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North Texas PC NEWS

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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2024 last month. Member distribution was 1679; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for August
North Texas PC NEWS:
Friday July 10th**

Meeting Dates:

July Meeting - 2nd Sat.(11th)
August Meeting - 2nd Sat.(8th)
September 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 again this month—
The August issue also has a short turnaround. Thanks.*

Program for July

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Windows Faxing with Faxual

Vista MicroSystems

Drew Lanham, Sales Manager

Faxual is an integrated hardware and software faxing solution for MS Windows. It allows you to fax directly from any Windows Application. The program features high speed viewing with full speed page rotation and allows the user to markup sent or received faxes with ellipses, squares and lines, and type text with any font at any angle directly on the fax. The user can easily add graphics, including their signature, to any fax. Faxual allows the user to automatically merge their letterhead with outgoing faxes and has robust broadcasting features. The Faxual product consists of the software with an internal 9600 bps send/receive fax and 2400 bps 100% Hayes compatible modem card with a five year warranty, and lists for \$199. There will be a drawing for two free Faxual products.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Hewlett-Packard/ Microsoft Desktop Publishing Solution

Hewlett-Packard Company Kathy Joose, Third-Party Account Manager

Microsoft Corporation Dave Perry, Product Manager

The combined forces of Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard will present their mid-range desktop publishing solution using the HP ScanJet IIp scanner and Microsoft Publisher software for Windows. They promise a fun, live demonstration to illustrate how this solution can work for you. They will also highlight the key product features of the HP ScanJet IIp scanner (U.S. List Price of \$1295 for IBM AT-compatible PC and Micro Channel computers) and Microsoft Publisher software (U.S. List Price of \$199). Microsoft will offer discount coupons for Microsoft Publisher to all attendees.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

* There will be a drawing for a free HP ScanJet IIp scanner and a free Faxual product.



Prez Sez

SIGS and Leaders

Thank you to K.B. Barton for your hard work as SIG Coordinator and to David Thrash for assisting you. It's tough when the leader and the assistant are called away to their real jobs at the same time. However, two brave souls have volunteered to step in, Alex Lilley will handle the room and equipment scheduling for the Special Interest Groups, and Paul Williams will keep up with the SIG Happenings for the Newsletter. Thanks to all.

We have enough interest and a willing leader and co-leader, so we are starting a StarText Special Interest Group. StarText is the on-line news service of the Fort Worth Star Telegram newspaper. They have been around for 10 years (the same amount of time as the NTPCUG). Check elsewhere in this issue for SIG Happenings and meeting time.

Messages are left at the Information Booth, and we do our best to respond to them. Several members have expressed interest in joining SIGs on Multimedia and on Memory Management Products. Multimedia, the combination of CD-ROM with action video and stereo sound on the p.c., is just starting to take off. Memory Management raises it's big thumb and squashes each of us at one time or another. Both topics should draw a diverse and exciting (excited?, excitable?, inciting?) audience. If anyone is interested in leading one of these SIG's, get with the new SIG Coordinator. Shreveport, Louisiana

C. Basham (a new member) would like to form a car pool to drive in for our Saturday meetings from Shreveport. The number to call in LA is 318-688-7455.

We have members who drive in each month for Fort Worth, Houston, Oklahoma, and other far-flung ports-of-call. A testament to the fact that the volun-

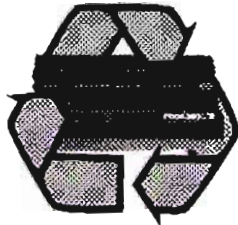
teers who run the group, the SIG's, and the Saturday meetings are doing something right. Keep up the good work, gang. A New Feature (to be followed next month as a regular feature)

At the Officer's Meeting on May 26th, I brought up the fact that unlike other user's groups, we do not print what goes on in our monthly officer's meetings. Everyone looked at me like, "Well you're the President, why aren't you doing something about it?" Okay, starting this month, I will start including the highlights/lowlights of the previous meeting.

The officer's (listed inside the back cover of this publication) run the day-to-day business of the NTPCUG. We meet on a monthly basis and communicate often over the phone and the BBS concerning the group. Our business meetings last for approximately two hours (on a good day with few controversies). The meetings start with regular reports from:

NTPCUG Secretary, David McGehee
 Computer Council of Dallas (CCD)
 representative, Charles Sullivan
 Disk of the Month (DOM Squad) leader,
 Kathryn Loafman
 Newsletter Publisher and Editor,
 John Pribyl and Doug McQuaid

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Program Chairman, Timothy Carmichael
 Treasurer, Raymond Reyes
 SIG Coordinator,

Alex Lilley (beginning in July)

BBS SYSOPS, Tom Prickett and Fred Williams
 Membership Chairman, Jim Hoisington
 Publicity Chairman, Peyton Weaver
 Volunteer Coordinator, Connie Andrews

Items of interest:

- a) CCD felt we had a good turnout for May even though it was a holiday weekend.
- b) DOM revenue reflected the release of 15 new diskettes and the Library Disk in 3-1/2" format is a big hit.
- c) Advertising revenue of \$360 helped our bottom line.
- d) Membership was at 1,695.
- e) The Publicity Chairman has recruited volunteers to put our brochures in the local computer stores.
- f) Newsletter page count is up 10% for the past nine months over the previous 9 months, while printing costs are down due to a new printing contract negotiated by John Pribyl.

The last portion of the meeting revolves around topics for action and discussion. After much discussion (several previous meetings as well) the Board of Directors approved Reagan Andrew's recommendation to purchase a new 486 computer for the newsletter publisher to use in producing the monthly newsletter. The bid was awarded to Lucky Computers. The newsletter is the largest expense of the users group, but it is also our second most important asset. The first being the volunteers who put together our NTPCUG Saturday meetings every month.

One of our members wants to start a service to recycle software and hardware to schools and other non-profit organizations. A great amount of discussion ensued because of the legality of recycling software. Some vendors, like WordPerfect, have forms and a procedure in place to allow you to legally give your old copy of their software to a nonprofit organization. However, some software vendors still consider anything short of wiping the old disks a violation of your license. We will be polling other users groups to see how they are handling this situation.

A year and a half ago, the TI-Pro User's Group became a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the NTPCUG. At the time they had their own BBS for owners of TI-Pro's around the country to access for help and spare parts. The BBS has been down for a while and after a proposal from Tom Blackwell, the BOD approved the funds to get it back up and running.

Andy Oliver

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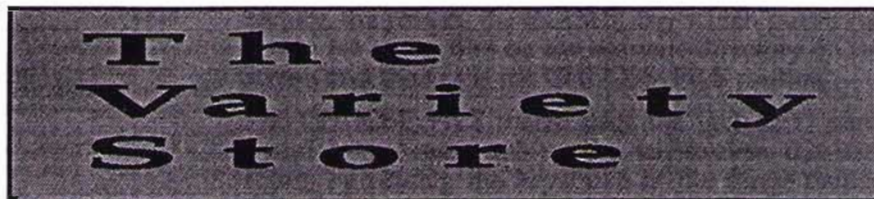
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Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.



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

PC's, OS's & CPU's take back seat – Legal front for PC Wars explodes in June

PC things are supposed to slow down for the summer. Not this year, apparently. Media is filled to overflowing with much new, and improved, software and hardware announced in the last month. There's also an awful lot of new, but still really buggy stuff as well.

So much I don't know where to begin...

You'll notice I didn't begin with CPU's this month. There's CPU news for sure, but not nearly so interesting as the legal struggles – some continuing and some just emerging. Granted, some of the legal issues do involve CPU issues, but legal is legal ...

Intel vs. Advanced Micro Devices, Apple vs. Microsoft, and Carpal Tunnel vs. everybody

Intel and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) continued to slug it out over rights to microcode in the 80287 in May and June. Even as this is being written, a decision over AMD's rights to Intel microcode in the 80287 chip is expected.

If everything goes as usual, the decision will be announced one day after the *PC News* copy deadline. (See "errata", below.)

Crux of the Intel and AMD fight is over AMD's claimed rights to reproduce the 80287 microcode in silicon, as in making chips. Without these rights, which Advanced Micro Devices claims, AMD would have to reverse engineer the microcode for their 386 and 486 clone chips (especially the 486, which contains a built-in coprocessor

section). This is a somewhat lengthy, risky process compared to simply using the Intel-proven microcode.

If it's cool and rainy, It must be June in Dallas Sans a Microsoft vs. Apple decision

Now I know what waiting is. Sitting on your thumbs, waiting for the last round in the Apple vs. Microsoft (et al.) epic suit.

I thought this was all over in May. It sure sounded like that when the judge gave most of the Apple charges the old heave ho. Back in April, most of the "smart money" was chortling over the estimated \$800 million - \$1.2 billion that Apple expected to scoop up from Microsoft.

May's decision put everyone on the fence and although the

media was already celebrating the Microsoft "victory," lots of attorneys were saying the game was still in play. That is, no real victor had been declared by the person who counts – the judge involved.

Both Apple and Hewlett-Packard filed last-minute "last" motions in late May that may delay the final outcome for at least another month or two.

Unless – I'm unlucky once more and it's announced on June 11, 1992.

Get ready for the real PC war – Carpal Tunnel Syndrome vs. everybody

New talk about full-employment for plaintiff and defense tort attorneys is exploding in computer land. Latest "You must be guilty for my discomfort 'cause you've got lots of money" product-liability swindle/suit is brewing and boiling like a botulism-laced stew these days.

If you're a plaintiff's attorney, can you say "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome" with a straight face?

The suit brewing is class action and aimed at the biggest makers of terminals and computers with keyboards. Can you say "really big money if I/we win?" Dollar figures thrust forward are in hundreds of millions. ▶

The Variety Store continued

Can you say "AT&T, IBM, NCR, ADDS, Honeywell, Televideo, etc?"

Carpal-tunnel syndrome is real. The pain as a result of this repetitive-motion disorder is also real and sometimes quite severe. Yes, there are people who do suffer from this neurological/orthopedic problem.

My problem is who's to blame? I could make a pretty good (logically, not legally) case for the individual in a lot of instances. Probably could make a good, or perhaps better, case for primary blame belonging to "sweat shop" labor practices in organizations who "count pings." That is, organizations who monitor keyboard productivity and continually push for higher data throughput.

The big question for me is product liability before the disorder is known to exist.

Read an interesting quote in *WSJ* just before writing this — something to do with a nation with 5% of the world's population having 70% of the world's lawyers ...

Deadlines, Deadlines ... errata Everex really bought Northgate

Damn! I hate errata! And, apologies for late-breaking news that goes sour after Variety Store goes to press. That's two months in a row.

IBM didn't buy Northgate Computers. Everex did.

Don't know why the IBM - Northgate deal went sour — unless Northgate looked at the histories of other IBM acquisitions

in the past several years. Not a pretty picture.

Will Everex be better? The California concern certainly has a better sales and profit record than IBM of late, although on a slightly different scale. Everex has grown even faster than Northgate, but with a very "spotty" quality reputation. Possibly, Everex wants Northgate's quality expertise (and reputation) in addition to their mail-order PC market penetration.

The other shoe drops, Cyril 32-bit 486 CPU

No surprise here. Cyril Corp. is going to produce full 32-bit wide 486 clone chips shortly. To be sold as pairs for \$120, the new Cx486DLC and Cx87DL math coprocessor will tilt head-on with the Intel 486 chips when delivered.

Cyril's 16-bit wide Cx486SLC is already incorporated in several coming notebook PC's and the full 32-bit chips are seen as a real threat to the desktop market for 486-powered PC's currently dominated by Intel.

Impact of the new Cyril chips and the expected AMD 486 clone chips is felt by media experts as one factor that will assist in driving down high-end PC prices next year. Cyril still hasn't commented on the possibility that direct replacements using the Cx486DLC may be a desirable path for present systems.

But, it is seen as a spur to Intel to get the next generation 586

chips to market as soon as possible

Is DEC jumping the CPU gun? 586 featured in latest ads

Haven't really finished talking about the 486 chips when Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) begins advertising the merits of the 586 chip upgrade capabilities in their PC's.

Called the 400ST Series PC's, DEC's new line features the 586 chip so prominently in their advertising, it's a surprise to discover they are really 486-powered. Lots of fun in these ads, considering the rumored Microsoft - DEC agreements.

Why? Users will receive four "free" applications with purchase of any of the new DEC 400ST machines — *Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows*, *Lotus Freelance Graphics for Windows*, *Lotus cc:Mail for Windows* and *Lotus Ami Pro for Windows*.

Micrografx scores — Designer 3.1 with Font Help surprise

My last *Designer 3.1x* came with about a bazillion Type 1 PostScript fonts. So many that *Windows 3.0* printer drivers were stymied by the bounty.

How to keep track of all these fonts? I did notice a strange new icon added with the Designer upgrade — a big yellow question mark with a title that read "Font Help." Hmmm.

It's really a very, very nice utility that allows browsing the

The Variety Store continued

fonts with appropriate display of the face qualities, and encourages acquiring some background knowledge of the font, its type and its designer. There are also mini-tutorials on printing measurements, font characteristics, and history of the various type houses responsible for producing the fonts.

This one was worth the trouble.

Why do UNIX books have such neat graphics?

**O'Reilly & Associates
Make UNIX and PICK look like fun**

O'Reilly & Associates are publishers.

Mostly, they have been known for publishing books on making UNIX work well. If you wanted to know more about *lex* and *yacc*, *phigs*, *perl*, *make*, *sed* & *awk*, *troff* and *curses*, they had the books. (These are all UNIX utilities.)

One thing immediately distinguishes these books – really

excellent cover graphics. For some reason, I'm always tempted to buy them even though I really don't care for (or use when I can help it) UNIX. In spite of my prejudice, there are times when I do need some UNIX background information and find O'Reilly & Associates' offerings quite valuable.

Now, O'Reilly has added PICK to the stable.

Look for titles from O'Reilly covering the *Pick System*, *Pick ACCESS*, *Pick BASIC* and the *Pick MASTER DICTIONARY*. Written by Linda Mui, Walter Gallant and Dale Dougherty, the O'Reilly series is focused on Pick running under UNIX, a highly popular combination in the last several years.

Subject may be *Pick*, but the covers keep the same high graphical standards as the UNIX series.

**Bill Gates loves books too ...
PC publishing explodes again**

My software upgrade \$\$\$ are being eclipsed by book \$\$\$ for the past several months. The release of *DOS 5.0*, *Windows 3.1*, *Excel 4.0*, and *Word for Windows 2.0a* have contributed to the "Book Drain" deficit to an alarming degree. IBM's *OS/2 2.0* promises the same impact.

Why? Each of the programs above comes with several hundred pages of detailed documentation and on-line tutorials.

But, commercial writers and publishers seem to do a better job of explaining the guts and necessary tricks involved in these new mega-programs much better than the software publishers. The writing is just that much better than the documentation.

Also, the type is somewhat larger – and much appreciated.

Reagan a

*Bring a friend with you
to the next meeting.*



CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

Usability Lab

I was called by a usability lab here in Dallas to a subject for one of their studies. Unfortunately, I am unable to tell you exactly what products were involved, but I was given permission to talk about the experience in general terms.

The study was a comparison of two competing products by experienced users. I was placed in a room with a computer set up in front of a video camera that showed my face as I worked. There was another camera which watched my keystrokes and another for the monitor screen. There was a two-way speaker system so they could answer any questions I might have as I worked. There were people sitting behind the mirrored glass wall watching me as I worked. I was given a set of tasks to do in each of the products. The tasks were similar for both, but not entirely duplicates. It was interesting what I found out about myself as I did the tasks. The first is that I became very self conscious as I read the paper which told me what I needed to do. I think I rushed through the reading and did not concentrate as well as I should have at this point and ended up making some mistakes doing the tasks that I would not have if I had been relaxed and working in my home office. Even though I did not really feel "nervous", I was affected by the situation and consequently did not think clearly about the situations of each task before beginning them. I also found that old habits die hard. That is, I use each of the programs a certain way because that is how I became used to using them when I first started with the programs years ago.

Many of the new features included in the newer versions of these programs are things which would save me time and work, but I forget to use them. In fact, when I was done doing the required tasks for each of the programs, I sat there and realized that I could have done them using some of the newer tools and saved time and work. When I am relaxed and in my home office, I take more time to evaluate what I am going to do and many times

will "remember" to use some of the newer features. After the testing, I felt like I had been in some college class and had not done well on the final exam because I knew I could have done the tasks better and quicker. Retrospect is a great thing! The problem with all this is that it makes me wonder about the validity of some of the testing. It would seem like I should have done a second set of tasks as the real test, because then I would have been "warmed up" and thinking better in a more relaxed state. Since this didn't happen, I can't say if my premise is valid or not.

This testing was quite different than what I described last month, in that they were not testing keystroke sequences and menu structure. This was a test to see which of the two products was easier to use. Because they wanted experienced people, I also felt that the testing might not be as valid. It would seem to me that inexperienced people would show more quickly which of the two products was really easier to use. Experienced people already have many habits for doing procedures in the programs which may or may not be the best or easiest way of doing the task. I would think that these old habits would tend to skew the study and the results would not be the same as when inexperienced people try the same tasks. I did enjoy the experience and hope to be called to be the subject for more testing sometime. Next time I hope to be more relaxed and think things through better without feeling rushed. I only felt rushed because of my own reactions, not from anything anyone there said or did. I am sure that other subjects would have different reactions than mine, especially if they are used to working in an office where there are more distractions and other people around. Although I was alone in the office for the testing, I knew I was being watched and on camera. I'll be very interested in hearing about the results of this project since I know I was a part of it.

Quattro Pro for Windows

I have had the opportunity to use Quattro Pro for Windows for a little while now. I still have not learned how to use all the new features because there are so many and I concentrated on just a few. Hopefully by next month's column, I'll be able to tell you even more about this new product. I also plan to write a column about using the database features of spreadsheets to "talk" to Paradox, but that will not appear for another couple of months, since I still have a lot of learning to do. In the column I plan to tell you some about the more interesting features in QProW.

Quattro Pro for Windows (QProW for short) is an all new product which does not bear any resem-

blance to any of the other spreadsheet products on the market. It is also Borland's first real 3-D spreadsheet, which they are calling a notebook. This notebook metaphor is very easy to understand because of the visual appearance of the spreadsheet on the screen. There is a tab which identifies each of the pages of the notebook on the bottom of the screen. You can move from page to page easily by clicking your mouse on each of the tabs. These tabs default to A, B, C, etc., but can be named to whatever name you want to use. You do this by placing your mouse cursor on the tab and then clicking the right mouse button, which brings up the property menu. One of the choices on this specialized menu is name. The property menu brought up by clicking the right mouse button works on many of the different areas of the screen. For instance, if you have a cell or block of cells highlighted then click the right button, you will see a property menu of options for changing all aspects of the cell(s) such as the font type and size or changing the colors, etc. I really like this new feature and find it much easier to use than trying to remember where in the main menu structure I would find the options to make the changes. I must admit I sometimes forget those menus and start searching the main menus for the way to make some change. When I don't find the option I need I finally remember the property menu and of course, that is where the options are found.

The last page of the notebook is a special graph page. This is where there is an icon for each of the graphs used in the entire notebook and for all the dialog boxes used in the notebook. When you want to do any edit any of these graphs or dialog boxes, it is best to go to the graph page and click on the desired icon. The graphs and dialog boxes are embedded in the spreadsheet wherever you want them, but there will always be the icon for each of them on the graph page. Whenever you go into edit mode on a graph or dialog box, a specialized speed bar will appear at the top of the screen which will help your job of making changes and additions easier. While on the subject of the speed bar, I need to mention that it is entirely customizable and, in fact, you can create an additional custom speed bar which will appear below the main one when you so desire. Just as you can in QPro for DOS, you can create an entire screen show with graphics. QProW goes one better with the addition of a Light Table where you can move the slides around until you have them in the correct order. There are 30 different slide transition effects in 3 speeds each for creating more interesting slide shows. Of course, there are sound effects, too.

There is a print preview with a few extra bells and whistles in QProW. You even are presented with a specialized speed bar when in this mode. It will

allow you to make changes in things such as the margins and immediately see the results. There is a button which will toggle you between color and grey scale so you can see exactly what the printed copy will look like on paper. There are even special dialog boxes for automatic page centering and print to fit.

Borland has added drag and drop to the spreadsheet, which is easy to use and very useful. You can highlight a block of cells, then drag the block to a new area and click the left button which will paste the block in the new area. This is effectively cut and paste without the extra keystrokes. You can even click on the end of a row or column and move the entire row or column. Unfortunately, the row or column will not insert itself in the new area, it just copies right over anything existing information in the new cell area. I guess that is consistent with the block move, but I would rather see the row and column move treated as an insertion.

QProW has a block fill, which allows you to choose what type of data to fill the area with, from a dialog box. This means that you can fill an area with month names, weeks, quarters as well as the usual numbers. The dialog box makes this easy to do and quick to create a row of titles for the spreadsheet.

Just as QPro for DOS has power buttons, so does QProW. These power buttons can be attached to a macro or dialog box. They are useful for many different types of operations, from helping run the graph slide show to allowing the user to choose which macro operation to run. The power buttons are very simple to set up and use. The dialog box builder is just as easy. You can quickly build a nice looking dialog box which includes all the usual types of things like radio buttons, edit boxes, slide bars, choice boxes, etc. Then comes the difficult part ... linking the dialog box to the spreadsheet and necessary macros. I wish that the property menus for each of the parts of the dialog box had the menu options for linking it to the spreadsheet or macro. Instead, there is a special linking dialog box which is full of options for any kind of linking you can imagine. It is event driven and so far, I have had a difficult time understanding all the elements necessary to make it work correctly. The power of this linking is overwhelming and a real challenge to learn. Once it is understood, it will allow you to create the most elegant and flexible dialog boxes you've seen in a spreadsheet. I hope to get this part under my belt before too long! While on the subject of creating applications, I need to mention that you can start QProW with a special option which gives the application developer even more options for creating the application. It is so flexible, you can even change the titles at the top of the screen from saying Quattro Pro to whatever you want. ►

Borland has added a feature called the Database Desktop which has the ability to share information with external databases. Of course, there is a specialized speed bar for this which allows you to choose from options such as creating a table or query. This desktop's tables and query forms look very much like those in Paradox. One difference is that it is graphically oriented. In the query form there is a box by each field where you click to make that field a check marked (selected) field. You can even choose which type of check (check plus, check descending, etc.) for the type of data you need. If you are at all familiar with Paradox, you will find this all quite easy to learn, although some of the icons are hard to figure out. Luckily, when you move the mouse cursor across an icon, the description of that icon appears on the bottom line of the screen. This is something I wish would happen in all the other parts of QProW. I learned how I could link information on the spreadsheet through DDE to create a query in the database. There are lots of possibilities using the Database Desktop which I hope to explore in the near future. They will be part of the article on linking spreadsheets to databases I plan to write in a couple of months.

Although it will take me awhile longer to learn more about all the many new features in Quattro Pro for Windows, I am impressed with this new product from Borland. It is very innovative and I think many of the features like the property menus will be showing up in most other new products for Windows in the future. The notebook style of 3-D spreadsheets is much easier to use and navigate than the 3-D spreadsheets products by other competitors because of the tabs. Borland has not tried to take their DOS product and squeeze it into Windows. Instead, they have created an entirely new product. Sometimes there are some features from the DOS version which are missing in the Windows version, but not many. They have been quite successful in creating a Windows spreadsheet which is easy to use and flexible. My only complaint is that this total flexibility sometimes makes some things harder to use, like the dialog box linking. Education will help overcome these complaints. You will be impressed from the first time you put the program on your screen.

BalerXE 2.0 and Baler 6.0

New upgrades of the spreadsheet compilers BalerXE and Baler are now shipping. For more information call: 800-327-6108 - Baler Software Corporation. Spreadsheet compiler programs allow the creator of a spreadsheet application to make that spreadsheet into a customized, stand-alone EXE program which can run without 1-2-3 or Quattro Pro. These new files can be distributed royalty-free. BalerXE allows the application developer to customize the spreadsheet with

additional macro commands. These commands give the developer the ability to change the entire appearance of the spreadsheet from the colors to getting rid of the L-frame. You can even place titles at the top and bottom of the screen to further customize the appearance. The menus can look like the regular 1-2-3 menus, pull-down or popup styles. The compiler programs allow all formulas to be protected from changes by the end-users and can permanently hide a selected area of the spreadsheet. The developer can include context sensitive help screen to aid the end user as well as create an eye-catching title screen. If you wish, you can include most of the usual 1-2-3 menu commands for the end-user or you can exclude those menu options not needed by the end-user. This way, the spreadsheet is ready for the end-user to use for just the purposes it was created. If the original spreadsheet had been enhanced with 1-2-3's WYSIWYG, the spreadsheet publishing module of Baler allows printing of publishing quality output with most laser printers. Unfortunately, these enhancements can't be viewed onscreen. BalerXE gives the user mouse support, push button cells, dialog boxes and scrollable list boxes to help make the application easier to use. Most networks will be able to run the baled applications and both expanded and virtual memory is supported. You will find most compiled applications will recalculate faster than they did in the spreadsheet program.

I have been using the compiler for awhile now and have run into some interesting problems. Once I realized what I could do and how to do it in the way BalerXE would accept it, spreadsheets were easy to build. One thing that I ran into was that you can't copy a formula to new places in the compiler spreadsheet. In order to put a calculation in new places on the spreadsheet, I had to run a macro which created the formula and place the end result into each spot. I had first tried to create these formulas by using the pointing method, only to find that this is not supported. Once I started using range names and @cell functions, the desired results were created and placed in all the places where they were needed. I then proceeded to clean up the appearance of these spreadsheets with some of the new commands from the Baler Workbench. The final resulting compiler spreadsheets looked professional and were easy for the end-users to understand and use. The program, BalerXE, is quite easy to learn and use, you just have to learn how to make sure your macros are set up correctly, etc.

Betty

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

CELLS & RANGES



The Lost CELLS & RANGES

by Betty Brooks

[Editors note: we goofed last month and left out Betty's column. Here's a very abbreviated version for the faithful.]

Macro for Helping Guide a User in Picking a File

The following macro code was written as part of a much larger program, but these macros are good to show you the concept of using the {get} command. I wrote the macro to allow a user to have the freedom to use the cursor key to point to the file to retrieve or to start typing in the file name, but it captures the backspace keystroke so the user can't change directories.

Please note: the indented lines of code are really continuations of code from the line above and really should be in a single cell.

```
\R {indicate "Point to file or Type File name; then Press Enter"}
  {let PICK_FLAG,0}/r{esc 2}\ESTIMATE{name}{CHOOSE_FILE}{quit}

CHOOSE_FILE {get KEY}{if @code(KEY)>47#and#@code(KEY)<58#or#@code(KEY)>
64#and#@code(KEY)<91#or#@code(KEY)>96#and#@code(KEY)<123
#or#{KEY="(BACKSPACE)"#and#PICK_FLAG=1}}{KEY}{let PICK_F
LAG,1}{branch CHOOSE_FILE}
{if @iserr(@vlookup(KEY,KEY_TABLE,0))}{branch CHOOSE_FILE}
{if KEY="(ESC)"}{esc 5}/wgd(esc)\SCO~-q{indicate}{quit}
{KEY}{branch CHOOSE_FILE}

KEY      {ESC}

PICK_FLAG 0

KEY_TABLE {RIGHT}
{LEFT}
{DOWN}
{UP}
{PGUP}
{PGDN}
{HOME}
~
{END}
{ESC}
```

The \R macro uses the {indicate} command to place a message across the top line of the screen which tells the user to pick a file or type in a file name and then starts the file retrieve command, changes the directory from the current directory to the ESTIMATE di-

rectory, the presses the {NAME} key which puts a full screen list of the files on the estimate directory on the screen and then calls the CHOOSE_FILE routine.

The CHOOSE_FILE macro uses the {get KEY} command to process each of the keystrokes the user types, by placing the keystroke in the range named KEY. It then parses each of the keystrokes through the {if} commands which are checking the contents of KEY. First the ASCII code of KEY is checked to see if the keystroke was a letter or number, which would mean that the user was starting to enter a file name by typing it in instead of pointing to the name. If the keystroke was a number or letter, then the macro lets the range name PICK_FLAG have the value of 1. Then the keystroke is allowed to be processed. The PICK_FLAG variable is used to let the macro know whether or not a letter or number had been pressed. Once a letter or number has been pressed, the backspace key can then be allowed so the user can get rid of the entry if he changes his mind. If the backspace key was allowed before typing in a letter or number, then the effect of the backspace would have been to move the program up a directory before looking for the files. The macro would then branch back to the beginning and wait for another key. Since PICK_FLAG had been set to 1 after the first letter or number, the {if} can also check for the backspace key in the following iterations. If {esc} is pressed, the contents of the edit line are erased, PICK_FLAG is

reset to 0, and then the macro waits for another keystroke. If the contents of KEY had not passed the first {if} test, then the contents of KEY would be checked against the contents of the one column table named KEY_TABLE to see if KEY contained one of the keystrokes allowed. KEY_TABLE contains the cursor movement keys, as well as {esc} and Enter(~). As long as the keystroke was one of those allowed in the table KEY_TABLE, then the keystroke is allowed and the macro branches back to read the next keystroke. Of course, there are a couple other keystroke checks. For instance, if KEY was the {esc} key, then the macro takes

the user out of the macro and resets the directory back to the \SCO directory, uses the {indicate} command to restore the indicator back to normal and then quits the macro control. The {if} command which checks the contents of KEY against the

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 65 in a Series



Databases

by Jim Holsington

"If you could own 25 percent of a database company today, which company would you want to own?" was the question a client asked me. Now that's a tough question to answer.



RANGES CONTINUED

KEY_TABLE uses the @iserr command. This actually returns a true to the (if) when the keystroke is not in KEY_TABLE. The rest of the lines after the (if) are then processed which, in effect, ignores the keystroke and goes back to process the next keystroke. Therefore, when the keystroke is in KEY_TABLE, the macro reads the next line which is the (if) command checking for the (esc) key, then when the keystroke is not the (esc), the next line, which processes the keystroke and branches back to the beginning of the macro to read the next keystroke, is executed.

Hopefully this has not been too confusing. If you already understand the macro command language, this will be fairly easy to follow and it shows a different technique you might want to try. If you want more details on using the (get) command and more basic information on this type of macro, call Paul Antonellis (Assistant User Group Liaison at Lotus) at 617-693-1554 and ask for "Fast Keystroke Processing in Macros" to be sent to you. Please remember to speak slowly and spell out your name and address if you get the recording, so they can be sure and send the Tech Note to the correct name and address. This tech note also discusses how to use the @find function in conjunction with the (get) command. I used the @vlookup and KEY_TABLE rather than the @find function. Either technique will work well in the macro. If you are more of a beginner, you will find this Tech Note will be helpful in helping you understand what the macro in this article is doing.

Betty

▲

Databases are used to manage our data. And, it seems that every day we have more and more data to manage. In the early days, we used spreadsheets to manage our data. But spreadsheets want to manage data in RAM memory. Today's data is too big to fit in RAM.

Early databases could only manage a few types of data. They could handle text of limited size, numbers, currency, and dates. That was great yesterday but the future demands much more flexibility.

Future databases must have an object oriented design. By that I mean that the user can define a new type of data to the database manager and the manager will organize it and be able to retrieve it by its characteristics. Some of the things that we are starting to want to store in our computers are video, sound, handwriting, faxes, graphic images, and textures.

Never lacking an acronym, the database community has grouped all of these types of data into the letters BLOB. BLOB stands for Binary Large Object. I'm not sure about the Binary but most of the new types of data sure are large.

In addition to organizing our data so that we can retrieve it by any of its characteristics, the database manager has to provide a method of communicating the data to us.

That was easy with the old data types. All of them could be expressed with characters on a non-graphical screen. But some of the new data types are not easily expressed visually.

For example, the visual expression of a some sound patterns is so complex as to be confusing to all but the most perceptive human minds. So, one of the more intriguing areas of research in databases is how to display an object in other than its native medium.

No currently shipping database can do all of these things. So, I answered the client's question by saying that I wouldn't want to bet on any of the current database companies.

Jim

▲

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The Adventures of PC Tech

by Ben Thar

Chapter 13

Time to get back to her class on networks. Mary Margaret learned that for small offices there was a network type called Peer-to-Peer where each p.c. on the network could be a server (sharing it's hard disk with others) or a client (using another p.c.'s shared hard disk) or both. The peer-to-peer network did not require a dedicated computer to be the file server and it was fairly straight forward to connect and get operational. "Right," she said to herself, "I've heard that story before. Easy is a relative term in the computer business; easy comes with experience, not out of a book or an instruction manual." The instructor told them that before the class was over, they would configure and operate a peer-to-peer local area network (Mary new the short name, LAN. Her vocabulary was increasing with each class.)

Networks consisted of three major parts, the software that contained the network operating system, the hardware (p.c.'s with network interface cards), and the wiring plant to connect them together. Wait a second, did he say "plant." "Sir, is this a plant you build like a factory or a plant you grow like a ficus?" "Good question, Mary. Although I've never heard it phrased quite like that. A wiring plant is a DESIGNED scheme of connecting the computers that includes the type of wire, the location of all components, the mapping of the system, and finally the purchase and implementation of your design."

Several companies make networks with dedicated file servers, just like there are several companies in the peer-to-peer market. Mary Margaret's next class was on wiring topologies. She always thought that topology had to do with the earth, mountains and valleys and such. Anyway her class notes follow:

Four Major Topologies Listed According to Market Share

- 1) Ethernet, including 10-Base T
- 2) Token Ring
- 3) ARCNet
- 4) FDDI

Ethernet- [10 Megabits per second maximum] broadcasts the message and the station that is supposed to receive it listens and responds. Kinda like a police siren, when it's turned on and you know it's for you, you pull over and respond.

Token Ring- [4 Megabits and 16 Megabits per second maximum] a "token" is passed around the network which is configured like a large ring. If a station wants to send a message it grabs the free token, attaches the message and sends it on. The next workstation checks the token, and if it is not addressed to him, he sends it on. Mary Margaret thought this sounded like the mailman getting letters and sorting through them and sending them on. But her mail person seemed to keep giving other peoples mail to her. She'd have to ask how the Token Ring knew where to deliver the message.

ARCNet- [2.5 Megabits per second maximum] This is a token passing network similar to Token Ring, but different. It is also not an IEEE standard.

After rereading her notes, Mary decided to ask for a repeat of the ARCNet information.

FDDI- --- [100 Megabits per second maximum] -
--- Something to do with fiber...



She figures she dozed off in this section because after she read this at home she didn't know if the fiber was in the network or maybe you poured Metamucil on your file server. "I'll look this up at the library before the next class," she thought as her lunch hour ended and the CRISIS line started ringing. She referred to it as the CRISIS line because no matter who called and no matter how trivial the problem, they all felt like the fate of the world hinged on their printing their silly memo.

This call turned out to be a strange situation. The B: floppy disk drive started running real slow. PC Tech did not believe it until she saw it for herself. Diagnostics programs showed a disk failure on the B: drive, but it still ran, just real slow.

PCT replaced the 3-1/2" B: drive with another one and it did the same thing. A setup option lets you disable the on-board floppy drive controller, so she did that and put in a floppy controller card with the same results. A DIR of the B: drive caused a noticeable change in the noise level of the power supply so she replaced it with one in her inventory. Same results. Finally, frustrated, she dialed the computer technical support line and explained what she had done. The "technician" said, "It looks like you have tried everything else, so try replacing the motherboard." She thought, "Why did I waste my time on that phone call?" The motherboard replacement worked. What a day!

We'll be back...

ALL THIS FLATTERY WENT TO OUR HEADS

Professional Draw for only \$119.95! (reg \$495)

Gold Disk's Professional Draw...looks like it has what it takes to give old-timers Micrografx Designer and CorelDRAW bad dreams. To say that Professional Draw is full-featured is an understatement.
-InfoWorld, May 18, 1992

This program easily leads the pack in raw power and still manages to live in user-friendly environs.
-Publish, June 1992

If the kitchen sink were a drawing tool, Professional Draw for Windows would have it. -PC World, March 1992

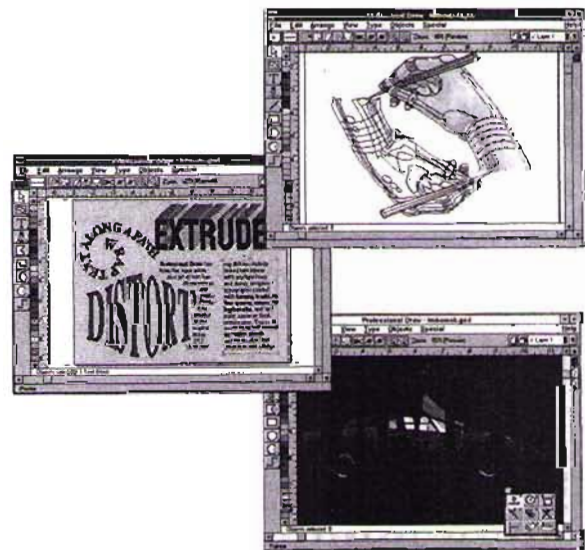


Professional Draw features 15 tools, 23 different drawing methods, and 8 snap-to-modifiers for increased flexibility and precision. Our drag-and-drop library manager comes with over 1,000 professional-quality clipart images to get you started. **150 Type 1** fonts are included free, but you also can use all of your Adobe Type 1, TrueType, and Corel fonts.

In fact, Professional Draw even can import your CorelDRAW and Micrografx Designer files. Still, we're a little flush from all this excitement. We're even extending to user group members this **special price of just \$119.95**, even less than our competitive upgrade price. Just call us at **1-800-465-3375** and name the user group newsletter where you saw this ad. But act fast, before we come to our senses! (limit one per person).

Oh, my—all of this praise has made us a little giddy. Sure, when we created Professional Draw, we knew we were defining the new standards in professional-level drawing for Windows. But we weren't quite prepared for all this acclaim. Perhaps it has affected our judgment.

Of course, press like this probably was inevitable. With Professional Draw, you can edit in full color mode without sacrificing speed, create precision drawings without repetitive zooming, even design using multiple layers and pages. You can also do page layouts within Professional Draw with linked text blocks, irregular wraparounds, auto hyphenation, and spell checking. Our special effects have attracted lots of attention! Create 3-D extrusions with realistic highlights and shadows, blend along a curve, and rainbow gradient fills. Our pattern fill capabilities are probably the most extensive of any package available.



Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to Paul Williams, SIG Coordination, before the 10th day of each month)

Assembler SIG

Our June meeting consisted of multiple contributions of various programs to convert binary data to ASCII hex. It's interesting to see how many ways the same thing can be accomplished in Assembler.

The subject of our July meeting is not yet known, given that the press time for this notice predates the June meeting. Please check the BBS for last minute updates.

Frank Cavallito

BBS SIG

The purpose of the BBS SIG is to bring NTPCUG membership up to speed on the new Bulletin Board System (BBS). It is our desire to see it used as much as possible to benefit our members.

The new software has now been installed for about 4 months, and continues to get rave reviews. If you wish to become more proficient, or just want to know the basics, drop by.

NOTE: In July, we are moving to 2:00 PM so we will not interfere with the 1:00 SIGs. This will also eliminate some conflicts we have in getting projection equipment.

See you at 2 PM.

Doug Gorrie

Business Applications/DAC Accounting SIG

The Business Applications/DAC Accounting SIG was treated to a presentation by Bob Russell at the June meeting, of a very comprehensive Point of Sale program for those who

take their Business Applications seriously.

Next month, the July 11 meeting is scheduled to be a presentation of DAC's "Instant Accounting," a program for smaller businesses whose needs are not so exotic as to require DAC Accounting v4.2. Instant Accounting may be run as either a DOS program or a Windows program, as purchased. Guess that a user could even switch from one to the other, by re-installing, should a DOS user decide at a later date to add Windows.

We expect to have a representative from DAC Software to make the presentation. Hopefully there will be a drawing for some Goodies at the conclusion.

I haven't heard from anyone who is having trouble with DAC Accounting v4.2, lately. My complaints have to do with a few of it's limitations: Lack of printing controls; Formula In Reports not long enough. Otherwise everything is running smoothly. If such is not the case with other users, bring your questions/problems and we will try to help.

Putt Shaw

DOS SIG

Memory management continues to be a hot topic for DOS users in spite of Windows 3.1 (or, perhaps, because of it.) July's DOS SIG meeting will focus on memory management issues and installation quirks with contemporary PC's.

Jim Holsington, a recent OS/2 2.0 convert, will look in detail at the major memory managers, QEMM386 6.xx and 386MAX 6.xx, in addition to Microsoft's own entries, HIMEM.SYS and EMM386 and their potential(s)

for users running DOS. Reagan Andrews, definitely not an OS/2 2.0 convert after playing drive assignment games with 3.5" disks, may, or may not be there for the fun.

We will, however, attempt to acquire the latest versions of each of the memory managers for discussion and implementation.

What's new on the OS front? Windows 3.1 and OS/2 2.0 are beginning to show their less favorable sides, as experience with both mounts among PC users. DOS 5.0 is starting to look a little patched and "doggy," while bug reports on DR DOS from Novell/DRI continue as well.

What's all this mean? Come to the July DOS SIG Meeting and hear all the latest rumors and gossip along with real suggestions and advice on running "real", i.e., current versions of DOS. It should be a lot of fun. (Jim even has his own overheads for this meeting.)

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

The General Genealogy SIG meets in Room 7001 from 9 to 10 a.m. each Super Saturday. There were 57 present at the 23 May meeting. "How To Use Family Search" was the May program.

The Family History Library is at Salt Lake City, Utah. Family History Centers (FHC) are located at the local Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) genealogy libraries. There are at least 6 of these FHC's in the Dallas-Ft Worth area (look under LDS in the business pages of the phonebook). These FHC's are manned by volunteers and offer microfilm, microfiche and a computerized search that is called "FamilySearch." FamilySearch consists of 5 programs; Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index (IGI), Social Security Death Index (SSDI) or (SDD), Military Records (death records of Korea and Viet Nam wars), and the Family History Library Catalog.

The purpose of the May program was to attract people to the FamilySearch capabilities by giving a step-by-step procedure on how to use this program. It was pointed out that even if you didn't own or know how to use a computer you could still gain by



using the FamilySearch at the FHC because it is a simple matter of following the sequential instructions on the computer and then printing out the desired data. To use FamilySearch, phone the FHC nearest you and get a reservation on the computer (usually one hour). Before you go, have your data to be researched thought out and on paper. Go early and read the looseleaf notebook that describes FamilySearch and its data files. (FHC people will be glad to assist you in getting started).

The June topic was on using other computer software to aid your genealogy software while researching genealogy. The July topic will be a demonstration on how to let your genealogy software publish for you.

Al Sanford

PAF SIG

The Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG had 59 present at the 23 May meeting. The PAF SIG meets in Room 7001 from 10 to 11 a.m.. PAF is a popular genealogy software; it costs \$35 and is a good program for beginners or experts with versions available for IBM compatible or Macintosh computers.

The May program was on how to submit your personal genealogical information and submit it to the Family History Library at Salt Lake City, Utah. This was an extremely appropriate subject as it followed directly the program on how to use FamilySearch that was presented at the General Genealogy SIG at the 9 A.M. meeting (see General Genealogy SIG write-up).

PAF software allows you to put your data in GEDCOM form. This means that you can automatically put your data in a special ASCII form that makes it transportable to other computers, programs, etc. by either disk or modem, etc. By using this method, your data can be put on disk and sent to Salt Lake where it will be put into the Ancestral File and the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and then will reappear on the updated CD ROMs that you use in the

Family History Centers that are located in the local LDS churches.

To make a disk (or disks) of your genealogy data on PAF for submission to Ancestral Files, choose #2 Genealogical Information Exchange from the ACCESS MENU. Then choose #1 Ancestral File Submission from the Genealogical Information Exchange MAIN MENU. Put a blank disk in drive A and follow the instructions after pressing "F1 CONTINUE". If you wish, before pressing F1, you can press "F3 INTRODUCTION" and get introduction and documentation instructions - which you can print out, if desired. It is important that all source documentation is included. After you have finished with Ancestral File Submission, remove this disk and put another blank formatted disk in drive A. Then select #2 Temple Names Submission from the Genealogical Information Exchange MAIN MENU. Again follow the instructions PAF gives for making this disk. This submission should be made even if you are not a member of the LDS church because it is this data which goes into the IGI.

20 Jun program was on basic PAF commands and operations.

Al Sanford

Hardware SIG

The July Hardware SIG will be meeting in the Auditorium. Drew Lanham of Vista Micro Systems, Inc. will be presenting their Faxual hardware/software product. Faxual is a Windows 3.0/3.1 fax program and fax board. They will be giving away three Faxual packages to members and have promised a special price for the day.

David McGehee

LAN SIG

We will resume our LAN Seminar Series in the July meeting with a discussion of "LAN Installation Considerations." Do you have a success story - or a horror story - to share?

Many thanks to Francis Bright for leading the last several SIG sessions while I was out of circulation. My back problem is behind me now (so to speak) and I should be close to

fully recovered by the July LAN SIG meeting.

See ya' there - 10am.

Bernie VanRoekel

Personal Users SIG

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

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

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

This 16-class curriculum of PC fundamentals is specifically designed to be the kind of learning experience you always wished existed... where you are accepted just as you are, and where you can gain knowledge without the hassles... and best of all... the classes are FREE!



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

The four classes for July 1992 will be:

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

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

Chris DesJardins presented a graph showing the exponential growth of updates to Borland products. Using his graph and modern portfolio theory, programmers can optimize their investment in upgrades by using dollar-cost-averaging:

Join us next month as we look at the global impact of the frightening increase of software updates.

Jim Hoisington

Quicken SIG

Thanks so much to Jim Hall for hosting the Q & A for the April meeting. As always, we're indebted to his staunch support of the SIG.

We devoted part of the April meeting to becoming acquainted with the NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS) which gives us another forum for information and problem solving. Since all of your computers are operational in this respect, just read the April '92 Newsletter for using PRO-COMM communication software and the March '92 Newsletter for accessing the BBS. Members of NTPCUG have full access to all menu options, mail and upload capabilities, and conference messages. The author of these two articles, Doug Gorrie, is the leader of the Communications SIG scheduled at noon and is making himself available later in the day (2 pm) for new users of the BBS. (Check the schedule for that Saturday). And for those of you who experience an unfriendly interface with the BBS, Adam Peterson of User Relations

stands ready to help. (See inside the back cover of your Newsletter).

As for the Quicken SIG, you have three options: leave personal mail for (1) Wilbert L. Harris or (2) Joyce Johnston. The third option is being opened to us by Doug Gorrie through the general conference "Bus/DAC SIG: general business and DAC apps." This third method is preferable since the information is available to anyone who contacts the BBS. As I've mentioned, Richard Katz has offered to forward your problems on to the technical people at Intuit, so now you have no reason to wallow in abject misery over a software malfunction.

For the June meeting, Billy addressed the most important aspect of any type of financial accounting which is the setting up of categories. As the Quicken fundamentals are presented on a continuing basis, we would like to present special topics from time to time on the use of Windows, transferring tax accounts from Quicken to TurboTax, updating security prices in an investment portfolio and special business applications. For those of you who have indicated that you are willing to discuss these or other topics, please let us have your name and phone number.

Jo Johnston

Spreadsheet Developers SIG

The Spreadsheet Developers SIG meets at 11am each month to serve as a forum for discussion and interaction among the attending members. We keep the discussions open to problems and questions brought in by members. Hopefully the ensuing discussions will prove to be educational to all.

The format of the meetings includes a short presentation by one of the SIG members on some type of spreadsheet/macro tip or technique as well as the question/answer session.

Plan to attend and bring your problems with you.

Betty Brooks

Windows Applications SIG

For the month of June, the Windows Application SIG focused on Faxing from Windows and Microsoft Excel. There was a demo of a new software/hardware Fax product for Windows named Faxual from a local company named Vista Micro Systems. For Excel, we had an in-depth how-to from an experienced Excel user, followed by a question-and-answer period.

For the month of July, we will start the meeting with our usual question-and-answer free-for-all and then move on to focus on what is Win32 NT and why should I be interested in it? I am attending the Win32 NT Developers Conference sponsored by Microsoft in early July and should have plenty of information I can talk about. Microsoft wants the public to buy in early to Win32 NT, so this will be the first time they beta test a product without requiring a non-disclosure agreement. The beta test of Win32 for developers starts at the conference (everyone leaves with a beta test version on CD-ROM). The end-user beta test is scheduled to start by October. It's July, so I decided to have a hot topic.

By the way, managing both Windows applications and developers SIGs is getting to be a bit much for me, so I am looking for a replacement as SIG leader for Windows applications. I would be more than happy to assist the new SIG leader, I just don't want to be the head honcho. If you're interested in becoming a SIG leader, please contact me about it.

Arthur English

Windows Developers SIG

For the month of June, we are going to focus on what Windows STRICT coding is and what it buys Windows developers. We will cover how to implement Windows STRICT and the new Windows macro API defined in WINDOWSX.H. We will also look at the benefits of STRICT coding and how it will make porting a Windows app to Win32 easier.

Speaking of Win32 and NT—that's the focus for our July meeting. I am attending the Win32 NT Developers Conference sponsored by Microsoft in early July and should have plenty



of information I can talk about. Microsoft wants the public to buy in early to Win32 NT, so this will be the first time they beta test a product without requiring a non-disclosure agreement. The beta test of Win32 for developers starts at the conference (everyone leaves with a beta test version on CD-ROM).

If you are reading this and work for Microsoft at the Dallas office and have worked with NT, please come to this meeting and contribute your thoughts. We will be discussing all aspects of Windows development for Win32 and NT. We will also try to develop an agenda of Win32 NT topics for future meetings.

At the May meeting, we kicked off our chain letter Windows Developers SIG Disk. That one should be circulating at this meeting, plus I intend to kick off one more. All you need to do is bring in some blank diskettes to trade or be willing to do some diskette duplication (4 copies to give to other members) for the SIG.

Arthur English

Word SIG

If I follow where you go, will you lead me where I need to be?

That's a major question for users of the DOS version of Microsoft Word 5.5. There hasn't been an upgrade of this word processor for some time now. Users are bound to feel that the massive change from 5.0 to 5.5 may have been a useless exercise, unless there's room to grow in the DOS version.

Are the rumor mills active along these lines? Will Microsoft rise to the Orem, UT, challenge if WP 6.0 (long-rumored) breaks over the summer months? Good question(s). Word for

DOS 5.5 is still a very good day-to-day word cruncher for "small" PC's without the power or resources to handle the demands of Windows and Word for Windows.

Laptops may provide the motivation to move "backward" to the faster, more compact DOS version of Word after the gloss and glitter wear off the Windows version. Resources are appealing — 3.5 MB of disk space vs. 6 to 15 MB of disk space depending on Windows applications installed. Speed is another factor. In spite of the influx of 25 MHz 386SX and 486SX notebooks recently announced.

We'll really look at the pros and cons of the various Word versions on notebook PC's at the July Word SIG Meeting. We'll also look at some of the new add-ons for DOS Word and how they may help make the "old" standard ideal for this smaller format.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

WordPerfect for DOS Tip of the Month!

Ever deleted a word (or line or page or everything) in a document accidentally? It's even possible that you didn't know what was deleted so you weren't able to type it over. Well, you can put the deleted information back in the document faster than you can say Alka Seltzer.

When there are no prompts to cancel, the [F1] key (normally used as the Cancel key) becomes the undelete key. There are three separate buffers which store information you have deleted. Buffer 1 stores the most recent deletion, buffer 2 the second most recent and the third buffer stores the third most recent. Any of the deleting features can be used: Delete, Backspace, blocking and deleting, delete a word/line/page.

Once you've deleted something, position the cursor where you want it re-

stored and press [F1]. The most recent information you deleted will be highlighted and you'll be given the opportunity to restore it by pressing 1 or R. If you want to see what's in the other two buffers, choose 2 or P to see the previous deletion. Choosing Previous again shows you the third most recent. Once more and you're back to the first deletion.

With one exception (noted below) there is no practical limit as to how much or what elements (text, graphics, codes, etc.) you can delete. The real limit is disk space, because if the information is too large for memory, the buffer will be written to disk.

Using undelete is a quicker way to move text than using the Move feature. Delete it, reposition the cursor and undelete it. It's terrific for deleting codes, too. There have been times that I created a tabset code and realized it was in the wrong place. Instead of recreating it in the right place, I delete it, move to the proper place in the document where I want it and undelete it.

Note: There is only one thing that cannot be undeleted: a Table Definition (the good news Judy, is that this doesn't affect you in WP 5.0 - the bad news, of course, is that you don't get to use Tables at all in 5.0).

On to business. Let's see ... charm, grace, savoir faire, style That's it! Style! The topic of our next WordPerfect SIG meeting. If you've heard about Styles but don't understand how they differ from macros, we'll answer that question. If you've started to create a Style but found it to be more work than it was worth, we'll show you some shortcuts. If you've been given a Style file but don't know how to access it, we'll show you how to incorporate it in with your own. Of course, time for Q&A's at the end of the meeting. See you there!

Lori Quinn

Be a published author—write an article for the newsletter.

Ask Not For Whom The Bell Tolls

From PC+, May 1992, the Journal of the Central Texas PC User's Group (Austin). However, Connie Andrews and Jim Hoisington discovered that this law was amended in 1989 by the 71st Legislature. This article reflects the changes made by the 71st Legislature.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SECTION 1, Title 7, Penal Code, is amended by adding Chapter 33 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 33, COMPUTER CRIMES

Section 33.01. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Communications common carrier" means a person who owns or operates a telephone system in this state that includes equipment or facilities for the conveyance, transmission, or reception of communications and who receives compensation from persons who use that system.
- (2) "Computer" means an electronic magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high-speed data processing device that performs logical, arithmetic, or memory functions by the manipulations of electronic or magnetic impulses and includes all input, output, processing, storage, or communication facilities that are connected or related to the device.
- (3) "Computer Network" means the interconnection of two or more computer systems by satellite, microwave, line, or other communication medium with the capability to transmit information among the computers.
- (4) "Computer program" means an ordered set of data representing coded instructions or statements that when executed by a computer cause the computer to process data or perform specific functions.
- (5) "Computer security system" means the design, procedures, or other measures that the person responsible for the operation and use of a computer employs to restrict the use of the computer to particular persons or uses or that the owner or licensee of data stored or maintained by a computer in which the owner or licensee is entitled to store or maintain the data employs to restrict access to the data.
- (6) "Computer services" means the product of the use of a computer, the information stored in the computer, or the personnel supporting the computer, including computer time, data processing, and storage functions.
- (7) "Computer system" means any combination of a computer or computers with the documentation,

computer software, or physical facilities supporting the computer.

(8) "Computer software" means a set of computer programs, procedures, and associated documentation related to the operation of a computer, computer system, or computer network.

(9) "Computer virus" means an unwanted computer program or other set of instructions inserted into a computer's memory, operating system, or program that is specifically constructed with the ability to replicate itself and to affect the other programs or files in the computer by attaching a copy of the unwanted program or other set of instructions to one or more computer programs or files.

(10) "Damage" includes partial or total alteration, damage, or erasure of stored data, or interruption of computer services.

(11) "Data" means a representation of information, knowledge, facts concepts, or instructions that is being prepared or has been prepared in a formalized manner and is intended to be stored or processed, is being stored or processed, or has been stored or processed, in a computer. Data may be embodied in any form, including but not limited to computer print-outs, magnetic storage media, and punchcards, or may be stored internally in the memory of the computer.

(12) "Electric utility" has the meaning assigned by Subsection (c), Section 3, Public Utility Regulatory Act (article 1446c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).

Section 33.02 BREACH OF COMPUTER SECURITY

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) uses a computer without the effective consent of the owner of the computer or a person authorized to license access to the computer or the actor knows that there exists a computer security system intended to prevent him from making that use of the computer; or

(2) gains access to data stored or maintained by a computer without the effective consent of the owner or licensee of the data and the actor knows that there exists a computer security system intended to prevent him from gaining access to that data.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly gives a password, identifying code, personal identification number, debit card number, bank account number, or other confidential information about a computer security system to another person without effective consent of the person employing the computer security system to restrict the use of a computer or to restrict access to data stored or maintained by a computer. ►

(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

[C] Section 33.03. HARMFUL ACCESS

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly and without authorization from the owner of the computer or a person authorized to license access to the computer:

(1) damages, alters, or destroys a computer, computer program or software, computer system, data or computer network;

(2) causes a computer to interrupt or impair a government operation, public communication, public transportation, or public service providing water or gas;

(3) uses a computer to:

(A) tamper with government, medical, or educational records; or

(B) receive or use records that were not intended for public dissemination to gain an advantage over business competitors;

(4) obtains information from or introduces false information into a computer system to damage or enhance the data or credit records of a person;

(5) causes a computer to remove, alter, erase, or copy a negotiable instrument; or

(6) inserts or introduces a computer virus into a computer program, computer network, or computer system.

(b) An offense under this section is a:

(1) felony of the second degree if the value of the loss or damage caused by the conduct is \$20,000 or more;

(2) felony of the third degree if the value of the loss or damage caused by the conduct is \$750 or more but less than \$20,000; or

(3) Class A misdemeanor if the value of the loss or damage caused by the conduct is \$200 or more but less than \$750.

Section 33.04. DEFENSES.

It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under Sections 33.02 and 33.03 of this code that the actor was an officer, employee, or agent of a communications common carrier or electric utility and committed the proscribed act or acts in the course of employment while engaged in an activity that is a necessary incident to the rendition of service or the protection of the rights or property of the communications common carrier or electric utility.



Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Work ____ (____) _____ (Ext) _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below		
Payment:	Membership Classification:	Application Status:
Cash _____	Regular (\$24.00) _____	New Member _____
Check _____	Student (\$16.00) _____	Renewal _____
Credit Card _____	(full time with ID)	Address Change _____

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

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



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

Summer means vacation time to a lot of us - including a lot of our regular volunteers. If you haven't volunteered yet, now might be a good time to get involved. It would give some of our regulars a needed break and the meetings seem to be more "laid back" during the summer so it's an ideal time to learn the ropes.

There are sign-up sheets at the DOM Booth and the Information Booth for the coming months, as well as people to contact on the "Volunteer" page in this issue. Don't be bashful. It's easy work and a fun way to meet other members. Computer experience isn't always necessary for what

needs to be done - just a willingness to join all the other warm bodies listed below.

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers who served for the month of MAY. 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

Anchors:

David Slavik
Mike Griffin

Crew:

Alfred Boswell
Frank Dorer
Ethel Saltz

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael

Chris Jung

Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:

Connie Testa

Scheduler:

Connie Andrews

Anchors:

Harvey Andrews

Diane Arnold

John Arnold

Mike Ashley

Ralph Beaver

John Ferguson

Allan Harbaugh

David Huckabee

Wade Mayfield

Claude McClure

Everett Turner

Peyton Weaver

Paul Williams

Booth Crew:

John Calhoun

Pat Couch

Jim Hall

Ned Keig

John Myers

David Opaleye

Michal Paris

Martin Sisk

Randy Wicks (2 hrs.)

Floater:

Pehl Lee

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Desk Crew:

Roy Bales

Ralph Beaver

Rob Bender

Charles Carter

Shawn Dunn

Charles Fernandez

Thomas Goodwin

Jim Green

Pat Henley (2 hours)

Jo Johnston

Duane Martin

Bob Post

Stuart Potter, Jr.

Craig Ringener

Ed Snuggs

Oscar Tyler

Bob Wilgus

With Special Thanks to:

Set-Up Crew:

Pat Henley

David Huckabee

Jerry Stone

Shift Supervisors:

Roy Bales

Gene Carleton

Don Chick

Shirley Z. Smith

Claude Walston

Inventory and Take-Down Crew:

Charles Carter

DOM Desk Scheduler:

Charles Cashion

Disks-for-Review Manager:

Howard Hamilton

Disk Production:

Kathryn Loafman

Kenneth Loafman

Bell Tolls continued

Section 33.05. ASSISTANCE BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The attorney general, if requested to do so by a prosecuting attorney, may assist the prosecuting attorney in the investigation or prosecution of an offense under this chapter or of any other offense involving the use of a computer.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1985.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three separate days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. **By phone:**

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael 861-4626 (w)

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

DOM Software Review
Howard Hamilton 844-5721 (h)

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



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Windows Faxing with Faxual
Vista MicroSystems

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**The Hewlett-Packard/Microsoft
Desktop Publishing Solution**
Hewlett-Packard Company Kathy Joose, Third-Party Account Manager
Microsoft Corporation Dave Perry, Product Manager

(See page 1 for description
of programs.)

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

Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C

12:00 - 12:55 cont

Communications
Investors
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
R:Base

1:00 - 1:55

ACTI
Beginners C Language
Business Apps./DAC Easy
LOTUS
OS/2 Developers
Personal Users
Startext
WORD

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
BBS



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

Board of Directors

Andy Oliver, Chair
Reagan Andrews
Doug Gorrie
Mark Gruner
Jim Holington

Mitch Milam Metro (817)481-8453 h
(214)823-9837 w

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.)

Officers

President Andy Oliver (214)223-4044 h
(214)871-5750 w
President-Elect Doug Gorrie (214)618-8002 h
(214)484-7942 w
Program Chair Timothy Carmichael (214)681-4626 w
Treasurer Raymond Reyes
Secretary David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir. Jim Holington (214)418-3101 h
Advertising Dir. John Pribyl (817)275-4109 h
Publicity Payton Weaver (214)462-7980
Disk of the Month Kathryn Lodalman (214)596-2539
Group Statistician Connie Testa
Volunteer Coord. Connie Andrews (214)828-0689
BBS Tom Prickett

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain Jim Holington
John Pribyl Stuart Yarus

NTPCUG BULLETIN BOARD (214)387-2751
(214)387-2752
(214)263-9036 (Metro)
SYSOP - Tom A. Prickett
TBBS: Fred Williams
User Relations: Adam Peterson
Information Mgt: Doug Gorrie
Technical Services: Leroy Tenslon
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

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator Alex Lilly (214)953-4970 w
(214)517-7430 h

ACTI Paul Williams
Michael Hill (214)423-7585
Alpha Four Ron Jackson (214)276-3661
Assembler Frank Cavalitto (214)423-9221 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
Business Applic. Bruce Schubert (214)293-8353 w
C++ / Advanced C Kent Cobb (214)343-3862 h
Tom Cook (214)341-1890 w
Communications Doug Gorrie (214)618-8002 h
(214)464-7942 w
(817)731-1308 h

Community Svc Bill Green (214)827-5751 h
Jay Shilstone (214)361-9881 w

Comp Aided Design Bill Saphron (214)296-1799 w
DAC Software Putt Shaw (214)669-9633 w
(214)235-2559 h

DOS Jim Holington (214)416-3101 h
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)828-0689 h

Fox Pro Kevin White (214)644-7536
Genealogy Al Sanford (214)278-7888 h
Hdw Solutions David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Gary Johnson (214)937-9676 w
(214)937-5851 h

Investors Nash Kapoor (214)458-9158
Local Area Net Bernie Van Roekel (817)461-4120 w
(817)451-4640 h

LOTUS Francis Bright (214)964-8174 h
Mark Gruner (214)271-4911 h
Pat Henley (214)229-9216 w
(214)618-1608 h

MS Works Mike Firth (214)827-7734
OS/2 Dev James Dunn (214)279-1738 h
(817)962-4596 w
(817)481-4966 w

OS/2 for End Users Bob Fernier (817)481-6625 (h)

Paradox Fred Williams (214)482-1315
Greg Kane (214)299-9318 h
(214)241-3307 w

Personal Users Bob Prasley (214)887-1679 h
Bob Russell (214)422-4269 h
Programmers Kent Kingery (214)458-9711 w
(214)317-0125 h
(214)416-3101 h

Quicken Jim Holington (817)430-8148
Billy Pitts
Jo Johnston

Base Richard Hauslein (817)467-4581 h
Don Branham (214)352-0888 h

Roots III John Wylie (214)495-4410
Software Review Pat Henley (214)271-4911 h
(214)229-9216 w

Spreadsheet Dev. Mark Gruner (214)964-8174 h
Betty Brooks (214)618-1608 h
StarText Beverly Kurdin (817)355-9594 h
Jim Boughton (817)478-6685 h

TI Pro James Corbett (214)821-4788 h
(214)634-2360 w
(214)348-3768 h

Unix/Xenix Kurt Kridar (817)267-0758 h
Doug Scott (817)876-0367 w
(214)596-7807 h
Jim Stallworth (214)604-2441 w
(214)618-1266 h

Windows Applic. Arthur English (214)618-1266 h
Windows Dev. Arthur English (214)618-1266 h

WORD Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)828-0689
David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
WordPerfect Dorothy Bertine (817)387-8993 h
Lori Quinn (214)255-0555 w

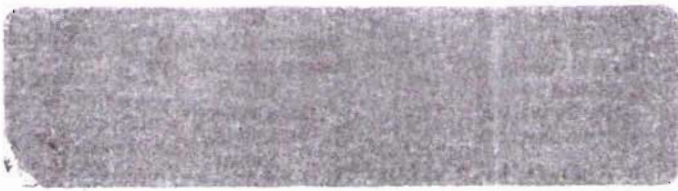


North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

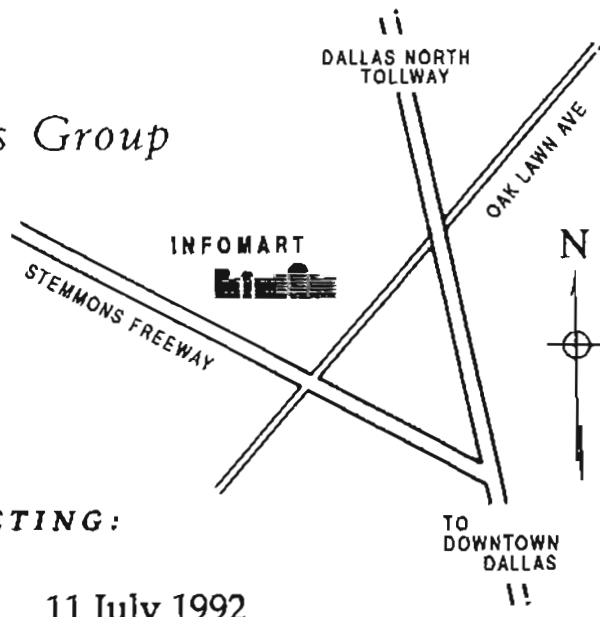
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11.7



North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

11 July 1992