiences.*

(Confessions of a PC Junkie...???)

## Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Table of Contents

President's Message . . . . .	1
Andy Oliver	
Batch File Tips and Utilities Fourth in a series. . . . .	2
Mitchel A. Hoselton, Ph.D.	
Troubleshooting Your PC A Book Review . . . . .	6
Jim Hoisington	
Variety Store . . . . .	8
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	
Microsoft Publisher A Review . . . . .	12
Howard Peña	
Knowledge Adventure A Review . . . . .	13
Betty Brooks	
Freelance for Windows A Review . . . . .	14
Neal Berkowitz	
On Complexity No. 63 "Multi-tasking" . . . . .	15
Jim Hoisington	
The Adventures of PC TECH Chapter 12 . . . . .	16
Ben Thar	
Cells & Ranges . . . . .	18
Betty Brooks	
PC File 6.0 A Review . . . . .	21
Gerry Heine	
Writing to your HP LaserJet from Lotus . . . . .	26
Roger Nilsson Alaska Computing Society	
<b>Special Items:</b>	
Agenda . . . . .	1
SIG Reports . . . . .	22
Member Application Blank . . . . .	26
Volunteer Guide . . . . .	27
Officers, Meetings & Times . . . . .	29

## Program for May \_\_\_\_\_ Timothy Carmichael \_\_\_\_\_

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM      **Desktop Publishing With Publish It!**

Timeworks, Inc.

*Terry Fleming, Director of User Group Services*

If you are looking for a low cost and easily learned desktop publishing program, come evaluate Publish It! This product boasts prebuilt layouts, extensive file import capability, soft font support, drivers for any dot matrix or laser printer and more. Terry is a dynamic speaker and gives presentations all over the United States and Canada. He promises to give you an informative and entertaining talk, and will offer special discount pricing for NTPCUG members. There will be a drawing for free copies of software.

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

There will be a drawing for free copies of several types of software. \*

\* Tickets for each drawing will be given out from 10 minutes before until 15 minutes after the start-time of the meeting to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership.

## Prez Sez

### Treasurers

The User's Group would like to thank Ken Conner for all of his help over the past several years as the Treasurer of NTPCUG. As will sometimes happen, our real job precludes us from spending all of the time that we want to on our volunteer job, and unfortunately Ken had to choose one. Ken has put in a lot of hours for the group and we are grateful.

Raymond Reyes, a name and face you will recognize from the Information Booth, has agreed to take over as Treasurer. We appreciate the fact that Raymond stepped forward and we will thank him many times over for helping the group out.

### OS/2 2.0

If you were lucky, you attended IBM's announcement of OS/2 2.0 on April 10th at the Grand Kempenski Hotel in Dallas. The mailing of the cards came about from Jim Hoisington selling the mailing list to IBM. Thank you Jim, and thank you IBM, the group appreciates the revenue. It was not one sided either, we provided IBM with 1,650 names from NTPCUG and their responses (along with IBM's customer mailings) caused them to add a second session

of 500 after the morning session reached 750 respondents.

As for the announcement, it was impressive. IBM did a first class job of presenting, including a feed of their Spring COMDEX announcement, a product demo, a vendor area, and a testimonial from an OS/2 customer, Frito-Lay. A great deal of information was packed into one morning, resulting in sore rear-ends from sitting so long without a break.

The product itself did everything IBM promised and did it well. Watching it run DOS, Windows 3.0, Windows 3.1, and OS/2 applications reminded me of the king-of-the-hill game we used to play as kids. Competition at work will bring better, faster and cheaper tools to the end user. Cheaper is a relative term when you consider the RAM and hard drive costs. How about 4MB RAM minimum and a 15 to 32MB hard disk homestead? But, if you're going to play with the big boys, there are costs.

IBM has come a long way in recognizing what the customer wants and delivering it at a price we can afford.

Andy Oliver

2

## Batch File Tips And Utilities

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

This month's article will introduce a trick that is just too good to be true. It's a method for creating small, executable utilities. It would be hard for the average PC user to create new utilities this way. Doing so requires a thorough knowledge of machine code or assembly language programming. However, utility programs created by others can easily be recreated for personal use. There is no need to search bulletin boards to find these utilities or to order expensive programming software to create them. DOS owners already own all they require, except the script file, to create their own copies of these utilities. Users can create their own script files with the same ASCII text editor they use to create their batch files. DOS's DEBUG will convert the script file into a working utility.

PC Magazine and PC/Computing, among others, use this method in some of their columns to help readers create small programs. The procedure only works for small utilities. All that readers have to do is create the script file from the published listing in the magazine. Then they must issue a single command at the DOS prompt to create the program from the script.

Every single character in a script file is important. Even the blank lines are important. It is essential to reproduce the script exactly the way it appears in LISTING 1. It is essential to use a pure ASCII text editor to create the script. Finally, it is essential to test every utility created from a script immediately to see if it works properly. If a newly created utility does not work properly, erase it before it can do any damage. Then edit the script to correct the mistake before attempting to create the utility again.

This article will demonstrate the general method for using scripts by creating ISDEV.COM, the batch file utility introduced last month. This utility first appeared in the February 1991 edition of PC/Computing. The script is in hexadecimal format. This article will include another version of a script file later on. That script will demonstrate DEBUG's assembler language format and create another utility called ANSIX.COM.

### Creating Script Files

The first job is to create a script file named ISDEV.SCR. ISDEV.SCR will be the input script to another program, called DEBUG. DEBUG will read the script and create a new file called ISDEV.COM.

First, create a subdirectory on the hard disk called TESTUTIL. Copy DEBUG.EXE from the DOS directory into TESTUTIL. Then use an ASCII text editor to create ISDEV.SCR and save it into the TESTUTIL directory.

ISDEV.SCR should contain the text lines shown in LISTING 1.

#### LISTING 1 - Script file ISDEV.SCR

```
N ISDEV.COM
E 0100 80 3E 80 00 03
E 0105 75 2F 80 3E 83
E 010A 00 3A 75 28 A0
E 010F 82 00 0C 20 2D
E 0114 60 00 33 D8 8A
E 0119 D8 B8 04 44 B9
E 011E 01 00 BA 56 01
E 0123 CD 21 73 28 25
E 0128 FF 00 3C 0F 72
E 012D 04 F5 EB 1E 90
E 0132 F8 EB 1A 90 BA
E 0137 5D 00 B8 00 3D
E 013C A2 65 00 CD 21
E 0141 72 0C 8B D8 B8
E 0146 00 44 CD 21 72
E 014B 03 D0 E2 F5 B8
E 0150 00 4C 14 00 CD
E 0155 21 00
```

```
RCX
57
W
Q
```

The first line in the file must be N ISDEV.COM. There should be one blank line ahead of the RCX and another blank line after the final Q. Leave single spaces between the groups of letters and numbers as shown. Check and double check each line of the script file before attempting to create the utility program. All the letters shown in the script as capitalized letters, but DEBUG is not case sensitive. Use small letters if you find them easier to read. Notice there is no letter O (oh) in the script. Anything that looks like the letter O, is actually a numeral zero (0).

### Creating ISDEV.COM

Keep both DEBUG.EXE and ISDEV.SCR in the same directory. Use the CD\TESTUTIL command at the DOS prompt to change to the directory where DEBUG and the script file are stored. Still at the DOS prompt, issue the following command.

```
Debug <isdev.scr
```

This command will push the characters from the script file into DEBUG just as if they were coming from the keyboard. The script tells DEBUG to create a file (N)amed ISDEV.COM and to (E)nter the code that takes up the bulk of the script. The blank line ahead of the RCX marks the end of the data entry.



The script tells DEBUG to (R)ead the CX register and store the hexadecimal value 57h into it. The value of 57h is the same as the decimal number 87 ((5\*16)+7=87). Putting this value in the CX register tells DEBUG to write 87 bytes to the (N)amed file. Then those 87 bytes are (W)ritten into the file. (Q)uit ends the DEBUG session and COMMAND.COM reactivates the DOS prompt.

That's all there is to it. A few seconds after issuing the DEBUG command, the process is complete and the DOS prompt reappears. If the DOS prompt fails to appear, the PC may have to be rebooted by turning it off and on again. This happens when users omit the blank line after the Q. After the DOS prompt reappears, type a DIR command to be sure that DEBUG created ISDEV.COM and that it appears in the TESTUTIL directory.

### Testing ISDEV.COM

ISDEV sets a register in COMMAND.COM called the exit code. The exit code can be any value between 0 and 255, inclusive. ISDEV sets the exit code to zero (0) if it finds the requested device driver name in memory and sets the exit code to one (1) if it fails to find the requested device driver.

There is no way to test ISDEV from the command line. ISDEV only operates from within a batch file. LISTING 2 shows a batch file written specifically to test ISDEV.COM. This batch file, called TSTISDEV.BAT, performs four tests on ISDEV. Two of the tests should issue exit codes of zero (0) and two should issue exit codes of one (1). The IF ERRORLEVEL and IF NOT ERRORLEVEL commands test the value of the exit code. Next month's article will cover the IF command and exit codes in greater detail. Readers should use their own disk drive and directory names in place of C: and TESTUTIL when writing TSTISDEV.BAT for their own use.

LISTING 2 - Text of TSTISDEV.BAT and its output when ISDEV.COM is working.

Text of TSTISDEV.BAT

```
@ECHO off
REM The TSTISDEV.BAT file used to test ISDEV.COM
C:
CD\testutil

ECHO Testing for Drive C:, which should be present
ISDEV C:
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 ECHO Drive C: was not found - That's BAD
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO end
ECHO Drive C: was found - OK.

ECHO Testing for Drive Z:, which should not be present
ISDEV Z:
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 ECHO Drive Z: was found - That's BAD
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO end
ECHO Drive Z: was not found - OK
```

### LISTING2 - continued

```
ECHO Testing for CON, a driver name that should always be
present
ISDEV CON
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 ECHO The CON driver was not found -
That's BAD
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO end
ECHO The CON driver was found - OK

ECHO Testing for the phony driver called XXX000XX
ISDEV XXX000XX
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 ECHO The phony driver was found
- That's BAD
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO end
ECHO The phony driver was not found - OK
end
ECHO End of test.

Output from TXTISEDV.BAT when ISDEV.COM is working
properly

Testing for Drive C:, which should be present
Drive C: was found - OK
Testing for Drive Z:, which should not be present
Drive Z: was not found - OK
Testing for CON, a driver name that should always be present
The CON driver was found - OK
Testing for the phony driver called XXX000XX
The phony driver was not found - OK
End of test.
```

If ISDEV.COM is working properly, TSTISDEV.BAT should produce exactly nine lines of output on the screen as shown at the bottom of LISTING 2.

ISDEV is working properly if all these messages and no others appear. If ISDEV.COM fails this test, you must find the error before using ISDEV.COM again. Assuming that TSTISDEV.BAT is correct, there must be an error in ISDEV.SCR. Erase ISDEV.COM and reedit the script file. After finding and correcting the error, create ISDEV.COM from the revised script using DEBUG.

Use the [CTRL]-[BREAK] keystroke combination to terminate ISDEV if you observe any strange characters on the screen or any other strange behavior while ISDEV is running. If an error in ISDEV.SCR file can't be found and the TSTISDEV.BAT file is correct, do not try to create ISDEV.COM again. Either there is an error in one of those two files or there is an error in LISTING 1. It is not wise to leave a misbehaving utility on the hard disk. Get a friend to go over the script and batch files with you. Sometimes fresh eyes will help.

Try to be patient if the script does not work on the first attempt. It should take only a little practice and the utilities we are going to create are well worth a little effort. Remember, too, that every character that appears in a script, including the blank spaces between groups and the blank lines, is important. Each character represents a keystroke that is going to be

fed into DEBUG. DEBUG takes each keystroke very seriously.

If you have any doubts about how to prepare the script or how to feed it into DEBUG, get someone to help you. Once you've seen it done, you'll find it is quite easy to do it yourself.

### Some General Notes About Batch Files

It is worth mentioning a couple of points while TSTISDEV.BAT is still handy for reference.

a) Batch files can contain any number of blank lines, just like CONFIG.SYS can. This improves readability. (This comment doesn't apply to script files, so do not confuse the two. In a script file every blank line means something to DEBUG and extra lines may ruin the script.)

b) The GOTO command is a very powerful way to move the execution pointer around in a batch file. This is branching. The execution pointer indicates the next line in the batch file that is going to execute. The GOTO requires two lines of code. The first line is the following GOTO command.

```
GOTO label_name
```

The GOTO moves the execution pointer to the line following the line that contains the label\_name preceded by a colon, as follows.

```
:label_name
```

A colon (:) precedes the label\_name in the second line. In all other ways the label\_name after the colon must match the one after the GOTO. The :label\_name can be anywhere in the batch file. The label\_name can be any combination of numbers and letters. It can even include spaces, though using spaces is discouraged. It cannot include other separators such as the colon (:), period (.), comma (,), semicolon (;), equal sign (=), minus sign (-), plus sign (+), slash (/), back slash (\), greater than (>), less than (<) or the piping symbol (|). It may contain the underline character (\_), however, and this is preferable to using blank spaces.

It is a bad idea to include special characters like the apostrophe ('), grave accent (`), tilde (~), ampersand (&), exclamation point (!), pound sign (#), dollar sign (\$), percent sign (%), caret (^), "and" sign (&), star (\*), any of the parenthesis signs ([ ] { } ) or the question mark (?). Some of these will work and some of them won't. The results of testing these symbols in a systematic way are confusing and depend on the DOS version used in the test.

It is safest to stick with simple numbers and letters, and an occasional underline sign (\_), when creating label\_names. The search by COMMAND.COM for the :label\_name is not case sensitive.

c) When COMMAND.COM executes a GOTO, it starts reading the batch file from the first line and moves down through the file. It investigates all the lines that start with a colon (:). When it finds one, it compares the label\_name following the colon with the label\_name that it read after the GOTO command. COMMAND.COM only checks the first eight (8) characters in the label\_name against the first eight (8) characters in the :label\_name. (The colon (:) in front of the :label\_name does not count as one of the characters.) Programmers can use longer labels and strings but COMMAND.COM does not read the extra letters. It will not be able to distinguish between label\_names that only differ after the eighth place.

If the same :label\_name appears more than once in a batch file, COMMAND.COM will always and only find the first appearance of that :label\_name. This is true no matter how many times or from which places in the batch file the GOTO executes.

d) With some exceptions, avoid using the unconditional GOTO. That is, avoid the line "GOTO label\_name." Put the code after the :label\_name in the place where the GOTO command is sitting. The GOTO command slows down execution of the batch file because COMMAND.COM has to do an extra read operation on the entire batch file. Whenever possible, it is better to rearrange the lines in the file to avoid using the unconditional GOTO command.

e) The efficient way to use the GOTO is as a conditional GOTO. In a conditional GOTO, the GOTO label\_name command appears as the command\_to\_execute in an IF command. The TSTISDEV.BAT in LISTING 2 shows how to do this. In a conditional GOTO the GOTO command only executes when the IF test produces a true result.

f) The command\_to\_execute in an IF command can be another IF command. It is possible to string a series of IF commands together on a single line to create a complex test.

g) Conditional GOTO commands can create loops as well as branches in a batch file. That is, the conditional GOTO can send the execution pointer back to an earlier part of the batch file. It can keep sending it back until the looping condition is no longer satisfied.

Next month I will formally introduce the IF command in all its forms and permutations.

### Testing for ANSI.SYS

As useful as it is, ISDEV cannot test for the presence of ANSI.SYS and several other device drivers. That is because ISDEV only examines the installed device driver names. ANSI.SYS and some other device drivers have installed names that DOS also uses for internal purposes. Testing for installed device driver





names will always find these special names even if CONFIG.SYS installs no device drivers.

The March 13, 1990 edition of PC Magazine introduced the ANSIX.COM utility. It is a variation by Neil J. Rubenking of another utility, AN-SIHERE.COM, created by William Loud. The text for the script file, ANSIX.SCR, appears in LISTING 3.

LISTING 3 - Script file ANSIX.SCR

```

N ANSIX.COM
A100
JMP 010D

E 102 1B'6n$'
E 107 0D 20 20 20 20 '$'
A10D
MOV DX,102
MOV AH,09
INT 21
MOV AH,0B
INT 21
CMP AL,FF
JZ 0128
MOV DX,107
MOV AH,09
INT 21
MOV AX,4C00
INT 21
MOV AH,6
MOV DL,FF
INT 21
JNZ 128
MOV AX,4C01
INT 21

RCX
35
W
Q

```

The script files usually begin with the N command. The script includes two obvious blank lines; one after the JMP command in line three and another ahead of the RCX command near the end. There must also be a third blank line after the Q at the end of the script. If the script omits the third blank line, it may be necessary to reboot the PC after running DEBUG.

The format of ANSIX.SCR differs from the format used in ISDEV.SCR. DEBUG can handle input in different forms so don't let that difference put you off. In fact, ANSIX.SCR switches DEBUG from ASSEMBLER mode to ENTER mode and back again, all in one script. Create ANSIX.SCR using a standard ASCII text editor and store it in the TESTUTIL directory along with the ISDEV.SCR and all the other scripts that we will create in this series.

Consult the PC Magazine article for some minor caveats about ANSIX.COM and its use. In a batch file, ANSIX writes the ANSI Device Status Report (DSR) to the display and then checks to see if ANSI.SYS responded by placing a Cursor Position

Report (CPR) into the keyboard buffer. ANSDX assumes that anything it finds in the keyboard buffer is a CPR issued by ANSI.SYS. This is a less than ideal way to test for ANSI.SYS. First, any press of a key while the batch file is running will also load keycodes into the keyboard buffer. Second, any program written to mimic ANSI.SYS will also respond with a CPR. Several such enhanced ANSI drivers are widely available. ANSIX is, therefore, fairly easy to fool. In most circumstances these are not serious problems, and ANSIX is better than nothing.

To create ANSIX.COM from the script file, ANSIX.SCR, issue the following DEBUG command from the DOS prompt after switching to the TESTUTIL directory.

```
Debug <ANSIX.SCR
```

ANSIX.COM sets the exit code to one (1) if ANSI.SYS resides in memory and it sets the exit code to zero (0) if ANSI.SYS does not reside in memory. That is backward from the pattern used in ISDEV, but it works fine. To get ANSIX.COM to respond with an exit code of zero (0) when ANSI.SYS is in memory, swap lines 18 and 24 with each other. Change the name of the program on the first line of the script to ANSIY.COM. Call the script with the swapped lines ANSIY.SCR. Use the version, ANSIX.COM or ANSIY.COM, that best suits your programming style.

### Testing ANSIX.COM

To test that the ANSIX.COM created with the original script file works properly, use the TSTANSIX.BAT file shown in LISTING 4. To test ANSIY.COM swap the two ECHO commands in the TSTANSIX.BAT file to create TSTANSIY.BAT.

LISTING 4 - Text of TSTANSIX.BAT

```

@ECHO OFF
REM The TSTANSIX.BAT file for testing ANSIX.COM
C:
CD\testutil
ANSIX
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 ECHO ANSI.SYS is present.
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO end
ECHO ANSI.SYS is not present
:end

```

One of the TSTANSIX.BAT messages appears on the screen every time it runs. If TSTANSIX.BAT prints the wrong message or creates strange characters on the display, use the [CTRL]-[BREAK] key stroke combination to stop it. Then erase the ANSIX.COM program from the disk. Reedit the ANSIX.SCR script file to correct the mistake. Once ANSIX.COM is working, test it both when ANSI.SYS is and is not resident in memory. (Use the REM command to disable the

DEVICE= command installing ANSI.SYS in CONFIG.SYS.)

KEY WORDS

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ampersand (@)                 | Hexadecimal Value         |
| And Sign (&)                  | IF Command                |
| ANSI.SYS                      | IF ERRORLEVEL             |
| ANSIX.COM                     | IF NOT ERRORLEVEL         |
| ANSIX.SCR                     | ISDEV.COM                 |
| ANSIY.COM                     | ISDEV.SCR                 |
| ANSIY.SCR                     | JMP                       |
| Apostrophe (')                | Keyboard Buffer           |
| ASCII Text Editor             | Keycodes                  |
| Assembler                     | Label Name                |
| Assembly Language Programming | Less Than Sign (<)        |
| Back Slash (\)                | Looping                   |
| Batch File                    | Looping Condition         |
| Branching                     | Machine Code              |
| Caret (^)                     | Programming               |
| CD (Change Directory)         | Minus Sign (-)            |
| Colon (:)                     | Parentheses (())          |
| Comma (,)                     | PC Magazine -             |
| Command Line                  | March 13, 1990            |
| COMMAND.COM                   | PC/Computing -            |
| Command_to_Execute            | February 1991             |
| Conditional GOTO              | Percent Sign (%)          |
| Curly Brackets ({})           | Period (.)                |
| Cursor Position Report (CPR)  | Piping Symbol ( )         |
| CX Register                   | Plus Sign (+)             |
| DEBUG.EXE                     | Pound Sign (#)            |
| Device Driver                 | Question Mark (?)         |
| Device Status Report (DSR)    | RCX                       |
| DEVICE=                       | REM                       |
| DIR                           | Script File               |
| Dollar Sign (\$)              | Semicolon (;)             |
| DOS                           | Separator Character       |
| ECHO                          | Slash (/)                 |
| Equal Sign (=)                | Special Character         |
| Exclamation Point (!)         | Square Brackets ([])      |
| Executable                    | Star (*)                  |
| Execution Pointer             | TESTUTIL Directory        |
| Exit Code                     | Tilde (~)                 |
| GOTO                          | TSTANSIX.BAT              |
| Grave Accent (`)              | TSTANSIY.BAT              |
| Greater Than Sign (>)         | TSTISDEV.BAT              |
| Hexadecimal Format            | Unconditional GOTO        |
|                               | Underline Character ( _ ) |
|                               | [CTRL]-[BREAK]            |

A Book Review by Jim Holsington

# Troubleshooting Your PC

Jim Aspinwall, Rory Burke, and Mike Todd

*Published by M&T Books  
A Division of M&T Publishing, Inc.  
411 Bond Avenue  
San Mateo, CA 94402-3522*

This book is written for the average PC user who doesn't have a technical library and lots of electronic diagnostic equipment to check out their PC. It deals with what to do when your PC stops running or something unexpected happens to you PC. On a topic, by topic basis, it covers common PC symptoms, the probable underlying problem or problems, and ways to solve those problems.

Although the book has an easy going style and can be read cover to cover in one sitting, it is designed to be used as a reference book. Following the Table of Contents is a Problem Index. It lists symptoms and the page numbers that describe the underlying problems and their resolutions.

Having answered many late night telephone calls from frustrated PC users, I found that most of the advice given in this book is excellent. On one or two occasions, I think the authors overlooked a alternate source of the problem, but I have to admit their solutions will usually fix the problem anyway.

For example, it has been my experience that the most common reason for "Incorrect DOS version" or "Invalid or missing COMMAND.COM" is that someone has copied a floppy diskette containing COMMAND.COM to the root directory on a hard disk with a different version of DOS. However, the authors of the book recommend making a "safety" diskette for your hard disk which contains the files it will take to overcome such problems. Their advice on how to use the "safety" diskette to refresh the DOS files on your hard disk will solve this problem and many other related problems.

The book has some good reference tables. There is enough data to give the average user a pretty good chance at being able to configure an add-in card that requires the user to choose an IRQ line that is not already in use.

The final reference table is a listing of user groups that are members of the Association of PC User Groups. As we all know, that's the best way to get help when your PC does something unexpected. Yes, the North Texas PC Users Group is listed. And no, it's not my telephone number that's listed.

Jim

JULIA KELLY 214/881-9538

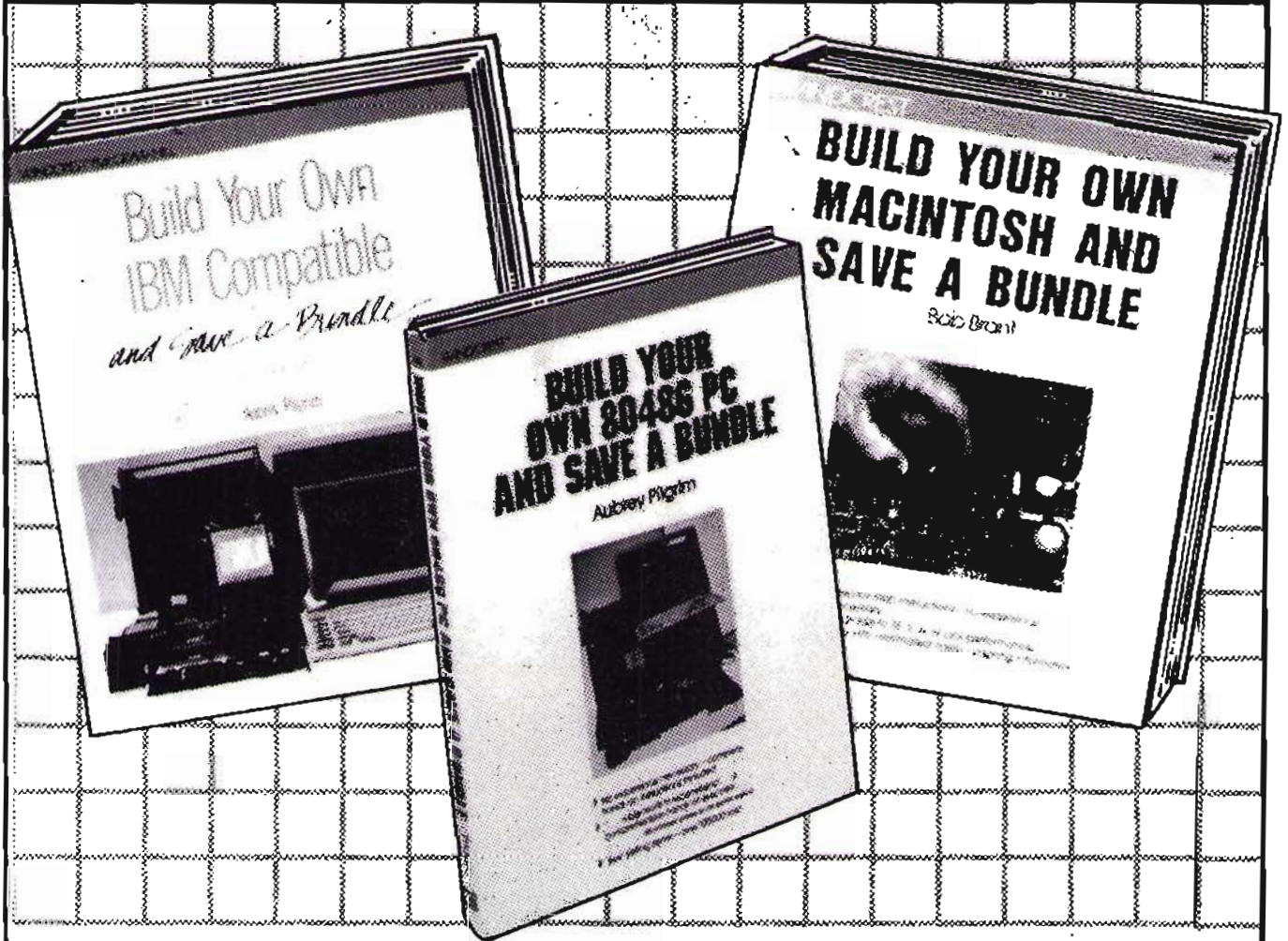


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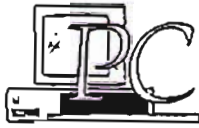
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Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

# The Variety Store

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

## CPU wars erupt anew with new 486's from Cyrix, Intel and IBM

**Spoiler TI seems to have alliances with everyone plus Intel**

**And, Microsoft comes to my rescue with \$170M Fox buy-out**

I really wanted to start this thing with software. Something really smashing about *Windows 3.1* or *OS/2 2.0*. Unfortunately, by the time this hits the streets, both will have been released for about a month and a half. Major media will surely beat me to it by several thousands of column inches of coverage on both.

### Microsoft to the rescue! – FoxPro Purchase ends Borland monopoly

Microsoft entered the xBASE fray with their purchase of Fox Software and their *FoxPro* xBASE product in early April. Price of the buy-out was reported at \$170 Million in stock. *FoxPro*, considered by many database experts as the best of the xBASE database products, will be competing head-to-head with Borland's *dBASE* and *Paradox* products for market share.

Currently, Microsoft has no database product and *FoxPro* is seen as an "ideal" acquisition if they want to compete with Borland's 80% of the PC database market. Microsoft had been in negotiations with Fox for some time, media sources stated, and death of the A-T suit(s) against Fox with the Borland acquisition of A-T made the purchase attractive.

First reaction(s) seen in media accounts of the acquisition were almost universally positive, with point made that users will be main beneficiaries of the competition sure to ensue between Microsoft and Borland for market share.

### Otherwise, It's back to CPU's For the major news this month.

The waiting's over for first to announce a 486 chip to compete with Intel's prime mover. Cyrix announced their 486 in April much to the surprise of Intel who expected first blow to come from AMD or Chips and Technologies.

Even more surprising is the role played by Dallas' Texas Instruments as a spoiler to Intel's legal assault against the clone makers.

### TI "wild card" in CPU Litigation over X86 chips

Leading with TI? Now, that's strange. Texas Instruments seems to have licensing agreements and manufacturing agreements with just about everyone these days. That includes some earlier agreements with Intel that may make it very difficult for the Santa Clara, CA, creator of the X86 standard to prevail in litigation against Dallas' Cyrix and Chips & Technologies.

Both Cyrix and Chips & Technologies (C&T) are being sued by Intel over plans to produce 486 and 386 CPU chips, respectively. Both also have agreements with TI to manufacture their chips. TI will make C&T's Super386 chips, the 38600 and 38605 lines, and will also produce Cyrix' recently announced 486 chip line.

### TI says they have the rights ...

Chips will be made by TI from Cyrix and C&T designs. Speculation is that TI's cross-licensing agreements with Intel may preclude successful litigation on Intel's part. At least, that's what TI believes. Legal experts are not sure.

TI is not afraid of lawyers – or getting involved in a good bare-knuckles scrap for that matter – and brings a lot of legal expertise into the fray following decades of similar fights with Japanese chip makers.



**Could I find a new career?**

Gosh, I almost wish I was a soft/hardware patent/copyright attorney now. Announcements during late March and early April will mean continued full employment for droves (packs?) of attorneys. Gonna mean lots of new BMW's, Porsche's and Jaguars in Silicon Valley, Redmond, and, even Dallas, it appears.

Redmond? How did Microsoft get into this? Same way Apple will — by finally getting the Windows - Macintosh litigation to trial. Early trial rounds in the massive legal struggle are scheduled to begin as this is being written. [See box for late-breaking Microsoft-Apple story.] Mortal combat or acquiescence — either way — may be the really big news next month.

And, you know who'll pay for all this legal expertise and posturing in the long haul.

**Dallas' Cyrix leads with 486 Challenge to Intel CPU monopoly**

Cyrix' announcement of their 486 in a 386SX socket configuration may be one of the most important CPU announcements for a long time. If I understand all the media reports, this chip may give a real boost to longevity to "older" 386SX machines.

According to number of media sources, the initial chips will feature most of the 486 performance (excepting the math coprocessor section) in a standard 386SX socket running at 25 MHz. Processing speed boosts suggested average around 2.5X and a 33 MHz part is expected this summer. This should really set the pace for notebooks and lower-tier desktop machines in the future. Cyrix

will also release coprocessors to complement the new 486 CPU lines as well.

**New replacement market?**

For owners of older 16 and 20 MHz 386 machines, this could make a significant difference in update plans — a \$120 chip exchange instead of the \$300 - 500 motherboard trade-out cost may create a substantial CPU upgrade market. Although these are 25 MHz chips, they should run just as well at 16 or 20 MHz.

It will only work if the support and BIOS chips allow, and if the 386SX chip isn't soldered onto the motherboard.

Problem. Changing a CPU is not an inconsequential job. The user will need the appropriate tools to remove the old chip and insert the new Cyrix chip in its place. Wonder if Radio Shack will start carrying them now?

**AMD cashes in on 386 While IBM talks speed**

AMD — expected to be "first" with a non-Intel 486 chip — has been strangely silent over the past several weeks. The Wall Street Journal did report a substantial increase in sales and income for AMD over the last quarter however, attributed to the successful AMD 386 CPU line introduction.

IBM, on the other hand, began talking about possibility of 100 MHz 486 CPU's in its SLC chip line. Owning a license to produce their own 386 and 486 designs (from back when IBM owned 12% of Intel), IBM has been designing speed enhancements into their 386 and 486SLC chips. According to media reports, IBM says they

could run the chips (internally) at four times the board clock rate.

**Notebook price wars resume New entries from CompuAdd, Dell, Zenith and Samsung**

Samsung Electronics America announced a new NoteMaster PC notebook featuring a removable hard disk drive. The NoteMaster 386S/25 will boast a 2.5" removable cartridge that "can house any standard hard drive."

Seen as a boost to security for notebooks, the cartridge concept would also allow relatively inexpensive upgrades in storage capacities for the average user. Additional note was made of possibility for users to configure their PC's for specific applications instead of having to make compromises to include all their applications on the PC.

CompuAdd announced a new line of consortium-produced notebooks that set new price/performance levels in April. Featuring AMD's 25 MHz 386SX chips, built-in track balls and 60M drives, the new line will cost \$1,995 with 4M DRAM, DOS 5.0 and Windows 3.X.

The machines will be made by a consortium composed of Lexmark, Western Digital Corp., SCI Systems, Inc., and ASIC Design Inc. According to media reports, future versions of the notebook will be based on the new Cyrix 486SLC CPU and will include larger hard drives.

Zenith Data Systems used Spring Comdex to announce their new line of 386SL powered Z-Note notebooks featuring high-speed data ports, built-in Ethernet controllers and installed network shells.



Zenith notebooks recently released already feature the high-speed parallel ports, but Zenith officials report they see network connectivity replacing the need for docking capabilities in corporate settings where these machines will be marketed.

Dell Computer Corp. of Austin, TX, also announced a 25 MHz 386SL notebook that was expected to set price/performance benchmarks. The new NL25 will come with a 60M hard disk, 2M DRAM and a 9.5" VGA screen.

### Speaking of notebooks -- Apple's PowerBook having Disk and battery problems

Apple's PowerBook has been a runaway best seller since its introduction in late 1991. Sales have exceeded Apple's expectations and potential buyers have been "wait-listed" for some models.

Maybe some worms in these apples though. Many reports are circulating that the floppy disk drives are problematic with substantial numbers of reported drive failures, and new reports that loose battery packs may cause fires in some cases.

Unlike the stupid tack Apple took with early Macintosh IIcx drive failures when they denied there was a problem with the hard disks in some machines, Apple has responded very quickly to these problem reports according to media sources.

### Where's the beef? Peer-to-peer LAN Missing in Windows

Caught by my own greed, again. *Windows 3.1* (at least the copies I received) didn't have the peer-to-peer LAN capabilities expected when released April 6. *PC Week* reported the new LAN won't be far away though.

According to the trade magazine, Microsoft is working on *Sparta*, a 20-user Windows-based facility that would allow up to 20 users to share files and directories, and *Winball*, and add-on product with similar capabilities. One or the other was anticipated with the *Windows 3.1* release.

Some media analysts speculate that the peer-to-peer LAN market doesn't have the potential for growth that Microsoft would want to enter the struggle with Novell's *NetWare Lite* and Artisoft's *Lantastic*, current leaders in the market.

### Allow me to disagree with those "experts"

We currently have three working PC's at home. I have a 386/33 and a 386SX (used primarily for new software evaluation) and Connie has a 386SX/20 used for her NTPCUG column, volunteer activities and word processing.

I keep a H-P LaserJet IIP by my PC's and she has the Toshiba P351 for her use. There are many times when I'd prefer to run out a database listing on the Toshiba and Connie would like to do forms and letters on the H-P. We resort to "sneaker-net" now. We'd prefer a peer-to-peer LAN that would allow printer sharing, etc., if it were reasonable in cost.

Looking at the NTPCUG Demographics Survey reported last month, we aren't the only

multiple-PC household in the area. A good, inexpensive peer-to-peer LAN would probably appeal to more PC users than the media experts (above) anticipate.

### Peterson leaves WordPerfect Board during WP restructuring

Pete Peterson, synonymous with *WordPerfect's* rise to DOS WP supremacy, was moved out of WP's inner circle in April. Peterson had been with WordPerfect Corporation for 10 years and his departure was somewhat surprising (to WP outsiders.)

According to media accounts, Peterson was moved out to allow for increased, more-aggressive marketing efforts to offset *WordPerfect for Windows'* "poor" market-share showing to date.

WordPerfect has not made the penetration into the Windows market to match its 60% share of the DOS market, and remains a single-product company according to the analysts watching the Orem, UT, privately-held corporation. "*WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows* failed to meet users high expectations after its release in late 1991, and hasn't provided the excitement anticipated," they said.

### Will they be next Lucky? NTPCUG Entrepreneurs Seen at "First Saturday"

I always try to make the monthly "First Saturday" electronics and computer flea market in Dallas. It's become famous (notorious?) throughout the area and a center of occasional political interest.

April's "First Saturday" was no exception. Even ran into K.B. Barton, NTPCUG SIG Coor-

dinator, in a nascent role as "vendor" and Raymond Reyes, new NTPCUG Treasurer, in a similar role. K.B. reported that he's establishing himself as a systems integrator in Abilene. Raymond described his participation as "fun", which is why he returned as a vendor for the second time.

Hmmm. Isn't "First Saturday" where Pat Chang - Lucky Computing & Lucky Star International - began?

#### **After Dark 2.0 outshines Windows 3.1's, Borland's and Game Pack's blankers**

This one is fun. Berkeley Systems has been producing Macintosh screen blankers for some time. Windows blankers too. Berkeley does it better than Microsoft and Borland (so far) and *After Dark 2.0 for Windows* does it best of all.

I use screen blankers a lot, both at the VAMC where I work and at home. At work, I need a password-protected blanker that's non-intrusive and won't confuse or upset my patients. Purpose at work is security-based, i.e., not making patient data "public."

*After Dark 2.0* does a very nice job, blanking both DOS and Windows, and featuring some of the better graphics in the business. I'm partial to *Mountains* and *Planetside* at work, and *Flying Toasters* at home. If you have multimedia, you'll enjoy some of the sound effects incorporated in 2.0 as well.

All seem to work very well with *Windows 3.1* and *DOS 5.0*. Only problem is that I find myself watching the mountains change too much of the time.

#### **The PICK saga continues ... We really get Strange mail**

PICK prevails in spite of all our/my efforts to get off their mailing list(s). This month brought in advertising solicitations from South Africa, a plea for help from a church group, and something I think may be a newsletter.

*Databeam* came from Orange, CA. Your first clue that this is not your ordinary advertising newsletter may be that some text portions of the missive are printed with Greek symbol font

characters. After reading the lead article on Nicola Tesla and a front-page diatribe against the IRS "conspiracy", you wind up with an "interview" concerning a "4-dimensional business computer entity" that ends with elves, magic rings and angels.

If it were better written and edited, *Databeam* would be fun. But, a second reading made even less sense than the first trip through. We are talking major strange here -- even for California.

Reagan

#### **Microsoft takes First Round! - Initial ruling surprise to media**

Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard took the first round in the epic struggle with Apple over "look & feel" of Macintosh interface in April 14 decision. Media and Wall Street analysts were quite surprised by the rapidity and scope of the decision.

First reported by the *Wall Street Journal*, April 15, 1992, edition, Federal Judge Vaughan Walker "handed Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard Co., a major victory, throwing out most of Apple Computer Inc.'s copyright suit". The judge apparently "threw-out" majority of the charges Apple had leveled against the two computer firms for infringement of Apple's Macintosh interface copyrights.

Earlier speculation was that Apple would prevail if the matter went to trial and that Microsoft would probably "settle" for \$800 Million to 1.2 Billion rather than risk Apple's demands for \$5.5 (or more) Billion in damages. Judge Walker's April decisions make that eventuality much less likely according to experts quoted by WSJ.

Actual trial is still scheduled for May, and Apple attorneys were quoted as saying "this case has a long way to go ..."





# Microsoft Publisher

A review by Howard Peña

Publisher, the new desktop publishing package in Microsoft's Solution Series, not only has an impressive user interface, but it can also produce professional-looking publications. Selling for a street price of around \$140, Publisher is positioned as a desktop publishing system that produces professional results, using many of the common tools found in Ventura Publisher for Windows and Aldus PageMaker. Even though Publisher can't match the big publishing systems tool for tool, it offers the features that many people are looking for when they decide Ventura and PageMaker seem to have more features than are necessary to do the job.

To quickly answer the important question, yes Publisher can produce the same quality (kerned) output you get from PageMaker and Ventura. The output is better than that of a word processor or even a high-end document publisher such as Ami Pro. However its price and simplicity will lead the average person to think that it can produce nothing beyond a better-looking Christmas newsletter or a high-resolution birthday banner. Wrong.

Why is Publisher new and different? It's different because you can have professional results right away. The focus of Publisher's easy-to-use method is called Page Wizards. (You can expect to see the Wizard system on many of Microsoft's future software releases.) Page Wizards appears when you first enter Publisher. It is an interactive program, in many ways like a tutorial, that asks you to answer a series of multiple choice questions. Page Wizards uses the information to not only show you how to create a document, but to create the document itself. For example, if you want to make a newsletter in Ventura, you can study their sample files to see their techniques. However, with Page Wizards you specify (through its multiple-choice questions and your answers) how you want your newsletter to look, Page Wizards designs the newsletter for you as you watch, and then you can further develop the customized sample document it created. The end result is that you can put the software to work for you right away; how long have we been waiting for this?

A Start-Up window helps you get what you want right away. Each time you start Publisher, you can select Page Wizards, a blank page, an existing document, or a pre-designed document template. On-line help and excellent documentation are also available. "Introduction to Publisher" is a tutorial (in the software manual) that teaches the basics of layout. (This is very important information, because no matter how good a publishing package you buy, if you

don't understand the elements of design, the software can't help.)

Publisher is intended to produce professional quality output for newsletters, business forms, flyers, reports, brochures, stationary, greeting cards, and invitations. Its only major drawback is that it does not have a paragraph style tagging feature. Although that makes long documents difficult to produce, it by no means excludes them. The newest versions of PageMaker and Ventura contain the tagging features that make them ideal for long documents. However, it should be remembered that PageMaker had no tagging features until recently, and was still used for long documents.

Another good mark for Publisher is its one-stop organization. It has a good drawing package, a word processor, search and replace, and a spell checker. It accepts many word processor file formats including Word, Write, Works, WordPerfect, WordStar, and ASCII text.

The design tools are good. Text can be automatically wrapped around blocks of text or around graphics. It is frame wrapping, however, and not the more sophisticated word wrapping. Word wrapping relies on the shape of a graphic or paragraph instead of the shape of its frame. (If you use text in the drawing application, text becomes a graphic and can be bent, wrapped, angled, and rotated.) As in PageMaker, you can make jumps (link text across columns or pages).

Publisher uses a common Windows Toolbar setup, as in Word for Windows, Excel, and Ami Pro. The Toolbar lets you conveniently insert pictures, draw lines, arrows, boxes, ellipses, and rounded rectangles. Font type, point size, style and justification can be also be changed by clicking on the appropriate tools on the Toolbar.

A nice design feature is the preview option that lets you see layout options and clip art images before you decide to paste them. (You view the art from the dialog box where you select the art files). Publisher includes a library of over 100 color and black and white clip-art images. You can also import your own graphics in the following formats: TIFF, EPS, CGM, PCX, DRW, WMF, BMP. The line weight for borders and lines can be adjusted from 0 to 127 points.

Some additional tools include a note-it feature that lets you create electronic notes that you can tack up throughout the document for editing or as reminders to yourself. Also, graphic text can be rotated, shadowed, angled, curved and reversed.

Printing seems to be an important issue with Publisher; they devote a whole chapter to it in their eight chapter manual. Among other things, the chapter discusses the amount of printer memory you need and how to break a publication into smaller publications for better printing. ▶



# Knowledge Adventure

A review by Betty Brooks

Many readers will remember the name Bill Gross since he was responsible for HAL, which was an early add on for 1-2-3 2.0 and most importantly for Magellan, Lotus' file management program. (Magellan is a program I use all the time and love, by the way!!!) Bill is now involved with an entirely new and different series of products through his company, Knowledge Adventure Inc. (800-542-4240 for orders) I had a chance to play around with Knowledge Adventure which is an interesting, educational, multimedia program that comes on disks as opposed to the CD ROM types of multi-media programs. It and a companion program called Sports Adventure cost \$79.95 each, but can be found at discount prices locally. The program contains pictures, time lines, distance lines, a globe which can be maneuvered to different places, information about the picture on screen, sometimes sound to go with the current picture and other elements to keep you interested. Using a mouse to move around the screen, you choose a spot on the picture, click the button there or go to the top of the screen and click on one of the specialized buttons and a different picture and accompanying information box will appear on the screen. The collection of pictures and information is astonishing in it's depth. You can explore all types of science, nature, history, music, literature, art and architecture by moving around the pictures and buttons and clicking. It seems like you can never go to the same set of pictures when you start over again on another day, which helps keep the user interested. The manual is very easy to use and really not needed. As a test, I invited my 12 year old neighbor, Josh Henson, over to try using the program. I started it up and then left him with the manual to figure out what to do. He found it very easy to use and enjoyed it so much, that his mother had to call and beg

## Microsoft Publisher continued

For its low price, I recommend Publisher to anyone who wants to learn desktop publishing. It's easier to use than other beginner systems, and it leaves so much room to grow that the average user may decide not to move on to Ventura or PageMaker. Microsoft deserves a pat on the back for Page Wizards; I hope it's only the beginning of better software interfaces.

Howard 

him to come home for his dinner! The following is his unedited review:

Knowledge Adventure is a software game that educates the mind. I evaluated and analyzed the game through visual and written aides. Knowledge Adventure was easy to use with a mouse or keyboard as well as understandable. I thought it was interesting and fun because of the life-like graphics and the challenging quiz that teases your mind. The music on the game is clear and easy to hear. (By the way there was no sound board installed -Betty) Knowledge Adventure teaches about science, art, architecture, nature and more. The supporting help function helps figure out how to work the game as well as the instruction manual. You can also print out some pictures out of the program. I think Knowledge Adventure is fun, easy to use and useful. Knowledge Adventure is good for home, office or even school use. - Josh Henson

I agree with Josh's assessment of the program. In fact, it would be fun to play with the Sports Adventure because I think it might hold the attention of the adults in our house more, since everyone here is a sports enthusiast!

Betty 

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## Freelance for Windows

A review by Neal Berkowitz

A good software package provides a user with the capability to do a job. A great software package goes further and gives the user the ability to do the job with a minimal learning curve. Freelance for Windows, the Lotus presentation package, is a great software package. Within an hour after opening it, the average user can have a good presentation. From the selection of slide layouts to the choosing of colors, backgrounds, styles, and clip art, Freelance provides the user with simple templates to develop a quality presentation.

Part of Freelance's simplicity lies in the logical placement of functions and the almost intuitive flow of building a presentation. Freelance naturally has Windows' pull down menus but, like all the Lotus Windows-based packages, Freelance adds a user modifiable icon bar. This bar permits often used functions such as bold fonting, cutting, pasting, and similar features to be implemented by a single mouse click. Making things even simpler, if the right mouse button is clicked while on an icon, a textual description of the icon appears on the header line. The icon bar is configurable by the user which permits the addition, deletion, and reordering of the icons. While not every possible function is represented by an icon, the set of available features is fairly large. The location of the icon bar on the screen can also be changed or, if the user desires, it can be made a floating window of variable size and location.

The heart of Freelance's ease of use is the concept of Smartmasters. Other programs have the basics of templates where a single background can be applied to all slides in a presentation. Freelance expands this concept to the next logical level. Freelance adds a second template to each slide with layout information for that specific type of slide. For example, a one column chart would have a field for the entry of bulleted text data. Existing templates include ones for one column, two column, chart, multi-chart, and textual pages with graphics.

This method simplifies the building of slides. Upon creating a new presentation, the user first selects the background from the list of templates provided by Lotus. Then, the user selects the type of slide that is to be created from a second list. At this point the basic structure of the slide exists. Areas to be filled in are indicated by textual prompts making data entry even easier. For pages that include a picture, simply clicking on the picture brings up a menu of clip art images. When the desired picture is found, clicking on the picture places it in the slide. The picture is sized for the given area and the colors are adjusted to conform to the presentation background.

Smartmasters make the modification of a presentation that simple. Everything within a presentation that is associated with the Smartmaster can be changed by selecting a different Smartmaster set. With only a few clicks of the mouse a different set can be selected and the entire tone of the presentation can be changed by having a different background, color palette, text font, and graph style. It is just as easy to modify just a part of a presentation. Each Smartmaster has three options for foreground, background, and accent colors. Any of these can be changed with the related part of the presentation reflecting the change. But Freelance does not stop there. Lotus has realized that some colors in some presentations need to remain constant. Examples are company logos and national flags. Part of the palette consists of fixed colors to reflect this requirement.

The usefulness of Smartmasters is further shown by the capabilities to modify the Lotus-provided Smartmaster sets and to create new ones. All aspects of the Smartmaster are modifiable. It is also possible to add new slide layouts to the Smartmaster sets. If a user has a constant need to build four column slides, a four column template can be built and used. The building of a Smartmaster is as easy as building a slide.

The ability to quickly construct a presentation is made even easier with the outline feature. Many users have to make several similar presentations or needs to make just a few textual changes in an existing presentation. In these cases a presentation can be viewed in an outline mode of just text. Since the computer does not have to draw each slide, preparation of a presentation can go faster. It is also possible to port outlines from text processors directly into Freelance.

The features of Freelance are not limited to just ease of use. Freelance has a built in graphics editor. While not as extensive as the graphical packages like Arts and Letters or Designer, most of the major features are implemented. Shapes can be constructed - even fancy curves. Both solid and gradient fills are available as is the ability to modify curves, cut line segments, and group objects.

Other features include a full spelling checker, the ability to simultaneously view multiple slides in a slide tray like arrangement, multiple import and export options, and the ability to dynamically link data within a presentation to external sources. Slides can be printed either individually on a page or in sets, either in color or in black and white. The capability to print a color presentation in black and white is extremely well handled in Freelance.

Freelance handles charts and graphs with a great degree of versatility. There are sixteen types of graphs with six sample styles within each type. Everything from bar graphs to pie charts with multiple pies is



possible as are three dimensional graphs. Data for the graphs can either be internal to Freelance or linked to other sources like 1-2-3 files. Titles, labels, colors, and other properties of the graphs can be modified.

While spectacular in most respects, a few problems were encountered with the program. Installation terminated during the loading of the second disk with a Windows error message. The error did not abort Windows, but Freelance would not load past this point. Lotus was called to see how well their help line handles problems. The call was quickly answered and a Lotus technical representative quickly attributing the problem to my use of Stacker. His suggestion was to try to install the program on an uncompressed volume. Unfortunately that did not resolve the problem. Further investigation showed the real culprit to be a combination of Norton's disk caching program and PC Tools' anti-virus interacting with Windows. This should not be a problem for 99% of all Windows users. A second problem was encountered with Quickstart, the online tutorial. For some reason Quickstart is not compatible with the ATI hi-res video driver. When attempted, Quickstart presented the message that it is compatible only with VGA drivers.

Freelance also needs a few minor enhancements. Slide presentation under Windows is not quite as good as it is in Powerpoint. Powerpoint permits the user to view slides without the standard Windows information around the border of the screen. While Freelance more than makes up for this deficit by having a full stand alone mode (which is significantly faster than any Windows' slide show) it would be nice to have this intermediate format. It would also be nice to be able to easily go to any page in the presentation while in the stand-alone mode. It is possible to jump to any page but only after entering a textual screen. The ability to type in a page number followed by RETURN to go to that page would be greatly appreciated. Another needed feature is the ability to install only part of the program. A person who does not need the tutorial or all of the Smartmaster sets and who only has a limited amount of disk space, has the unpleasant requirement of clearing 16 meg of space anyway.

These complaints are minor. Overall the program is a magnificent work for which Lotus should be commended. In the quality of output at the most basic level, its breadth of capabilities and, most important, its ease of use, this program is a must for anyone needing to make a presentation.

Neal 

## ON COMPLEXITY

— No. 63 in a Series —



# "Multi-tasking"

by Jim Hoisington

Dr. Neil Bennet and I were having a discussion last week about the need for a better operating systems on our PC's. I was telling him how I really liked the OS/2 2.0 desktop and he responded with, "Jim, I don't need to multi-task!"

"But you will.", I answered.

Do you need to multi-task?

Well, if multi-tasking means that you need to be actively involved with two programs at once, I doubt that there are many of us who could handle that for any length of time. The human brain just isn't made to handle that level of complexity.

However, if multi-tasking means that you have several programs open on your desktop, some working on pre-assigned tasks that require little or no supervision, and others just sitting there in standby mode, then I think that most of us already handle those kind of situations in our daily work.

For example, I rarely stand at the fax machine once I see that the connection has been made and the first sheet is feeding properly. That's usually a good time to refill the coffee cup or file away some diskettes or something.

In addition, I usually end up with two or three things "open" on the desktop that supports my computer. I keep projects organized with file folders. If I'm waiting for someone to return a call about something, the file folder ends up somewhere on the desktop to either side of the computer. It's right there under the mouse pad when the phone rings.

Since I've been using the OS/2 desktop metaphor, I find that I've started keeping several documents open with notes on the projects which are awaiting return calls. That way they are immediately available when the call comes in. (I don't have to move my mouse and pad — just the mouse.)

Now I have to admit that there are some days that the computer doesn't get turned on, and I fall back to relying on those slips of paper in my file folders. But with price of laptops coming down and the availability of operating systems like OS/2 that make it easy to have more than one application available at one time, I'll bet we will all be doing more "multi-tasking" in the future.

Jim 



# The Adventures of PC TECH

by Ben Thar

Chapter 12

Mary Margaret learned that NIC stood for Network Interface Card and these were the cards that went inside the computer and allowed it to communicate across the network. All of the NIC's in a network had to be the same topology, but they did not have to be the same brand. As she walked to class that night, she was reading over her notes and in a panic, she could not remember what a topology was. Thankfully, the question did not come up during her talk about NIC's. The instructor brought several examples of NIC's to class and passed them around. She thought, "I like this guy."

When Mary returned home there was a message on her answering machine from her brother, "Hey Sis, since you are such a great PC Tech (she knew he wanted something), I want to buy one of those Magical Learn To Play Piano Keyboards for my daughter and hook it up to my computer. Can you help me?" She returned the call and asked her brother to get all of the hardware requirements for the Magic Keyboard and send them to her. She remembered that he had a two floppy drive XT clone, so she would figure out what he needed and go visit one weekend and install it.

The Keyboard requirements arrived in the mail the next week and stated: 640K RAM; Floppy drive; Hard disk drive with 1.5MB free; Mono graphics, CGA, EGA, VGA video. "That's easy," she thought, "I'll just pick up a hard drive at the next flea market sale in town and we'll be all set." Mary haggled with the drive dealer at the end of the day and bought a rebuilt 20MB hard drive and controller card for \$100. She also picked up an old copy of DOS version 3.21 for \$5 from the couple at the adjoining table. She at-

tached the hard drive to her p.c. at home and made sure that it ran. The vendor told her that he did a low level format of the drive so she would not have to. After booting off the floppy drive, she ran the FDISK program to set up the disk partitions. She selected one 20 megabyte partition. Next she ran the DOS FORMAT command to put the DOS formatting on the hard drive. Remembering the time that she formatted a hard disk without putting the system files on the drive so it was bootable, MM put the /S parameter after the FORMAT C: command. She cringed involuntarily because formatting C: was the one thing that she read repeatedly never to do (except to a new drive.)

The trip to her brother's house was pleasant, and she started immediately to attach the hard drive. All parts were connected and they booted the p.c. It beeped and said "K-B error." "Oh," Mary said, "I forgot to plug in the keyboard." She checked and it was plugged in. Several rebooting and reinsertions of the connector later, she concluded that the keyboard must be defective. "I'll have to take the machine home with me and hook up my keyboard. If yours is bad, I think I can find a replacement real cheap."

Mary's brother, said to take the Keyboard and software and he would come up next weekend and pick it all up. The keyboard from Mary's computer responded with the same error. "That is strange," she mused.

Monday, PC Tech brought the p.c. to the office to let her new assistant Steve look at it. Steve didn't see anything wrong and suggested pulling the motherboard out for a closer look. On her lunch hour Mary started pulling the wire connectors off the motherboard, being careful to draw a diagram of which

colors were attached in which order. When she took the hard drive out, she noticed a blue and white wire connector that was loose under the hard drive. [LIGHT BULB FLASHES ON] She reconnected everything and did not get the K-B Error. Then she disconnected the blue and white wire and she did get the message. She traced the wires to the keyboard lock and concluded that she must have disconnected it when she was adding the hard drive. ►



That night she started to install the Magical Keyboard software. Another obstacle arrived in that the disks were High Density 5-1/4" and Low Density 3-1/2". Her brother Larry's system only had low density 5-1/4" drives. "Well, I'll just install the software on my computer and copy the files to my brother's." Everything went smoothly on the installation and the keyboard attached to the serial port on her p.c. and played music beautifully. On a whim, Mary looked at the back of Larry's CPU and groaned when she did not see a serial port. "I thought those things were standard equipment on all computers." "Well, I'll get one tomorrow." She went ahead and copied the software over to the other computer and went to bed, it was midnight.

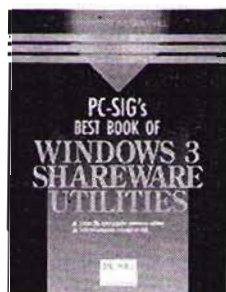
The next day Mary Margaret went out on her lunch hour and found a serial card for \$11 and it came with the 9-to-25 pin adapter that she knew she needed as well. At home, the process went smoothly; she set the serial card up as COM1 (the default was COM2); she backed up the software from her p.c. and restored it to Larry's p.c.; she hooked up the keyboard; and finally, she went to the software to reconfigure it for monochrome. It would not reconfigure. She tried it several times. "I am not going to let this get the best of me." MM took the monochrome monitor

adapter and monitor and attached it to her p.c. The system message told her MONITOR TYPE NOT SET CORRECTLY. RUN CMOS SETUP. PRESS F1 TO CONTINUE. With setup taken care of the system rebooted and prompted MONITOR SWITCH NOT SET CORRECTLY ON SYSTEM BOARD. After looking all over, Mary found the COLOR/MONO switch and changed it. Now all that was left for tomorrow, before her brother came to town, was to delete the old software, reinstall it for monochrome, back it up, move the monitor and adapter to the other p.c., restore the software, test the program, and put her computer back together. When Larry arrived everything was up and running. They played with the keyboard for a couple of hours and then the message came on the screen ERROR READING FROM DRIVE C: Mary Margaret screamed to herself and told her brother not to worry, the FIX-IT disk software would cure this problem. Mary told her brother to send in the software registration card. Another card fell out of the manual that stated MAGICAL CORP. WILL GLADLY SEND YOU LOW DENSITY 5-1/4" DISKETTES FOR FREE IF YOU NEED THEM (another lesson learned). As she helped her brother load the system into his car the next morning he said, "I hope this wasn't a lot of trouble." "No sweat," she replied.

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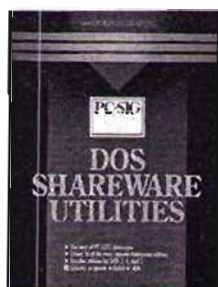
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UG52

# CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

## Lotus Discusses Working Together Strategy

At the beginning of March I attended a technology briefing at Lotus Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I also spent some extra time talking with other contacts at Lotus about the future and presented another wish list for future versions of 1-2-3 (the list was compiled at the Spreadsheet SIG meetings). The list was well received with the comment that we must be patient and within the next year, many of the things we are looking for, such as better file linking in 2.x versions, will be coming to market. The rest of this article will be a review of many of the new technologies that were shown at the demonstrations.

In the morning, we attended presentations by Jim Manzi (President and CEO), Bob Weiler (Sr. VP North American Business Group), Bob Schechter (Sr. VP International Business Group), and John Landry (Sr. VP for Software Development and Chief Technology Officer). They all followed along on the general theme of Working Together Technology and what their departments are doing to help the company along this trail. We were informed that standalone computing is fading to slower growth and networking is the new frontier of growth. New programs for existing users rather than many more new users is the market of the future. The 1990s have changed the outlook of the market from that of individual computing as was the main market in the 1980s. "Coordination of the professional workforce is the backbone of organizational productivity", according to Jim Manzi's presentation. He went on to state that expertise sharing will become more important with the use of work group computing. Working together is about integration of applications, platforms and the people. This is based on a communications infrastructure of mail-enabled applications and group-enabled applications as demonstrated by Jim Manzi. Lotus is working hard to be at the forefront on the industry in these types of applications. Notes is a great example of where they are going. We saw lots of uses of Notes and how Lotus is working to make all their new Windows

products mail-enabled so they can use Notes and CC-Mail from within the other products. Lotus has not lost sight of the fact that the notebook computer market is growing rapidly and plans to lead in software for the mobile computing arena. Connectivity is one of their favorite words! Notes will be part of this strategy in that it will run on everything, all desktops and networks. It was created to be a flexible development environment.

Bob Weiler informed us that the market at present is segmented with about 50% being mid-sized and small companies and individuals. The other 50% is divided into major regional companies with 500-3999 employees and large corporations with greater than 4000 employees. With the top 50% there is a smaller subgroup of technology leaders who are the ones really driving the market. Before too long, according to market research, 80% of all PCs will be connected to a network, which makes the mail all the more important.

John Landry, who joined Lotus just a few months ago, gave a presentation that made it very evident he will be a good leader at Lotus. He has gained tremendous insight into all aspects of the new technology strategies for the company and was able to handle any and all questions from the audience, which is impressive for a relatively new employee. He told us about the importance of products in a graphical world which should be similar in appearance and behavior and use shared objects and methods. An example of the shared objects was given by a demonstration of using Ami Pro to do some drawing within a frame. We were told, that at present, Lotus has 7 different drawing and charting engines in their products. A goal will be one engine which will work in any of the products. This will make working together between the different products extremely easy. Landry's term for this is, "radical simplicity and UI design". He stated that Lotus is achieving this through the use of the following: customizable SmartIcons, common help and install, Smart Status Bars, SmartMasters, Context Sensitive Menus, Multimedia Help, InfoBoxes and Property Sheets. In the future we will be seeing ease of process, video annotated notes and error correction and prevention. Lotus has Technology for Object Oriented Linking and Sharing which includes, drawing, charting, editing, annotation, mail enabling and scripting, according to John Landry. One future technology we will see is a pager interface with Notes which already has been used at a conference. Landry's term for portable computing was occasionally connected model, which shows that Lotus has not lost sight of the importance of notebook computers being able to be connected into the office, etc. He even discussed a scenario of a person on the road with his portable computer connecting into the office computer and allowing Notes to synchronize the 2



databases back and forth so the person gets the portable computer Notes database updated from the office and the portable sends any new Notes database information to the office computer. This was called intentionally duplicating information to allow the exchange or replication of the information. Landry discussed this at some length, because Lotus sees this market as one which needs attention. Next he discussed the violently multi-platform environment which includes records vs rich compound objects (which are object that include all the formatting, colors and other features as well as the basic information), mixed environments of computer types, Lans and Wans, etc. Notes will be able to serve all of these environments in the future, while now serving, DOS/Windows, OS/2 PM, and the Mac.

The afternoon session was full of demonstrations of future products and technology, which were very exciting to see. Lotus has many new products ready to appear on the market within the next 12-15 months. They plan to extend their market leadership by delivering innovation and useful technology on all major desktop platforms, according to Jeffrey Beir who talked about Lotus' Spreadsheet Mission. Engineered excellence was another favorite term used by the speakers to describe the direction of the new products, especially 1-2-3 1.1 for Windows (should be shipping by the time you read this). This new upgrade, which will be free to all registered 1-2-3 for Windows users, features greatly improved loading, printing, repainting and recalculation times. Even the installation time is faster, about 5 minutes vs 20 with the old version. The loading time is down to about 6.5 seconds vs 30 seconds in the old version. Scrolling is much faster and there is a new turbo scroll function which works by pressing the mouse button while in the bottom bar of the window. If you have the mouse on the top part of that bar, the cursor will scroll a row at a time, but if you move the mouse down lower on the bar, the scrolling will be quicker and move more rows at a time. The new improvements are worth it, but should have been a part of the first version.

We were next shown some of the new features of version 2.0 of 1-2-3 for Windows (code name Darwin). Once again we heard about radical simplicity, direct manipulation and "hot spots", simplified menus, in-context editing, shared Lotus features, common UI elements and common code. This version has eliminated some of the status lines and added a status bar at the bottom, like the one in Ami Pro. This made a much cleaner looking screen and the status bar is extremely useful. There is a new icon called replicated fill, which fills a range with a formula of the user's choice. 2.0 allows a chart to be created onscreen by painting a range, etc., which can then be edited in place while the chart area is selected. This is a great improvement over the

present version where you must go to a separate window to do the editing and chart creation. Another Lotus product, Smart Pics, was demonstrated by using an icon to invoke it, choose a picture, and paste it onto the spreadsheet. This demonstrated how easy it will be to work with a common environment between the products. Another new feature of 1-2-3/W 2.0 will be the ability to click on the top of a column or side of a row to select and move it. This worked quickly and easily, which is much easier than going through a selection and menu process. A range name can be created by typing the name into the box at the top left-hand side of the screen where the cell locations are now located. By substituting the name for the cell locations, you create the range name quickly and easily. Database operations have been enhanced by the use of dialog boxes for querying the database using prompts that show what the database has for fields. While in Data mode, a new Query menu option appears on the menu. There is also a filter dialog box for the query. This should make using the database and Datalens features of 1-2-3 much easier for the average spreadsheet user.

We were also shown 1-2-3 for the Mac which looked great with the multi-media presentation. There was a

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video and audio show in a window right on the spreadsheet showing Neil Armstrong landing on the moon! We were also shown a quick presentation on 1-2-3 2.4 for DOS, which will include SmartIcons, Viewer, and Backsolver Add-Ins.

When there was a discussion on the multimedia technology, Jim Manzi announced that an outside company (Media Vision 510-770- 8600) is planning to introduce some new hardware which will be plugged into the parallel printer port as a pass through device to be used for voice annotation. It will act both as a speaker and a microphone and the cost will be less than the cost of a mouse. It sounds like an interesting alternative to putting another board in the computer. The new product should be shipping in May or June if all goes as planned. I was pleased to find out that it will not take up a DMA channel. I have had to take out my SoundBlaster board because too many boards were trying to use the same DMA channel, so this was good news to me.

At the beginning of the presentations we were informed that there would be 3 new versions of 1-2-3 for Windows in the next year. The first will be the 1.1 upgrade, the next the 2.0 as described earlier and the third is code named Chronicle. This version will be the foundation of work group technology. It will be able to track who did what, when and why and will allow work concurrently on the spreadsheet. Lotus plans to be the first company to produce a spreadsheet which allows this. One of the work group features demonstrated was the dialog boxes for Range Alternative Create and for Range Alternative Show. These can work off the Notes server to allow interactivity between users. In fact, the demonstration showed how one user was notified of the changes made, via a Notes message, in the spreadsheet through use of the Range Alternative Create dialog box by another user. Range Alternative dialog boxes allow the user to create a range on the spreadsheet where different alternative numbers can be placed. The dialog box keeps track of the different changes so by using the Range Alternative Show dialog box, the user can do a what-if scenario trying all the different alternative sets of numbers in the range to see the effect on the rest of the spreadsheet. Although this is meant as a work group feature, it will work on single user setups and could prove quite useful for individual users, too.

Improv, which is now selling well for the Next Computer Systems, will be available in a Windows version. It will be a spreadsheet for users who need to view and analyze data in many different ways. It will include the SmartIcons and Smart Status Bar in keeping with the philosophy of similar work environments. Improv has no row numbers or column letters for identification, it uses the user input titles as the identification for creating English language formulas. The user can easily pick up information with

the mouse and move it around for different views. All the related rows of information will move accordingly. Other features will be charting, drawing, scripting, mail-enabled and a guided tour.

Freelace Graphics for Windows will be added to the multimedia group with the addition of animation. The user will be able to add animated objects to the screens. The demo showed a ship sailing across the screen, which should get the attention of any group at a meeting.

We were shown the newest multimedia product, which should be shipping by the time you read this column. It is 1-2-3 1.1 for Windows with Multimedia Smart Help on a CD ROM. This CD has an animated magician who will talk to you and show you how to use 1- 2-3 and do many different procedures. There is a 40 minute "Guided Tour" or you can choose to use the index to find the help you need by using the "Show Me" movies which last about two minutes each. While using the help, users will be able to switch back to their work, try out the new procedure and switch back to where they left off in help. The CD also includes all the documentation on 1-2-3/W, which can be read on screen. Users will be able to link back and forth between help and books as well as print pages, topics, chapters or the entire manual. I would think this CD ROM will prove to be very useful in most Information Centers and Educational Institutions where new users need help. Lotus has announced a CD/Networker network server software which will enable network access of the CD drive by up to 8 computers at once. This means that all the multimedia datatypes can be accessed, although initially, it may be limited to learning and annotation capabilities. Eventually all media types will be delivered.

Notebook, which is at the design partner stage, was also demonstrated. It is a database front end, which can link to something like 37 different types of databases. The linking will be through the datalens technology and have a graphical user interface. It will also be able to interface with Notes information. Notebook will be flexible enough to display the same information in different formats, use a scripting language, and includes a toolbox to help build your own database. It will also have a QBE model. This could be a blockbuster product where it is introduced.

Last, but not least, we were shown Video Notes, which is intended to integrate into the Notes environment. Just imagine, going into your Notes database and finding a note which is actually a video with sound of the person leaving the message. This product may be in beta by the end of the year, but the voice annotation part will be available earlier than the video.

All the latest technology shown in this meeting makes the future of computing look very exciting. I

## PC-FILE 6.0

A review by Gerry Heine

PC-FILE has probably been one of the most widely known shareware flatfile databases in the past. It's author helped pioneer the shareware concept. Version 6.0 of the popular database is the first completely retail (read no shareware version) release of this product. It sports fancier printed manuals and shrinkwrap packaging on the retail shelves.

PC-FILE 6.0 features a graphical user interface in both graphics and character modes. A mouse is not absolutely required but definitely makes choosing options easier. The product will run under Windows 3.0 in a dos window but is not a window's product. It has all the GUI features such as pull-down menus, dialog boxes, scroll bars, check boxes, and radio buttons.

Some other new features in 6.0 are listed below:

- You can define reports, databases, indexes, perform queries, and most other database functions by merely pointing and clicking with the mouse.
- You can now use file find assistance to locate databases, reports, letters, and other files on any drive.
- You can now define edit masks, default data, and calculations when defining your database.
- Paint design is easier since you pick the field type and length from a menu and format the screen by placing characters to represent the data. However, you must now use spaces to position the cursor horizontally on the screen instead of simply pointing with the mouse as in most other applications.

- Database definition is now easier (read you don't have to clone the database any more). - You can now modify and delete data in the table view mode and modify is now the default mode.
- Improved printer support and macro file support.

PC-FILE 6.0 has a teach mode which helps you learn the commands if you are new to the program. It also includes a label program and a letter merge function which lets you merge information from your database into a form letter.

PC-FILE 6.0 is a very nice flatfile database program as previous releases of PC-FILE have been; however, the graphical user interface definitely slows the program down as most GUI interfaces do. As a long time PC-FILE user, I found the new interface very slow, even in character mode, compared to version 5.0. There are some problems in the paint report and paint database entry screens such as the fact that you have to use the space bar to move the cursor horizontally for positioning characters or fields instead of just pointing and clicking on a position. The pick lists to define data type and field names are very nice.

All things considered, PC-FILE 6.0 is still a very nice program. I am sure Version 6.5 (just received the upgrade notice yesterday) will cure some of the speed problems. I am sorry to see that Jim Button and Buttonware has left the Shareware Arena with PC-FILE after it has served him so well in the past.

Gerry

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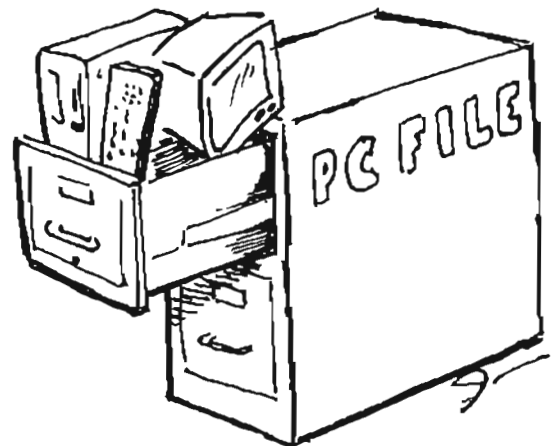
### Cells & Ranges continued

also had a chance to talk to the person in charge of the new Usability Lab being built at Lotus. It was an interesting conversation and I plan to tell you more about the lab and how it will be used in next month's article.

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.*





# Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

## Assembler SIG

In deference to the Intel presentation we decided to switch our April meeting location to the auditorium, rather than fight the competition. The presentation originally scheduled for April (UCR Standard Library for the 80x86) will be re-scheduled for May. Our tentative June presentation will involve the best algorithm for binary to (hex) ASCII conversion. Members are encouraged to bring along their best (from whatever source) for comparison. As usual, check the BBS for any last minute changes prior to the meeting.

Frank D. Cavallito

## Communications SIG

We again go to press prior to the April Super Saturday, so we again state what we THINK will happen on April 18. For instance, I THINK someone will donate \$1 million to Make Doug Happy!?! (Of course, I COULD be wrong...) If things go as planned, Dallas FAX will have discussed FAX boards and modems. Things have changed a lot since their last visit a year ago. V.32bis is now an official modem standard, and the cost of 9600 bps modem has come WAY DOWN. Also, where FAX modems used to be "2400/9600" (2400 bps modem/9600 bps fax), 9600/9600 is becoming much more prevalent.

Also in April, we began a "temporary" BBS SIG, centering on the TBBS software recently installed on the NTPCUG BBS. Although at 2 PM in April, the ongoing BBS SIG will meet immediately after the Communications SIG, in the same room. For those with questions about TBBS, meet us at 1 PM. If we run out of questions about our own BBS, we have some thoughts on other boards in the area.

In May, we meet on Memorial Day weekend. We have been contacted by the Startext folks (Ft. Worth Star Telegram), wanting us to help them celebrate their 10 year anniversary. Details are not worked out at this time, so we'll likely revert back to general Q & A if Startext doesn't make it.

We appreciate all the positive comments we've received on the new TBBS board. Both Tom Prickett and Fred Williams deserve a pat on the back for making this long term project a reality; it has been a significant undertaking, impossible without their dedication. When you see Tom and Fred, tell them "Thanks!!".

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

Doug Gorrie

## DOS SIG

May's DOS SIG Meeting should be a lot of fun. We expect to hear a lot from happy (and otherwise) new users of OS/2 2.0 and Windows 3.1. Both will have been on the streets for more than a month by the May DOS SIG Meeting and should provide for a lot of comment.

Brings up another question -- should the DOS SIG be renamed the Operating System (OS) SIG? Good reason to consider such change is difficulty separating Windows XX from underlying DOS and issues surrounding OS/2 XX as a DOS replacement. Don't forget the growing divergence between DR-DOS, MS-DOS and PC-DOS (IBM).

We've become accustomed to almost-standard software that would pretty much run under any of the current candidates. As the OS technology behind MS-DOS, DR-DOS and OS/2

matures and differentiates as result of respective corporate strategies, that "almost-standard" may vanish.

Jim Hoisington and Reagan Andrews will look at these issues in the May Meeting, each from a different point of view. Jim likes OS/2 2.0 and the power it offers, while Reagan is somewhat skeptical and is waiting for Windows NT before making his decision. Come to the DOS SIG and hear why.

As usual, we'll probably become hopelessly sidetracked by real questions from members at the May SIG Meeting, and finish the session in our typical Q & A free-for-all.

Reagan Andrews

## General Genealogy SIG

Approximately 60 people attended the March meeting in room 7001. This SIG has both a disk and a hard copy library. The disk library is going to be combined with the disk libraries of the PAF, Roots III, and Family Roots group. This is to eliminate overlaps and have a sort of central control.

The March program was on document control of your computer genealogy and was brought by Al Sanford. The three "H's" of computer genealogy are (1) How to make notes (2) How to cite sources, and (3) How to apply document control. Several genealogy software programs have a form (mostly database) to achieve this file control. PAF has the Research Data Filer (RDF) and Roots III has a database program called SESAME, for instance. And some companies, like L & H Enterprises in Sacramento, CA, have put out software programs to manage genealogy correspondence, tidbits, mailing list, etc. Therefore, the need for such document control has been recognized. Documentation using the RDF was the main thrust of the program. This was because RDF was the database for genealogy that the presenter was most used to. But it should be emphasized that other databases or spreadsheet-type of document control will work just as well.

What is need for document control of computer genealogy? Primarily, it is used to keep track of genealogy data, especially correspondence, which can get temporarily lost, misfiled, misplaced, etc. as the genealogy data collected becomes larger. Haven't you spent an hour looking for one piece



of correspondence someone asked you about and you weren't sure where you filed it? Using a form of document control allows you to physically file a piece of paper in one single place, while electronically filing (referencing) it in several others. The best example of this is a correspondence from one person that has information on several of your genealogy families. The paper can be filed in only one place but the database can reference all families involved. Another reason for document control is to keep from having to retype information in your notes file. For instance, the paper just mentioned is given one document control number; the notes section of each individual involved in this document can be referenced to this control number only, instead of having to put this same data on each individual file.

The 18 April program covered FAMILY EDGE software.

Al Sanford

## PAF SIG

Approximately 45 were present for the Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG 7 Mar. The PAF SIG meets in Room 7001 from 10 to 11 a.m. PAF is a \$35 software genealogy program good for beginners or experts with versions available for IBM compatible or Macintosh computers. SIG President Travis Morris presided for the first time since surgery on his back.

Travis Morris and Al Sanford lead the program which showed how to GEDCOM PAF data into Brother's Keeper (BK) and print out a report (book form) of the data. This was based on the article that appeared under PAF SIG in the February 1992 DalTRUG Newsletter which gives a step-by-step procedure.

GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communication) is a software program conceived by the makers of PAF and now adopted by all major genealogical software manufacturers. GEDCOM allows the genealogy data base to be stored in a specific ASCII form that makes it transportable between

compatible software programs. It can then be used to move data from one software program to another in the same computer, can be put on disk and mailed, to be used on a computer in a different locality, or can be sent over modem to another user with compatible genealogical software.

A lot of PAF users also have the BK program because they like to enter and massage their data and notes in PAF, but take advantage of the printout capabilities of BK. In particular, BK allows a graphic printout of descendency charts, box charts, and probably most important, a report form printout which outputs the genealogy data in book form complete with an index. The program (following the step-by-step procedure of February DALTRUG article) demonstrated how to:

1. Make a GEDCOM file of desired PAF data.
2. Import this GEDCOM file into BK in its report format. (BK report format makes sentences out of the data that had been entered into PAF as names, dates, and places, and also includes the text notes from PAF.)
3. Use your favorite word processor to rework this file.
4. Print out this file in book form, including an index of all individual's names in alphabetical order and the page or pages where each name appears.

The program for 18 April will be on how to merge data from several family databases.

Al Sanford

## OS/2 for End Users SIG

It's finally here, the OS/2 release we've all been anxiously waiting for ...

OS/2 2.0!

For the next few meetings, we'll be discussing the features and functions of OS/2 2.0. We'll be covering how to run Windows applications, DOS applications, and of course OS/2 applications concurrently.

Much of our time will be spent discussing the new Workplace Shell and its advanced object oriented user interface. Whenever possible, we'll have live demos to reinforce what's being said.

DOS and Windows users are always welcome, as well as die-hard OS/2 users.

Hope to see you soon at 12:00 noon.

Bob Fermier

## 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 May 1992 will be:

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

Bob Presley

## Advanced Programmer's SIG

Dr. Neil Bennett, past PRO SIG leader, put in a guest appearance to tell us about his latest project. Neil is working converting a system from the C language to the English language. Since Neil is from Australia, we all wondered how compatible his English language program would be with US computers.

Next month we'll trace the origins of ancient languages by examining user manuals.

Jim Hoisington

## Quicken SIG

Richard C. from Intuit was kind enough to call and said he'd be delighted to visit NTPCUG sometime. In the meantime, he said he would pass on any questions you have to the appropriate persons in the company if we forward him a list. How much more can you ask? So keep in mind what areas of the Quicken program that you would like addressed in a general presentation, such as the Windows version, personal, business or investment uses, transfer capabilities (TurboTax), upgrades, etc. Also, write down any specific questions you would like answered and we will forward them.

As you may have noticed, Intuit is aware of those who need small business accounting. Can you believe IN-VOICES? Do you agree or disagree with the move in this direction, considering already established accounting programs?

The end of tax season is finally here and although I didn't have the nerve to transfer data out of Quicken to TurboTax, I did experience a wonderfully soothing closing out of transac-

tion accounts. Does this extension of the tax summary into actively transferring data to a tax program really work?

Billy Pitts will be pursuing these topics as we go into an orderly perusal of setting up and running Quicken. There will be the usual Question & Answer period.

Jo Johnston

## Spreadsheet Developers SIG

The Spreadsheet Developers SIG meets at 11 am 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

## Spreadsheet Users SIG

Hopefully, everyone came to the April meeting and saw Lotus Freelance Graphics for Windows at the 10:00 presentation in the Auditorium. This is a really nice product. The Lotus SIG in April continued the presentation somewhat by answering some additional questions concerning the product. Also demonstrated was the ease of linking 1-2-3 for Windows spreadsheets to Freelance Graphics for Windows. This type of capability is Lotus' concept of "Working Together" which also includes Ami Pro, cc: Mail, Notes and others. Also presented in the SIG was a new product from Lotus called SmartText. Well at least that is supposed to be the agenda for the meeting. Since the deadline for this issue was before the April meeting, anything is possible.

The May meeting will be the "long-awaited often delayed" presentation on Solver and Backsolver add-ins for 1-2-3 for Windows and 1-2-3 version 3.1+. As you may recall, this was originally supposed to be covered in January, but Mark was unexpectedly called out of town; February was out

since a Developer from Cambridge came out; March was out since Borland was here; and April saw the return of Lotus with Freelance et al. Hopefully, anyone interested in the Solver and Backsolver are still interested in the two add-ins and will come one by one in May to see what these two products are all about.

The Spreadsheet SIG always takes time to answer questions that people are having with spreadsheet program. So if you have one, come on by.

Mark Gruner

## Unix SIG

In March, we finished covering the VI editor, although I didn't have time to get into regular expressions as I had planned. Oh well, that gives us another topic to do in the future. Now if we can just talk Jim into giving a talk on Emacs someday.

At the May meeting, Pat Hykonen is going to give a presentation on TCP/IP. TCP/IP is a set of protocols for internetworking developed by the Department of Defense. Applications use the protocols to communicate with other applications running on remote machines that connect to the internet. See you in May.

Doug Scott

## Word SIG

TrueType or Adobe for Word? The May Word SIG Meeting will address some of the issues raised by Microsoft's inclusion of TrueType in Windows 3.1, and what this may mean for Word users.

A major question will be ability to use TrueType fonts with DOS Word versions. Don't know what Microsoft has planned to bridge between Windows and DOS products for their new type technology. One major benefit of Adobe's ATM Type 1 fonts is usability as downloaded fonts for DOS versions of Word, Ventura and other products to assure universal appearance across applications.

WordBasic and MACRO implementations will consume the remainder of the May Word SIG Meeting. We'll pick up where we left off in April and continue our explorations of WordBasic fundamentals. We'll try to keep DOS Word 5.X and Word for





Windows on an even basis during these discussions/tutorials.

May's Word SIG Meeting will end in a Q & A interchange for members to seek answers to problems with their favorite word processor(s).

Reagan Andrews

## WordPerfect SIG

### WordPerfect DOS Tip of the Month!

Pressing (ALT)(F6) is a flush right. Text typed after the [FishRgt] command will be positioned on the right margin, even if it changes because of line format changes. Using (Shift)(F6) is a center command. Although your monitor may not look like text is centered, it will indeed be centered between the left and right margin when you view or print. If the left and right margin are not the same (both at 1" for example), the centering command will be affected and look off-center. To get a dot leader all the way to the margin, press Flush Right twice. Great for Table of Contents page numbers or a way to draw the eye across the page. The same goes for Center. Using (Shift)(F6) twice will create a dot leader to the center. After you type the text you want centered, finish it off with a flush right twice. Both of these dot leader shortcuts can be used in the cell of a Table or in any sub document (header, footer, footnote, endnote, graphics box).

Now, on to business. If you can only come to a couple of WordPerfect Sig meetings a year, the June meeting should be first on your list. We'll have the long awaited Round Table event. 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 get to change subjects! we'll cover:

Basics on Tables: If you've never created one or just know the very basics, this session will fill in a lot of gaps for you.

Advanced Tables: Creating forms, math, spreadsheet import, and some tricks!

Merge: Creating a secondary file, merging with a letter, envelopes, labels and making a report of everyone who got the letter. Also More will concentrate on alphabetizing the list.

Basics on Macros: The commonly asked question "What is a macro?" will be answered. You'll learn how to create and revise your own macros.

Macro Language: If you've created simple macros but think you need more "oommmph", this is a good starting point. You'll learn about the macro editor, some of the most basic macro language commands. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to be in the group, but you do have to be comfortable with creating and executing simple keyboard capture macros. Printing, Fonts and Memory Issues: Yes, this is a boring subject sometimes, but a necessity if you get the message

### "Not Enough Memory"

or have problems working with soft fonts.

Potpourri Columns, Index, Table of Contents, Outline: This is a mix of commonly used features that inherently offer a lot of opportunities for "operator error". The basic on how to's will be covered as well as some common mistakes to avoid.

Graphics: Did you know that you have 35 clip art pictures that came with WordPerfect? Do you have problems positioning graphics where you want them? Are there times when you want a graphics box to span two or more columns in a newsletter? Then this is the session that will answer those questions.

Our regular meetings offer Q&A time, but we won't be able to have a formal time for that in the June meeting. Each Subject Leader has offered to help out with individual questions/problems after the second hour. We may be in the hallway by that time, but we'll be available. See you there!

Lori Quinn

□



I bought the latest computer—it came completely loaded.  
It was guaranteed for ninety days, but in thirty was outmoded.

From PC Alameda (San Antonio), April issue  
CHIP AHOY Bill Hlensfeldt (Reprinted from the  
Saint Louis Users Group for the IBM PC newsletter,  
December, 1987.

# Writing to Your HP LaserJet From Lotus

by Roger Nilsson

From Alaska Computer Society Newsletter, January 1992.

You can access those Nifty HP features from within Lotus 1-2-3 by entering "printer strings." Some of the most useful 1-2-3 printer strings for controlling the output of a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet are listed here.

To use the codes, we select /, Print, Print Options, Setup; then we type the string of choice and hit <enter>. The strings can also be embedded in a spreadsheet to change printer signals mid-stream. Move to the cell in the upper-left corner of the range you want to deal with, and type two vertical bars (| |) followed by the listed string.

The # sign indicates a number position, as in the number of copies; the command for 12 copies in \027&1###x would be typed as \027&112x.

## Paper Control

# of copies	\027&1###x
Eject page	\027&10H
Feed from Tray	\027&11H
Manual feed	\027&12H

## Typeface

Line printer	\027&(s0T
Pica	\027&(s1T
Elite	\027&(s2T
Courier	\027&(s3T
Helvetica	\027&(s4T
Times Roman	\027&(s5T

## Line Spacing

3 lines - inch	\027&13D
4 lines - inch	\027&14D
6 lines - inch	\027&16D
8 lines - inch	\027&18D



## Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Check Preferred No.) Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Metro? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (Ext) \_\_\_\_\_ Metro? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Occupation/Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one from each column below		
Payment:	Membership Classification:	Application Status:
Cash _____	Regular (\$24.00) _____	New Member _____
Check _____	Student (\$16.00) _____	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

A little history here. Our Group was founded and had its first meetings in the early 80's at SMU. Needing more space, we moved to Jesuit, then a Holiday Inn for a short while, and finally on to Infomart.

Before Infomart, we didn't really have any sort of central booth for our members to transact business, or use as a focal point for meeting or information as we do now. (In those early days at Infomart, we even tried to pack up the "Information Booth" and shut it down so that our booth volunteers could go to the presentations in the auditorium.)

That would be impossible now as we have grown from several hundred back then to over 1,600 now. Our members come from all over the metroplex as well as from as far away as Sugarland and Point NASA in the Houston area to Shreveport, Louisiana, Oklahoma, etc.

Some of our commuting members even give of their time as volunteers. (David Huckabee, Louisiana, and Dr. Theresa Kelly, Point NASA, thank you). Some of them have moved away and haven't forgotten us (Dan Marmion, Oklahoma, thank you).

To all our volunteers, past and present - thanks for all you've done for us. To those in the future - thanks for all you will be doing. We have needed and do need you all...

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

**INFOMART Liaison**  
Stuart Yarus

**Vendor Setup/Breakdown**  
Anchor:  
David Slavik  
Crew:  
Michael Griffin  
Tim Hutchison  
Whit Johnstone  
Ethel Saltz

**Auditorium Presentations**  
Timothy Carmichael  
Chris Jung  
Christopher Carmichael

**BBS Champions**  
Lewis Graber  
Adam Peterson

**Information/Registration Booth**  
Statistician:  
Connie Testa

**Scheduler:**  
Connie Andrews

**anchors:**  
Conley Andrews  
Harvey Andrews  
Diane Arnold  
John Arnold  
Mike Ashley  
Ralph Beaver  
John Ferguson  
Rick Griffith  
Judy Griffiths  
Allan Harbaugh  
Hank Holt  
David Huckabee  
Edward Kelg  
David Martin  
Wade Mayfield  
Claude McClure  
Jean Waldrep  
Paul Williams

**Booth Crew:**  
Douglas Athas  
C. J. Bain  
Sam Beck

PLEASE remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

Norman Dang  
Dennis King  
Richard Kellerhouse  
Pat Sims  
David Temple  
M. D. Williamson  
J. P. Yarnall  
Floater:  
Pehl. Lee

**Disk of the Month (DOM)**  
**DOM Desk Crew:**  
Mike Ashley  
Ralph Beaver  
Bob Bender  
Gene Carleton  
Jay Chambliss  
Bill Chambliss  
Don Chick  
Shawn Dunn  
Vincent Gaines  
Thomas Goodwin  
Judy Griffiths  
Pat Henley (3 hours)  
L. John Hopkins  
Jo Johnston (2 hours)  
Duane Martin  
John Myers  
John Omdahl  
Bob Post  
Stuart Potter, Jr.  
George Read  
Bob Reynolds  
Virginia Salter  
Shirley Z. Smith

Ed Snuggs  
Elaine Stephens  
Claude Walston  
Bob Wilgus

With Special Thanks to:

**Set-Up Crew:**  
Jay Chambliss  
Bill Chambliss  
Pat Henley  
David Huckabee  
Kathryn Loafman  
Ken Loafman  
Zach Loafman  
Jerry Stone

**Shift Supervisors:**  
Don Chick  
Pat Henley  
Nancy Ogden  
Virginia Salter  
Claude Walston

**Inventory and Take-Down Crew:**

Charles Carter  
Shawn Dunn  
Jo Johnston  
David Maxwell  
**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)283-9036 (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 661-4828 (w)

**DOM Booth Scheduler**  
Charles Cashion 881-0952 (h)  
519-2583 (w)

**DOM Software Review**  
Howard Hamilton 844-5721 (h)

**Information Booth and General Information**  
Connie Andrews 828-0699 (h)



From Input/Output  
 Newsletter of the Red River PC Club  
 Wichita Falls, Texas

LETTER FROM BACKWOODS MOM TO SON

Dear Son,

I'm writing this slow 'cause I know you can't read fast.

We don't live where we did when you left. Your dad read in the paper where most accidents happen within twenty miles of home, so we moved. This place has a washing machine. The first day I put your shirts in it, I pulled the chain and haven't seen them since.

It only rained twice this week -- three days the first time and four days the second time.

The coat you wanted me to send you, your Aunt Sue said it would be a little too heavy to send in the mail with them big heavy buttons, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

We got a bill from the funeral home -- said if we don't make the last payment on grandma's funeral bill, up she comes.

Your uncle John fell in the whiskey vat. Some men tried to pull him out but he fought them off playfully, so he drowned. We cremated him -- he burned for three days.

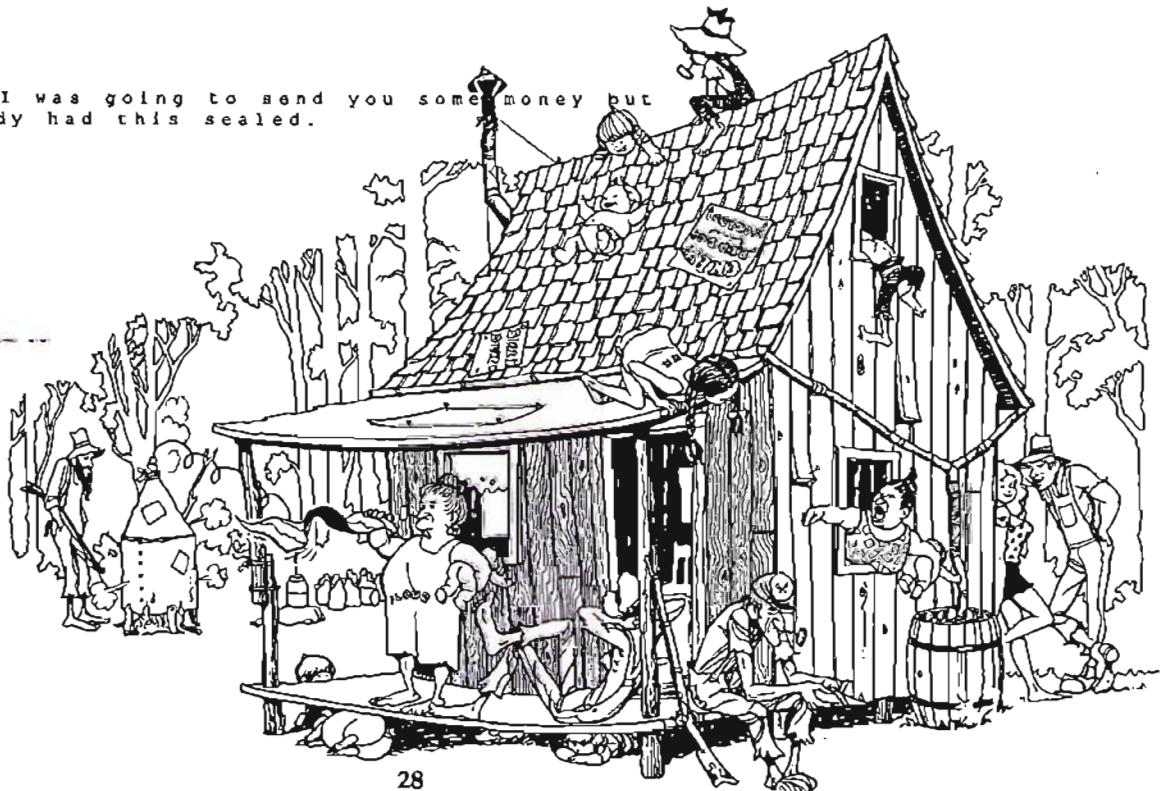
Three of your friends went off the bridge in a pickup -- one was driving, the other two were in the back. The driver got out -- he rolled down the window and swam to safety. The other two drowned -- they couldn't get the tailgate down.

Not much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened. Write more later.

Love,

Mom

PS: I was going to send you some money but already had this sealed.



# Meetings & Times



10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Desktop Publishing With Publish It!**  
Timeworks, Inc.

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**NTPCUG Business Meeting**  
There will be a drawing for free copies of several types of software.

## 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 - Gnlg.  
MS Works  
Roots III - Genealogy  
Spreadsheet Developers  
TI Pro General Mgt.  
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  
Alpha Four  
Beginners C Language  
Business Apps./DAC Easy  
LOTUS  
OS/2 Developers  
Personal Users  
WORD

**2:00 - 2:55**  
Advanced Programmers

## Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	K. B. Barton	(915)676-5959 (w)
	David Thrash	(214)816-4130
ACTI	Michael Hill	(214)423-7685
Alpha Four	Michael Moore	(214)288-1848
	Ron Jackson	(214)276-3661
Assembler	Frank Cavallo	(214)423-9221 h
Basic Programming	Kent Kingery	(214)317-0308 w
	Steve Dixon	(214)317-0125 h
		(214)271-2292 h
		(214)205-2216 w
		(214)775-1503
Beginners C Lang.	Stan Milam	(214)233-6353 w
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)343-3862 h
C++ / Advanced C	Keni Cobb	(214)341-1890 w
	Tom Cook	(214)818-8002 h
Communications	Doug Gorrie	(214)464-7942 w
	Bill Green	(817)731-1308 h
Community Svc	Jay Shistone	(214)827-5761 h
		(214)361-9681 w
Comp Aided Design	Bill Saphon	(214)296-1799 w
DAC Software	Paul Shaw	(214)669-9633 w
		(214)235-2559 h
DOS	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
Fox Pro	Kevin White	(214)644-7536
Genealogy	Al Sanford	(214)278-7888 h
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
	Gary Johnson	(214)937-9878 w
		(214)937-5851 h
Investors	Nash Kapoor	(214)458-9158
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekal	(817)461-4120 w
		(817)451-4540 h
	Francis Bright	(214)964-8174 h
LOTUS	Mark Gruner	(214)271-4911 h
	Pat Henley	(214)229-9218 w
		(214)618-1608 h
	Betty Brooks	(214)827-7734
MS Works	Mike Firth	(214)279-1738 h
OS/2 Dev	James Dunn	(817)962-4596 w
		(817)481-4966 w
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fernier	(817)481-6625 (h)
		(214)492-1315
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)299-9318 h
	Greg Kane	(214)241-3307 w
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)867-1679 h
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4209 h
Programmers	Kent Kingery	(214)458-9711 w
		(214)317-0125 h
	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148
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
Unix/Xenix	Kurt Krider	(214)348-3766 h
	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h
		(817)878-0367 w
	Jim Stallworth	(214)598-7807 h
		(214)804-2441 w
Windows Dev.	Arthur English	(214)618-1266 h
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699
	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
	Dorothy Bertine	(817)387-9993 h
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn	(214)255-0555 w
		Metro (817)481-8453 h
	Mitch Milam	(214)823-9837 w



**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  
Reagan Andrews  
Jim Holsington

Doug Gorrie  
Mark Gruner

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)

SYNOPSIS - Tom A. Prickett  
TBBS: Fred Williams  
User Relations: Adam Peterson  
Information Mgt: Doug Gorrie  
Technical Services: Leroy Tannison  
Adviser: Pete Testa

Voice line for validation problems:  
(214)565-2814 Ask for Adam

**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.)

### Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain  
John Pribyl

Jim Holsington  
Susan Yarus



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

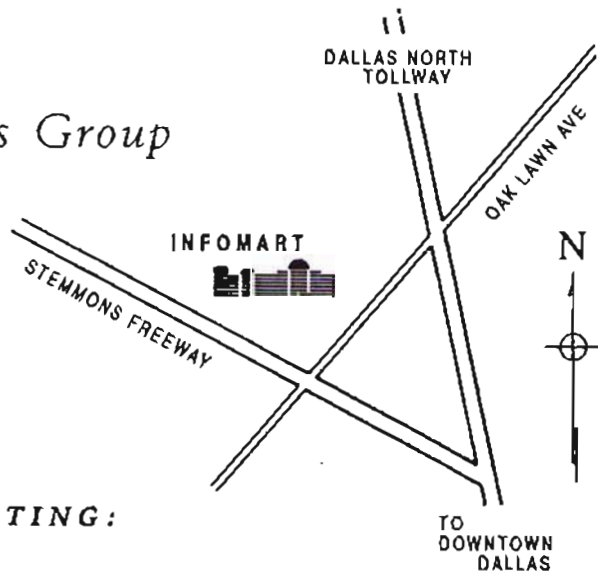
Non Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
Paid  
Arlington, TX  
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.

11.5



*North Texas PC Users Group*



**NEXT MEETING:**

**23 May 1992**