

North Texas  **NEWS**

North Texas PC Users Group

11.6

June 1992



North Texas PC NEWS

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

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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 1994 last month.

Member distribution was 1674; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for July
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, June 10th

Meeting Dates:

June Meeting - 3rd Sat.(20th)
July Meeting - 2nd Sat.(11th)
August Meeting - 2nd Sat.
(tentative)

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Get your articles in early this month—we have a short turnaround for the July issue. Thanks.

Program for June _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

How To Increase System UPTIME Utilizing Network Power Management

Network Security Systems, Inc.

Keat Chandler, Central Regional Manager

The combination of NSSI's A.I. Intelligent UPS hardware and LanSafe Power Management software allows users to monitor, control, and even manage the power conditions throughout a network either locally or remotely. Each unit includes DOS stand alone power management software (compatible with DOS, OS/2, Windows, UNIX/XENIX, and Apple), dual cables and manuals. This presentation will explain how the system can provide full, flexible power control which can grow with your network. There will be a drawing for free products.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Latest WordStar Products and Writing Tools

WordStar International

Chris Kukshel, Regional Sales Manager

Come see the latest WordStar products including WordStar for DOS V7.0, a powerful word processor featuring mouse support, a macro language and FAX support. Also featured will be WordStar for Windows, a second generation Windows word processor featuring powerful text editing with page layout and graphics integration. Other products to be presented are Correct Grammer, American Heritage Dictionary, Correct Writing, Correct Quotes and Correct Letters. There will be a drawing for free copies of software.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

* 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

Membership Dues

Did a warning bell go off when you read the title? Well there's good news and there's bad news. No seriously, the membership rate for NTPCUG has been at \$24 since the group started 10 years ago. In consideration of the current economic times, the Board of Directors have decided to keep the dues the same for regular membership. However (you knew that was coming), the current student rate of \$12 is not enough to cover the expenses of one member for a year. We have raised student membership to \$16 per year effective June 1. This rate is available for full-time students only, and you cannot receive it by mail. You must show up at the Saturday meeting to join or renew your membership, and a valid student i.d. card is required.

Volunteers

150 volunteers are needed every month to put on a Saturday meeting. Everyone who helps is a volunteer, and most of the volunteers are solicited from their response on the membership application. You remember the box that said CHECK HERE IF YOU WANT TO HELP OUT. It still requires a lot of work to call and confirm volunteers for the front Information Desk, Disk of the Month table downstairs, Vendor Setup/Tear-down and the other jobs that we do each month. We only ask an hour of your time, and the rewards include meeting new members and fellow conscripts. Each month there are tablets at the DOM desk and the Info booth for signing up for next month. The more people who sign up, the fewer "cold" calls that our expert phone staff have to make. We will still call you and remind you before the meeting, and you will be surprised at how much fun you have and that you are signing up again the following month. ►

Congrats

The NTPCUG cooperated with Association of PC Users Groups in a demographics survey along with 11 other users groups from around the country. The survey was sponsored by Lotus, IBM, Intel, and the APCUG with support from Borland and the Association of Shareware Professionals. It was prepared by Dr. Arthur Saltzman from the Marketing Department of California State University. If you were selected for the random sample, you received a diskette in the mail. The entire survey was on the disk and a prepaid mailer was provided for returning the disk. As an incentive, we promised to give a software package to one lucky respondent. Instead, we chose four people: Martha Staley, Martha Blaine, Jim Poppiano, and Ben Stephenson. I mailed their software in April, and I just wanted to thank everyone for their participation.

Software Reviews

Before we put a disk in our Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) Library for sale, we ask that a member review the software and write a short "read me" file to be included on the disk. You are given an example to work from, and we want honest reviews, so you can

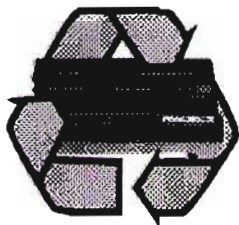
put the software through its paces. The sooner the review is completed, the sooner the software can be put in the Library for everyone to enjoy. The sale of these disks has a definite affect on our bottom-line operating capital, so you are helping the group and keeping things like membership dues from going up. Drop by the Business Meeting and pick up your disk(s) for review from Howard Hamilton, or drop off a completed review to Howard or at the DOM desk.

MASTERCARD and VISA or The Wonderful World of Plastic

In the recent changeover of Treasurers there was a delay in sending MC/Visa charges that were taken at previous Saturday meetings through the banking system. Our past president and current membership director has fielded many of the calls from members asking why they are being charged. We sincerely apologize for the delay, and if you find that we have charged you twice for the same membership, please let us correct it with a refund or a one year extension to your membership (just bring in the proof).

Andy Oliver

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Batch File Tips and Utilities

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

YAWTKATICBWATA

That is, "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About The IF Command, But Were Afraid To Ask." Two months ago I introduced the IF ==, IF NOT ==, IF ERRORLEVEL and IF NOT ERRORLEVEL commands. Last month I included more batch file examples of the IF command. The IF command only works within batch files. It does not work when typed at the DOS prompt. This month I will attempt a complete introduction to the IF command.

First, a little nomenclature is in order. It is customary, when discussing syntax, to write the NOT in square brackets. The brackets indicate that it is an optional parameter. A compact description of the three types of IF test (six different tests) appears on the following three lines.

```
IF [NOT] ERRORLEVEL test_value command_to_execute
[command_parameters]
```

```
IF [NOT] string1==string2 command_to_execute
[command_parameters]
```

```
IF [NOT] EXIST filename command_to_execute
[command_parameters]
```

The `command_to_execute` can be any legal DOS or application name. It can include path information, if the `command_to_execute` accepts path information. It can include command line parameters, if the `command_to_execute` requires any command line parameters. `command_to_execute` can even be another batch file. The `command_to_execute` will only execute if the preceding IF test is true.

The first requirement for using the IF command is developing a clear understanding of the nature of the six different IF tests. Batch file programmers must thoroughly understand the criteria that determine when an IF test is true. The remainder of this article examines each of the three types of IF test and their uses in turn.

ERRORLEVEL Tests

There is nothing that the user can do to set or change the ERRORLEVEL. The ERRORLEVEL is only a parameter for the IF test. ERRORLEVEL tells the IF command to test the current value of the exit code

stored in COMMAND.COM. The user can affect the value of the exit code only by running a program that sets a new exit code. COMMAND.COM has an internal register (one byte long) where it stores the exit code. After running any external DOS command or non-DOS application program, COMMAND.COM stores an exit code in this register. The external DOS commands and applications programs may tell COMMAND.COM to set the exit code to any value from 0 through 255. Internal MS-DOS commands and the commands in the Batch File Control Language do not set or change the exit code.

Most external DOS commands and application programs do not set a specific exit code. If a program does not specify any other value, then COMMAND.COM resets the exit code to zero. COMMAND.COM can only store one value of the exit code at any time. When it sets or resets the exit code, it automatically overwrites the previous value. COMMAND.COM sets the exit code each time it runs a program. Testing the exit code using the ERRORLEVEL parameter in an IF command does not reset the exit code. Therefore, a series of IF ERRORLEVEL tests can test the same exit code as many times as necessary.

A) The IF ERRORLEVEL test_value test is true, whenever the exit code is greater than or equal to test_value. Consider a series of test_values. If the current value of the exit code is 4, then a tabulation of the results of a series of IF ERRORLEVEL test_value tests, for different test_values, will look like this.

Test Performed	Result of test when exit code=4
IF ERRORLEVEL 7	false
IF ERRORLEVEL 6	false
IF ERRORLEVEL 5	false
IF ERRORLEVEL 4	true
IF ERRORLEVEL 3	true
IF ERRORLEVEL 2	true

By running these tests in a descending cascade, batch files find the first true result when test_value and the exit code are equal. If a batch file runs only the last test, it can determine that the exit code is greater than or equal to two (2). It has no way of determining that the exit code is actually four (4). The IF ERRORLEVEL 0 test is always true, because zero is less than or equal to every possible value of the exit code.

The `command_to_execute` does not execute when the test result is false. To execute a specific command and only if the exit code is 4, requires testing the highest exit code first. The descending cascade of consecutive ERRORLEVEL tests works for this pur-

pose. The batch file must use tests where the test_value decreases in integer steps on successive lines. Assuming only values from one (1) through seven (7) need testing, here is an example based on the table above.

```
IF ERRORLEVEL 7 GOTO do_7
IF ERRORLEVEL 6 GOTO do_6
IF ERRORLEVEL 5 GOTO do_5
IF ERRORLEVEL 4 GOTO do_4
IF ERRORLEVEL 3 GOTO do_3
IF ERRORLEVEL 2 GOTO do_2
```

When the exit code is one (1), none of the GOTO commands executes. The line after the IF ERRORLEVEL 2 test executes, instead.

Use this arrangement to be sure that the first true test occurs on the line that has a test_value matching the value of the exit code. The results of the remaining tests would have produced true results, too, but those tests will not execute. The first true test executes a GOTO sending the execution pointer to another location in the batch file. The GOTO command prevents the remaining tests from executing.

B) The IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value test is true whenever the exit code is less than test_value. Remember, the opposite of "greater than or equal to" is "less than." Consider a descending cascade of test_values. If the value of the exit code is 4, again, than a tabulation of the results of the IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value tests, for a series of test_values, will look like this.

Test Performed	Result of test when exit code=4
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 7	true
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 6	true
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 5	true
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 4	false
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 3	false
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 2	false

These results are the exact opposites of those obtained from the IF ERRORLEVEL test_value test. The effect of the NOT is simply to change true results to false and false results to true. A descending cascade of IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value tests will give the first false result when the test_value is equal to the value of the exit code.

There is a fairly elegant use for the IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test. It is sometimes quite useful. This involves using two IF tests together on the same line (called "nested" IF commands). The general form of this test can bracket the exit code in a range. Its ultimate use is to set the range so narrowly that the exit code can only have one particular value and still produce a true result. The general form looks like the following.

```
IF ERRORLEVEL x IF NOT ERRORLEVEL y
command_to_execute {command_parameters}
```

The value of y must be greater than x. The test produces a true result and the command will execute whenever the exit code has a value between x and y-1, inclusive. If x = y-1, then the upper and lower limits of the exit code range are the same value, namely x. Therefore, the result of the combined test is true and the command executes if and only if the exit code equals x.

This programming tip allows batch files to test values of the exit code in any convenient order. The command_to_execute will execute if the exit code is exactly equal to the first test_value. If an application issues an exit code that only takes on three values, 0, 1 and 2, say, they can be tested, as follows.

```
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 2 GOTO do_1
IF ERRORLEVEL 0 IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO do_0
IF ERRORLEVEL 2 IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 3 GOTO do_2
```

The order of these three lines is completely arbitrary. (Do you know what is wrong with the middle test above? It will work as advertised but it could be shortened.)

The IF ERRORLEVEL test_value test in each line is true if its test_value is less than or equal to the exit code. The IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value test only executes when the first test is true. The IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value test is true only if its test_value is greater than the exit code. The command_to_execute executes only if both tests are true.

Reading the first line, for example, the two assertions are:

- a) 1 is less than or equal to the exit code;
- b) 2 is greater than the exit code.

If true, part a) says possible values of the exit code are 1,2,3,4,...., etc.

If true, part b) says the exit code is less than 2, namely 0 or 1.

The only number appearing in both lists is one (1). Therefore, both tests are true and the command_to_execute executes if and only if the exit code equals one (1). It is the only exit code value that passes both IF tests.

The exit code provides a method of returning data from an executable program back to a batch file. It complements the batch file's ability to store string variables in the DOS environment for application programs to use. (Usually, application programs do not create or alter environment variables. BOOTCON is the only exception that comes immediately to mind.)

The DOS environment provides almost limitless possibilities for passing information. The exit codes, on the other hand, offer only 256 possibilities. Sometimes that limitation is an advantage. It is possible to test for each one of the 256 possible exit codes. Such a test takes only a fraction of a second. We will examine several batch files which can perform such a test in a future article in this series.

String Comparison Tests

String comparison tests using the IF command are always case sensitive. This is a major exception to DOS's usual practice of ignoring case altogether. The strings "ABCDEF" and "aBcDeF" are not the same in a case sensitive comparison. They are the same when case is not a factor. Strings can be of two types; literal strings and string variables. String variables come from three separate sources; the DOS environment, batch file replaceable parameters, and defined string sets in a FOR IN DO command.

DOS uses one or two percent signs (%) to make the different types of string variables distinguishable. The string without a percent sign in front of it, on the other hand, is a literal string. Literal strings and string variables can be concatenated simply by typing them consecutively on the same line.

When using the IF [NOT] string1==string2 test, it is not necessary to surround each string with quotation marks. Nevertheless, all the examples presented in this series will contain quotation marks. This is a programming tip which eliminates problems that occur when using string variables. Specifically, it avoids problems that can arise when testing an undefined string variable.

If a string variable happens to be undefined, the IF command will find itself comparing a null string against a non-null string. This can produce unexpected results. To prevent the appearance of null strings in these tests, many have recommended adding matching characters to the strings on both sides of the comparison. As long as the extra quotation marks on both sides of the double equal sign (==) balance each other, they will not have any effect on the results of the test. The quotation marks require a little extra typing, but they work well and do not interfere with the readability of the command. If a string variable enclosed in quotes is undefined, the combined string reduces to a pair of quotation marks, ie "", rather than to a null string. It works equally well to add leading and trailing letters, numbers or other characters to each side.

Over the years, Ronny Richardson, as in his book on "MS-DOS Batch File Programming," 2nd edition, published by Windcrest Books, has recommended the use of slashes (/). He recommends using the slash only when testing explicitly for null strings. This works well and avoids typing the extra quotation marks, too. The MS-DOS 5.0 "User's Guide and Reference" published by Microsoft Corporation now recommends the use of quotation marks in the section titled "Controlling Program Flow," pages 235-236. The choice is almost arbitrary. This series consistently uses the enclosing quotation marks.

Literal strings are just exactly what they appear to be. The following string is a simple example.

```
"this is a test string"
```

It consists of leading and trailing quotation marks and all the characters, including the spaces, that appear between them. Literal strings do not stand for anything else. There is not much point in comparing literal strings with each other. (The batch file author knows while writing the command if the two literal strings are equal. There is no point in testing them.) More commonly, comparisons are between one literal string and one string variable or between two string variables.

With these points in mind, change the general form of the string comparison test slightly to read as follows.

```
IF [NOT] "string1"=="string2" command_to_execute
[command_parameters]
```

String1 and string2 can each be literal strings or string variables. The double equal sign (==) is best thought of as requiring the same or identical strings. It's usually called the "IF-equal" test, but try to think of it as the "IF-same-string" test. The IF == test is true if the string values on both sides of the == sign are letter by letter and case by case the same. Obviously, the two strings must be the same length. The corresponding IF NOT == test is true whenever the string values are not the same.

The remainder of this section will examine the sources and uses of the three types of string variables.

A) String comparisons involving DOS environment variables were introduced in the third article in this series. The DOS environment variable name must always sit between two percent signs (%), eg %BOOT-CON%, when using it in a batch file. In this form it acts as a stand-in for the current string value assigned to the variable. Before it does the actual comparison, COMMAND.COM temporarily substitutes the string variable's value into the slot occupied by



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the string variable's name and its delimiting percent signs.

Here is how it works. Assume the DOS environment variable `BOOTCON` has the value `C`. What happens when `COMMAND.COM` finds a test that looks like this?

```
IF "%BOOTCON%"=="C" GOTO do_c
```

It temporarily substitutes the value stored in the `BOOTCON` variable so that the test reads like this.

```
IF "C"=="C" GOTO do_c
```

`COMMAND.COM` substitutes the variable's value for the variable name and compares the value with the other string. During the test the strings are the same and the `GOTO` command executes.

When the DOS environment variable `BOOTCON` has the value `B`, `COMMAND.COM` changes the test to read like this.

```
IF "B"=="C" GOTO do_c
```

In this case the strings are not the same and the `GOTO` command does not execute. The next line of the batch file executes instead.

On the other hand, the following command produces a different result.

```
IF NOT "%BOOTCON%"=="C" GOTO not_o
```

It tests to see if the strings are not the same. When the `BOOTCON` variable has the value `C`, the `GOTO` does not execute. When `BOOTCON` has the value `B` or any value except `C`, the `GOTO` does execute.

Testing for both upper and lower case values requires using two consecutive `IF` commands, like this.

```
IF "%BOOTCON%"=="C" do_o
IF "%BOOTCON%"=="c" do_c
```

DOS always capitalizes the name of the environment variable when it stores it in the environment. The variable name between the percent signs does not have to be capitalized. The value assigned to the variable will be stored in the environment as upper case, lower case or mixed case, depending on how it was originally entered. Capitalizing the variable name whenever it appears in a batch file is a good habit, but not a requirement. The case of the variable value is important, but the case of the variable name is not important to DOS.

B) This section introduces string comparisons involving batch file replaceable parameters for the first time in this series. These are always named using a single digit number with a leading percent sign. That distinguishes them from the DOS environment variables

that have both leading and trailing percent signs. The replaceable parameters are assigned values based on the order in which string values appear on the command line. Each string on the command line must be separated from the other strings on that same command line by a delimiter. The space is the most common delimiter. Other legal DOS delimiters are the semicolon (;), comma (,), and equal sign (=).

The first replaceable parameter is `%0`. Its string value is the batch file's name. The second replaceable parameter is `%1`. It receives as its value the first string on the command line following the batch file name. The remaining parameters in order are `%2`, `%3`, ..., `%8`, `%9`. The values assigned to these replaceable parameters are the consecutive strings added to the rest of the command line. When more than ten parameter values appear on the command line, they are not assigned names until a `SHIFT` command executes in the batch file. When specifying less than ten parameter values on the command line, the unused replaceable parameters acquire a null value.

A hypothetical batch file named `TEST_BAT.BAT` might execute from the command line with the following syntax.

```
TEST_BAT param_1 param_2 param_3
```

where `param_1` might be a drive letter, `param_2` might be a particular subdirectory on the drive and `param_3` might be an application stored in that directory. The job of `TEST_BAT.BAT` is to switch to the drive specified by `param_1`, change to the directory specified by `param_2` and then execute the application program specified by `param_3`. This would be a general purpose batch file used to run applications by typing a single line at the DOS prompt.

Inside `TEST_BAT.BAT`, the replaceable parameter `%1` represents `param_1`. Similarly, the replaceable parameters `%2` and `%3`, respectively, represent `param_2` and `param_3`.

Specific examples might help. Assume the following command is entered at the DOS prompt.

```
TEST_BAT C: Lotus 123
```

Somewhere in the batch file, the following line might appear.

```
IF "%3"==" " GOTO error_1
```

This is a test for a null string at the fourth command line position. If the `%3` parameter has a null value, the batch file needs more facts to do its job. The `:error_1` label presumably heads a section of code that prints an error message on the screen. The error message should remind users about the parameters

to include and the order in which they should appear on the command line.

To prevent TEST_BAT.BAT from working with floppy disks, the following sequence of tests might be performed.

```
IF "%1"=="B:" GOTO error_2
IF "%1"=="b:" GOTO error_2
IF "%1"=="A:" GOTO error_2
IF "%1"=="a:" GOTO error_2
```

The :error_2 label presumably heads a section of code that prints a message on the screen reminding users not to use TEST_BAT.BAT with the floppy drives.

When testing command line input like this, checking for both upper and lower case versions sometimes gets a little tedious. Additional tests to determine if the drive name includes the colon might also be in order. TEST_BAT.BAT should verify that the listed drive and directory exist. Use ISDEV and the IF EXIST test for those tests.

C) String variables passed from the FOR IN DO command can, among other things, speed up the process of sorting through the upper and lower case comparisons. This is the first look at the FOR IN DO command in this series. The syntax of the FOR IN DO command is as follows.

```
FOR %%variable IN (set) DO command_to_execute
[command_parameters]
```

Unlike IF commands, the FOR IN DO commands cannot be nested. There is a way to solve that problem, too, but it will have to wait for another day.

FOR IN DO is one of the batch file commands that also works from the command line. When using it from the command line, the variable (which is always a single letter) uses only one leading percent sign (%). The batch file replaceable parameters also have a single leading percent sign. There should not be any confusion between them, because one usage applies only to batch files and the other only to command line execution. Still, to keep it simple and avoid any possible confusion, DOS requires that the variable used in FOR IN DO commands always be a single letter. DOS does not permit using single digit numbers as the FOR IN DO variable. Inside a single FOR IN DO command, programmers must use the same letter (including the case) each time the variable name appears. All the FOR IN DO commands in a single batch file can use the same variable name or each can use a different variable.

Here is a demonstration using the FOR IN DO command in combination with the IF command. It shows how their combination can replace the four IF

statements given at the end of the last subsection. It also covers the situation where the colon was omitted. Here is how it looks.

```
FOR %%D IN (a: A: b: B: a A b B) DO IF "%1"=="%D" GOTO
error_2
```

A delimiter separates each member of the set from the others. In this example, the delimiter is the space (ASCII 032 or 20h). The space is the most common delimiter. Other legitimate delimiters are the semi-colon (;), comma (,) and equal sign (=). All of these act as delimiters between the parameters entered after the batch file name on the command line as well.

That %1, remember, is the replaceable parameter standing in for the disk drive name typed after TEST_BAT at the DOS prompt. The FOR IN DO command systematically replaces the %%D appearing in the IF test with each member of the set listed in parenthesis. (Note that %%d is not the same as %%D; this is another instance where DOS is sensitive to case.)

The use of the GOTO inside a FOR IN DO command evokes a special response from DOS. DOS always processes every member of the set before it will move the execution pointer to another position in the same batch file. Therefore, the FOR IN DO and IF commands process all the values in the set before processing the GOTO command. The first member of the set to produce a true IF test, only creates a pending GOTO command. If a later member of the set also produces a true IF test, it creates a pending GOTO that overwrites the first one. This continues until it processes every member of the set. Only then is the pending GOTO finally processed. There can only be one pending GOTO. That is the GOTO command generated by the last member of the set to produce a true IF test. If none of the tests is true, the FOR IN DO command does not create a pending GOTO. The next line of the batch file executes instead.

DOS's treatment of the GOTO command contrasts with DOS's ability to process the following command. Here the FOR IN DO command executes three separate batch file subroutines, called SUB1.BAT, SUB2.BAT and SUB3.BAT.

```
FOR %%G IN (1 2 3) DO IF EXIST sub%%G.bat CALL
sub%%G
```

Execution of the subroutines does not involve moving the execution pointer inside the calling batch file. Therefore, DOS has no trouble executing the CALL for each member of the set that generates a true test. DOS does not seem to create pending

CALLS. It appears to execute each CALL command immediately. If DOS can create multiple pending CALLS, there must be some limit to how many pending CALLS it can manage. If such a limit exists, I have not been able to discover what it is. A single FOR IN DO command with 47 CALLS in it executes all 47 of them without a hitch.

File Existence Tests

The file existence test is the third and final version of the IF test. It is making its first appearance in this series. DOS versions before 3.0 did not support the use of path information with the filename in this test. In later versions, including DOS 5.0, the use of path information is fully implemented. Most DOS commands have supported the inclusion of path information since version 2.1. Now the IF EXIST test does, too.

The general form of the file existence tests is as follows.

```
IF [NOT] EXIST [drv:[path\]filename command_to_execute
[command_parameters]
```

In its simplest form, this test returns a true answer if the file specified by filename does [NOT] exist in the specified directory. When no drive and path are specified, it only checks the current directory. The IF EXIST test does not look for files on the DOS PATH.

Here are a couple examples.

This first one checks for the existence of any file named 123.COM in the current directory and moves the execution pointer to the line following the label :lotus if 123.COM does exist.

```
IF EXIST 123.COM GOTO lotus
```

The second test changes the execution pointer to the line following the label :lotus, if a 123.COM file exists in the lotus directory on drive D:.

```
IF EXIST D:\lotus\123.COM GOTO lotus
```

Testing for the existence of a file might be appropriate to be sure that files you want to copy to another location are in the source directory. It might make sense to find out if the files are already in the target directory, too.

Some simple anticipated uses for the IF EXIST test will not work, unfortunately. The wildcard characters, * and ?, can stand for any string and any character, respectively. The TYPE command does not accept wildcard characters, however. Therefore, the following command will not type all the batch files in the C:\BATCH directory on the printer.

```
IF EXIST c:\batch\*.bat TYPE c:\batch\*.bat >PRN (Does not work)
```

On the other hand, it is easy to type a single file on the printer, as follows.

```
IF EXIST c:\batch\*.bat TYPE c:\batch\testing.bat >PRN
```

The *.bat means "any batch file." The redirection symbol ">" indicates redirection of the output to a device or file. In this case it redirects the output to PRN, the default printer. Unless a command specifies another destination, DOS always directs output to the console display device. (See the introduction to redirection and piping in an upcoming article in this series.) The IF EXIST command understands the use of both wildcards and redirection. TYPE only understands the redirection. DOS is clearly not fully integrated with itself. Some of the older commands, like TYPE, are starting to show their age.

DOS has a partial answer to the inadequacies of the TYPE command. Ronny Richardson pointed this out in "MS-DOS Batch File Programming" 2nd Edition, on page 409. The TYPE command will work with defined string sets passed from the FOR IN DO command. The FOR IN DO command, in turn, understands wildcard characters. The following command sequence will type out all of the batch files in a specific directory onto the console display device.

```
IF EXIST c:\batch\*.bat FOR %%L IN (*.bat) DO TYPE %%L
```

However, when used this way, TYPE no longer understands the redirection symbol, so it is no longer possible to redirect the output to the printer. This may be due to an inherent limitation on DOS's ability to process nested commands. It is probably due to an inherent limitation in the TYPE command. One of the frustrations of writing batch files is occasionally running across this kind of unexpected blind spot in DOS's own commands or its Batch File Control Language.

Removing the IF EXIST test at the beginning of that last command reinstates TYPE's ability to understand redirection again and the following command will type all the batch files in the C:\BATCH directory onto the printer.

```
FOR %%L IN (*.bat) DO TYPE %%L >PRN
```

To be sure that at least one batch file exists in the directory requires a separate IF test ahead of this FOR IN DO command.

Users can generate the same effect at the DOS prompt by typing the same command with a single percent sign, as follows.

```
FOR %L IN (*.bat) DO TYPE %L >PRN
```

One clever trick that is possible with the IF EXIST command is testing for the existence of a directory. While the IF EXIST test was not specifically designed to test for directories, there is a simple way to do it. The MS-DOS 5.0 "User's Guide and Reference" describes how to do it in Chapter 14, where it describes the IF command. See also the June 11, 1991 edition of PC Magazine, page 450 and the April 1990 edition of PC World, page 216 for additional information. The trick is to recognize that every directory contains the files called NUL, PRN, AUX and CON, among others. These are phantom files that only seem to exist in each directory because they are internal names that DOS uses. The IF EXIST test can check for the existence of a directory by testing for the existence of the NUL file, for example, in that directory.

It is easy to test a directory's existence and, if necessary, create the directory in one step, as follows.

```
IF NOT EXIST c:\TESTUTIL\nul MD c:\testutil
```

NUL exists in every directory. When NUL can't be found in the TESTUTIL directory, then the TESTUTIL directory does not exist. If the TESTUTIL directory does not exist, the MD (MKDIR) command will create it. If the TESTUTIL directory does exist, the IF command will prevent the MD command from attempting to create it again.

Practice These Techniques

Using the various IF commands and the FOR IN DO command is not as intimidating as it might appear. It takes practice to become a good programmer in any language. A good source for quick information

about the Batch File Control Language is the Lab Notes section of the January 30, 1990 edition of PC Magazine. Another good source is the two part series by Paul Somerson in the November and December 1991 editions of PC/Computing.

Try writing a version of TEST_BAT.BAT. Include tests to be sure the drive, the directory and the application program were specified and that all exist. What are you going to do if the application program also requires command line parameters of its own? That will require putting more than four strings on the command line. Then how will you test to see if all the data was supplied? Read about the SHIFT command and see if you can find a way to use it. Can your batch file run a program that requires 9 (or more) parameters of its own? Users, when specifying the path may or may not include a final back slash (\). How will you handle both possibilities? Test your own version of TEST_BAT.BAT. How much trouble will users have remembering the specific syntax? Will your version catch every possible error that users might make?

As advertised, this completes the introduction to the IF command. It is not the last word on using the IF command in normal batch file programming. We will be using it again and again. Next month we'll back track a little to examine the pros and cons of various device drivers that you might include in CONFIG.SYS. I will also include a discussion of alternatives to BOOTCON. BOOTCON is not very expensive and it really is the best way I've found to deal with multiple configurations. There are some even cheaper alternatives that you might want to consider, however.

Mitchell

▲

KEY WORDS

%%variable (FOR IN DO variable)
%0 = Batch File Name
%1
%2
%3
%4
%5
%6
%7
%8
%9
%variable (FOR IN DO as
DOS Prompt)
%Variable_Name% = DOS
Environment Variable
* (Any string)
? (Any Character)
AUX
Batch File
Batch File Replaceable Parameters
BFCL (Batch File Control Language)
BOOTCON

Case Sensitive Test (IF [NOT]
"string1"=="string2")
CON (Console = Keyboard + Monitor)
Command Line Parameter
COMMAND.COM
Command_to_Execute
Defined String Set (from FOR IN DO)
Delimiter (space, comma, semicolon,
and equal sign)
Descending Cascade
DOS
DOS Environment (Variable)
Double Equal Sign (==)
ECHO
Executable Program
Exit Code
External DOS Commands
Floppy Disk
FOR IN DO
GOTO
Greater Than Sign (>)
Hard Disk
IF Command
IF ERRORLEVEL test_value
command_to_execute

IF EXIST filename
command_to_execute
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL test_value
command_to_execute
IF NOT EXIST filename
command_to_execute
IF NOT "string1"=="string2"
command_to_execute
IF "string1"=="string2"
command_to_execute
Internal DOS Commands
Less Than Sign (<)
Literal String
Lotus 1-2-3 (from Lotus
Development Corporation)
Lotus Development Corporation
MD (MKDIR)
Microsoft MS-DOS User's Guide
and Reference, for DOS 5.0
MS-DOS Batch File Programming -
2nd Edition, by Ronny Richardson
Nested IF Commands
NUL
Null String
PC/Computing - November 1991

PC/Computing - December 1991
PC Magazine - January 30, 1990
PC Magazine - June 11, 1991
PC World - April 1990
Pending GOTO
Piping Symbol (|)
PRN
Redirection and Piping (the ">",
<" and "&" symbols)
Replaceable Parameters
SHIFT
String Comparison
String Set (from FOR IN DO)
String Variable
TESTUTIL Directory
TEST_BAT.BAT
Test Value
TYPE
Undefined String Variable
Wildcard Characters (the "*" and
"?" symbols)
Word Perfect Corporation
WP (from Word Perfect Corporation)



Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

The Variety Store

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

New Local Bus sure ain't no DART -- But it's super fast, coming soon, And -- GUI users need the speed

Where's the standard?

Anybody who's used *Windows* or *OS/2* lately knows they need a bigger, much faster PC. Maybe a 200 MHz 686 -- or faster.

Don't blame the CPU, it's the video that's slowing things down so much. The reason video is the culprit lies in the standard ISA bus -- 16 bits wide at about 8 MHz. EISA and MCA were supposed to cure this problem, but haven't yet since they are somewhat more expensive than the cheap, Industry Standard AT bus (ISA) PC's most of us own.

Local Bus to the rescue!

Local-Bus slot equipped motherboards are on the way from a number of makers. The Local Bus slot runs at the CPU's speed and is 32 bits wide - just like system memory -- on full 386DX and 486DX systems. On an 8 MHz, PC/AT, the ISA bus wasn't a bottleneck. With 32-bit CPU's running at 33 and 50 MHz, dropping down to ISA's 8 MHz, 16 bit bus chokes video performance.

Add to that any peripheral that needs to pass a lot of data quickly -- such as high-speed disk drives and network interface boards.

NEC, Swan, Micronics, Opti, and Intel push Local Bus

Don't know who was first. NEC has been advertising Local Bus equipped PC's for several months. Micronics Computers, Inc., has announced a coming line of ISA plus Local Bus motherboards adhering to the VESA (Video Electronics Standards Association) Local Bus specifications. Intel has been developing Local Bus standards as well, as have OPTI and several other motherboard/systems makers.

Swan Technologies calls their Local Bus "Direct Bus" and has mailed advertising catalogs describing 486 machines with "Direct Bus" capabilities built-in.

Competition for "standard"

Problem. Each of the above appears to be pushing different Local Bus standards. Both VESA and Intel are touting "open" standards and may catch the golden ring of popular acceptance. Without Local Bus stand-

ards, peripherals makers won't jump into the market with the large scale production runs that can bring prices down to reasonable levels.

IBM wants mail-order sales May buy Northgate ... or Gateway 2000 ... or, Zeos

IBM may be on a shopping spree for an "experienced" mail-order PC vendor according to April media reports. Among the targets mentioned in various *Wall Street Journal*, *InfoWorld* and *PC Week* articles are Northgate Computer Systems Inc., Gateway 2000 and Zeos International, Ltd.

Each of the vendors above are reported to be in some difficulty as a result of explosive growth over the past four years, primarily from under-capitalization. Most frequently-named is Northgate which is seen as the most likely target for IBM acquisition.

IBM's goal is market share according to media sources. They feel a need to compete with Dell, Tandy, and, now DEC, in the mail-order channel. However, some media sources scoff at the idea of IBM in mass-marketing at this level, citing prior IBM efforts such as the PC Jr. as examples of IBM marketing prowess.

The Variety Store continued

H-P goes "Green", Maxtor goes giant H-P rebounds tiny ...

Hewlett-Packard saw the "Green" light and has announced a LaserJet toner cartridge recycling program. H-P's not the first to recycle H-P's LJ cartridges, but glad to see their recognition of the user dilemma - what to do with all those old L-J cartridges if you insist on H-P quality for refills?

Lots of H-P LaserJet users recycle their toner cartridges. Sometimes with pretty sorry results.

If you want to refill, but demand H-P product and quality, give H-P a call at 1-800-752-0900, ext. 1872. That'll put you in touch with the Hewlett-Packard toner cartridge recycling program. They'll send you information on H-P's recycling program and UPS labels to send your empty cartridges back to H-P.

When you do, Hewlett-Packard will donate \$1 to be split between The Nature Conservancy and the National Wildlife Federation. You, and we, all win that way.

Maxtor brings in small giant

Maxtor calls it the MXT-540. It's a 540 MB drive in a 3.5" form factor just 1" high and sports an average access time of 8.5 ms. Maxtor's new drive is compliant with the SCSI-2 Fast standard and can transfer data at more than 40 megabytes/second.

The new drive spins at 6,300 RPM as opposed to the (former) industry standard of 3,600 RPM to enhance reduced seek times,

and will be available later this year in IDE interface.

H-P tips other end of scale

This is really small for a hard disk! Hewlett-Packard is set to announce a 20 MB, 1.3" hard disk expected (initially) to find a home in the H-P 95LX palmtop PC.

According to *PC Week*, the new drive is expected to be available this summer, and should cost less than \$200. H-P anticipates other markets for the new drive as well, including printers and phones, *PC Week* reported. All this is before the new 1.8" drives from a number of vendors even begin shipping.

Small disks may be overshadowed by new "Flash" SRAM technology

Intel, SunDisk Corp. and AT&T Microelectronics may have something to say about "small." Each has announced SRAM (Static Random Access Memory) cards at the 20-megabyte level.

Units offer speed (lots 'n lots of speed) and power savings to small systems due to absence of moving parts in their construction. Price is at a premium, however. AT&T's 20M units are reported to run in the \$2,750 range with an IDE controller priced at \$375.

Other vendors claim that the AT&T pricing structure will crumple with estimated pricing as low as \$7/megabyte for

larger (64M) units expected from MiniStor.

Intel pierces further into FAX Wars with Group 3-compatibles

Intel, better-known for their xx86 CPU's, has become a major player in the PC FAX wars. Intel's strategic FAX position was further enhanced by announcement of the SatisFAXtion Modem/400, 200 and 100 series of FAX boards and modems coupled with Windows-ready FAX software.

The new SatisFAXtion Modem/400 sports internal V.32bis data and FAX line speeds as high as 14,400 bits per second (bps) and is compatible with Group 3 FAX specs and V.42 bis CCITT standard for data compression. The model 400 guards against high-speed data overrun by incorporation of a "smart" UART architecture incorporated on the board, a 16 MHz 80186 microprocessor and 512K of memory on board.

Announced price of the SatisFAXtion Modem/400 is \$499 (retail) and will probably be available locally for somewhat less through discounters.

Inkjets are coming ... Pacific ProTracer inkjets are here

Pacific Data Products announced their large, ProTracer inkjet printer/plotter series in March. Capable of printing high-quality, 360 dots per inch (dpi) on standard B (11x17") and C (17x22") sheets, Pacific's

The Variety Store continued

new printers/plotters utilize Canon inkjet technology.

Pacific's standard printer is priced at \$1,499 and (according to the Pacific Data press release) ships with an *AutoDesk* interface driver.

The new printers can be enhanced with HP-GL (Hewlett-Packard Graphics Language) and PostScript emulation cards as well as memory expansion boards and two automatic sheet feeders holding up to 100 pages.

If it's Austin, it must be Impact Printhead Services

Got another catalog for Impact Printhead Services this month. Reminds me that the Toshiba P351 is looking a little "feathery" these days.

In spite of all the hoopla about laser and LED printers, about the new color inkjet printers, etc., there are millions of dot-matrix printers out there chugging along faithfully for their users. Day in, day out.

Eventually, everything mechanical breaks. With dot-matrix printers, it's usually the printhead. Impact Printhead Services refurbishes printheads for a fraction of their replacement cost (if available) from the original manufacturer. Check them out at (800) 777-4323.

Monthly Marketing Follies

IBM gets 1st prize, Byte and Alpha Four tie for 2nd

IBM's dragging out the big guns to market OS/2 2.0 this

summer. In spite of all the marketing hoopla, IBM's big guns appear (as usual) to be pointed directly at IBM's own feet. Same song, another sad verse.

First, IBM can't find its OS/2 user database -- somebody lost the SSD, 160K floppy disk where the file was stored. Now, IBM has no idea who might want to upgrade to the new version.

Not to worry. IBM came up with a swell idea -- an 800 number the former OS/2 users can call. Works this way: the user has to phone the 800 number, request that IBM mail them the forms, wait a couple of weeks to receive the forms, complete the forms, include some type of proof of purchase, and return to IBM to get a copy of 2.0.

Ask Microsoft and Borland -- who do this kind of thing "right" -- this ain't the most stellar marketing strategy if you want market share. Sure is typical of the "old" IBM, though.

Alpha Four and Byte -- Distant second

"Mr. Andrew North Tex Pc Users"

Don't know which I prefer, "occupant" or "postal patron", but either beats the mongrelized version of my name above. Sweetest sound to anybody is their own name -- as long as it's the right name.

Alpha Four did this first, so they get lead billing here. Recently received the usual super offer to obtain their database program and about a zillion other pieces of software I wouldn't have bought under any cir-

cumstances. All addressed as above.

I know I won't buy a product from a database company that can't do any better than this.

Byte scores too

A week later, I received an offer from *Byte Magazine* to sample some free issues -- with identical addressing style. Unfortunately, I already subscribe to *Byte*, but under my real name.


Not too sure which mailing list vendor is pushing this version, or where it came from. One possibility is a "scanned" Comdex card, but those are usually much more accurate. Might be a "scanned" address label from a set sold by the NTPCUG. Hope not.

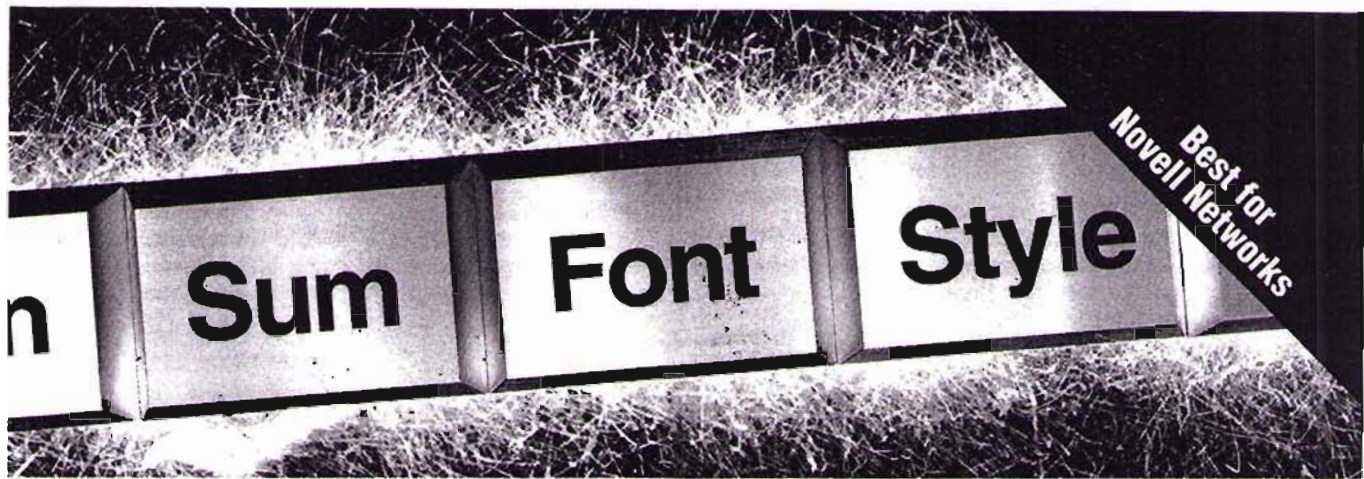
If Coleridge can do it, maybe I can too June Variety Store Through an antihistamine haze ...

Spring is on us! Gentle breezes, softly warming days and multitudes of tiny little spores, pollen and fungi. I'm feeling all of them this year. Wish I'd bought some Kimberly-Clark (Kleenex) stock.

I'm writing this month's Variety Store floating in the gentle arms of diphenhydramine (Benadryl) and Chlortrimeton. I now know why these were only available via prescription in the 60's and 70's -- take enough and hallucinations are quite possible.

And you wondered where some of this material came from?

Reagan 



Introducing Quattro Pro 4.0

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Intelligent Graphs	Yes	No	No	No
Novell Network optimized	Yes	No	No	Yes
Multiple sheets	Yes	No	No	Yes
Multi-variable solver	Yes	No	No	•
Easiest to Use	Yes		No	No
SpeedBar	Yes	No	No	•
Print-To-Fit	Yes	No	No	•
Read Lotus 1-2-3 files, styles & macros	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Best Performance	Yes		?	No
All features in 640K	Yes	?	No	No
Price	\$495	\$495	\$595	

? Yes, but almost no room remains for data.
 • Yes, but requires attaching an add-in.



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Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

Don't forget that at our JUNE meeting we will celebrate our "SECOND ANNUAL HAWAIIAN SHIRT FESTIVAL"! Come dressed for the occasion and prove to David McGehee that his lobbying efforts last year paid off. (For a more complete - actually the only - background on this event, see page 27 of the October, 1991 issue of this newsletter.)

To all our volunteers - thanks - you are very special.

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

PLEASE remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

INFOMART Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchor:
David Slavik
Mike Griffin
Crew:
Frank Dorer
Jeff Duncan
Bill Sullivan

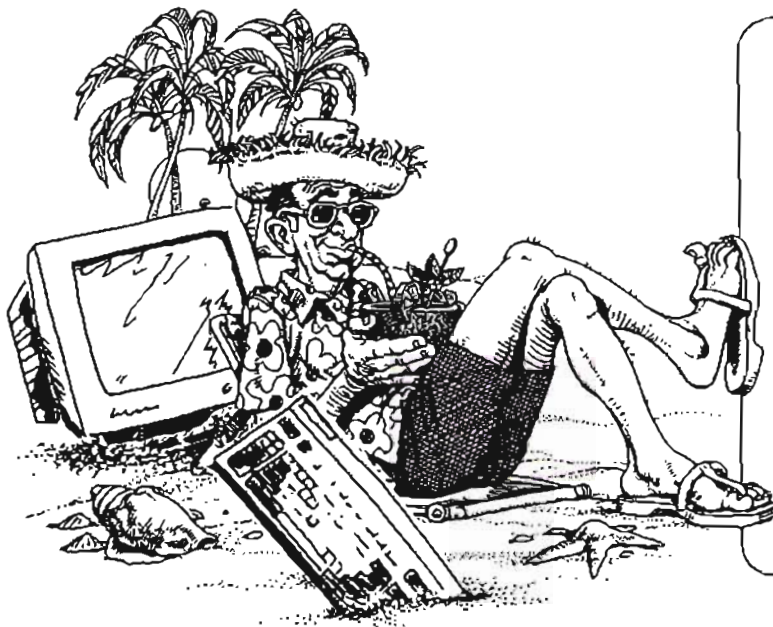
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Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth
Statistician:
Connie Testa
Scheduler:
Randi Boucher
Anchors:
Conley Andrews

Harvey Andrews
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Bill Chambliss
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Bob Post
Stuart Potter, Jr.
George Read
Margaret Reeves
(double duty)
Tom Smith
Ed Snuggs
Elaine Stephens
Jerry Stone
Oscar Tyler (2 hours)

With Special Thanks to:
Set-Up Crew:
Jay Chambliss
Bill Chambliss
Kent Haven
Pat Henley
Kathryn Loafman
Jerry Stone
Shift Supervisors:
Gene Carleton
Don Chick
Judy Griffiths
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Inventory and Take-Down Crew:
Charles Carter
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	828-0698 (h)

Corel DRAW! on CD-ROM

A re-visit with a twist

by Douglas McQuaid

In last October's issue of NT PC News (10.10), I reviewed version 2.01 of Corel DRAW! At that time, I had several complaints, but generally liked the product. My chief complaints included:

- Lack of an on-line help feature
- Lack of math coprocessor support
- Speed (or rather lack of it)
- Problems with the TRACE bitmap-to-vector conversion program and the WFNBOSS font conversion utility
- Simplistic Clip Art that was difficult to work with

Since my last review, the Windows graphics market has exploded and is now almost saturated with products. An updated Designer (Micrografx) and a new product, Professional DRAW, as well as Harvard DRAW have filled out the professional graphics editor market. Freelance, Harvard Graphics, and others have taken a hold in the presentation graphics arena. Micrografx DRAW and Arts & Letters Apprentice have created a new market for low-end graphics tools. In addition, many products are including vector based drawing tools in the package as OLE applets (for example: Word for Windows 2.0, Excel 4.0, Ami Pro 2.0, and others).

Since last October, I have upgraded my system with a CD-ROM drive and decided to check out the CD-ROM version of Corel DRAW! It's still version 2.01, but let me tell ya, if you need a serious graphics tool, Corel DRAW! on CD-ROM is the way to go!

What's the difference between the diskette package and the CD-ROM package? Well, the CD-ROM version has on-line help, and it's good, too! My biggest complaint with the diskette package was the lack of on-line help, the CD-ROM granted my biggest wish. The CD-ROM also includes 50 new fonts (in addition to the 153 fonts that come with the diskette version). All 203 fonts come in Corel's native .WFN format and in Adobe Type 1 (.PFB & .PFM) format. I'm in typography heaven. However, let me warn you, this many fonts can make for some ugly printouts if you don't use restraint. I was not really thrilled with

the clip art that came with the diskette package. The images were simplistic and just not very good. Also, they were compressed and you had to go through a somewhat tedious process to retrieve them. The CD-ROM version comes with tons of clip art from Art-Right, Image Club, TechPool Studios, Totem Graphics, and others. There's a catalog included with the documentation – it's got 267 pages of 1 inch square thumbnails, about 35 per page – like I said, TONS of clip art (Corel claims over 10,000 images and I'll take their word for it). All images come in Corel's .CDR format and in encapsulated PostScript (.EPS) format. All the images are uncompressed, so there's no tedious procedure anymore. Unlike the diskette version, the clip art on the CD-ROM is very usable.

Other new stuff included in the CD-ROM version – Corel DRAW! for Windows in English, Spanish, French, German, and Dutch, an OS/2-PM version of Corel DRAW!, and a Visual BASIC graphics viewing utility, called Image View, that's kinda neat. It was developed by Corel for internal use and they decided to stick it on the CD-ROM. Corel says it will not support the program, but none is really needed.

Corel DRAW!'s CD-ROM version comes on two CD-ROMs (about 1.2 gigabytes of read-only storage!). Disk #1 includes the program files for all the languages above, a multi-lingual installation program (a breeze), all the clip art in .CDR format, and all the fonts in .WFN format. Disk #2 has all the clip art in .EPS format, all the fonts in .PFB and .PFM format, and the Image View utility. The documentation says you can run Corel DRAW! from the CD-ROM, but that's painfully slow. You should install the program on a hard disk and use the CD-ROMs for the clip art.

Since October, I have used Corel quite a bit and have learned to live with its imperfections. There's still no math coprocessor support and it still runs a little slow. With the inclusion of the font PFBs on the CD-ROM, I haven't needed the WFNBOSS utility. I have worked with the TRACE utility and have had better luck converting scanned-in bitmap images into vector drawings. The TRACE utility takes a lot of practice and patience. You have to fiddle with the tracing parameters, trace, check the output, fiddle some more, trace, check the output, fiddle, trace,.... It's a lot of work, but as I said last October, converting bitmaps into vector graphics is a monumental task. Also, most new Windows products support Object Linking and Embedding (OLE – pronounced Oh-Lay), especially since Windows 3.1 came out. OLE makes Windows applications work with each other better. Unfortunately, Corel lacks OLE support.

Corel is currently offering a CD-ROM Blockbuster Bundle that includes the Corel DRAW! CD-ROM version, a high-performance CD-ROM drive (I've heard it's a Toshiba drive – one of the fastest), the Corel SCSI interface, the Corel Artshow CD-ROM (winning images from the Corel World Design Contest and historical art images), and a couple of reference CD-ROMs. The price is \$1295, but if you are a registered user of Corel DRAW!, Illustrator, Freehand, Arts & Letters, Artline, Harvard Draw, or Designer, you can get the Blockbuster bundle for \$595. If you're interested, call Corel at (800) 836-3729 for details.

According to the trade press, version 3.0 of Corel DRAW! is due out in June. It should include an improved help system (with visual examples), an image editor module for bitmapped images, a presentation graphics module (for slide show-type on-screen presentations), support for TrueType fonts, and support for OLE. Bear in mind, this is speculation according to the trade press and may change, but it appears Corel is poised to assert its position as the top selling graphics editor for the Windows platform.

Doug

n



welcome to the World of CD-ROM

Installing a CD-ROM can make you learn more about your PC than you might want to. You've got to know what your computer uses as far as memory and I/O addresses, DMA usage, and hardware interrupts. The CD-ROM drive, itself, installs just like any other drive. However, CD-ROM drives come with a SCSI or a similar type of interface board. You have to make sure there are no conflicts with your CD-ROM interface board and other expansion boards in your system. In particular, the interface might conflict with tape back-up systems, scanner boards, and SCSI hard drives. Of course, if you already have a SCSI interface board (for your hard drive) and your CD-ROM drive is a SCSI device, then you just plug it in.

After the hardware installation, you add a driver for the interface board to your CONFIG.SYS file and Microsoft's CD-ROM extensions to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. (A word of warning: you may have to tweak the driver parameters a bit to get your computer to recognize the new drive.) If you can, you should definitely load the drivers into high memory using DOS 5.0, QEMM 386, or 386-to-the-Max.

If you're shopping around for a CD-ROM drive, there are a few things you should keep in mind. CD-ROM drives can go inside the system case (internal) or in their own cases, separate from your system case (external) – you should decide which type you need. To load the CDs, some CD-ROM drives require a case for the CDs called a "caddy". The caddies are plastic cases about 5.25 inches square and can cost about \$15 a piece. Other drives use a drop-in style like most audio CD players, where all you do is lay the CD into the drive. Each loading system has its advantages. The two most important things to consider when buying a CD-ROM drive are average access speed and throughput rate. Good average access

speeds run about 280-400 ms and a good throughput rate is 150 kilobits per second.

Street prices for CD-ROM drives are in the \$200 to \$600 range. Usually the cheaper drives suffer from poor performance. If you're going to buy one, I'd suggest spending a little more for one of the better drives. Also, some vendors have Multimedia PC (MPC) upgrade kits that include a CD-ROM drive, a sound board, and a Microsoft Windows with Multimedia Extensions CD. Multimedia hasn't fully matured yet, so for now, I opted for just a CD-ROM drive. I'll consider adding a sound board when the sound quality and prices improve.

A good source for CD-ROMs and general information about CD-ROM technology are the folks at OMNICOOMP. You can usually find them downstairs in the vendor area on meeting dates. I don't know if they sell the drives, but they have a good selection of CDs for PCs and Macs.

There are no specific system requirements for CD-ROM drives, but to run Corel DRAW! on CD-ROM you need a Windows capable PC. That means at a minimum a fast 286 computer with 2MB RAM, a 40 MB hard drive, a CD-ROM drive, and VGA graphics. This minimum configuration will work, but you'll probably grow cobwebs waiting for the CPU. Realistically, you'll want at least a 25 MHz 386SX computer with 4MB RAM, an 85 to 200 MB hard drive, a CD-ROM drive, and a color VGA graphics board. If you're serious about running Corel (and most Windows applications) the best platform at this time is a 50 or 33 MHz 486DX (or 486DX2) with at least 8 MB RAM, a 200+ MB hard drive, a fast CD-ROM drive, and a Windows accelerator-type VGA board (for example, the ATI Ultra or the STB Wind/X).

Doug

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 64 in a Series



Progress

by Jim Hoisington

Technological change precedes massive changes in our lifestyles. At least, that was the premise of an essay that I read recently. The author tracked many of the major changes in European and American history and listed the technological advances that preceded those changes and made them possible.

I theorized that the availability of cheap, reliable microprocessors would have a great impact on our lifestyles. So, to test my theory, I went back and read some articles published in business journals from 1980 to 1982. This period represents the thinking about how we ought to operate our businesses and what were perceived to be expanding products and markets in the period just before the general availability of cheap, second generation microprocessors. (During this period of time, 4-bit microprocessors were being used in things like calculators and microwave ovens.)

The contrast of the thinking in those articles with similar articles in today's business journals is amazing.

In the early eighties, information was contained in large computers, leased from computer companies. The data was quantitative in nature and when it was made available to managers, it usually was presented on large amounts of papers as columns of numbers. One of the problems discussed by the articles was how to train managers to analyze the numbers using some of the new, low priced calculators. There was great deal of faith placed in a new generation of more sophisticated calculators.

FAX machines were almost non-existent. I could find no mention of Electronic Mail, Voice Mail or VCRs. Not that these products didn't exist, they did. But they were too expensive and difficult to use for the average company or consumer to consider them as viable products.

Graphical images were produced on plotters. Plotters were expensive, mechanically complex devices.

Even if a picture was worth a thousand words or numbers, information technology preferred the numbers. Graphical computer screens were usually attached to dedicated mini computer processors. They took a lot of maintenance and were very expensive.

Finally, manufacturing dominated our economy. Most businesses produced things you could touch and see and managers managed people and things.

In contrast, our current economy is dominated by services. A lot of managers manage information, not people or things. And just about every product on the market has at least one embedded microprocessor to make the product more reliable, easier to use, and more economical to produce.

Calculators have been replaced by personal computers with databases, spreadsheets and graphical screens. And managers are expected to already have the training to use these tools to analyze the information on which they base their decisions.

Methods of communication have exploded in demand to the need for information. FAXes, Electronic Mail, Voice Mail and the new Electronic Data Interchange are all too common. Most of these communications services depend, in part, on embedded microprocessors.

I certainly can't claim that only the microprocessor made these changes possible, but they wouldn't have been possible without it. If you don't believe how much things have changed, I challenge you to go find a 1980 vintage VCR and program it to record both a daily television program and a weekly program. Good luck!

Jim 

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Self SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Assembler SIG

Our May meeting featured a discussion of the UCR (University of California, Riverside) Standard ASM Library. This public domain library of ASM sub-routines mimics many of the C standard library routines.

Our June meeting will (hopefully) be a group effort, discussing the best routines found by the group to convert binary data to hex ASCII. Everyone is encouraged to bring the best routine(s) they can find to the meeting.

Frank Cavallito

Communications SIG

Startext, a BBS-type service of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, reached its 10th anniversary in May. The Comm SIG offered to help them celebrate by having them show NTPCUG what their service is all about. Bulletin Boards are of major interest to the Comm SIG, and Startext is mentioned often. This was your chance to see Startext in action, and to offer your suggestions directly to Startext management and developers.

Following the Comm SIG, we continued to discuss and explain the new NTPCUG BBS system. We plan to continue this "SIG" for several months, immediately following the Comm SIG (for now, anyway). There have also been requests to move the BBS meeting to 2 PM - we'll pursue that option at a later date.

As of this writing, our June meeting is open. We'll try to have something good for you, or just do Q&A. Watch the COMM SIG conference on the BBS for details as they develop.

Doug Gorrie

DOS SIG

How did that STACKS= line get into my CONFIG.SYS when I installed Windows 3.1? We're all accustomed to seeing changes in our AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files when installing new software, but Microsoft's decision to go this deep is a surprise.

Why the new line? Come to the June DOS SIG and find out from Jim Hoisington and Reagan Andrews, DOS SIG co-leaders. STACKS has been around since DOS 3.3, but it has been up to the user to decide when to install it. Microsoft apparently decided they would upgrade users' configuration(s) when they upgraded Windows.

All PC users should know about STACKS and when changes are needed in their PC configuration. June's DOS SIG Meeting will explore the STACKS command and other less commonplace aspects of DOS that may bear fruit in terms of PC use. Neither Jim nor Reagan think it will stop here as software becomes even more complex over the coming year. Expect to see more surprises along these lines.

The June DOS SIG Meeting will end on a user-focused Q & A session directed at solving member's DOS problems.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

There were 55 present for the April meeting. The General Genealogy SIG meets in Room 7001 from 9 to 10 a.m. each Super Saturday.

The main program was The Family Edge (TFE), which is a genealogy

software program and was brought by Joe Sissom. Programs like this are useful to the genealogy group as very few, if any, of the serious genealogists in the group will use only one genealogy program. One version of Family Edge can be obtained through Shareware (\$19 registration fee) means but this program is limited to 500 people. The upgraded program can then be purchased for \$99. GEDCOM is an extra \$10. One special feature is there are two lines of notes on the data entry screen. This program allows upward linking (entering data for self, then parents, then grandparents, etc.). It prints a four generation pedigree chart on screen and five generations on paper. It has a unique 4-generation FGS, a 5-generation Extended Family Chart, and a One Surname Annetafel. It has screen snapshot capabilities - can take screen snapshots and print to disk any time, and display on screen when needed. This feature can be used for note-taking, research plans, etc.

A secondary program was on census and marriage data now on diskettes. AGLL now has precision indexes in three formats, printed, fiche, and floppy. Under the original title of Kwik Search, and now called Vision/View, there are now available limited available marriage and census records on floppies. A. C. Williams, a SIG member has Texas Marriages - Early to 1850 (2 disks), North Carolina 1790 Census Index (5 disks), North Carolina marriages early to 1800 (4 disks) and North Carolina marriages 1801 to 1825 (8 disks). There is, in addition, a program disk that is required to do a setup and/or get started. These disks, in the main, cost less (sometimes much less) than the printed or fiche format. The information on the disk is good (complete for the earlier census) but there is no way to run various sorts (i.e. to see who were neighbors, etc.) but this method of census media is in its infancy.

The 23 May program was on using the FamilySearch at the local libraries. The 20 Jun program will be "Computer Tools for Genealogy" and will explain some non-genealogy software programs that are useful in genealogy. It will be brought by Jim Rash.

Al Sanford



PAF SIG

The Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG had 60 present at the 18 Apr meeting. 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.

During the general portion of the meeting Travis Morris, the SIG leader, stated that the MAC PAF users should consider starting their own group SIG. He also reminded everyone that they should contribute their family genealogical information to Ancestral File. Ancestral File is a computerized collection of genealogies which links individuals into families and pedigrees, showing their ancestors and descendants. Genealogists using PAF can submit this information by following PAF menu directions on how to make a GEDCOM (an ASCII file with a particular structure) of their information to a disk that can then be mailed to FamilySearch Support Unit, 4WW, Family History Department, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150 (Telephone 1-801-240-2584). Ancestral File is part of FamilySearch which is available at all local LDS libraries. FamilySearch allows an individual to research millions of genealogical data that are on CD-ROM disks at the LDS libraries in their vicinity. The information they are seeking from the FamilySearch can be printed out or can be put on a floppy disk to take home for a leisurely review.

The program was on match/merge capabilities of PAF. The Family History Center uses match/merge to eliminate duplications in the Ancestral File. At home you can use the Match/Merge feature to eliminate duplicates after you have put data you have obtained from other sources (from disks or modem, for instance) into your PAF data files. There are automatic and manual modes of this program. When in Match/Merge the two sets of data appear side by side on the screen. The merge is always from the right portion of the screen to the left. But if you need to merge the other way, then you have the

capability to interchange the left and right portions of the screen. The most common ways to match are on ID's, birthdays, etc. When you leave the program and then restart, the program asks if you want to begin where you left off.

The 23 May program was on "Submissions to Ancestral File and to IGI."

Al Sanford

Personal Users SIG

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

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the "fundamentals of personal computers." Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (2nd or 3rd Saturday on the 7th floor of the Infomart in Dallas). After four monthly meetings (covering four classes each), we take a month off and then the entire 16-class curriculum is begun again. The classes are presented in numerical sequence, but you can take them in any sequence convenient to your personal schedule.

The classes always start each month (except our month off) at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 pm. Since each class is a "stand-alone"... i.e. self-contained and NOT requiring any other classes as prerequisites... you can begin attending at any time convenient to your other priorities and schedule. In addition to receiving informative instruction from people very knowledgeable in their field and class topic, you also receive a set of handout notes for each class, to allow you later review. There are no homework assignments, no pressures, no tests, and no dumb questions. You don't even have to be a member of the NTPCUG before you attend... **ALTHOUGH YOUR ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN NTPCUG AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS.**

This 16-class curriculum of PC fundamentals is specifically designed to

be the kind of learning experience you always wished existed... where you are accepted just as you are, and where you can gain knowledge without the hassles... and best of all... the classes are FREE!

Join us as we learn and review "THE FUNDAMENTALS."

The Personal Users SIG is taking the month of June off. Join us in July when our classes start again.

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

The Grand Poo-Bah of PICK, Reagan Andrews, stopped by the PRO SIG this month. Reagan extolled the superior nature of the PICK operating system / database. As described by Doctor Andrews, the system has only one weakness; you can't delete unwanted records. Or maybe he said that you couldn't delete them when they were incorrect.

Seems Reagan has been listed as the head of the North Texas PICK User Group for several years and, despite repeated requests, cannot get his name off the list. Maybe that's because Reagan has never programmed in PICK and Jim Hoisington has. Could there be a conspiracy here?

Drop by the PRO SIG next month for more "Unsolved Mysteries of Software".

Jim Hoisington

TI Pro SIG

To do a little catching up, since there has been no report from the TI Pro SIG for a while:

The 'dBase for the TI Pro' session (actually working with DBXL, a dBase III+ clone that runs on the TIPC) is continuing the SIG project of developing a portfolio tracking system, as a group learning exercise. At the March meeting a program deficiency was noted that would allow more shares of a stock to be sold than had been bought. At the April meeting, the group looked at the changes necessary in the 'Sell' program to preclude this problem, and to call a group-requested pop-up information window



that would report the transaction history related to the associated purchase. At the May meeting we looked at the program that actually creates and displays the information window.

Plans for the June meeting are to begin work on the 'Utilities' module, to implement such features as customizing the program to display the user's name, changing color schemes, re-indexing the data bases, etc.

The General Session of the SIG continues to be an open-forum question and answer session. Topics receiving a lot of interest lately have been programs and procedures for formatting larger hard drives than originally planned for the TIPC; options with regard to reactivating the Bulletin board; and assorted questions about utility programs available for the TIPC.

Ed Snuggs

Word SIG

Does Word for Windows 2.0A still "glow" after a few months' usage? We'll look at WFW 2.0 without the rose-colored glasses at the June WORD SIG Meeting. One topic sure to be covered will be use of WFW 2.0 on laptops and where it may be better to switch back to DOS WORD instead.

Looking at WFW 2.0 add-ons, several users have received the Alki "Master-Word" pack for WFW 2.0. We'll look at their experience with this new product and its integration with the base word processor. We'll also look at Alki's new medical and legal dic-

tionaries during the June WORD Meeting as well.

Remainder of the WORD SIG Meeting will be given over to members' problems with the various DOS and Windows versions of Microsoft's word processors with an emphasis on printer interfaces and import/export of alien word processor formats with WORD.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

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.

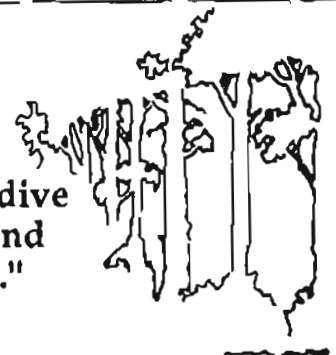
Graphics: Did you know that you have 35 clip art pictures that came with WordPerfect? Do you have problems positioning graphics where you want them? Are there times when you want a graphics box to span two or more columns in a newsletter? Then this is the session that will answer those questions.

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



"Leave the beaten track occasionally and dive into the woods. You will be certain to find something you have never seen before."



Alexander Graham Bell

NEW DISKS



...from the DOM Squad

APRIL 1992 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 715. PC-Gammon 4.1, 11/91 - Backgammon for the PC by Repstad Computer Consultants, RFD #1, Box 3720, Sheldon, VT 05483. Registration Fee \$15.00

PC-Gammon is an excellent version of the game Backgammon for the IBM PC and compatibles. The game is easy to learn and play since the game enforces all of the rules. There is mouse support but it is not required to play the game.

Basically you play the computer.

With a mouse, click on the on the dice to roll. To move your pieces, click on the piece to move with the right button, then click on the spot to move it too. You must move the piece by the number on the dice and not the combined number. For instance, if you have a 5 and a 1 and want to move a piece 6 places, then you must move 5 places then 1 place. Once you move is complete, press the left mouse button.

To move without a mouse, you have to enter the number corresponding to the place where the piece is to move from, then enter the number of the destination for that piece. Certainly a mouse is much easier.

Other features include saving games for completing later, redrawing the board, doubling, passing your turn, back-up (to the beginning of the current move), forfeiting the game, on-line help, setting up game options, and quitting the game.

At the bottom of the screen, is a running dialog of the game from the computer telling you the computer's move, and com-

ments about your game. If you make an error or a move the computer cannot understand, a message will be shown at this location.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT PS/2 or compatible with 640K of memory and an EGA or VGA monitor.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/92).

Disk 716. 1-2-3 2.3 Update Disk, 2/92 - Enhancements and Printer Drivers For DOS Version 2.3 Update Disk From Lotus Development Corporation

Lotus Development Corporation recently made this disk available to registered users of 1-2-3 version 2.3. Lotus gave the NTPCUG permission to include this disk in the group's library. The following letter from Jeffrey Beir came with the disk and is reproduced with Lotus' permission.

This package contains the disk you need to update your current Release 2.3 files. The 1-2-3 for DOS Release 2.3 Update provides: 1. Overall improvements in response to user feedback, including improved printing performance. 2. New and enhanced printer drivers that replace printer drivers originally provided with Release 2.3. 3. A new WYSIWYG printer driver that creates encapsulated PostScript files (.ESP files). For additional information on installing and using this driver, see the README file included on the update disk. 4. A new translate module that lets you translate .WK1 and .FMT files (Release 2.3) to .WK3 and .FM3 (Release 3.1 and 1-2-3 for the Macintosh).

To use the 1-2-3 for DOS Release 2.3 Update, complete these instructions: 1. Insert the Update disk in drive A: (or B:). 2. At the operating prompt type A: (or B:) and press ENTER to make A: (or B:) the current drive. 3. At the prompt, type UPDATE23 followed by a space and the path of your Release 2.3 directory, and the press ENTER. When the update is complete, the following message appears: "1-2-3 Update files have been installed. To take advantage of the new printer drivers, you must now run the 1-2-3 Install program." 4. You must now run the Install program. Follow the instructions in chapter 3 of "Getting Started" for starting Install, and then choose Select Your Equipment from the Install Main Menu and follow the instructions on the screen. Make sure that you select Yes when Install asks if you want to generate fonts. If you have multiple driver sets, you must create each driver set using Select Your Equipment.

Please read the README file for additional information.

This update adds enhancements and fixes problems in response to your requests, and we hope it meets your needs. Lotus values your comments and welcomes continued feedback.

Jeffrey Beir, General Manager, Desktop Spreadsheet Division.

This software was donated by Lotus Development Corporation.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/92).

Disk 717. Buick Dimensions 1992 - Demo of Buick 1992 Cars Created by The Inmar Group for the Buick Motor Division of General Motors 1.2M diskette only.

The Buick Dimensions 1992 is primarily designed for those interested in Buick cars for the 1992 model year. The program enables the user to look at options of features of any vehicle in the Buick 1992 product line. The program has outstanding

graphics for a CGA monitor but also supports EGA and VGA graphics. The program is so easy to use, there is no need for documentation. If interested in buying a 1992 vehicle, this disk will let you examine the 1992 Buick cars in the privacy of your own home on your PC. All this and mouse support too.

The menu options available are always available on the screen itself. ESCape will almost always bring up a menu. Just press the key corresponding to your choice. The main menu includes 3 menu options which are The Great American Showroom, The Leasing Alternative, and To Your Health.

The first main menu option, The Great American Show Room, contains all of the information about the Buick 1992 cars. The cars included are the Skylark, Century, Regal, LeSabre, Roadmaster, Park Avenue, Riviera, and Wagons. For each model, there is a brief description. Other information about the cars is available with buttons at the top of the screen. The buttons can be press with the mouse or by pressing arrow keys. The buttons correspond to general information, features, safety, standard equipment, option packages, competitive comparisons, technical data, and exterior color palettes. After selecting a car model, you can also press the ESCape key for additional menu options including a spreadsheet to estimate your monthly payments, warranty information, GM protection plan, roadside assistance, GM Mobility, as well as other menu items.

The second main option, The Leasing Alternative, contains information on the SmartLease Program. This option includes a brief description of the SmartLease program, and a checklist to see if leasing is right for you.

The third main menu option, To Your Health, presents some basic information about nutrition and exercise for your information and hopefully your benefit.

This software was donated to the NTPCUG by the Bulck Motor Division of GM.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/92).

Disk 718. Word For Windows 2.0 Demo, 10/91 - DEMO of Microsoft Program Created by Accent Software for Microsoft 1.2M Diskette only.

This is a self-running demo of Microsoft Word for Windows version 2.0, which is the latest version of the program. The presentation briefly shows the interface and features of the program so that those interested in the program can make a more informed purchase decision.

This is a demo, NOT a working model of the program with certain features disabled.

Word for Windows 2.0 has received several excellent reviews in the press and several awards in the word processor category.

This software was donated by Microsoft.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/92).

Disk 719. Money 3.2, 6/91 - Ideas for Making Money at Home, by Jeff Napier, c/o: Another Company, P.O. Box 298, Applegate OR 97530

This diskette contains a mini-book which contains ideas for individuals to make money at home. The author/publisher is very creative in his concept of creating instructional books on floppy diskette. The contents on this mini-book contain enough information to allow one to actually make money during his/her spare time. It is also designed to wet ones appetite to think about purchasing expanded mini-books from the author.

Example of the contents: How much to spend and what to buy at garage sales and how to in-

crease your cash flow reselling the items purchased.

This diskette contains one particularly interesting program called SEE.EXE which allows the viewing of any text file as if you were reading a page in a book - it also allows the printing of document. This one program is well worth the price of the diskette.

Note: Don't pass this one by! The SEE.EXE program is well worth the investment. And who knows, you just might make some extra cash using the ideas described in one or all of the chapters.

The source of this software was the writer & publisher, Jeff Napier.

This review prepared by Roy Bales, edited by Roy Bales.

Disk 720. Better Eyesight, 5/91 - Exercises to Retrain Eye Muscles by Jeff Napier, c/o: Another Company, P.O. Box 298, Applegate OR 97530. Registration fee: \$29.95

PROGRAM APPLICABILITY: Any PC user who would like to minimize his/her need for glasses and/or is concerned about PC-related vision safety issues. This program is probably most intended for near-sighted PC users.

You will find a discussion of eye muscle control, vision theory, and safety guidelines while using PCs. The author has also provided a series of visual, highly animated exercises for your eyes. He suggests spending about 15 minutes on these exercises twice a day. The claimed benefit is that the exercises may strengthen and retrain your eye-focusing muscles so as to eventually have less or no need for glasses.

The author does not explicitly state which eye conditions these exercises are designed to mini-

mize. It is this reviewer's guess only that the exercises are intended to minimize myopia (near-sightedness). The author claims that the exercises greatly benefitted himself and several other people. There is no statement regarding medical expertise, applicable medical literature, or specific scientific or clinical studies of these exercises. There are also no guidelines indicating the length of time over which the exercises might be judged successful or not.

The author includes advertisements for 8 other mail-order disks for sale (\$10 to \$20) on such subjects as garage sales, gas welding, comedy writing, and writing and selling shareware.

The author mentions that a "surprise disk" is sent to those who register.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Any mostly IBM compatible, minimal RAM, can be run from floppy, hard disk not required.

Medical and Legal Disclaimer

Neither this reviewer, this editor, nor the North Texas PC User's Group make any claim to any special medical or ophthalmological expertise in preparing this review. Anyone contemplating trying these exercises ASSUMES ALL RISKS, if any, and probably should consult his/her own ophthalmologist. The NTPCUG and anyone associated with it CANNOT ASSUME ANY LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY for the consequences of experimentation with any procedure suggested in Better Eyesight.

The source of this disk is NTPCUG member D. Lewis Graber.

This review prepared by D. Lewis Graber, and edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/92).

DOM Mail Order Form		
Mail to: NTPCUG, DOM Mail Order P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066		Specify disk size: 5.25" <input type="checkbox"/> 3.5" <input type="checkbox"/>
Disk No.	No. of disks	Title/Description
TOTAL DISKS _____ @ \$2.00 each \$ _____		
SHIPPING & HANDLING @ \$1.00 for each 5 disks \$ _____		
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ORDER \$ _____		
NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____		

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

How To Increase System UPTIME
Utilizing Network Power Management
Network Security Systems, Inc.

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Latest WordStar Products and Writing Tools
WordStar International

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

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 - Grngly.
 MS Works
 Roots III - Genealogy
 Spreadsheet Developers
 TI Pro General Mtg.
 Windows Developers

11:30 - 11:55
 Orientation

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

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

1:00 - 1:55
 ACTI
 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	(815)676-5959 (w)
	David Thrash	(214)818-4130
ACTI	Michael Hill	(214)423-7585
Alpha Four	Michael Moore	(214)288-1648
	Ron Jackson	(214)276-3661
Assembler	Frank Cavallaro	(214)423-8221 h
Basic Programming	Kent Kingery	(214)317-0308 w
		(214)317-0125 h
	Steve Dixon	(214)271-2292 h
		(214)205-2215 w
Beginners C Lang.	Stan Milam	(214)775-1503
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubart	(214)233-8353 w
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	(214)343-3862 h
	Tom Cook	(214)341-1890 w
Communications	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h
		(214)484-7942 w
	Bill Green	(817)731-1308 h
Community Svc	Jay Shilstone	(214)827-5751 h
		(214)361-9681 w
Comp Aided Design	Bill Saphon	(214)286-1799 w
DAC Software	Purt Shaw	(214)668-9633 w
		(214)235-2558 h
DOS	Jim Holsington	(214)418-3101 h
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
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		(214)937-5851 h
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		(817)451-4540 h
	Francis Bright	(214)964-8174 h
LOTUS	Mark Gruner	(214)271-4911 h
	Pat Henley	(214)229-9216 w
		(214)818-1608 h
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OS/2 Dev	Mike Flith	(214)279-1788 h
	James Dunn	(817)962-4596 w
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fernier	(817)481-4966 w
		(817)481-8625 (h)
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315
	Greg Kane	(214)289-9318 h
		(214)241-3307 w
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)867-1679 h
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
Programmers	Kent Kingery	(214)458-9711 w
		(214)317-0125 h
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Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148
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	Don Branham	(214)362-0898 h
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		(214)229-9216 w
Spreadsheet Dev.	Mark Gruner	(214)964-8174 h
	Betty Brooks	(214)818-1608 h
TI Pro	James Corbett	(214)82-4788 h
		(214)834-2360 w
Unix/Xenix	Kurt Krider	(214)348-3766 h
	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h
		(817)878-0367 w
	Jim Stallworth	(214)596-7807 h
		(214)604-2441 w
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WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)829-0699
	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
	Dorothy Berline	(817)387-8993 h
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn	(214)255-0555 w
		Metro (817)481-6453 h
	Mich 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	Doug Gorrie
Reagan Andrews	Mark Gruner
Jim Holsington	

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.)

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President	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h
		(214)871-5750 w
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Program Chalm.	Timothy Carmichael	(214)661-4626 w
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Secretary	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101h
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Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214)462-7980
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Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699
BBS	Tom Prickett	

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

SYSP01 - Tom A. Prickett
 TBBS: Fred Williams
 User Relations: Adam Peterson
 Information Mgr: Doug Gorrie
 Technical Services: Leroy Tennison
 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	Jim Holsington
John Pribyl	Stuart Yarus

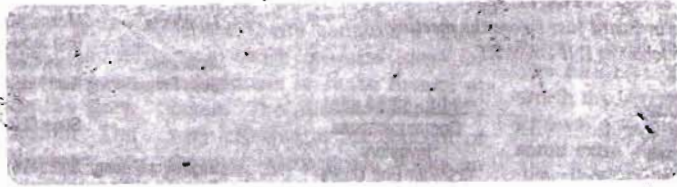


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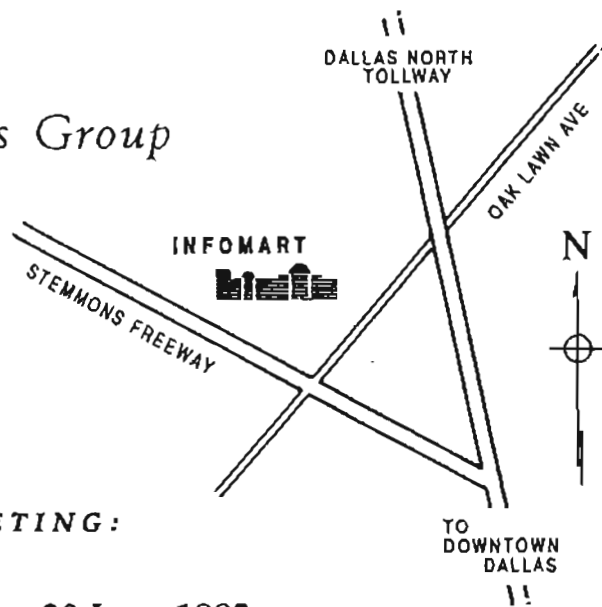
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North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

20 June 1992