



North Texas PC Users Group

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August 1992



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 2033 last month.

Member distribution was 1683; 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 for Windows. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Xerox Ventura Publisher. Corel HBADLINE and CorelDRAW were used for some headings. Repro was printed on a NEC LC-890 Laser Printer. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica and Zapf Chancery.

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for September
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, August 10th

Meeting Dates:

August Meeting - 2nd Sat.(8th)
September Meeting - 2nd Sat.
October Meeting - 3rd 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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Have a great vacation.

Program for August _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Terminal Plus for Windows: Communication Made Easy

FutureSoft

Allison Waters, Regional Sales Representative

Terminal Plus, the official upgrade to the Windows Terminal communication accessory, offers just the right number of features at a very competitive price. Terminal Plus offers the most popular terminal emulations and file transfer protocols for personal computing. It also provides a state-of-the-art Dialing Directory, with true queue-dialing capability and portability at the click of a button for ProComm Plus directories. Take a look at Terminal Plus at this presentation and demonstration. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Document Publishing with FrameMaker for Windows

Frame Technology Corporation

Darja Adams, Applications Engineer, and Sarah Clayton, Territory Manager

FrameMaker brings a new class of document publishing to Windows users: full featured WYSIWYG word processing, page layout, graphics, tables, equations, and structured documents tools in one easy-to-use application. Users can author, design, illustrate, edit, revise, and distribute documents - all from a single application. For on-line distribution of documents is FrameReader with hypertext support. FrameMaker runs on multiple platforms including IBM PC, Macintosh, and UNIX and can share files with no conversion needed. There will be a drawing for two free copies of FrameMaker for Windows and other freebies. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

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

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

WordPerfect for Windows

WordPerfect Corporation

Thomas L. Crabb, Area Manager

Come see a full demonstration of WordPerfect for Windows. You can observe how to use its many features and ask your questions. There may be a drawing for free products. *

* 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

Thanks to Prez-Elect Doug Gorrie for leading the group in June. It won't be too long before he gets to do it every month.

SIG Changes

We appreciate the hard work that Kent Kingery put into the Basic Programming SIG. His contribution to leading this group will be missed. The Basic SIG has grown to a two hour event and we will be splitting the SIG among several volunteer leaders. The SIGs will be Beginning Basic at 10:00 and Advanced/Visual Basic at 11:00.

Jobs

I receive several calls each month from people looking for qualified applicants for jobs. Because this is a

monthly newsletter, it is not a good forum for advertising employment opportunities. In most cases, these employers/recruiters want someone as soon as possible. I (try to remember to) post the information in the All section of our BBS, and to mention the opportunities at our 11:00 Business Meeting on Saturday (another good reason to attend the business meeting).

Newsletter Exchange

Each month the users group receives newsletters from other users groups around the world. These newsletters are bound by a volunteer and available for check-out at the Information Booth by members with a valid I.D. A great deal of interesting information is in other newsletters. Often you will see a reprint of our articles, like Betty Brooks' Cells & Ranges, Jim Hoisington's On Complexity, or that Ben Thar person's adventures. ►

Hewlett Packard and Microsoft

A special thank you to HP for donating a ScanJet IIp scanner to the North Texas PC User's Group at the July meeting. The scanner went into service, working on our newsletter.

The joint demonstration by HP's Kathy Joose and MS's John O'Rourke was especially well attended with many compliments received on the exceptional presentation. The Microsoft Publisher and ScanJet combination worked well together. Microsoft's Golf program (September release) has great sound effects, for those of you who have invested in a sound board and speakers.

Growing Pains or Newborn Pains

My wife hates it, but I just can't resist a new computer store. I checked out both locations of Tandy's new Computer City. During the grand opening of the Arlington store, I was impressed with the assistance and knowledge of the sales person as he patiently answered all of my questions about the Compaq notebook that they received 30 minutes before I arrived. The Broderbund representative was very

nice to explain the new CD-ROM version of Carmen SanDiego to my daughter. By the way, it is impressive.

Now, about the "pains." I called the corporate sales line a few days later to get pricing on an IBM 57SX that I saw on the shelf. The salesman informed me that it was not in the computer system, so he would have to check the pricing on the floor and call me back. NO RETURNED CALL. I requested information to apply for a corporate charge account, leaving my name, company name and address. TWO WEEKS LATER, NO INFORMATION. I visited the Prestonwood location and the salesman was nice, but he did not know the difference between RAM memory and Hard Disk storage space. I didn't think about it at the time, but I should have invited him to our Personal User's SIG classes.

It took a while for CompUSA (then Soft Warehouse) to realize the importance of corporate customers. The average computer shopper may spend \$200 to \$10,000 annually and is very necessary to the superstore because of the mass of these shoppers. However, a single corporate buyer could take \$250,000 a year in business somewhere else due to a lack of attention. Don't give up, I haven't. They deserve the benefit of the doubt, up to a point.

Synopsis of June 23, 1992 Officer's Meeting

The Computer Council of Dallas (CCD) is negotiating our 1993 contract with Infomart.

The new computer for the newsletter publisher is working great, except the Ventura GEM driver for the high resolution monitor, and that is being looked into.

Timothy Carmichael continues to do an excellent job of scheduling main meeting presentations for the Saturday meetings. (This involves juggling requests, dealing with vendors, and getting firm commitments. Thanks, Timothy.)

For all of you TI-Pro user's, your BBS should be operational by the time this is printed.

Jim Hoisington will represent the NTPCUG at an upcoming Borland User's Group Conference in Scotts Valley, California. (bring your hard hat, Jim.)

Talks were continuing with StarText, the Fort Worth Star Telegram's on-line news and information service, to place NTPCUG info on their system.

Meeting Adjourned.

Andy Oliver

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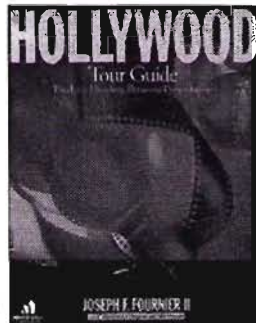
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Micrografx Picture Publisher

A review by Neal A. Berkowitz

Micrografx latest release of Picture Publisher takes the field of paint programs to a new level. While the old version was one of the best from last year, new releases of Photostyler and Publisher's Paintbrush showed Picture Publisher to be a "bit long in the tooth." The new release gives the competition a very good challenge for the number one place in both paint and image editing programs.

Picture Publisher is true to its origins - it concentrates primarily on image enhancement. The wealth of features in Picture Publisher begin with the ability to scan images. Calibration of scanners is automated which simplifies operator actions. For black and white calibration, the user scans in a black and white template. The user then highlights the scanned image using the mask tool. Finally, the user selects a menu option to perform the auto calibration. Color scanner calibration requires an additional step. The user specifies that the image is a color image, re-scans the template, and again requests an auto calibration. Nothing could be simpler.

Once a picture is scanned, or if it is read from an existing file, Picture Publisher gives the user an almost infinite ability to modify the image. Color, contrast, and brightness for the full picture can easily be adjusted with a few mouse clicks on pull down menus.

Image enhancement is often a matter of "feel." Picture Publisher gives the user a better idea of the composition of a picture by breaking down the picture into a graphical representation of both gray shades and color. Bar charts are used to represent the distribution of gray levels. A chart with a predominance of tall bars on one side of the chart would indicate a picture that is either too dark or light, depending upon which side of the chart the bars are on. If there are significantly more and taller bars in the middle of the chart, the implication is that there is not enough contrast in the picture. This visual representation reduces much of the guesswork in improving images. The chart also functions as a tool to dynamically alter the contrast and brightness of the picture, further simplifying the work.

To simplify color adjustment, a similar bar chart is used to represent and modify color intensity. Alter-

nately, color can be modified by a tool with sliders for several colors along the spectrum. Sliding the bar associated with a color reduces or increases the intensity of that color in the picture. For example, if the intensity of yellows in a picture needs to be increased, the sidebar that corresponds to yellow can be moved upward. Pictures can also be color separated either to the red-green-blue color chart or the cyan-magenta-green-black scales. This permits each color element to be independently manipulated.

The basic tools found in other packages are also found in Picture Publisher. Paintbrushes can be used to tint or smear parts of existing pictures. Lines, squares, and circles can be drawn using operator selected colors. Fills are also possible using solid colors, gradients, or patterns. Like other packages, start and end color are selected, the type of fill is determined, and the number of times the fill is to be repeated is chosen. The operator is also able to select the start and stop points. The start and stop points give the operator greater control over how the fill is to occur, not affecting just the area that it is to occur in.

The clone tool is a recent innovation that is taken to a new level of usefulness in Picture Publisher. The clone tool first appeared in Publisher's Paintbrush and permitted the user to copy small portions of a picture to a different location using the brush as the control. Micrografx demonstrates this feature in one of their tutorials using a picture of an ice cream cone. The exercise instructs the user to move the source cursor to one of the scoops of ice cream. The destination cursor is moved to the top of the cone. The user can then draw a duplicate of the scoop to the new location. Unlike Publisher's Paintbrush, the clone tool can be a variety of shapes. More significantly, the user can set a degree of transparency to the cloning tool. This allows blending of the new image and the old, similar to a variable tint of a pattern rather than a color. The user can also select feathering. This permits edge-blending of the cloned image with the original picture.

Micrografx was obviously concerned about color transitions between painted or copied regions and the surrounding areas. This is evident in the number of tools that incorporate blending. In addition to the paint tools and copy operations, the edge effect is also handled when objects are resized or rotated. By aliasing the edges with the background there is less of a chance of "jaggies", the rough edges that sometimes occur when drawing sharp lines.

Picture Publisher's origins as an image editing rather than as a paint program are most evident in the concept of masks. When most paint programs define areas that are to be filled, they consider the areas to be bounded by a border of either a single color or a range of colors. This idea is expanded into the defi-

dition of masks. A mask is the bounds for a fill, or alternately, an area that is protected from fills. The way masks are used is also expanded. Masks delimit shade and tint areas, areas to apply special effects to, and areas to protect from overlays. In short, anything that can be done with Picture Publisher can be either included or excluded from masked areas.

Masks can be created two ways. First, masks can be basic geometric shapes. Second, irregular shaped masks can be manually or automatically generated. Automatic shape generation uses an edge detection algorithm to calculate the boundaries of objects. The mask follows the detected edge around the shape. The sensitivity to color differences can be selected for the red, blue, and green components of color. Manual shape generation consists of the operator tracing around the desired shape freehand. These two methods can be combined to generate a mask. One segment of a mask can be calculated automatically, the next calculated manually, and the procedure continued until a full mask is created. At any point in the process the user can backup, cancelling segments sequentially. Once created, the mask can be resized, stretched, or edited.

With a program as potent as this there are a few warnings. First and foremost are the hardware requirements. This program begs to be run on a 486 machine with a graphics enhancement card and a 200 meg minimum hard disk drive. While it can be run on a slower and smaller machine, some of the features will drag along with a painful slowness and a few will be almost unbearable slow. The actual space requirements on disk are about 16 meg with the program needing at least 2 meg of memory in which to run. The memory requirement is definitely a bare minimum, considering this is the only program that has given me an "out of memory" warning on my current system. The test machine has 8 meg of actual memory with an additional 10 meg of virtual memory.

It is interesting to compare this program to its major competitor Publisher's Paintbrush. Unlike Publisher's Paintbrush, Picture Publisher only displays a small set of the possible colors at one time. Palettes are limited although it is possible to easily change to a different set of colors. Publisher's Paintbrush displays the full 256 color pallet at a once. Publisher's Paintbrush also makes it a bit easier to switch tools and it permits the clone tool to copy from one picture to another. On the other hand, Picture Publisher has numerous quick key combinations to perform many functions. Picture Publisher also allows the operator to view both the "from" and "to" points simultaneously, a feature annoyingly missing from Publisher's Paintbrush.

The only other problem encountered with Picture Publisher was that pictures read into Picture Pub-

lisher and displayed on my monitor were very granular and did not look like the final output. This was more than annoying, it was seriously hampering the usefulness of the program. The problem mysteriously disappeared when an updated Windows video driver was installed in the test machine. What is unusual was that identical images read in to Publisher's Paintbrush at the same resolution did not have the problem. Since the problem went away with a different video driver, I cannot attribute the problem to Picture Publisher.

Picture Publisher makes it easy to manipulate images. The on-line help and mnemonic prompts on the bottom of the screen when the cursor moves over a button make it easy for the beginner to do good work. For the professional, the breadth of tools and the power behind the program make virtually any task possible. At least for today, this is one of the best, if not THE best, image processing program on the market.

Neal

a

Special Thanks

Hewlett Packard

A special thank you to HP for donating a ScanJet IIP scanner to the North Texas PC User's Group at the July meeting. The scanner went into service, working on our newsletter.

Microsoft Comes Through... Again

For about four years now, the editors of North Texas PC News have been using Microsoft Word 5.0 (for DOS) to edit the articles in this newsletter. The software was donated back in 1987 by Microsoft.

Since that time, Windows has become a compelling force in the microcomputer industry and we felt it was time to move into the Windows environment. With this issue, the editors and publisher have switched to Microsoft Word for Windows 2.0, donated by Microsoft.

Once again, hats off to Microsoft - with a special thanks to Tonya Dressel.

Doug, Gerry, Alan,
Randy, and John



Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

The Variety Store

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

If it's August – this must be fun! Berkeley, LaserTools & Intel help Celebrate the '92 summer doldrums

You see the most interesting – and far-fetched – news items in the summer months. This is the time for flying-saucer abductions, two-headed births, and (this year) politicians trying to look sincere.

Why?

Summer doldrums spell death to anybody doing a monthly column. PC's are no exception since "no news is no news" and I'll have to start making things up (like rumors of another exhibit war between Microsoft and IBM personnel).

Doesn't mean there's not a lot of real news this month. There is, but it's so confusing trying to keep up with all the players that I lost track. A small hint. IBM has made some kind of PC-related deal(s) with Toshiba, Hitachi, and, apparently everyone else in the computer manufacturing business. Couple this with additional agreements between Toshiba and Apple, Intel and VLSI, and TI suing the whole universe (individually and globally) and you've kind of got the picture.

You've been spared the excesses (mostly) of my imagination by an exceptional flurry of PC-related activity and a little graceful PAYOLA.

We'll serve the last – and best – first.

Intel strikes a fun chord With Haggard Memories ...

Hastings, Humble, Giardini & Freeman, Inc. are public relations counselors. They represent (now) Intel PC Enhancement Products and got my attention just before this column was written in early July.

Hastings, et al, also provided me with a really fun evening.

Opened an envelope from them and discovered Merle Haggard's *My Favorite Memory* (45 RPM) combined with a slew (seemed appropriate given the insert) of Intel memory products data sheets. Time for fun.

I actually have a turntable (pre CD – remember those) that plays 45's with aid of appropriate spindle insert.

Haggard was good. (I already knew that.) So were a bunch of other records I played since the spindle was attached. Listened to everything from *Cool Blue Flame* (an infamous little ditty commissioned by Lone Star Gas Company and recorded in the mid 1960's), Kenny Ball's *Midnight in Moscow*, and Roberto Seto's *Brigitte Bardot* (Portuguese) to Stan Kenton's *Peanut Vendor*.

Real nostalgia. Thanks, Intel.

LaserTools' PrintCache Whistles with speed

Next on the *Payola* parade was *PrintCache* from LaserTools. You may know *PrintCache* by its earlier moniker – *LaserTorque*.

At any rate, by any name, *PrintCache* is one of the fastest print spoolers/buffers (caches) around these days. In its earlier form, it made *Ventura Publisher* for GEM a pleasure to use. Now, it works with both DOS and *Windows 3.x*, and replaces the notorious *Windows Print Manager* with some real speed.

How much faster? Lots. LaserTools claims 5 - 30% increases over DOS. Also, it uses approximately 12K RAM when the disk is used for the buffer, and that can be loaded into high memory under DOS 5.0. Does it work – yes. Did I measure the speed increases – no. They were too fast most of the time.

Now for the *Payola* – LaserTools included a multi-section, wood whistle with the demo program. It sounds just like an old, steam-powered locomotive whistle. Drives Connie really crazy.

Berkeley sartorial splendor *After Dark 2.0* demo arrives

We'll draw for these at the August DOS SIG.

Variety Store continued

But, first, a few words from the sponsor. Got a box in the mail in late July, crammed with environmentally-correct, recycled stuffing. Also got two tee-shirts, two demo programs and two neckties adorned with flying toasters.

Couldn't be anybody but Berkeley touting their *After Dark 2.0* screen blanker program for DOS and *Windows*. I wrote about this program last month. I've had some glitches that may be associated with this TSR, but all have come with beta versions of *Windows* programs I've been looking over.

Still think *After Dark 2.0* is the best of the breed.

Errata's a real b*tch Who wants Northgate?

Northgate is really making me feel snakebit these days. This is two months running that I've had to correct the previous month's story about somebody buying Northgate.

I was wrong (politically incorrect?)

Northgate wasn't bought by Everex after all. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the Everex/Northgate deal fell through after Everex's stock price took a heavy hit (approx. 50%) in June. Yes, the *WSJ* story did report on another potential buyer, but I'm not about to mention a name here — not this month.

Look for this item in the small (really small) print in the logo area of future Northgate ads.

Quarterdeck sued — And you Thought they just lied to users

Shades of Miniscribe! Quarterdeck Office Systems is being sued by a New Jersey investor for issuing a "series of positive financial reports 'in a falsely optimistic manner.'" That's a polite, lawyer/accountant-way of saying "lie".

Story broke in the July 7, 1992, issue of *The Wall Street Journal*. The suit alleges that Quarterdeck failed to disclose a "material decline in revenues and profitability" as a result of tremendous competitive pressures. Result was a sudden drop in Quarterdeck stock price from approx. \$12.35 to \$5.13 in two days.

This is reminiscent of the wilder days of Miniscribe (before purchase by Maxtor) when the company was boxing and shipping bricks to warehouses which were subsequently described as delivered hard-disk drives. All this had something to do with inventories, stock on hand, etc.

No, I don't think the bricks were from Ferris, Texas, but some may have been made there.

Speaking of losers ... Lotus, Aldus announce Bad financial quarters

Lotus Development Corp., former golden PC software publisher of the '80's, warned that its second-quarter results "would fall far short of analysts' estimates" according to *The Wall Street Journal* June 26.

According to the *Journal* article, Lotus was reeling from "intense price competition" while PC industry media mentioned poor showing for the initial *Windows* version of 1-2-3 and lack of a more widespread product mix. All sources mentioned the unexpectedly strong showing by both Microsoft and Borland spreadsheet products in formerly Lotus-dominated domains.

Pricing policies from both competitors was also a major factor in Lotus' meager 25 - 30% penetration of the new *Windows* market and stable performance rather than growth in the DOS market.

Aldus Corporation announced expectations for their "worst earnings in four quarters" according to *InfoWorld's* June 29 issue. Publishers of *PageMaker*, strong contender for dominance in the *Windows* DTP market, Aldus has been a mainstay in the Macintosh professional graphics and page layout spheres.

Aldus cited poor performance at its German subsidiary, higher expenses than anticipated and revenue shortfalls — including a lower than anticipated penetration of the *Windows* market. Media experts cited a too-heavy reliance on upgrades for income in a "flat" market in addition to the factors stated above.

Both Aldus and the media cited significant personnel shifts in Germany and the U.S. as result of the situation.

Variety Store continued

Speaking of personnel Shifts, OS/2 2.0 loses Programming director

Don't know what this means. IBM lost Tom Steel, former Personal Systems Programming Center Director, in June. He resigned to join Intergraph, Inc. and lead that company's programming efforts.

PC media speculated that IBM upper-tier executives were not happy with delays in OS/2 2.0's introduction, or with the bugs in the resulting product. Seems strange when OS/2 seems to be gathering some momentum with users and actually getting pretty good press.

If IBM wants to blame somebody for poor market penetration, they might look at another area — marketing (or lack thereof) for the real culprit(s). Horror stories abound about customers' failed attempts to get OS/2 in midst of what's being called "typical" IBM bungling.

PC Wars' casualty -- AST co-founder Yuen out

Thomas Yuen, a co-founder of AST Research, Inc. "stepped down" from roles as co-chairman and chief operating officer in June. That leaves one letter from the original AST trio in active management of the pioneer PC company.

Yuen was the "T" in AST. "S" was Safi Qureshey, who is still active in AST management, and "A" was Albert Wong who left AST and started Amkly Systems.

AST was one of the original makers of add-on boards for

the IBM-PC after its introduction in 1981. Later, AST entered the system business and has been better-known for their PC's and notebook PC's for the last several years.

Microsoft - IBM divorce Final according to media

Last of the OS/2 stories (for this month) involves Microsoft - IBM official "divorce." According to many, many media stories, the finalization took place in June with IBM and Microsoft agreeing to disagree as of 1993.

Blankets are really split with IBM dropping Windows support, but gaining OEM rights to Windows NT, and keeping rights to Windows 3.0 and 3.1 source code. (There is some contention about NT rights and source code, though.)

IBM's rights to new DOS versions expire in September, 1993, but the companies could agree to extend DOS rights.

Ink wasn't dry on media pages before stories began hinting that Microsoft intended to renege on portions of the agreement dealing with NT source code and IBM's rights to access. Looks like the acrimony will keep journalists in material for some time.

Hey, I lied again -- Another OS/2 story

Remember the stories about IBM and Microsoft officials sabotaging each other's OS at product demonstrations last summer? Looks like the war has escalated to new levels (lows) of

nasty and childish behavior at trade shows.

PC Expo showed a new phenomenon this summer with (according to the media) organized cat-calls, booing (shades of the old Cowboys), and generally execrable manners at one another's display areas. According to witnesses, it wasn't officers, this time, but marketing and technical staff involved.

I can hardly wait for Comdex. Given the above, should we take 9 min's to Las Vegas this November?

Biggest news this summer

-- Massive price wars

I intended the *PC Price Wars* to lead this month's column. Was going to have lots of neat charts and graphs with percent reductions by maker and anticipated street prices, etc.

I gave up before I even started.

Intel and AMD may have actually started this. AMD's introduction of the 80386 clone and Intel's rapid price reductions in response look like the initial fuel for the explosion. Nobody could have anticipated the PC blood bath resulting from fierce price cutting among the major makers.

Compaq, CompuAdd, Dell, Toshiba, DEC, IBM, et al, have been introducing new models and lower prices so rapidly that it was hopeless trying to keep up. Compaq may be the biggest story with a couple of added twists.

Prolinea is the culprit.

Compaq didn't anticipate the demand that "popular-priced"

Variety Store continued

Compaq PC's could generate. Granted, Compaq got a rather large boost from an unexpected source - *The Wall Street Journal* - with a very long article detailing Compaq's decision to hit the inexpensive market and Rod Canion's release to pursue personal growth as a result. But, media report that Compaq's success is an embarrassment, since they are having to "wait-list" orders for the new line.

On the chip front ...

AMD loses round with Intel
Cyril drops other shoe --
Intel delays 586 demo

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) lost a round in its struggle with Intel over 80287 microcode in June. The loss in Federal Court came as some surprise to observers who expected an AMD "Clean Sweep" in the series of litigations with Intel.

The impact of the suit will be delay of AMD's anticipated 486 chip which was expected to follow quickly on the heels of its 386 AMD cousin. Access to the 80287 microcode would have given additional assurance to potential buyers of full 486 compatibility which was the point of the effort.

Cyril Corporation unleashed the Cx486DLC, the "two" of a one - two punch aimed directly at heart of Intel's domain - the 486 market. The new chip from the Dallas-based CPU and math coprocessor designer is a "doubled" version of the earlier-announced Cx486 chips that will be manufactured by Texas Instruments (TI).

The exciting feature of the new line is their potential for upgrading older existing 386 PC's, since the new chips are designed as a replacement for the 80386DX chip line. Announced chips are a 16MHz/32MHz set to replace 16MHz 386 chips, and a 20MHz/40MHz chip. Cyril also reported they would probably announce a 25MHz/50MHz chip in the near future.

Delivery of the new CPU chips is expected in the fourth quarter of this year - just in time for Comdex.

Intel Corporation has a 586 waiting in the wings. We've known that for some time.

Rumors just before *PC Expo* in June indicated one of two things - either the P5 (pre-announcement name for the 586) has some design problems and wouldn't be available for demo at *PC Expo*, or, Intel didn't want to draw attention away from the 486 series at this time.

Intel was ready to show the 33/66-MHz DX2 processor for 33MHz, 486DX machines. Chip speed "doubling" (see Cyril, above) is beginning to look like the wave of the (immediate) future, and leads to the item below.

CPU's heat 'em up -- FanCards keep 'em cool

Heat is the big killer of semiconductors. Those noisy fans on most PC's are there because of the "waste" heat generated by high-speed CPU's and DRAM chips. Latest round of high-speed CPU's, the "doubled" 486 chips and early 50MHz 486DX

chips are reputed to be major contributors to rising PC temperatures.

Enter T.S. Microtech's FanCards. They are simple, plug-in boards with two boxer fans attached. Purpose is to keep air moving directly over the memory and CPU chips in the PC. According to the maker, the fans proved their worth in Saudi Arabia during the recent Operation Desert Storm.

Their advertising is interesting. One of their claims is a 0.01% mean-time before failure rate. Read it carefully and you know somebody didn't do their proof-reading.

In memoriam ... VolksWriter gone

This from *PC Week*, June 29.
"VolksWriter pulls the plug on WP, shuts its doors." That's a bit of PC history.

VolksWriter was one of the original word processors for the nascent IBM PC. Although *WordStar* is older, ported over to the PC from CP/M, *VolksWriter* was originally published by LifeTree Software Inc. in 1982 and seemed to embody the promise of the '60's and '70's that its name implied.

Headquartered in Monterey, CA, as was Digital Research Incorporated (DRI), *VolksWriter* had the easy, laid-back approach to word processing that one would expect from that area. A real loss now that it's gone.

CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

Miscellaneous Tips and Techniques

I recently attended some presentations by 1-2-3 users where I picked up some new ideas worth mentioning in this column. Some of them were ideas and tips I never knew about before!

Range Name Create

If you have ever needed to give a new range name to a range which has been named previously, you can type: /Range Name Create (old name) and instead of pressing enter to accept the range, press the F2 key which will then take you over to the name prompt and allow you to edit the range name (or change it). Once you have the new name, press enter and the new name has been created. The old range name will then be replaced by the new name. Too bad I didn't know about this trick a long time ago, it is really slick. It saves you from having to edit formulas referring to the range, etc. Unfortunately, I just tested this technique in Symphony and found that it does not work.

Text Attributes

Those of you who read my column a few months ago about using the compose feature to add text attributes in WYSIWYG will remember that I mentioned a couple of attributes which were not in the documentation (f to make flashing text and l to make the subsequent text start at the beginning of the cell again). Well, there is another attribute I just learned about. The new one is the ! key. If you are typing text into a cell and part way through the text, type Ctrl Alt (to begin the attribute), type the rest of the text and press enter. You will find that the text following the attribute has word wrapped within the cell. This is particularly good to use when you have a wide row height to give room for the text to wrap. Of course you must not have too large a font size for this to look good. You may need to fool around with the placement of the text within the row by using the u (superscript) attribute with it. This is interesting, because when I looked at my chart of attributes, the ! is listed as "not" which makes the following text invisible. I guess the text would be invisible if the row is not high enough to allow room for the text to wrap.

WYSIWYG and Graphs

When you are working on editing a blank graph to create some extra text in the spreadsheet, you probably find it hard to find the center of the graph area. If you use the placement cross and go to 2048, 2048 for the x and y coordinates, you will then be in the center of the graph. Then work from that spot to design the text or whatever you want to do. If you have entered text and find it is rather small and can't quite figure out how it will look on the spreadsheet, change the font magnification to 0 which will then show the text in the real size. I wish I had known that little tip a while ago when I was trying to create

Variety Store continued

What to do with a Notebook, A Stearman biplane And an "empty" summer?

Write a book called *The Cannibal Queen*, of course. That's especially true if you are Stephen Coonts, author of *Flight of the Intruder*, and proud owner of a 1942 Stearman, open-cockpit biplane.

Coonts wrote an account of writing an account of a trip to all 48 contiguous states in his WW-II Stearman trainer. (Yes, he dropped his notebook once and had to replace it. How he replaced it will be fascinating to all parents of adolescent children.) The airplane's name is a bit of nostalgia related to "tail

draggers" and their propensity for making their pilots look foolish if not very careful.

Mostly, *The Cannibal Queen* is about flying, people, Americana and writing. It's a pleasant contrast to the techno-thrillers for which Coonts is better known.

Reagan ▲

a map with all the street names in a spreadsheet using WYSIWYG!!! If you want to create a graph full size on the page use the following menu options :gac(right 7)(down 27)-q. The graph will then be the right size for you to print out. Of course, if your row heights and column widths are different than the usual defaults the graph will not be correctly sized. Remember that the correct ratio of rows to columns for the ideal graph size is 4 to 3.

Lotus Fax Support

Lotus now has fax support available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can call 617-253-9150 and order the documents you wish to receive via your fax. To get a listing of the available technical information, order one or more of the following document numbers:

1-2-3 for Windows	1
1-2-3 3.x	2
1-2-3 2.x	3
Freelance	5
Symphony	6
Ami Pro	7
Magellan	8000

Copy and Pasting from 1-2-3 for Windows into Freelance Graphics Recently, I was trying to help my husband create a series of slides using Freelance Graphics for Windows. The program is very easy to use and for creating bullet charts and graphs it excels. He needed to create several tables which had long labels on the left side and two or three columns of numbers to go with the labels. We found that while tables can be created in Freelance, the table capabilities are rather limited. In fact, the label column only allows a label with the maximum width of 22 characters. There is also no way to format any of the cells individually. Therefore, we decided to develop the tables in 1-2-3 for Windows and format it just the way we wanted it to look, then copy the table to the clipboard and paste it to the page in Freelance. This worked out fine, except that the background was white and did not look too great on the gradient background of the page. I finally found out, with the help of a very nice young man in support, that if you use the menu options Arrange Ungroup then Arrange Group, while the table is selected, the white background will disappear and the gradient background of the page will show through. After doing that, I changed the font color from black to white and the page looked great. The only problem we found was that the decimals still did not line up correctly because there were different types of number formats and some parentheses. If we had created the tables in Ami Pro and used decimal tabs, we could have escaped that problem. Hindsight is a great thing! Hopefully this tip will help anyone else attempting the same type of tables in Freelance.

Spreadsheet Echo

Temaln Software Corporation (401-454-4565) has developed a new product which uses a human voice to read back cells from your spreadsheet. This product is a 1-2-3 add-in which only takes about 25K of ram. You can use your own PC's speaker or the special attachment for the parallel or serial port which is included in the package. There are even earphones included to use in an office where you would not want to interrupt others. When you attach and invoke the ECHO add-in you are presented with a menu that allows you to choose between a female or male voice and some other options such as speed, volume and pausing between cells. You then indicate a range and invoke the option to start the voice reading the numbers in the cells of the indicated range. The add-in disks include five other languages besides English, so the numbers can be read back in the other languages if needed. This all works on any type of PC compatible from the original PC to the latest 486 machines. The cost of the Spreadsheet Echo add-in is \$99.95 and works with the 2.x releases of 1-2-3 spreadsheets. It is very easy to set up and use. I did find the male voice easier to understand on my PC speaker and did not try to attachment to the ports because my serial and parallel ports are difficult to reach and are already in use. This is really a useful add-in for helping the user double check their data since they can keep their eyes on the original data while listening to the voice read out what had been typed into the spreadsheet.

Success Add-In From PC Publishing

PC Publishing, (800-634-4555) the company who developed Impress (now called WYSIWYG by Lotus Development) has started shipping another new product. Success is a presentation graphics add-in for 1-2-3 2.x spreadsheets. With Success you can create slides, overhead transparencies, speaker notes and handouts. This add-in is so tightly integrated with the spreadsheet, any changes made in the spreadsheet are automatically incorporated into the presentation. One of the very useful features of Success is the preview windows in which you can preview any operation at any time. The effect of formatting options can be viewed before they are actually implemented. There is a viewer which will allow you to view the graphics files (PCX, BMP, CGM, HPGL, GIF and TIFF) before they are imported, which works very quickly in redrawing the screen while viewing the various files. There are transitional effects for the slide show, a light table where you can display up to 20 slides side by side and move them around to change the order, an outliner

and easy to create organization charts all included in Success. The cost of this new add-in is \$159.95, but there is a special introductory price during the summer of \$99.95. This add-in is easy to use with the pull down menus and its' graphical interface, dialog boxes and resizable windows. I installed the add-in and was ready to start using it in a very short time. By using the viewer windows, it is easy to try out the different types of graphics and effects. When you are doing a presentation and most of the data going into it are on your spreadsheet, Success is definitely an add-in you will want to have on your computer. It will allow you to use your spreadsheet data to create the entire presentation quickly and easily.

Lotus SmartPak for 1-2-3 for Windows

Some of those "important" features missing from the initial releases of 1-2-3 for Windows are now available as a free add-in. You can call 800-TRADEUP to obtain a copy of the SmartPak which contains the add-in that brings these features. SmartPak adds new tools for the spreadsheet use and macro developers, too. For instance, there are icons added which will allow the user to tap new features such as SmartFill which automatically fills a range with a data series by looking at the first couple of cells in the range to see the type of series such as months, quarters, days numbers, dates, letters and even the astrological signs. People who do not find the type of fill they desire working with the SmartFill can create their own customized list by editing the smartfill.ini file which is in your 1-2-3W directory. Each list can hold up to a maximum of 100 items. A couple of useful examples of lists to possibly add are the all the state names or all the information for your balance sheet setup. By customizing this ini file, you can help yourself decrease the time it takes to setup your spreadsheet files. Those spreadsheets you might be creating which involve similar structure or lists which are frequently used will especially benefit by this. Another icon will allow the user to select a range and then create a cross tabulation summary table by using dialog boxes which prompt the user for the necessary information for setting up the cross tab. Once you have selected a range of data, you can use the new SmartFill icon to cycle through ten pre-defined formats for enhancing a table of data. Depending upon which format you choose, you will get a combination of colors, shading, fonts, underlining and other attributes. There are icons which will print out a graph in either portrait or landscape mode. You can find icons for automatically summing a 3-D range, toggling between black & white mode and color display mode, zooming in and out on the spreadsheet data, centering text across a range of columns and printing the current spreadsheet area without having to pre-select the range. There is a complete help documentation on what each of these icons

look like and will do available by pressing the help key or using the Help menu option. SmartFormat, another icon presents the user with a list of types of format setups for a range. When the user selects the desired format, the pre-selected range will be automatically formatted to look like the example shown in the dialog box for SmartFormat. If these new icons and usability enhancements were not enough, there are some greatly needed development tools in SmartPak, too. There is a Lotus Dialog Box Editor included which you will be able to use to create a dialog box complete with radio buttons, check boxes, edit boxes, combo boxes and others. Once you have created the dialog box the way you want it to look, you use the Edit Copy to clipboard and then go back to your spreadsheet and Paste from the clipboard. You will find a table of information has been placed on the spreadsheet which tells the new macro command (dialog) how to set up the dialog box, etc. It is quite easy to use and understand, but a surprise the first time you use it, since you will probably expect to see the actual dialog box appear when you paste it to the spreadsheet. Once the dialog box information is in the spreadsheet, you will be able to make changes and add default choices to it. You can even create lists on the spreadsheet which when so indicated, will appear in the proper list box, etc. of the dialog box. There are also new macro command words which will allow you to create a new menu in place of the regular pull down menu provided by 1-2-3 for Windows. Another command allows one new menu command to be inserted beside the tool menu option in the regular 1-2-3 menu. New macro commands allow you to create a new type of getlabel and getnumber which use dialog box type interfaces for the input. There is also a new command similar to those which will allow you to prompt for a formula that will be placed into the indicated cell of the spreadsheet after the user presses enter. If you have ever needed a message box to appear on the screen to alert the user to some type of problem, etc. there is a new (alert) command which will allow you to accomplish this. All these new enhancements are much needed and quite welcome. You might be interested to know that they were developed by Technojock Software's Advantage Add-In Toolkit (713-493-6354) which allows programmers who use Turbo Pascal to create add-ins for 1-2-3 for Windows. I have had a chance to play around with all of these new enhancements and have found them easy to use and understand. The dialog box's table of data takes some understanding to use to it's fullest, but is powerful and useful.

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.

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SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

ACT! SIG

For those who aren't familiar with it, ACT! is software used principally by salespeople to keep track of client information. It has many other capabilities including word processing and scheduling. Our plan is to try and figure out what some of the other uses are that many of us haven't even found yet! I've been using ACT! for 4 months and learn new capabilities every time the SIG meets.

We used part of our fourth meeting on June 20th to try and get a little better organized. The NTPCUG suggests SIGs have a co-leader so the SIG coordinator has more than one person to talk to. Jim Thompson (214-487-0085) has used ACT! for 4 years and agreed to be the SIG co-leader. He has been a big help so far by bringing his notebook computer to do demos for us. In June, he brought copies of sheets showing how to do a rather sophisticated search for HOT clients who are selected sales reps' responsibility in his company.

Since I don't have a modem, and don't know how to use the Bulletin Board, Steve Hacker volunteered to take care of getting these notes to the newsletter on time, something I haven't done the last two months. (I should have used my ACT! schedule planner!!) Thanks Steve.

Ken Hughes has been keeping track of the people who have been attending the SIG. Are you using ACT! for the list, Ken?

Most registered owners have received the free update, Version 2.11. Mine had not arrived, but a call to the manufacturer, Contact Software International (CSI), resulted in an update showing up in the mail in 2 days.

The first "after-market" book on ACT! we're aware of is now in print. It's published by Windcrest/McGraw-Hill and written by Douglas J. Wolf. The title is "The Authorized User's Guide to ACT!" and it's available at several of the more popular bookstores.

A Windows version of ACT! was released in the last few weeks. We're working with the NTPCUG and CSI to try and have a morning major presentation on this new ACT! version. More information should be available for the next newsletter.

Depending on Jim Thompson's availability for the July meeting, we'll either have his notebook to do some custom reporting forms, or we'll discuss other tricks we have each come up with as we use ACT! If you have any need to keep track of people or events, come join us!

Mike Hill

Alpha Four SIG

At our June meeting we had the good fortune to have Fred Williams, the PARADOX SIG leader, present a program that covered subjects from "What is a database?" to "How a database is designed" to a explanation of the subject of entity relational diagrams. Fred has graciously agreed to continue some discussion and explanation of general database information at our August meeting. Ron Jackson is already preparing for the September meeting program and others to follow. Has any one seen the promised Que Publishing Company's book "Using ALPHA FOUR"? I recently purchased a copy of Que's book entitled "Using EXCEL 4 - Special Edition" and I consider it one of the best computer books that I

have read on using a program. (The book has 1100 pages, by the way!) Que's new book "Using Word for Windows 2 - Special Edition" is also well done. It appears then that the odds are that we have an excellent chance to get a good product.

We are asking again that SIG members bring some of their problems to us on disk so that we might use the computer and viewer to work them out to everyone's benefit.

We expect to improve our communication and contact with SIG members in the future by 1) use of the SIG section on the NTPCUG BBS (bulletin board) 2) possible mailings between meetings and 3) fresh and vital programming. There will be further discussion of the BULLETIN BOARD capabilities in future meetings. Right now all of the features of the system are not operational.

Mac McKeethen

Assembler SIG

Our July meeting featured a highly informative presentation by Glynn Brooks on the subject of PC interrupts. Glynn promises to be available for the August meeting to answer any questions cut short by the end of the meeting. In addition, our August meeting will feature a discussion of stacks in ASM (and C) programming. Hope to see you there.

Frank Cavallito

BASIC SIG

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT! The BASIC SIG was re-structured at the July meeting after several months of missed schedules and busy leaders. The BASIC SIG has been sub-divided into three groups that will each meet separately but not concurrently. The new structure and meeting times are as follows:

Beginning BASIC led by Chuck Jacobus will meet at 11:00 AM

Advanced BASIC led by Mike Firth will meet at 10:00 AM

VISUAL BASIC led by Woody Pewitt will meet at a time to be determined by the officers of NTPCUG.



At press time, the meeting time for the VISUAL BASIC group had not been established. For last minute update, check on the BBS or call Woody Pewitt at (214) 230-3845(O) / (214) 283-2292(H) or Jim Carter at (214) 235-5968. This schedule satisfies the needs of the SIG leaders and members. The VISUAL BASIC group did not want to conflict with the Windows Developers SIG which meets at 11:00 AM. After determining our overall organization, the members present broke into separate groups to discuss the scope and content of their August meeting.

Chuck Jacobus started the Beginning BASIC group with an overview of the various versions of BASIC. At the August meeting, Chuck plans to continue the overview of BASIC and proceed with initial BASIC commands. Time will be allocated to address questions from the floor regarding the future plans of this group and addressing BASIC programming problems of the members. If you are having a BASIC programming problem, bring it to the meeting.

Mike Firth met with the Advanced BASIC members and discussed the desires of the group. Based on this discussion, Mike plans to discuss data types and other file storage methods/structures at the August meeting. Bring your BASIC programming problems to the meeting for discussion/resolution.

Woody Pewitt invites anyone interested in VISUAL BASIC to attend the August meeting and help shape the future of this group. The capabilities and needs of the group will determine the direction we will take. Present your recommendations for the VISUAL BASIC group for consideration. If you are currently programming in VISUAL BASIC and have a problem, bring it along and we will discuss it. If you can recommend additional resources (books, magazine articles, supporting software, etc.) bring that pertinent information to the meeting also.

Come and visit the all-new BASIC SIG in August. You will find an appropriate group to join whatever your level of expertise is in BASIC.

Our thanks to Kent Kingery and Steve Dixon for their past contributions to the Basic SIG. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Jim Carter

BBS SIG

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

The new TBBS software has now been installed for about 5 months, and continues to get rave reviews. If you wish to become more proficient in its use, or just want to know the basics, drop by.

Our meetings are very flexible, and we will typically stay beyond 3:00 if there are individual questions, etc. Topics might include how to decompress and install shareware communications programs (Telix, Telemate, QMODEM, etc), ways to speed up TBBS operation, TBBS features, and more. We meet at 2:00 PM each Super Saturday, so join us!!

Doug Gorrie

Business Applications/ DAC Accounting SIG

The July 11, meeting of the Business Applications/DAC Accounting SIG was a presentation of DAC Software's hot, new personal & small business accounting program, "DAC INSTANT ACCOUNTING". Allen Walker of DAC Software gave us a demonstration of one of the first pieces of "Dual System" software that I have seen. The product can be setup by the Licensee to run on their choice of either DOS or Windows. What a savings that is to users who buy for DOS and later switch to Windows (or even the other way around). We appreciate Allen's time and effort very much.

The August 8th meeting will be a demonstration by Bruce Schubert, of a newly purchased communications Hardware/Software package. The following message is what Bruce has to say about the up coming meeting:

"Have you talked to your computer lately? That is, without needing to seek professional help. Well now we can show you how to talk to your computer without being shown to the Psychiatrist's couch. Specifically the Bizz SIG will demonstrate how your computer can be magically transformed before your eyes into a receptionist, with voice mail capabilities.

"The computer can receive calls, direct them to the appropriate voice mail box, beep you for important calls, or call you at your designated number if you are away. You can use the computer to set up voice mail boxes for incoming calls so they can receive your voice message directed to a specific caller. You can call the kids at home leaving a personalized, digitized message from you reminding them again of all the chores you have assigned them, and that, NO, they can't invite the neighborhood to dinner tonight like they did last night. You might grow tired of dialing home every 10 minutes in the desperate hope of catching a break in the home telephone use, to get your word in edge-wise, but not your computer. It will diligently dial as often and long as you direct. The communications board to be reviewed is "The Complete Communicator" from "The Complete PC" and is street priced at \$260 to \$370, depending on the features you want.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Putt Shaw

Communications SIG

For those of you that missed the July meeting, the topic of the day was Fiber Optics. A representative of Southwestern Bell Telephone provided us with the real truth about fiber - what it is, how it works, how it is used in the Dallas area, and some ideas about its future implementation. Fiber has become a significant component of many communications networks, large and small. Costs are coming down, so expect to see it more widely used.

In August, we plan to repeat last years presentation on the basics of modem communication. Emphasis will be on the various modem protocols (V.22, V.32, V.42bis, etc.), their meaning, and how they function to



achieve fast, error free communications. This is a "back to basics" presentation, starting at ground level, and we'll try not to get over your head. Plan on being with us at Noon.

In September, we are working toward getting Datastorm Technologies to discuss their newest product, ProComm Plus for Windows, as an auditorium presentation prior to the Communications SIG. Then, at Noon, invite Datastorm to lead a question and answer session on their entire ProComm line. This is still tentative, but plan on joining us if you have any interest in one of the premiere communications products on the market.

See you Saturday!

Doug Gorrie

DOS SIG

It's "payola" time. The August DOS SIG Meeting will be marked by the usual controversies viz DOS, Windows 3.1 and OS/2 2.0 with an added feature. We'll be passing out tickets for a later drawing. Lucky DOS SIG Meeting participants will vie for several copies of Berkeley's After Dark 2.0 for Windows screen blanker, a couple of tee shirts and a "flying toasters" neck tie.

What better way to start a Saturday morning at Infomart?

You may, or may not, already know it's the season for new DOS beta rumors. Media has already begun expounding on what's NOT going to be in the new DOS, Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG Board of Directors member and past President, will chat a bit about what we might expect from a new DOS version in 1993.

Back firmly on the ground, the August DOS SIG Meeting will also focus on present and past DOS versions and how to make the most from existing hardware and software via DOS structure and commands. We'll end on the usual Q & A format, time and space allowing.

Reagan Andrews

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 YOU 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 August 1992 will be:

9:00 am Class 5 Fixed Disk Directories, Batch Files, and Paths

10:00 am Class 6 DOS Menu Systems on Fixed Disks
12:00 noon Class 7 Fundamentals of Lotus 1-2-3
1:00 pm Class 8 Fundamentals of the "BASIC" Language

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

Tom Prickett demonstrated his new multi-tasking, event driven, object oriented, replacement for the DOS EDLIN editor. Unfortunately, it looks like Tom's editor will not be well received since most programmers in attendance were happy with the features provided by EDLIN and were not willing to consider changing editors.

Join us next month when we have the annual PRO SIG contest for the most lines in a CONFIG.SYS.

Jim Hoisington

Quicken SIG

In June, Billy will be polishing off the formidable topic of selective breeding of Categories and their offspring Classes. Consideration of split transactions leads us into a July discussion of transaction groups and how to tame them by reconciling accounts and memorizing repetitive transactions.

By August, we should be somewhere in the area of investments, which always produces a couple of splintered questions, so be ready with yours. September will bring a topic which I know I have only begun to explore: producing reports for personal, business and investment purposes. This is an area for TIPS from everyone on how you do it.

Our format will be a presentation of the above areas followed by half an hour of Q & A. And we're getting so high tech what with a writing board, an overhead projector and even use of a portable computer! Don't forget, we have a new location with chairs for everyone. I would be remiss if I did not thank Pres. Andy Oliver and V.P. Doug Gorrie for their courtesy in providing for our accommodations.

Also, if you will note the BBS Conference of "Bus/DAC/Quicken" which I will be glad to monitor. Already, a



member has dared to question the use of electronic mail over the U.S. Mail. Can we allow a computer user group member to slide happily into pre-computer times? Tune in to the BBS; and note that Doug Gorrie, who has provided us with this BBS avenue, leads the Communications SIG at noon and a BBS SIG scheduled for 2 PM.

Jo Johnston

Spreadsheet Developers SIG

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

The August meeting will feature Jim Ott from the Dallas Lotus office. He will give a presentation on database access from 1-2-3.

Betty Brooks

Spreadsheet SIG

The Spreadsheet SIG which meets at 1 pm each month will have Jim Ott from the Dallas office of Lotus Development. He plans to show a couple of Lotus' newer products: Lotus Organizer and Lotus Smart Pics. Jim will also spend some time showing the basics of database access through the 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

There should be some time for questions and answers about 1-2-3 and related topics at the end of Jim's presentation. The new products he will be showing are interesting to more than just spreadsheet people so plan to attend the SIG meeting to find out more about them.

Betty Brooks

Unix SIG

Doug has given me a chance to write up the SIG Happenings for last month, so here goes.

Fred Sagor gave an interesting presentation on X Window programming. He explained various aspects of the Motif interface from the Open Software Foundation. He explained the various style conventions used within Motif and gave the group some insight into some of the difficulties of programming in the X Window environment. A well organized and good presentation. Many thanks Fred!

Representatives from Informix Software will be making a presentation on several of their products in September or October. The exact date and agenda will be in next month's newsletter.

Next month we have decided to spend some time discussing the various releases of Unix that have been made in the last couple of months. With new releases from USL, Sun, BSD, Mark Williams, and others, we thought it would be a good idea do some comparisons. Come join us!

Jim Stallworth

Windows Applications SIG

For the month of June, the Windows Application SIG focused on Faxing from Windows and Microsoft Excel. There is 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 started the meeting with our usual question-and-answer free-for-all and then focused on Win32 NT. I attended the Win32 NT Developers Conference sponsored by Microsoft in early July. 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 was 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

I attended the Win32 NT Developers Conference sponsored by Microsoft in early July and had plenty of information I could talk about at the July meeting. 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 started at the conference (everyone left with a beta test version on CD-ROM).

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

Is Word for Windows 2.0A really a page layout program? What makes a real desktop publishing program (DTP) and does Word fill the bill in its latest version.

We think so. Come to the August WORD SIG Meeting and find out why. We'll be drawing for prizes - DTP books on Word for Windows - and discussing the finer points of page layout, type selection and graphics in the DTP arena.

Major emphasis of the SIG Meeting for August will be readability and what makes text look good and easily read in typical documents. This will be a chance to evaluate some myths



about layout and why good editors and layout artists employ some of the text "tricks" commonly seen in contemporary documents.

The August WORD SIG will end with the usual Q & A session devoted to MS WORD users day-to-day word processing problems.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

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!

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, or delete a word/line/page.

Once you've deleted something, position the cursor where you want it restored 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 deletion. 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).

Lori Quinn

Works SIG

My original plan for June was to talk about database usage in Works, but we got a quick series of questions on the Word Processor and just using the software and momentum got going. We explored selection for format and copying, and putting boxes around text (which I had not done before.)

The attendance list included a survey of interests. Many of the people are new users, but others clearly find Spreadsheets with Charting and Database to be complicated. We will have to have the overhead to cover charts (and a direct VGA in some machine) and it looks like we should alternate beginning and more complicated sessions.

Mike Firth

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TBBS

Questions & Answers

by Doug Gorrie

The new TBBS bulletin board system has been in place since March, 1992. Below, we have summarized many of the questions and issues that have appeared during that time. We hope these "short" comments will help you get the most from TBBS.

Q: I'm a rookie to electronic mail. How can I practice doing mail "in private", without embarrassing myself by mailing to others?

A: Consider talking to yourself. By that, I mean to use your own name when asked who a message is to. Any mail actually sent will be sent to you, where only you can see it. Remember to do this from the Mail menu, not the Conference menu, since Conference mail is seen by the entire membership.

Q: Why does a message I have received just disappear when I (F)orward it to another member?

A: TBBS treats a (F)orwarded message just like a piece of U.S. Mail. Once forwarded, you no longer hold the original document in your possession. In other words, what you once "held" now belongs to the person you forwarded to.

If you wish to keep a copy of something you plan to forward, use the C(U)bbyhole option to place a duplicate of the message into your personal cubbyhole. THEN forward the message.

Q: Sometimes, when attempting to (S)end a message that contains a Carbon Copy (cc), TBBS tells me that the CC'ed recipient is not in the USERLOG. But I know (s)he is valid, and I typed it correctly. What gives?!!

A: If the person you CC'ed can normally be sent mail, the most likely cause of this failure is the accidental addition of blank spaces behind their name. The error message, when displayed, will show you the person's name AND the blanks, all enclosed in quotes. To fix, go back into the message and delete the blanks behind the CC'ed name, then try to (S)end again.

Q: When I invoke the Full Screen Editor (FSE), why does it NOT clear the screen of previous information? Typing into leftover data is confusing!!

A: As you invoke the FSE, your terminal should clear itself of all previous text. If clearing does NOT occur, the probable cause is an improper terminal emulation setting within your communications software, or within your TBBS profile. To correct, examine both settings. In your TBBS session, choose the User (P)rofile option from the Main Menu, followed by (S) to (S)how your current profile settings. You should see ANSI Code Allowed. If not, choose option (A) and reply YES to the subsequent ANSI question.

Then, examine your communications program to see what terminal type it emulates. The preferred emulation is ANSI (ANSI-BBS in Telix, we're told). In my own case, using ProComm Plus, screen clearing fails when I emulate a VT102, but works fine when I switch to ANSI terminal emulation. Let me know (via the BBS) what combinations work/don't work with your comms package!!

Q: I cannot invoke the Full Screen Editor. Or, when I try, I get all kinds of garbage. What am I doing wrong?

A: To use the FSE, you must have ANSI capability within both your PC and your TBBS profile. Examine your TBBS profile as described above, and verify that ANSI Codes are Allowed. Then, verify that your PC's CONFIG.SYS file contains the driver ANSI.SYS, or, optionally, that your communications software includes ANSI functionality. In other words, the ANSISYS driver is not necessary if ANSI is included in your communications software. ANSI capability is included in such products as Microsoft WORKS, ProComm Plus, and Telix. If you don't have ANSI somewhere, FSE will not work.

Q: How can I know if my message to someone else has been received and read?

A: There are two ways to determine this. One way is to periodically review the messages in your Outbox (if sent as personal mail) or within a conference if initiated there. If the message has been read, the phrase "(Rcvd)" will appear behind the recipient's name.

An easier and more reliable method is to request a "read receipt" as you initially send the message. (This applies to personal mail only!). To do so, select the (R)cpt option before (S)ending the message. Then, when the message is read by the intended recipient, TBBS will initiate a mail message back to you indicating when the message was read. ▶

Q: Do I HAVE to read the Intro Screen every time I call the BBS?

A: No, you can get around it by entering Ctrl-C when the screen begins. (You can even make this part of your logon script, if desired.) This will skip the remainder of the intro screen and ask for your Full Name.

Ctrl-C, as you recall, means to hold the Ctrl key down while simultaneously pressing the letter "C".

Q: How can I shorten the process of initiating an Upload or Download?

A: If you typically use the same protocol for all your TBBS uploads and downloads, you can make it your default by choosing (P)rofile from the Main Menu, then selecting options (U) and (D). For each, select the desired protocol, then exit. Your protocol will automatically be initiated by TBBS whenever you request an upload or download.

The recommended protocol to use is ZMODEM, if you have it in your communications package. Besides being "state of the art", so to speak, it has a couple of advantages. First, when downloading to your PC, TBBS can automatically invoke ZMODEM on your PC for you, without action on your part. In other words, you may not have to initiate ZMODEM on your PC, because TBBS will do it for you. Not all versions of ZMODEM support this feature, though, but trial and error will show where you stand.

Q: How can I tell TBBS that I ALWAYS want to use the Full Screen Editor?

A: Select (P)rofile from the Mail Menu, then (M) to change Msg Base Defaults. Then, choose "1" for Type of Msg Input Prompting, "Y" for Prepared Text, and "2" for New Message Pointer. Then, enter "2" to Always Use the full screen editor.

Q: I'm tired of reading each conference individually. How can I speed up the reading of conference mail?

A: Conferences are a major asset of our BBS, but reading them can be a royal pain if you read each separately. To shorten the process, choose (C)onferences from the Mail Menu, then (C)ombine All Conferences. TBBS will then group all the conferences together for you to read. From here, you can (R)ead all (N)ew conference mail without having to switch between conferences yourself.

Q: In Combined Conferences, how can I skip those conferences that are of no interest to me?

A: When in the Combined Conference menu, choose the Select/U(N)select option. From here, you can indicate which conferences should be bypassed. Read the instructions presented on screen, and enter the letter beside a conference you wish to exclude. Do this for all such conferences. When you exit, TBBS will ask if you wish to retain these changes for future sessions - reply "Y". Future reading of Combined Conferences will exclude the undesired forums.

Q: When I 'capture' mail, I find all kinds of "garbage characters" in it afterward. How can I keep these from occurring within the text?

A: This may require further research. As a Pro-Comm Plus user, I have NEVER had this problem. Everything I capture appears exactly as it appeared on my screen. As long as your terminal emulation is set to ANSI, I would expect no problems. But, PLEASE advise the SYSOP when/if it does occur, including what communications software you use, and what terminal emulation was in use at the time of failure. There IS a fix out there.

Q: When I send mail, especially any that contains lists, it sometimes gets garbled - the lines and words don't 'break' where I intended. What's wrong?

A: This is one of those notorious "features" of TBBS, but you can circumvent it easily. TBBS considers consecutive lines of text as part of a single paragraph, and wraps (merges) them together. This frequently results in unreadable text.

To avoid this situation, always separate unique thoughts and paragraphs by a blank line. This will prevent individual paragraphs from being merged.

Alternately, when entering such things as lists, end lines with a carriage return (<cr>), and leave the first column of the following lines blank. This, too, will prevent word wrapping.

After saving your message, you may choose the (V)iew option to see what your reader(s) will see. If it appears different than you intended, re-enter Edit and make corrections.

Q: When using TBBS, I'd rather have speed than colors. Can I eliminate the colors?

A: To eliminate colors, go to your TBBS (P)rofile, choose option (A), and set ANSI to NO. Keep your PC's terminal emulation set to ANSI (ANSI-BBS in Telix).

Finally, look on your TBBS Menu for the Miscellaneous section,, and choose the e(X)pert option. There, choose any number EXCEPT '1'. If you typi-

cally operate as a beginner, choose "0". This change is necessary because of a bug (feature?) in TBBS. An eXpert setting of "1" will cause display problems when operating with TBBS' ANSI set off, but "0" works quite well. It may also help to start your communications software using an option that invokes black-and-white operation. In ProComm Plus, for instance, the command-line switch "/b" can be added to the start-up command when working with monochrome monitors.

Q: I've seen users "quote" parts of previous mail messages in their replies. How do they do that?

A: After reading a message, respond with the (R)eply option. Once in the Full Screen Editor, enter Ctrl-Q. TBBS will ask for the "Beginning Line # or List". Here, you should enter the beginning line

number from the initial message which you wish to quote. If uncertain of the line number, enter "L" to list that message in its entirety, then select the desired beginning line number. TBBS then asks for the "Ending Line # or List", this time asking for the last line to quote.

Once both line numbers have been stated, that group of lines is inserted into your reply message at the cursor's current position. Each line is preceded by a ">" symbol to denote their being quoted. Then, you may add to the message as you deem appropriate.

We hope these hints prove useful. Should you find a discrepancy between these pointers and TBBS' actual operation, please send a message to Doug Gorrie, or to the SYSOP.

Have fun!!

Doug

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 66 in a Series



Programmer Productivity

by Jim Hoisington

What about the C++ programming language? Is it the C programming language on steroids or cream puffs?

Every so often, a programming innovation comes along that promises to dramatically improve programmer productivity, to produce bug free programs, and produce highly computer efficient code so as not to require a bigger, faster, better computer. I have personally programmed through at least 10 of these programming fads.

The problem is that the computer does what we say and not what we want. I've often thought I would be a superior programmer if I could just spell my variable names correctly each time I entered them into a program. After almost 30 years of programming, I'm about to give up on improving my spelling.

The same arguments being made for the C++ language are the ones we've heard so often before. C++ lets us reuse programming code so the we don't have to write the same thing over and over. It protects us from making those nasty, obvious, stupid program-

ming errors that are so hard to find. It allows us to modify our programs quickly by hiding the underlying data structure and processing from the programmer.

If anyone can remember MACROS that were introduced with IBM's first version of OS/360, they'll find the above arguments almost a word for word quote from the proponents of using a macro assembler language. Some of those "benefits" live on today in the form of MVS JCL which is based on the principles of macro expansion. (Tailoring the macros that were expanded to generate OS/360 is strangely similar to some of the INSTALL programs that we still use today.)

So here we are 25 years later and we're still looking for the magic bullet to solve our programming problems. And, based on the benefits of each new fad, we're still trying to solve the same problems. The real problem is that we are still programming.

In the complex environment of making computers do what we want, we need to have computers that program themselves. And that's the one area in which I've seen progress in the last 25 years. Each month, we get a little closer to eliminating the human part of programming. Each programming fad contributes something; each new language makes automated programming easier; each computer interface isolates us further and further from the inner workings of the machine.

Maybe in the next ten years we'll finally achieve our goal of having the computers do what we mean and not what we say.

Jim

NEW DISKS

...from the DOM Squad

This disk is distributed on a
1.2M disk only

736. **Wolfenstein 3-D 1.1, 6/92** -
A Virtual Reality Action
Game by Apogee Software
Phone: (214) 278-5655, P.O. Box
476389, Garland, TX 75047, Reg-
istration fee: \$35.00. Orders: 1-
800-426-3123.

Wolfenstein 3-D is a rather ad-
dicting shoot-em-up game, with
really GREAT graphics. You are
B.J. Blazkowitz, a tough guy
with a gun. You are a strong-
man for the Allies. Your original
mission, to infiltrate another cas-
tle for secrets, has failed and you
were captured by the Nazis.
Now you find yourself in a
room with a dead guard. Your
goals are: to escape (with your
life), kill as many guards as you
can, and collect as much treas-
ure as possible.

What you seen on the screen is
the virtual reality perspective,
not a view from above or an ar-
cade display. The graphics are
totally realistic and SMOOTH!
The action is intense, but even
people that hate action games
will love this one.

There are four levels of play,
from the "Can I Play Daddy?"
level to the "I'm Death Incar-
nate" level. The easiest level has
much fewer guards and they're
easy to kill. The highest level is
so intense that you practically
have to hold down the trigger
for the whole game to survive.
There are eight different floors
and each require you to be on
your toes at all times. The game
is friendly and easy to use. The
controls only use a few keys,
which makes them easy to re-
member.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:
The game requires a 286 or bet-
ter machine with VGA graphics.

If you have an Ad Lib or Sound
Blaster Card the sounds will be
much better, but even on the
PC's speaker it sounds good.

This software was downloaded
from Collectors Edition by Ken-
neth Loafman.

*This review prepared by Zachary
Loafman, edited by
Kathryn Loafman (6/92).*

Disk 737. **ABC-Talk 2.3, 1/92** -
Reading Readiness Activities,
2-8 yrs. Creative Educational
Software, Inc., 3005 Glenmore
Ave., Baltimore, MD 21214,
(410) 665-0193. Registration
Fee: \$29.50 (To register, call 1-
800-242-4775).

This series of educational fun
and games programs is menu
driven. Some are suitable for
children as young as 2. All pro-
grams use clear, recognizable
speech along with child pleasing
graphics. Vocal feedback is pro-
vided with most of the pro-
grams.

"Keyboard Bangers" (ages 1-4)
teaches letter recognition by pre-
senting the letters in a kaleido-
scope of patterns.

"ABC Song" (all ages) sings the
alpha-bet song.

"Say the Alphabet" (ages 2-5)
displays each letter while saying
it.

"Press the Letter Game" (ages 2-
6) says each letter that is
pressed.

"Find the Letter Game" (ages 3-
7) teaches child to find the cor-
rect key.

"See and Say the Word" (ages 4-
7) pronounces common pre-
school words.

"Spell the Word Game" (ages 5-
8) speaks the words (1-5 charac-
ters) and the child types in each
character (same words as "See
and Say").

"Easy Draw" (all ages, requires a
mouse) lets the child change
foreground and/or background

colors with the mouse button,
and do freehand drawing with
the mouse.

Kaleidoscope consists of pat-
terns that appear between re-
sponses on several of the exer-
cises. There is an "Adult con-
trol" which allows parent to turn
the sound or the kaleidoscope
on or off.

Registered users receive an addi-
tional program and a version of
ABC-Talk that will let you
change to cursive letters for pri-
mary school students.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:
Any IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or
compatible with at least 512K of
RAM and a graphics monitor
(CGA/EGA/VGA). Mouse re-
quired for some features.

The source for this software was
NTPCUG member Mark Gruner.

*This review prepared by Virginia
Salter, edited by Kathryn Loafman
(6/92).*

Disk 738. **Touch Type Tutor
4.0, 10/91** - Typing Lessons
and Speed Tests by David P.
Gray, Gray Design Associates,
Box 333, Northboro, MA 01532.
Registration \$20.00 plus \$4
Postage/handling.

Beginners can use this software
to learn correct touch typing,
while others can increase their
typing speed. It is very easy to
use, with a hierarchical menu
structure that has 'Help' as an
option at every level. But you
probably won't need much help
and may never need the docu-
mentation that is included on
the disk as a text file (MAN-
UAL.DOC). If a mouse driver
has been loaded, the mouse is
available for navigating the
menus. The software is suitable
for any age, though it has no
special graphics to attract youn-
ger children.

There are 8 sequential lessons,
each introducing different keys
and adding them to the drills.
For each lesson the default is 6
drills, but you may opt for from
2 to 10. You are shown the cor-
rect fingering upon request.
After each drill, your perfor-
mance is analyzed and graphed,

showing which keystrokes were
slowest, speed, errors, and run-
ning average. A speed of 30
wpm will take you to the next
lesson, but you may reset the
threshold to suit your needs.

Several speed tests are available
- general, legal, medical, techni-
cal, or custom text may be cho-
sen. Custom text for a speed
test can be created with an edi-
tor or word processor of your
choice, then saved as an ASCII
file. (You might want to refer to
the documentation before doing
this.)

For diversion there is a game in
which a stick figure tries to
reach the end of a bar or rope
before being hit. You move him
by correctly typing letters as
they appear in a box. Choose
your own speed level for the
game. The most advanced level
will challenge even speedy typ-
ists.

Other options include changing
the screen colors, and toggling
off or on the beep that tells you
when you make an incorrect
keystroke. You can also view
your history and progress as a
menu selection.

The program can be run either
from a floppy or hard disk and
has no special requirements or
installation. Simply type TTT
at the DOS prompt. The menu
takes over from there.

This software was downloaded
from Collectors Edition by Ken-
neth Loafman.

*This review prepared by Virginia
Salter, edited by Kathryn Loafman
(6/92).*

Disk 739. **QuizMaker 2.2, 1/92**
- Make and Take Tests, Intel-
ligent Educational Software,
PO Box 440189, Houston, TX
77244-0189. Shareware Regis-
tration \$24.50 + Tax + \$3.00
Shipping.

For learning or just for fun, this
software is designed to create
tests and to take tests using the
computer. It is strictly for screen
viewing, there are no printer op-
tions. There are two programs,
one for creating the tests and the
other for taking them. Mouse,
arrow keys or first letter of op-

tion are used for making selections.

There are three options: Test, Quiz, and Multiple Choice. 'Test' calls for matching terms with synonyms or definitions. Terms are displayed in groups of five, with answers below in scrambled order. 'Quiz' consists of questions (up to four lines) and short answers. 'Multiple Choice' allows five choices per question. A sample file of each type is already on the disk. In addition to creating your own test, tests can be found on bulletin boards or CompuServe.

When creating quiz files, you can give a title, claim authorship, develop an introductory screen, and make up your own positive and negative feedback. (Or you can use the ones already there.) For 'Quiz', you can list several alternate answers or spellings. In fact, you MUST include at least one alternate or the question won't be included in the quiz. You may also add a keyed reference to any question for additional information. To create a quiz, type QUIZMAKE, then follow the screen menus.

A word of caution: Follow the instructions carefully when writing questions or unexpected results may occur. Copy the file INSTRUCT.QZM to your printer for a hard copy of the instructions.

When taking a quiz, you are told how many questions are in the file and asked how many you want to be asked. As you answer questions, your cumulative score is displayed on a graph. This is true for all three quiz types. To take any quiz, enter QUIZPLAY and follow the screen instructions.

This is a straightforward program with few bells and whistles, and is easy to use. It could be a handy tool for drilling the kids on their school assignments.

This program was downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/92).

Disk 740. Gradebook Power 3.05, 1/92 - Complete Teacher's Gradebook, Terry L. Jepson, Wisco Computing, PO Box 8, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-0000. Shareware Registration \$59.00 + \$2.00 Shipping.

This is an all inclusive gradebook program for elementary or secondary school teachers. It is easy to install and to use. A 50+ page formatted manual can be printed by sending the file GRMANUAL.DOC to your printer. The manual is indexed and convenient to use.

The program itself can be run from a floppy or copied to a hard disk. Data files can be stored on a separate disk if desired. The only requirement is 512K of RAM. To start for the first time, type GRADES/INSTALL, and startup options will be presented for approval or change. At this time the teacher will indicate if it is an elementary or secondary school. To start the program after installation, just type GRADES, or GRADES/H if you wish to bypass the opening Help screen. If data is to be read from a different disk, start up by typing GRADES/J.

A menu line at the top controls all operations, and pulldown menus appear for each top line selection. Top line options are:

* RECORD - This is for entering new assignments, revising grades, deleting assignments, entering titles, points, etc.

* MISSING - Allows you to view or print missing assignments for a student or for a whole class.

* PRINTOUT - There are 12 reports available including 6 relating to individual students.

* ANALYZE - Lets you see data for a particular assignment, a category, or for an entire semester.

* LISTS - Shows students listed by grades, improvement, deficiencies only, superior performance, or alphabetically.

* NAMES - Enter course titles or sections, delete a student or a class, add students or edit stu-

dent data, make labels or screen view only.

* SETUP - Allows you to set parameters and options, such as dropping a grade, maximum class size, teacher name, school name, comments, and much more.

* UTILITY - Transfer data for a new term or semester, transfer a student adjust for letter or percentage grades.

* EXTRA - Printer functions, make backup, screen colors.

This program downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/92).

This disk is distributed on a 1.2M disk only

Disk 741. MSDOS5UP, 1/92 - MS-DOS 5 Upgrade Support Engineer's Tools Disk.

This diskette contains information and software tools to assist you in upgrading your site to MS-DOS 5, and in resolving a number of problems that might be encountered. The disk was provided to NTPCUG by Microsoft Corp. through their User's Group Support program.

The disk is self booting (DOS 5.0, of course), and includes DOS 5.0's EDIT, a major improvement over the archaic EDLIN editor. To read any portion of this disk, you may use any common text viewer, or EDIT.

There are two subdirectories on the disk, as follows:

\TOOLS This directory contains software utilities to help you customize or automate the upgrade process at your site. Included are: CHKVER.BXE, a utility to help automate upgrading from a LAN, OPTIMIZE.BAS - a QBASIC program you can tailor to optimize an end-user's PC to take full advantage of new features in MS-DOS 5 - and much more. A

sample batch file accompanies each utility.

\PSSNOTES This directory contains Product Support Services application notes for MS-DOS 5.0 with information on how to optimize memory usage, repartition a harddisk, fix problems task swapping with EMS applications, etc. See the \PSSNOTES\README.TXT file for a complete list; a partial list follows:

MS-DOS SUPPORT APPNOTES
PD0334__ANSI Escape Sequences and Batch File Programming Example
PD0415__FIXSHIFT.COM for QBASIC
PD0445__Replacement DOSSWAPEXE for MS-DOS 5.0
PD0455__ADAPTECSYS Driver
PD0456__How do I get MS-DOS to run in the high memory area?
PD0458__What should I do if I can't get programs to load high?
PD0459__Windows no longer provides expanded memory after EMM386 is installed.
PD0460__How can I get both expanded and extended memory on my computer?
PD0461__How do I optimize my use of upper memory blocks?
PD0463__What is the setver command and how can I use it?
PD0466__How do I repartition my hard disk into one partition?
PD0470__My system fails when using EMM386.
PD0473__Installing MS-DOS 5.0 Upgrade from Drive B
PD0476__The IBM PS/1 fails after MS-DOS 5.0 is installed.
PD0477__Setup stops before completing the upgrade to MS-DOS 5.0.
PD0478__Setup repeatedly asks for the same disk.
PD0479__The Setup screens are unreadable.
PD0488__8514.VID Video Driver for MS-DOS 5.0 Shell

Additional items:
ERRORS MS-DOS 5 Error Messages

This software was obtained by NTPCUG member Doug Corrie from Microsoft.

This review prepared by Doug Corrie, edited by Kenneth Loafman(6/92).

Disk 742ABC. VirusScan v91, 5/92 - McAfee DOS & Windows Virus Scan, McAfee Associates, 4423 Cheeney Street, Santa Clara, CA 95054-0253. (408) 988-3832 office, (408) 970-9727 fax, (408) 988-4004 BBS 2400 bps, (408) 988-5138 BBS HST 9600, (408) 988-5190 BBS v32 9600, Copyright (C) 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 by McAfee Associates.

CLEAN-UP Version v91 -- CLEAN-UP (CLEAN) is a virus disinfection program for IBM PC and compatible computers. CLEAN-UP will search through the partition table, boot sector, or files of a PC and remove a virus specified by the user. In most instances CLEAN-UP is able to repair the infected area of the system and restore it to normal usage.

VIRUSCAN Version v91 -- VIRUSCAN (SCAN) is a virus detection and identification program for the IBM PC and compatible computers. VIRUSCAN will search a PC for known computer viruses in memory, the boot sector, the partition table, and the files of a PC and its disks. VIRUSCAN will also detect the presence of unknown viruses.

NETSCAN Version v91 -- NETSCAN is the network version of VIRUSCAN. It scans network virtual drives and identifies any pre-existing PC virus infection in the file servers.

VSHIELD Version v91 -- VSHIELD is a virus prevention program for IBM PC and compatible computers. It will prevent viruses from infecting your system. When VSHIELD first loads it will search the PC for known computer viruses in memory, the partition table, boot sector, system files, and itself and then install itself as a Terminate-and-Stay-Resident (TSR) program. It will then scan all programs before allowing the system to execute them.

WSCAN Version v91 -- VIRUSCAN for Windows 3.0. Please see the README.NOW file in the WSCAN archive for installation instructions.

This software was downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/92).

Disk 721. Snooper 1.50, 3/92 -- System Information Utility, by John Vlas, P.O. Box 8234, Gainesville, FL 32603-8234. Registration Fee: \$25.

Snooper is a system information utility that "snoops around" your computer to report its configuration and operating characteristics. The program will run on most any IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible.

Some of the features includes the following:

- * Detects dozens of different kinds of computers, including many IBM models
- * Detects all popular microprocessor models
- * Accurately detects math coprocessors
- * Detects all current bus types: ISA, EISA, and MCA
- * Reports all memory types: conventional, extended, XMS, HMA, UMB, EMS; and extended and Enhanced Memory Specification levels supported
- * Reports serial and parallel port addresses, detects game ports and Sound Blaster, Adlib, and Roland MPU-401 sound cards
- * Detects and reports video hardware, including text-only vs. monochrome graphics cards, several VGA chipsets
- * Separate reports of BIOS-recognized and DOS-recognized disk drives
- * Reports DOS version and type (PC-, MS-, DEC-, HP-, DR-, or Zenith-DOS)
- * Reports mouse type or port and driver version
- * Detects several networks, including Novell and LANtastic
- * Reports BIOS support for enhanced (101-key) versus 84-key keyboards
- * Detects environment size, total and free bytes
- * Reports ROM BIOS brand, extensions, and date
- * Recognizes all DOS-supported disk types, including CD-ROMs.

- * Reports drive geometry (heads, sectors/track, cylinders)
- * Reports used disk space as bytes, percentage, and bar graph

- * Runs instantly no waiting for lengthy BIOS or disk searches
- * Can write a running log file or printout of report screen

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 722. Quick Cong, 3/92 -- Congressional Information System, by Don Richards, Route 2, Box 165, Lexington, VA 24450, (703) 463-7986. Registration: \$99.

Quick Cong is a computerized Congressional Information system that may just be the ticket for anyone wishing to get more involved in our government. Suppose you want to see what committees that your senator or representative is on. Find the name through the state listing and then select "committees" to see all committees that he or she is on. You can also see a state's entire delegation of representatives and senators. Or suppose that you feel strongly about an issue and want to contact all members in the house and senate on a particular committee or subcommittee. Well, Quick Cong has addresses for all.

Quick Cong sits in the background, but can also be used in the foreground. You can quickly locate any member of congress by name, state, committee, or subcommittee. Once located, the user can see the senator's or representative's address, phone, FAX number, building and office, and selected personal data. Since the product can be a TSR, the personal information such as an address can be copied directly into a word processor.

Moving around Quick Cong is very easy, particularly with a mouse (just point and click). If you do not have a mouse, just press the space bar to move from field to field.

Quick Cong does contain a disclaimer saying that the information in the program is inaccurate due to constant changes in committee makeup and other events and to use at your own risk - whatever that means. What is clear is that after November the information will be inaccurate, since many incumbents are not running or might be defeated. Therefore, if you are going to use this program you should update the information about committee assignments as they change. If you find this program useful, the registered version comes with updates.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Any IBM XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with 640K of RAM.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 723. Lotus User Group Support #4 - Technical Info on Lotus Products.

As part of supporting the user group community, Lotus Development has begun distributing disks containing technical information on its products to user groups. The contents of these disks consist of questions often asked at the Lotus customer support telephone lines and other information.

Also included on this disk is a 1-2-3 and Symphony file called IMPORT.WK1 and IMPORT.WR1 respectively. Mark Gruner created these two spreadsheet files so that he could import the files quickly and then print them out. To use either of the two spreadsheets, the user need to enter the file prefix, the start value, and the maximum value. To make the data input easier, the filenames above provide the key to use the spreadsheet files. The hyphen divides the name prefix from the maximum number of that series. Make sure that 123 as a prefix is a label instead of a number. Put the prefix such as "FL" in cell B1, the Maximum number such as

"7" in cell B3, and the start value is usually 1 and is in cell B4. Make sure that the data files are in the default 1-2-3 or Symphony directory. To start the macro, press ALT-L

Most of the files on in a separate directory based on the Lotus product that the notes are on. The files/directories on this disk and their topics include the following:

IMPORT.WK1 - Lotus 1-2-3 2.3 file to Import text files on disk
 IMPORT.WR1 - Symphony file to Import text file on disk
 README.TXT - Basic information on the disk from Lotus
 AML1-1.TXT - Aml-Pro Article from recent Lotus Newsletter
 AMLTIP - Aml-Pro TIFF file for Article
 WIN1-2.TXT - 1-2-3/W Article from recent Lotus Newsletter
 WIN.TIP - 1-2-3/W TIFF file for Article
 AML.<DIR> - Notes on Aml Pro
 FLW.<DIR> - Notes on Freelance Graphics for Windows
 123R23.<DIR> - Notes on 1-2-3 Release 2.3
 123R3.<DIR> - Notes on 1-2-3 Release 3.1+
 123W.<DIR> - Notes on 1-2-3/W - For Windows
 PRESS.<DIR> - Recent Press Releases From Lotus

This software was downloaded and donated by Lotus Development Corporation. This **DOM DISK DISTRIBUTED ON 1.2M DISK ONLY.**

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Disks 724-727 contain the programs presented in the "Utilities" section of PC Magazine, along with the source code. For instructions on how to use the programs, see the PC Magazine issue cited. These utilities are copyright to PC Magazine (upgrades can be found on the PCMagNet) and are made available by the NTPCUG as a service to our members.

All were downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman and the reviews prepared

by Kenneth Loafman and edited by Kathryn Loafman.

Disk 724. PC Magazine Utilities 1992 Jan-Feb - Executables & Source Code

V11N01.ZIP - This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 1 (January 14, 1992 issue). It includes TRACKR (Ver 1.2), a task tracking utility; LN1101.ZIP, Lab Notes files that demonstrate how to create Windows programs with TPWin; RECORD2, WCTEST.BAT and more. (Updated 1/29/92.)

V11N02.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 2 (January 28, 1992 issue). It includes PCREMOT2, a utility that lets you access and operate a remote PC; DIRMENU, a 1-2-3 macro that creates a directory menu; RECORD3, MECFREE, KEYCODE, PCMATH.PAS and more. (Updated 1/16/92.)

V11N03.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 3 (February 11, 1992 issue). It includes ADDIT.COM (Ver 1.1), a small DOS TSR utility (3.5K) that adds negative & positive numbers on your screen; ALTPAUSE & ALTPAUSE2, two programs that insert an optional pause in your batch files, 386STEP, PRREADY and MENU.BAS. (Updated 2/19/92.)

Disk 725. PC Magazine Utilities 1992 Feb-Mar - Executables & Source Code

V11N04.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 2 (February 25, 1992 issue). It includes SHOWDUPE (Version 1.1), a utility that finds all duplicate files on your hard disk drives; PSWRD1 & PSWRD2, two Word for Windows password macros that conceal documents; ITER.BAT, ADDSYNTH, UPDATE, DEMO1, DEMO2, and DEMO3. (Updated 2/18/92.)

V11N05.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 5 (March 17, 1992 issue). It fea-

tures the utility WINPTR, a program that restores your Windows cursor visibility, highlighting the pointer so you can find it easily on small, dim laptop screens. Also included: OPENSPEC, DD.ZIP, REBOOT.BAS, and DEMO4. (Updated 2/24/92.)

V11N06.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 6 (March 31, 1992 issue). It features PKUNZIP, a utility that lets you extract and decompress ZIPPed archive files available on ZiffNet. Also included: WordPerfect macros ALTDIR.WPM and ALTH.WPM, 2.BAT, TIME DATE . X L M, TIMEDAT2.XLM, TRYALT.ZIP, MIDIDEVS.EXE, DEMO5.EXE, PCDICT.DLL, and CLRPRINT.BAS.

Disk 726. PC Magazine Utilities 1992 Apr - Executables & Source Code

V11N07.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 7 (April 14, 1992 issue). It features DOSCLIP.COM, a TSR utility that provides Windows-like cut-and-paste facilities to applications running under DOS. Also included: BACHTOCC, SWRITE & SWRITE2, and DEMO6. [NOTE: DOSCLIP.ZIP updated 4/06/92.]

V11N08.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 8 (April 28, 1992 issue). It features WPRINT.EXE a Windows 3.1 specific utility that makes printing text or bitmap files easy. Also included: HOMEND, HISTOGRM, FONTSIZE, CDMACROS, LENGTH & LENGTH1, DEMO7, FIELD, DOW, and KBMIDI. (Updated 4/13/92.)

Disk 727. PC Magazine Utilities 1992 May - Executables & Source Code

V11N09.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 9 (May 12, 1992 issue). It features BACKDOWN, a TSR utility that lets you start and manage com-

munications sessions and file downloads in the background while you use your foreground application. Also included: SPCCHK.ZIP, BOOT.BAT, INWIN.COM, CHKDSK.BAT, C H K D S K B . B A T, CHKDSKC.BAT, DEMO8, DATETIME and DRUM.

V11N10.ZIP This archive contains the files mentioned in PC Magazine Volume 11 Number 10 (May 26, 1992 issue). It features SPRINT, a tiny TSR that lets you add a cursor-accelerator feature to your PC. Also included: STOD, WINMODE, LABEL, SERTYPE ROUTINE, SWAP, SAVEMAC, WIN.BAT, BINARY and DLGDEMO.

Disk 728. Knitware Sweater Design 1.1, 1/92 - Sweater Design, Morningdew Consulting Services Ltd., 7604 Morningdew Road, RR #5, Victoria, BC Canada V8X 4M6, (604) 652-4097. Registration Fee: \$35.

Knitware Sweater Design (KWS) is designed for knitters using either hand, bond Classic knitting frame, or machine. The program will print a knitting pattern for you to use in knitting a customized sweater using information that you provide the program. The program uses your measurements, thread size, body measurements, style selections, gauge, and yarn information.

The resulting instructions are written for either hand or machine knitters. The machine instructions are very simplified assuming that you using a basic knitting frame, without a ribber.

KNITWARE Sweater Design will handle most combinations of the following:

- Knit body of sweater in stocking stitch by machine or hand.
- Knit ribbing by machine or hand.
- Pullover or cardigan style.
- Drop shoulder, raglan, or set-in (fitted) sleeve style.
- Crew (round) or V neckline, or rolled cowl collar.
- Body length: waist, regular, hip, or coat.
- Children's sizes 20 - 32, Women's sizes 30 - 48, Men's sizes 32 - 52. ▶

- Variable amount of ease from very tight to oversized fit.
- All default finished measurements (e.g. length of body, ribbing, sleeve, depth or width of neck, etc.) can be changed.
- Measurements in Imperial (Inches) or metric (cm).
- Calculate amount of yarn required.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:
Any IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with at least 256K of RAM.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 729. Dino's Bucket Drop 1.0, 6/91 - Math Drill Game for Children, by Peter Phelan, 229 Raheny Road, Dublin 5, Republic of Ireland. Registration Fee: \$10.

Dino's Bucket Drop is a math drill game that drops math problems such as 3+3 from the top of the screen into a bucket. The user is supposed to type in the correct answer before the problem falls into the bucket. There are a total of 4 buckets that can hold 4 wrong answers each. The game ends when all buckets are full and the user misses another problem.

The math problems are for early math students. The program does not have elaborate graphics, but is an excellent math drill program.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:
Any IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with at least 512K of RAM and a color monitor.

Once started, the program asks for information on the type of game you want to play. You can play Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, or Mixed math problems. Another option is with sound or without sound. With those inputs, you are ready to play the game.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 730. Study Aid to Genesis, 4/92 - Bible Study Guide, by H. Dally, PO Box 2098, Ridgcrest, CA 93356. Registration Fee: \$50.00.

The STUDY AID to the GENESIS is a study guide to the King James version of Genesis. The program displays parallel scripture from the New Testament, or Old Testament. Alternatively, the program can display some comments from the author, your own comments that you enter, or references for the various chapters.

This program is an excellent reference tool for the serious student of the book of Genesis. It does not require the user to jump through a lot of hoops; however, the program will not hold the users hand in their study of Genesis.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:
IBM XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with hard disk, 1.5M of available disk space, and 256K of RAM.

The documentation is approximately three and a half pages and tells you about the function keys and how they are used by the program. The program shows the book of Genesis in the left half of the screen and either the Old Testament, New Testament, Author's notes, or your notes in the right window. You can also display references in the lower half of the screen. All menu options are on the screen. Some of the menu options are rather odd like Delete gets rid of the lower window references are displayed.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 731ABC. MSDOS Interrupt List Rel 30, 4/92 - Ralph Brown's Interrupt List, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Ralph Brown's MSDOS Interrupt List is a comprehensive listing of functions available through interrupt calls on IBM PCs and compatibles. The list

includes both documented and undocumented functions. Altogether, the information in this list is over 800 printed pages, and has been assembled through the work of Ralph Brown and a host of other contributors.

The last update to this file was 4/92. This is the most comprehensive list of this kind that can be found. As with any work, there are bound to be some inaccuracies and some incomplete information for some uses, but it is a good beginning. Many will find the information extremely useful in helping solve hardware and software inter-operability problems.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (5/92).

Disk 732. Glossary 4.1, 1/92 - Computer Language Reference, by Diston Ridge, Inc., 4915 22nd Avenue, North St Petersburg, FL 33710. Shareware Fee: \$29 for registration, \$79 for 1-year subscription - 4 updates, \$89 for multi-user system on a network.

Glossary is an excellent reference program for PC terms and other information. The program is easy to use and full of information on the language of computers. There is very complete dictionary, and a host of tables.

If you want to look up a specific word, press the first letter of the word and the program will jump to the first word starting with that letter. Then all you have to do is use the up and down arrow keys and/or the PgUp or PgDn keys to highlight the word. Next, simply press return, and the definition is on the screen.

The information in tables include the standard (lower) ASCII characters, the Extended (upper) ASCII characters, Microprocessors Clock Rates, Data Transfer Rates, Network Transfer Rates, IBM PS/2 Models (basic information), Floppy Disk Specifications, Bytes to Terrabytes,

Computer Organizations, Registered Trademarks, Video Display Standards, and DOS Filename Extensions. As you can tell, this is quite an extensive list.

The program also includes some other features such as basic help, the ability to change colors, and some information about the program in the "Lookup" function. These are rather minor functions.

The program is not memory resident, which would have been a useful feature for many users.

The information in the program is always being revised and updated. You can register and receive a one-year subscription for \$79 which will include four updates in a year.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:
Glossary requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with 512K of memory and a monitor. A hard disk is required.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 733ABC. PC-Write 3.05, 2/92 - Full Featured Word Processor, Quickssoft, 219 First Ave N. #224, Seattle, WA 98109, (206) 282-0452. Shareware Fee: \$99.

PC-Write is one of the mainstay shareware programs. It is an excellent word processing program with many features found in expensive retail word processors. A tutorial is also included so that those inexperienced user can get up to speed with the program quickly.

New Features and Changes in PC-Write 3.05 are as follows (many are features that only previous users of PC-Write would understand):

1. A new ruler letter, Y, sets normal reformat mode in which Shift F7 sets mode. The A, N, and Y Ruler letters can be used as Mini-Rulers. You can protect a block from reformatting with <Alt-G>N at the start, and <Alt-G>Y at the end.
2. The Ctrl F9

Frame menu has an F4 option to box-frame with ASCII -1+ symbols. 3. In F2 Ruler mode, Shf Grey+ goes to the first ruler, Shf Grey- to the last. 4. The new default is NO extended keyboard functions, since many computers do not support them. &J:16 in ED.DEF enables F11, F12, and other new keys. 5. &J:1 works on non-extended keyboards, making Caps Lock another Ctrl key. &J:32 stops setting the BIOS Scroll Lock bit, except on startup and ext. &J:36 stops all Scroll Lock bit setting, to fix problems on some computers. 6. &F:3 locks all files. This fixes a problem using PC-Write with DOS SHARE. 7. &C:8 is for EGA's only. &C:9 is for VGA's. &Z:43 sets &C automatically. 8. New op codes: 731 exits without saving, 732 draws a box frame with -1+, and 733 turns screen refresh back on if you turned it off with 707. 9. Notes: SET PR= overrides <Alt-G>.C: when selecting a print control file.

Laptop and portable users should use %D in ED.DEF.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Since the text is kept in RAM, the more the memory on your system the better off you will be. With 640K memory and a hard drive, a large Help file and a 50,000 word spelling checker are available on-line.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 734. Blue Iguana Software, 6/91 - Disk Space Gauge, Book-It!, Quotes, PO. Box 305, Beach Grove, IN 46107. Registration fee for each program = \$10.00.

Disk Space Gauge 1.1 - This program will indicate space used and space available on any disk or drive in your computer. It is designed to be a resident pro-

gram. The display is in color with a RED area to alert reaching the end of the capacity of the storage device. The program is documented well on disk. Documented source code is available and is written in Turbo C 2.0. Registered users receive the latest version of Disk Space Gauge and full support.

Book-It! 1.0 - This program will print a document on both sides of the page. Documentation is given on the disk how to align paper and print large documents so that the page is printed on one side and the other. Two methods are used; one for long or large prints and the other for shorter prints. This will make your document into book form: page one with page two on the back, page three with page four on the back, etc. Registered users receive the latest version of BOOK-IT! with added features and capabilities, and full product support.

Start-Up Quotes 1.1 - This program will display the date and give a quote for the date. It is pointed at the calendar date of the computer. There is the ability to edit, add, or delete quotes. This is detailed on the disk. Registered users receive the latest version of Quotes, another QUOTES-BIP file and full documentation support.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: No mention was made of VGA or EGA requirements, however the display was in color.

The source for this software was the publisher, Blue Iguana Productions.

This review prepared by I.F. Müller, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

Disk 735. Fed Micro '90 - Utilities Selected by Capital PC User Group

This disk was assembled by Bill Fowler to be distributed to the attendees of the Federal Micro-computer Conference and Exposition, which was held September 5 & 6, 1990 at the Washington Convention Center.

Our reviewer's comment "Pretty neat! This one is worth it just for SYSID52." Accompanied by the obligatory disclaimers, Fed Micro '90 supplies us with another diskette replete with still another set of 'neat' utilities. This is the kind of stuff you don't find everywhere, so it's worth a look.

Included on the disk are several compressed files which contain programs and documentation, as follows:

- o BOTH350 - Prints text files on both sides of a page, book style.
- o DSIZE20 - Reports the total amount of bytes used by each directory on a hard disk.
- o RZFILE19 - DOS Shell, File Manager, and Menu System
- o FILL30 - Copies files from a large subdirectory to a number of diskettes, optimizing disk space.
- o PKUNZDOC - Documentation for PKWare's PKUNZIP program
- o RAT_23 - RAM-Resident ASCII Table.
- o SYSID52 - Provides extensive information concerning your computer system's parameters.

Bill Fowler writes the Shareware Corner column in MONITOR, the monthly microcomputer journal of the Capital PC User Group, and is coordinator of CPCUG's Shareware SIG.

This "PC Shareware Utilities Diskette" was sponsored by The Capital PC User Group, Inc. (CPCUG) and The Integrated Software Federal Users Group (ISFUG).

The source of this disk is Bohdan Associates.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Kathryn Loafman(5/92).

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 _____		





Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

Recent statistics on our group indicate that a high percentage of our members (close to 50%) have only become members in the last several years. There are no statistics on how many new members volunteer right off the bat, but new members traditionally have felt hesitant to sign up for duty until they get to know the group better.

When it comes time to renew, more than a few overlook the part on the form where they can sign up to help out. Even though there's much to be done that doesn't need computer expertise, some folks are bashful.

So, we are facing a shrinking volunteer pool as time goes by. The good news is that our membership has grown enough to absorb the difference so far. The good news is also that we have a very dedicated volunteer base - folks who help out more than once, having discovered it's their warm bodies we need, there aren't too many demands, and they have fun.

But the real bad news would be if all our standbys, all the volunteers we count on month after month, - the SIG's,

auditorium presentations, DOM, Information Booth, Newsletter, BBS, not to mention Membership Director, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. - were all to burn out at once... Think about it. Our very existence is based on all these volunteer efforts. At the very least, please consider giving an hour of your time (more is always welcome) during your membership year.

There are signup 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.

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

Raymond Reyes
Everett Turner
Peyton Weaver

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
Mike Griffin
Frank Dorer

Booth Crew:
Blaine Collins
Loyce Coolidge
Nancy Feaster
David Hudson

Crew:
Robert Gee
Mettie Olsen
Dale Carr

Ned Kelg
Michal Paris
Susan Pratt
Andrine Stricherz
Tom Zabel

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Floater:
Pehl, Lee

Disk of the Month (DOM)

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:
Connie Testa
Scheduler:
Diane Arnold
Anchors:

Conley Andrews
Harvey Andrews (2 hrs.)

Diane Arnold
John Ferguson
Rick Griffith
David Huckabee
Claude McClure

DOM Desk Crew:

Doug Athas
Roy Bales
Rob Bender
Charles Carter
Don Chick
James Donlon
Thomas Goodwin
Jim Green
Pat Henley (2 hours)
Lloyd McKeethen
Duane Martin
Bob Post
Craig Ringener
Elaine Stephens
Oscar Tyler

With Special Thanks to:
Set-Up Crew:

Stan Berlin
Bill Chambliss
Pat Henley
Jerry Stone

Shift Supervisors:

Joe Allen
Jay Chambliss
Don Chick
Kent Haven
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

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)263-9036 (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	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information Connie Andrews	828-0899 (h)

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Communication Made Easy
FutureSoft

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Document Publishing
Frame Technology Corporation

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

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

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

WordPerfect for Windows
WordPerfect Corporation

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-Adv.
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-Begin.
Community Service
Family Roots - Gnlg.
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

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Alex Lilly	(214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
ACTI	Paul Williams Michael Hill Jim Thompson	(214)423-7585 (214)487-0085 (214)278-3661
Alpha Four Assembler Basic Prog-Adv.	Ron Jackson Frank Cavallaro Steve Dixon	(214)423-9221 h (214)271-2292 h (214)205-2215 w (214)224-2880 h (214)298-9736 w (214)317-0125 h
Basic Prog-Begin.	Charles Jacobus	(214)223-8353 w (214)775-1503 (214)343-3862 h (214)341-1890 w (214)818-8002 h (214)484-7942 w (817)731-1308 h (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w
Business Appic. C Lang. Begin. C++ / Advanced C	Bruce Schubert Stan Milam Kent Cobb Tom Cook Doug Gorrie	(214)226-1799 w (214)669-9633 w (214)235-2559 h (214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h (214)844-7536 (214)278-7888 h (214)681-0202 h (214)837-9678 w (214)837-5851 h (214)458-9158 (817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
Communications	Bill Green Jay Stristone	
Community Svc	Bill Green Jay Stristone	
Comp Aided Design DAC Software	Bill Saphron Pun Shaw	
DOS	Jim Holsington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. Kevin White Al Sanford David McGehee Gary Johnson	
Fox Pro Genealogy How Solutions		
Investors Local Area Net	Nash Kappoor Bernie Van Roekel	
Spreadsheet	Francis Bright Mark Gruner Pat Henley	(214)984-8174 h (214)271-4911 h (214)229-8216 w (214)618-1608 h (214)827-7794 (214)279-1738 h (817)962-4596 w (817)481-4986 w (817)481-6825 (h) (214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)887-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)458-9711 w (214)317-0125 h (214)418-3101 h (817)430-8148
MS Works OS/2 Dev	Betty Brooks Mike Finh James Durn	
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fernier	
Paradox	Fred Williams Greg Kane	
Personal Users	Bob Presley Bob Russell	
Programmers	Kent Kingery	
Quicken	Jim Holsington Billy Pitts Jo Johnston	
R.Base Roots III Software Review	Don Brunham John Whyte Pat Henley	(214)352-0888 h (214)495-4410 (214)271-4911 h (214)229-8216 w (214)984-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (817)478-6665 h (214)821-4788 h (214)834-2360 w (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)598-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)618-1266 h (214)618-1266 h
Spreadsheet Dev.	Mark Gruner Betty Brooks	
StarText	Beverly Kurtin Jim Boughton James Corbett	
TI Pro	James Corbett	
Unix/Xenix	Kurt Krider Doug Scott	
Windows Applic. Windows Dev.	Jim Stallworth Arthur English Arthur English	
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Borline Lori Quinn	(214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-9993 h (214)255-0555 w (817)481-6453 h (214)823-9837 w
WordPerfect	Michelle Milam	Metro (214)823-9837 w

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

Board of Directors

Andy Oliver, Chair
Reagan Andrews
Doug Gorrie
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 Fort Worth and the Mid-Cities area.)

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 Tansillon
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.)

Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h (214)871-5750 w (214)618-8002 h (214)484-7942 w
President-Elect	Doug Gorrie	(214)661-4626 w (214)495-7071 (214)681-0202 h (214)418-3101 h (817)275-4109 h
Program Chair	Timothy Carmichael	
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	
Secretary	David McGehee	
Membership Dir.	Jim Holsington	
Advertising Dir.	John Pribyl	
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Lofman	
Group Statistician	Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699
BBS	Tom Prickett	

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain
John Pribyl
Jim Holsington
Suart Yarus

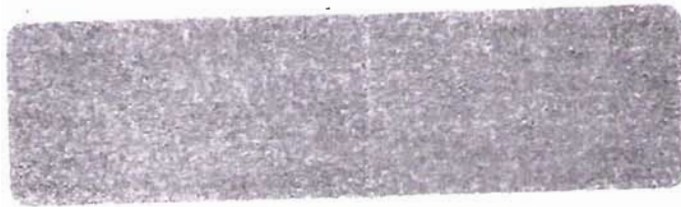


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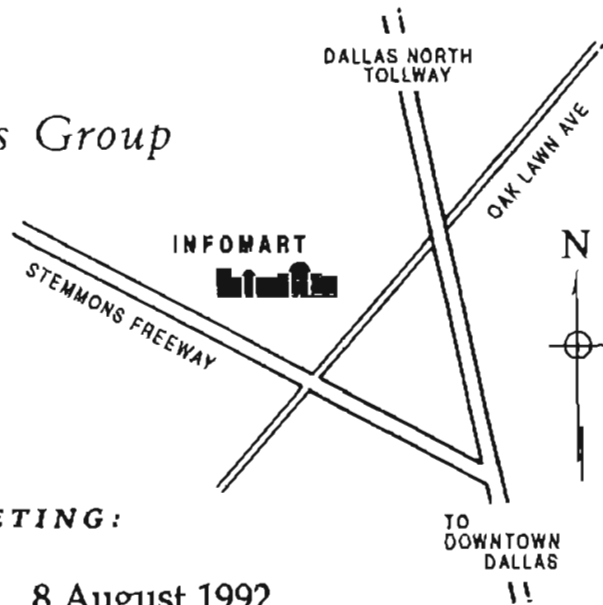
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11.8



North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

8 August 1992