

North Texas
 **PC NEWS**

North Texas PC Users Group

11.12

December 1992



North Texas PC NEWS

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

Published monthly by members of North Texas Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Members each receive a free subscription; for others, price of the NEWS is \$2 per copy. Members are requested to notify the Membership Director in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to: Editor, North Texas PC NEWS, 3851 Double Oak Lane, Irving, TX 75061.

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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 2113 last month.

Member distribution was 1685; 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 and HP Scanjet IIp. Corel HEADLINE and CorelDRAW were used for some headings. Repro was printed on a NEC LC-890 Laser Printer. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica and Bantif.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for January
North Texas PC NEWS:
Thursday, December 10th

Meeting Dates:

December Meeting - 3rd Saturday.
January Meeting - 3rd Saturday
February meeting tentatively scheduled
on the second Saturday.



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: 3851 Double Oak Lane, Irving, TX 75061

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

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Program for December

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Humanizing the Computer With Logitech

Logitech, Inc.

Bob Wudeck, Regional Merchandising Manager

This presentation will show how Logitech Products can give "senses" to personal computers. Bob will be giving the computer "eyes" by demonstrating the Logitech Fotoman Digital Camera, ScanMan Color 24-bit hand held scanner, ScanMan 256 gray scale scanner, and CatchWord Pro OCR Software. He will also give the computer "hands" using the Logitech MouseMan and TrackMan line of pointing devices. Those attending the session will be given a form to order Logitech products at special user group prices at the end of the presentation. There will be a drawing for a free MouseMan Cordless Radio Mouse and TrackMan Combo.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Superbase Version 2.0 for Windows

Software Publishing Corporation

SPC will present Superbase version 2.0 for Windows, a new release of their award winning relational database and application development product. The new release includes support for graphics, sound, and video as well as an improved interface, forms design tool and advances to their comprehensive Superbasic language (SBL). It has been recognized by most leading magazines as the leader in Windows relational databases, application development and data access tools. There will be a drawing for free products.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Computer Associates Software Review

Computer Associates International, Inc.

Marie Mershon, Systems Engineer

Computer Associates software company is now focusing on the micro pc world. With more Windows products than Microsoft, CA will present CA-Uptodate, a groupware manager; CA-Cricket Paint, the "ultimate" paint and image processing system; CA-Cricket Graph, graphics for Windows and the Mac; and the direction of CA-Clipper. There will be surprises and 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.



Pres Sez...

1992

A full year has past since I became President, and I feel that I received more than I gave. At times, it seemed like it would never end, but now I'm just

crazy enough to run again. So what has happened this year:

Over the last 12 months, at the main meetings, we have seen 5 hardware demonstrations and 28 software demonstrations. The software demos included 16 related to Windows, 14 to DOS, and 2 to OS/2. (These numbers don't add up because some vendors presented hardware & software products, while some showed us products for multiple platforms.) January's meeting was lucky for one vendor who had two hours, while we were only able to coax one vendor out to the May Memorial Day weekend meeting.

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Pres Sez... continued

Membership went from 1,594 to the latest count that I have of 1,698.

We have a new Treasurer, Raymond Reyes, a new SIG Coordinator, Alex Lilley, and I am sad to announce that the club's long-time Secretary, David McGehee, had to resign. As is always the case, our real job takes precedence over our volunteer job. Thank you David for an extraordinary job. Your contribution to the NTPCUG over the years has been invaluable.

The BBS is running new software (E:Soft's TBBS), and it encountered an emergency hard-drive-ectomy which prompted the purchase of a new tape backup system, also. The TI-Pro BBS is back up and running.

John Pribyl is publishing this newsletter with a new 486 (purchased from Lucky Computer) and utilizing an HP ScanJet IIP scanner (donated by Hewlett Packard).

Student dues went up from \$12 to \$16 per year.

Jim Hoisington became the fourth Member Emeritus in the NTPCUG.

The IRS officially granted our 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

We have grown from 41 SIG meetings in January to 44 in November.

Disk-Of-the-Month (DOM)

The DOM Library continues to grow, and the rate of growth is a direct result of the reviews performed by NTPCUG members. You can have a significant impact on the bottom line of this organization by signing up and reviewing software to be added to our DOM Library. We do not release software for sale until someone in the group has tried it and written a short READ.ME file. The DOM Squad has an example READ.ME file, so that part is not real difficult.

I want to thank the DOM group for all of their hard work on meeting day, but especially during the rest of the month when they are preparing the disks, getting them to the duplicating service, and hauling them to meeting. Kathryn Loafman is a true leader and the group's efforts are appreciated.

A CALL FOR TIPS

Whatever your specialty, DOS, word processing, beginners, spreadsheets, programming, databases, Unix, or ACT, you can possibly have your tips, tricks, or other helpful hints published along with other NTPCUG members in PC World.

This is a call to members to submit a short tip or tips to Jim Hoisington. Jim will collect them and forward them to PC World magazine. If our tips are selected, the group will be featured in an article, and if your submission is printed, we will extend your membership for another 12 months free.

LOTUS' AMI PRO

Lotus Development Corporation did a mailing to their metroplex customers and to the NTPCUG membership to announce a showing of the recently released Ami Pro 3.0. Unfortunately, the postcard had the wrong date, the event was held downtown, and the chosen hotel did not have free parking. This combination did not provide for the anticipated turnout. We are always happy to see vendors making presentations, even if they are not at our Saturday meetings. Lessons learned.

THE BATON PASSES (actually, it's an HP IIP)

January 1, the NTPCUG President-Elect officially becomes President. At COMDEX 1991, our group won an HP LaserJet IIP printer which I have been using to print the membership renewal letters and database printouts. I am passing the printer on to Doug Gorrie, but I will miss it. Thanks again, Hewlett Packard, and thank you Doug for agreeing to serve.

Andy Oliver



Season's Greetings

MORE FREE MONEY

1993 Board of Directors Nominations

by Doug Gorrie

This past November 3rd we elected national, state and local representatives. We were fortunate to have a number of individuals offer their services for the good of the country, and fortunate that we could vote for our preference.

The same scenario applies within the NTPCUG. The Board Of Directors has five voting members, comprised of a President, President-Elect, and three general Board members. For 1993, the position of President will be filled by the 1992 President-Elect (myself) Your vote on January 16, 1993, will determine who fills the remaining four positions.

Your ballot will be included within your January PC NEWS, along with biographies and pictures of all candidates known at press time. Complete the ballot and deposit it in the ballot box at January's Super Saturday. DON'T FORGET IT.

As of this writing, we have six (count 'em -- SIX) candidates vying for the three general Board positions, and one contending for President-Elect. ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS will be taken through the December 19th Business Meeting (Alexandria Auditorium, 11:00 am). You may nominate yourself or someone else by contacting me during that meeting, or any time prior at (214) 464-7942 (w) or (214) 618-8002(h). Candidates must be NTPCUG members in good standing, and be willing to serve for one year (two years for President-Elect).

If you would like to know more about what a Board member's responsibilities are, just call and we'll chat. Again, you don't have to be a PC guru (I'm not!!).

My thanks to those that have volunteered to run, and to assist in other ways. Your club is successful only if YOU give a LITTLE of your time toward its well being. And again, just kidding about the money. NTPCUG volunteers in ALL capacities are unpaid, but the personal satisfaction always makes you rich.

Current nominations for
1993 Board of Directors are:

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Andy Oliver

Andy is the 1992 President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG, which means that he served in 1991 as a Board member and President-Elect. He has served as SIG Coordinator in the past as well as an Info Booth anchor-person and phone caller for volunteers. Andy is also a member of the Microcomputer Managers Association and the Dallas Netware Users Group. In real life, he is Supervisor of the Microcomputer group at The Rosewood Corporation, and is rumored to be friends with the author of The Adventures of PC Tech.

BOARD MEMBER: Reagan Andrews

Reagan is currently a member of the Board, and a past President. He is co-leader of the DOS SIG and leader of the Microsoft Word SIG. You may also have noticed his by-line in the newsletter on the VARIETY STORE column. Reagan works for the federal government (VA Hospital) where he treats veterans suffering from delayed stress syndrome, and has a private practice. He and his wife Connie have made the annual pilgrimage to the Fall COMDEX computer show, and Reagan always has an interesting commentary on this event.

BOARD MEMBER: Timothy Carmichael

Timothy has been the Program Chairman for the NTPCUG since 1989, and a member since 1987. He schedules and supervises the auditorium presentations and with the help of his son, Chris, coordinates the ticket handouts and drawings. Timothy is an electrical and biomedical engineer doing basic research, applying computer hardware and software for medical measurement and diagnostic systems.

BOARD MEMBER: Mark Gruner

Mark is currently on the Board of Directors. He leads the Spreadsheet and Spreadsheet Developers SIGs, and helps with two of the sixteen Personal Users SIG series dealing with Lotus 1-2-3. Mark is actively involved in securing and evaluating shareware for the

DOM (Disk of the Month) group, and has served in the past as NTPCUG's representative to the Computer Council of Dallas. His real life includes being an Senior Financial Analyst for EDS, husband, and proud father of a very-mobile 1-year old.

BOARD MEMBER: Jim Hoisington

Jim is a current Board member as well as past President of the NTPCUG. He helped start this group. Jim has been acting Membership Director for the past two years, and is the group's "postal carrier", picking up and distributing mail from our P.O. Box. He co-leads the DOS SIG, and hangs around the Advanced Programmers SIG for "dirt" to print in the newsletter. Jim has served as North Texas' representative to the international Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG). In his other life, he is husband, father, and occasionally finds time to consult/contract program to get a paycheck.

BOARD MEMBER: Woody Pewitt

Woody is currently the Visual Basic SIG leader. The SIG is a new addition to the NTPCUG, dealing with

Microsoft's Visual Basic and other Windows development concerns. He plans to start a Visual Basic class for anyone wanting to learn more about the easiest way to program for Windows. This past December, Woody represented the NTPCUG at the Visual Basic Summit held at the Microsoft's headquarters. Woody is married, and works in DeSoto as a partner in DPC Software.

BOARD MEMBER: Fred Williams

Fred has been a member of NTPCUG since its founding in 1982. He has been SIG Leader of the Communications and Local Area Network (LAN) SIGs, and is the founder and current leader of the Paradox SIG. He chaired the NTPCUG BBS Steering Committee which reorganized the BBS support staff, and provided project management and technical services while converting the NTPCUG BBS software from Chairman to TBBS. Fred is currently a CoSysop of the NTPCUG BBS. He has been an independent software developer of communications and database systems for personal computers since 1982. Fred's wife Donna is a Network Administrator for Otis Engineering. Their son Roger is married and a sophomore in college majoring in History.

Special offer from Borland!

Borland will make the following special purchase offer to NTPCUG members at the December 19 meeting.

Quattro Pro For Windows - \$99.95

Paradox 4.0 - \$199.95

This is an unrestricted offer (current ownership of the product not required) and will be good for 5 days following the meeting.





Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

The Variety Store

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

Waiting for COMDEX/Fall '92, the plumbers, some Refrigerator repairmen and WFW's server – all while Musing on the true meaning(s) of Intel's "Pentium"

October and early November have been strange. Normally, there's not too much news on the PC front as major vendors wait for COMDEX for major announcements/releases. That's certainly not true this year.

Everybody seems to be leading into COMDEX with major announcements and releases. "Chieftest" among them are Intel's long-awaited "naming of the chips" and delivery of *Microsoft's Windows for Workgroups 3.1*. (I'm going to use "WFW" acronym from here on.) More on both later in this column. I think each will have very significant impact on long-term PC planning.

Rumors in the backroom(s)

Also, the usual rumor mills are grinding out lots of hints – all pointing at new products/releases to seek out in the non-public display areas in Las Vegas. I hope WordPerfect will be showing the much-rumored *WordPerfect 6.0 for DOS*. It'll also be nice if Microsoft is running recently-rumored *Word 6.0* for DOS so we can see a comparison.

Novell and Artisoft – under attack by Microsoft's WFW and coming NT – may have some very interesting displays this year. Backrooms will be crowded as VIP's try to "discover" the "real" *NetWare 4.0* and Novell/DRI's *DR DOS* planned counter attack for MS's

DOS 6.0 rumored release next year. Artisoft was very active at NetWorld and it will be interesting to see how they respond now that WFW is actually on the streets.

Borland and Symantec may be real interesting at COMDEX..

Cyrix will have a "real" display area this year. They won't be spared a top position in the CPU rumor business, though. Questions are already springing up about Cyrix's 586 chip plans with rumors that the Dallas/Richardson firm may announce much sooner than Intel would like. AMD is likewise a major target of 486/586 rumors, but Chips and Technologies (C&T) rumors mostly involve corporate survival.

Questions of size

Just how "big" COMDEX/Fall '92 will be is a mystery at this point. Interface Group, the folks who produce the giant computer show, have sent more mailings than I can remember for past years. And, this is the first year I remember that Interface has sent out **free display area** and **opening-day event passes** for advance registration.

I have always been able to obtain display area passes from PC vendors and APCUG, but this is a first for Interface Group. Also leads directly into a small gripe (mine) about accuracy.

GIGO rules ...

COMDEX/Fall '92 is the second major PC trade show in a month (plus or minus a few days) following NetWorld in Dallas closely. Both share a common tendency to misspell my first name. COMDEX thinks I should be called "Regan" while NetWorld sees me as "Reagon."

I wouldn't see this as so funny (you wouldn't either if you've seen my signature), but both came after I submitted typed applications.

RAM rains again on COMDEX

RAM rules if this is really the "Windows Year", "OS/2 Year", or,

New!

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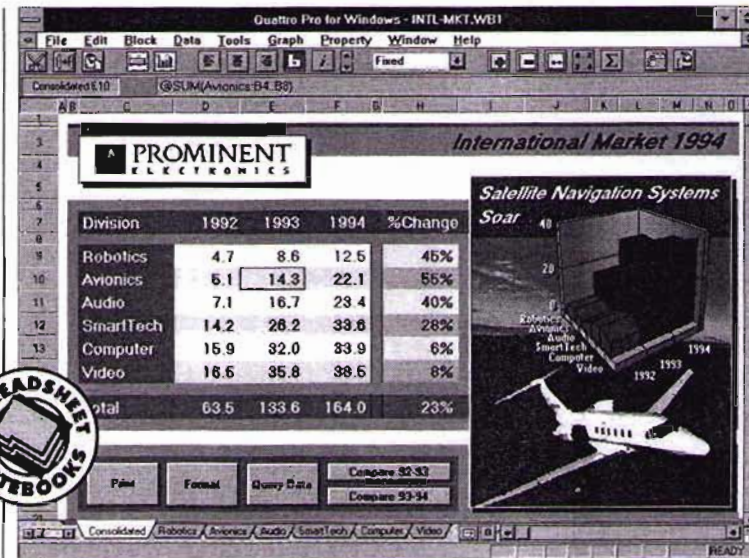
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Variety

the "Year of UNIX". Each is a significant RAM-hog. And, Uncle Sam had some bad news for vendors of all the above with recent rulings against non-US DRAM makers.

The result has been steadily increasing DRAM prices since the rulings were announced.

Shades of COMDEX/Fall '88 when OS/2 and UNIX were being aimed at "power users" relentlessly while DRAM prices were shooting through the ceiling.

Windows 3.0's dramatic success was no accident. It's release occurred when DRAM and hardware prices were rapidly falling. Same thing applies to OS/2 2.0's success in spite of IBM's marketing tactics. Windows NT may not be so lucky.

COMDEX as market indicator

The size of COMDEX may be a good PC economic indicator. We all know the PC industry has been locked in several years of a rather bloody price war at the hardware level. The "real" price of software seems to have drifted downward as well (that's the "Competitive Upgrade Price".)

There are several (former) PC names that ceased to exist this year. Several (major) rumored to have at least one foot on a banana peel.

Meanwhile, the country/world is battling economic decline and many businesses are "downsizing" at a furious pace. That includes PC-related companies as well.

Lines will tell the story ...

Length of taxi lines, ability to roam the halls easily on opening day (Monday, November 16), ease of obtaining restaurant reservations and PC vendor party invitations will be clues this year.

We'll also be looking for those cozy little "lounge areas" among the booths at this year's show with some interest. Each represents booth space that Interface didn't/couldn't sell - or a vendor who just didn't/couldn't show up. Enough of these oasis areas and we'll know that the PC business is in bad shape.

Grove says 586 is Pentium Intel "naming of the chips" Dumps popular X86 heritage

Now it's "official." Intel's CEO Andy Grove announced that the new-generation, Intel successor CPU to the 80486 would be named the "Pentium." Intel's move was aimed at the clone chip makers - after losing the battle to make 386 and 486 sole Intel property.

Release and shipping dates for the new chips will probably be announced at COMDEX if Intel has solved the reported heating problems with the high-speed versions. Announcement of the new Intel name for the chips was met with stoic acceptance or silence by most media, and tons of derision on CompuServe forums.

I'll probably continue using "586" since I agree and think

"Pentium" sounds stupid for a CPU. Reminds me of a perfume or cosmetic.

Windows 3.1 for Workgroups Brings LAN promises, Mail Scheduling and - Hearts

Everybody's going to feel the heat generated by WFW's release in October. Saw the beginnings of that at NetWorld in Dallas before product was available.

Almost every vendor at NetWorld had some tie-in to WFW at their display. It's going to be that big. The reason is small, three to 10-member workgroups have become very popular in the business world. Information sharing in such small groups has become problematic.

WFW's focus is networking the workgroup, either peer-to-peer (built-in) or with one of the mainstream LANs such as Lantastic, NetWare, LAN Manager, etc. Microsoft is staging a full-frontal assault on networking with WFW's release and will continue the attack when Windows NT is released next year (second quarter).

What's in WFW?

Microsoft advertises the built-in, smaller versions of Mail and Schedule+ that are logical additions to a peer-to-peer LAN. More important may be the new Print Manager and File Manager for WFW. Both are substantially improved over the original Win-

Variety

dows utilities with greatly enhanced capabilities.

Security doesn't appear to be a problem with this new version. Lots of access password protection levels are available in WFW throughout the network. So much that casual installation may lead to later problems if the user isn't careful to plan system setup in advance.

In a home setting, users will appreciate the *Workgroup Connection for DOS*. This latter allows DOS-only PCs to share WFW directories and printers without the size and overhead of Windows. I imagine Microsoft will see a lot of demand for this new product.

Hearts a winner

I see a lot of workgroup productivity problems ahead if WFW's *Hearts* becomes as popular as *Windows Solitaire*. Microsoft has a way of sneaking really neat games in new products and *Hearts* is one of them.

Hearts is a computer version of the popular card game and allows play by one or more persons on the network. It's fast, well-designed and, unfortunately, quite addictive.

WFW works well, but ... Read the documentation!

Yes. WFW does pretty much as advertised, and does it well. Some of the new modules appear to work much better and faster than their 3.1 counterparts. Sharing is easy once

WFW is properly installed and configured.

When you decide to install WFW – and it's worth the effort – do read the documentation (several times) before you begin. It's that important.

I decided we couldn't live without a home LAN. When WFW hit the streets, I grabbed a couple of upgrade kits, three inexpensive NIC's (Network Interface Cards) from Lucky and about a zillion feet of RG-58 coax cable(s). (I really wanted one more reason to open three PCs and plug in more cards ...)

Installing the Ethernet cards was easy – chose IRQ15 and 300h address on each – and plugged them in. Using the Intel EtherExpress 16 cards supplied by Microsoft in the Starter Kit would have been even easier since they are configured via software as part of the WFW setup.

Tacky part was stringing coax cable from my PC to the test PC and on to Connie's PC. That last run was just at 100' counting up-the-wall, across-the-ceiling, down-the-wall, around the corner(s), etc., etc., etc. And, I'll guarantee that RG-58 cable absolutely does not go with any decorating scheme other than Star-Trek-modern.

WFW went through a normal, Windows-style setup – that means it was slow, awkward, clumsy and frustrating. After several hours of stumbling around because I didn't read ALL the documentation thoroughly, WFW was up and running with all three PCs.

WFW ain't free

Upgrade for *Windows 3.1* was selling locally for \$69 just before the *PC News* December deadline. Full version of WFW lists at \$249.95. Microsoft also has a Starter Kit that includes two network interface cards and cables, two complete WFW sets that lists at \$849.95, but is available from Microsoft for a limited time for \$549.95.

DOS Workgroup Connection lists at \$79.95, but was not available locally at the time of this writing.

A WFW "Flame" for Intel

Because I plan to install a similar system in my area at the VA, I decided to try another system setup using the Intel EtherExpress 16 network interface card. These are reasonably priced (cheap) and are configured automatically by WFW during its setup operation.

Included in the Intel box was an offer for a "free" copy of Intel's *LANsight Express* software for remote node management. Included on the coupon were telephone numbers for the Intel BBS, Intel's FAXBACK line and directions to get to Intel's forum on CompuServe.

Being thrifty (after buying software and NIC's, not to mention cable), I decided to try the Intel 800 numbers. All are voice-mail equipped, first irritation. I believe I went through every menu on the FAXBACK line – without suc-



WinWay Resume for Windows

A Review by Andy Oliver

Okay, it won't write your resume for you. As a matter of fact, it's probably easier if you already have the text or outline of your resume completed. If you don't have a resume, you are either new to the job market or you are independently wealthy and do not need to look for work. Otherwise, at some point in your life you are going to need a resume. If you are smart, you will keep one current as you go through life. Then when the need arises, you can whip it out.

Back to the program. First, if you did not notice the title, the program requires Microsoft Windows to run. It installs in less than 5 minutes on a 386DX/25Mhz machine. The program takes up about one megabyte of hard disk space. After installing, you do not need to look at the manual except to pick a resume style from the samples. Then, it becomes point and click.

When the sample appears, move the cursor to the header and double click. A box appears with the sample name, address, and phone number and you just change it to your information. Each section (Name, Objective, Experience, Education, Personal, References, Other) works like this and has a spelling checker, as well as a way to turn bullets on or off. The fun part is the Style box for each section. Once your information is in, you can view it in several different formats to find the one that you like.

Options exist for Accomplishments and Employment in case you would rather do a functional resume as opposed to a chronological resume. Any of the sections can be left out. Personally, I do not include the personal section, because when I am looking at resumes, I find no benefit in knowing that the applicant plays racquetball and enjoys running with her Ger-

man Shepherd. And I've come to the conclusion that the statement "References furnished on request." is a given, so it only clutters up the page.

You can use all of your Windows fonts, adjust your margins, and adjust the space between sections. Something the documentation is good for is the appendix of action verbs. Each item on your experience should start with an action verb like, Achieved, Fabricated, or Upgraded. The resume samples are good for showing concise easy-to-read formats.

A view function gives you a preview of how the page looks, before you print. An accessories selection is linked to Windows Write, Cardfile, and Calendar. So you can do your cover letters on Write, keep your list of contacts on Cardfile, and schedule your interviews with Calendar.

Bottom line, if you know what you want to say but don't want to waste a lot of time trying different formats, get this program. It will take care of your formatting needs quickly while giving you a wide range of choices. Will it get you a job? No. Think of the old t.v. series from the 50's where the door-to-door salesman sticks his foot in the door to make one final sales pitch. Your resume is both the foot and the pitch. If I am hiring someone for a computer job, and the resume has a professional appearance with no spelling errors, I am more eager to talk to the person than one case I can remember where the cover letter was hand-written with the note "I can do this job because I have filled out 1,000's of these forms."

One last comment as a reflection on the way I do business and the times that we live in: don't make it flowery, don't embellish on your abilities, be able to back up what you put in black and white. Get your foot in the door, but not at the expense of chopping your head off.

Andy



Variety

cess. Then I tried the Intel BBS. Still no success, even on my dime.

Called Intel's sales 800 line, explained what I wanted to three (3) different women, each of whom transferred the call to another department with the last

transfer resulting in 23 minutes on "Hold." Saving grace was "Hold" music which was a very nice set of Chopin piano sonatas.

I still don't have the software. I'm definitely not impressed with Intel's offer so far, nor

their support line(s). I do think Intel may be in for some angry customer interactions when WFW kits hit the streets in large numbers if they have the same experience there.

Reagan



The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

Well, I had planned to talk about the portability of programs between Visual Basic for Windows and Visual Basic for MS-DOS this month, but Microsoft decided to announce Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0. I believe that the portability issue changes significantly, so I have decided to postpone that column for a month or two.

First, let's talk money! There has been a lot of confusion on the pricing of Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0 on CompuServe, especially the cost of upgrades. I believe the following is accurate.

If you bought Visual Basic for Windows Version within 30 days of the announcement, you get the upgrade to the Standard Edition FREE.

If you bought the Professional Toolkit as well as Visual Basic for Windows within 30 days of announcement, you get the upgrade to the Professional Edition FREE. Note, I don't know how purchases at different times of the Professional Toolkit and Visual Basic for Windows will be handled.

If you are a registered owner of both Visual Basic for Windows and the Professional Toolkit, you will receive a coupon in the mail to upgrade to the Professional Edition for \$99. You can upgrade to the Standard Edition for only \$79.

If you are a registered owner of just Visual Basic for Windows Version 1.0 (No Professional Toolkit), you can upgrade to the Standard Edition for \$79 or to the Professional Edition for \$199.

I haven't seen any List or "street" prices for the Standard Edition. Microsoft says that the \$199 upgrade price for the Professional Edition represents "...a savings of nearly \$300 over the suggested retail price!

I ordered my Professional Edition today (November 5) and they said I could expect it to arrive on November 20.

The primary goal of the new release has been to improve size and speed of the applications designed with Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0. Microsoft states that applications created with Version 1.0 will run up to 35% faster and consume 30% less disk

space just by recompiling with version 2.0. Huge arrays are used to access all the available system memory in the Enhanced Mode of the Windows operating system. Further, there are no limits on string space.

Version 2.0 has quadrupled the number of procedures per application, doubled the number of variables per module, and doubled the number of global variables. This will permit the creation of larger and more advanced applications.

In order to make the visual development environment of Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0 more productive, Microsoft has added a Properties window that displays and permits editing of all the properties of a control. Other features include color-coded syntax to clearly differentiate comments, variables, keywords and other language elements; multiple levels of undo in the editor to quickly correct mistakes; and user-friendly buttons on the new toolbar.

Other features of the Standard Edition include advanced debugging tools and the capability of printing out the code and forms description in ASCII format. This means you can share code with other programmers or import/export from other systems like Visual Basic for MS-DOS. The Standard Edition also includes controls for drawing, spreadsheet displays (grids), and object linking and embedding.

The Professional Edition adds features to suit the needs of the developers who program for a living. These features include those required to handle networked and workgroup applications. The Professional Edition also includes access to virtually any data source through Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) - a standard already supported by more than 40 database vendors. This permits the same set of code from Visual Basic to access different databases. The Professional Edition of Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0 includes a driver for Microsoft SQL server, An additional 35 controls support pen computing, serial communications, multimedia, and more.

We will discuss the improvements included in Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0 at the December meeting of the Visual Basic SIG. Bring your questions.

Jim



SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to "SIG Happenings" in the uploaded area, before the 10th day of each month)

Assembler SIG

The Assembler SIG Meeting for November featured two book reviews by Glynn Brooks. One of the books in question, "DOS 5: A Developer's Guide" by Al Williams, contains some extensive material on protected mode programming. We are still trying to arrange a future presentation on protected mode programming, but given the Newsletter publication lead times, we have not yet been able to finalize the schedule. Any last minute changes will be posted on the club BBS.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Frank Cavallito

Business Applications/DAC Accounting SIG

INSTANT ACCOUNTING for Windows and DOS by DAC Software

Because of the interest shown by many who missed the July presentation of DAC's Instant Accounting, we have had several requests for another demonstration of this surprisingly sophisticated accounting program. For those of you who are unaware of this software, here's some insight into some of its features which may surprise you.

Instant Accounting by DAC Easy is a small business accounting system designed "for the rest of us". At the heart of the program is a powerful, yet simple, integrated accounting system, with a host of useful additional features, built-in. Even if you're not looking for a neatly-woven accounting package, your business may benefit from the additional features provided, such as contact management, mail-merge, auto-dialing, and built-in FAX support included in Instant Accounting, all for the incredible MSR price of \$49.95!

Before we get carried away with all of the spiffy extras, let's take a look at the core of the program. Instant Accounting is a complete modular accounting and financial package. The menu-driven interface includes modules to handle your General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Banking, Invoicing, and Financial Reporting. When using Instant Accounting, there is no need to know the difference between DEBITS and CREDITS, unless you are making direct entries into the General Ledger. Normally you simply write checks to pay for supplies and inventory, create invoices to record sales, or make deposits to various checking accounts to reflect collections of cash. The program takes care of all of the "accounting science" in

the background. This makes it a superb candidate for the entrepreneur, or manager of a small business who may be confused by the complexities of most accounting programs. Of special note are the well-designed screens, particularly in the Windows version. Checks and Invoices look just as you would expect: as much like their paper counterparts as possible. Both the DOS and WINDOWS versions of the program have the same features and design, and are identical in execution. They even share the same data format, so you could install the DOS version at home, and the Windows version at your office. Your data could then be ported back and forth from home to office on a floppy.

What really makes Instant Accounting stand apart from the rest of the accounting software crowd are the office automation features. Instant Accounting has an excellent customer contact management system, which allows users to quickly locate a customer or supplier, and create a history of conversations, ideas, orders, etc. As an example of how useful this is, imagine the following scenario:

You operate a lawn and pool maintenance service. You've just closed your books for the month, and now you want to send notices out to all your customers in North Dallas who are late in paying their monthly bills. Using the Customer Information module, you would categorically select all customers who are overdue and also have zip codes between the values of 75081 and 75252. Seconds later, the sorted list appears on screen. You would then automatically mail-merge this account list with a gentle reminder that payment is expected. Finally, you



click on the FAX icon to have Instant Accounting auto-dial each customer's FAX number, and send your personalized letter to everyone on the list. Then turn out the lights, lock the office, and let the computer do the work while you're home, eating supper!

As you can see by this example, to call Instant Accounting a nifty little accounting package is to sell it short; Instant Accounting from DacEasy is much more of an office automation solution.

If you would like to see Instant Accounting in action, Cheryl Brown of DacEasy will be demonstrating the DOS and Windows versions for us at the December 19th meeting at 1:00 pm. Evaluation copies will be available to all who attend.

Putt Shaw

Communications SIG

Our November SIG featured Terry Borgmann, Area Manager-Transmission Engineering at Southwestern Bell Telephone. Terry is an expert at diagnosing problems that impact the transmission of data via modem, fax, etc. His presentation on "POTS" (Plain Old Telephone Service) centered on what comprises a telephone circuit, how a BBS connection is made across town or across the country, and what things can go wrong to make your communications session do weird things. Numerous questions and answers followed his discussion.

A look at our December meeting date, the weekend prior to Christmas, has prompted us to defer

our coverage of data transfer protocols (XMODEM, ZMODEM, KERMIT, etc.) to January or February. We also have tentative plans for Datastorm Technologies to present their new product, ProComm Plus for Windows, one of those months. Plan on being with us.

Another reminder: While the Communications SIG meets at noon, the BBS SIG continues to meet at 2:00 PM. In December, we will meet immediately behind the Personal Users. Plan on joining us if you have TBBS questions.

See you on December 19

Doug Gorrie

Reagan Andrews

DOS SIG

Windows for Workgroups has finally hit the streets. DOS Workgroup Connection won't be far behind. Means lots of DOS SIG members will be "enjoying" installation and setup of their own small workgroup LANs.

Wasn't that fun? Isn't it great to see it all working together?

Well ... If you had less than stellar success in your initial efforts, you may want to drop by the December DOS SIG Meeting and discuss what happened. The new Microsoft network is highly dependent on "good" DOS configuration and that's the focus of the December SIG Meeting.

You may find this meeting really important if you are planning to install any peer-to-peer network on an existing DOS system. We're going to focus on DOS - LAN interactions, drivers, and configuring DOS so that things work well together.

We'll also pay some attention to the nitty-gritty hardware aspects of network installation, including differences between 8- and 16-bit network interface cards, IRQ selection(s), software and RAM addresses. Both Jim and Reagan will offer their versions of what's appropriate to say in front of strangers when you inadvertently staple your thumb while stringing network cables.

December's DOS SIG Meeting will close with the usual Q & A session where SIG members share their DOS problems and solutions. The meeting should be a lot of fun.

Desktop Publishing SIG

Back in October: 44 graphically correct members viewed a brilliant but tasteful presentation on the uses of the PostScript page description language. (Good thing I wrote this copy too.)

November reviewed in advance: we will have held a "Show-and-Tell" exhibit of the members' many DTP projects - newsletters, cookbooks, signs, cards, flyers, books, brochures, 4 color separations, and pad printing on kangaroos. Laughing and pointing was not allowed. A growing DTP resource and literature directory was created. We were delighted to have our own Desktop Publishing conference added to the NTPCUG TBBS bulletin board.

December meeting: as usual we meet at high noon (in honor of Gary Cooper) to watch from behind barricades how brave desktop publisher John Pribyl stands up to the challenge of building our 2,000 copy per



month 24 page PC-News newsletter. This should be a good one!

Special thanks to our new assistant SIG leaders Charles Cashion and Larry Linson, and to several helpful volunteers.

Future meetings will deal with "long document" requirements (January), PC-based service bureaus, self-publishing, printer demons, graphic formats, fiery fiascoes, glorious successes, and zillions of other DTP topics.

Y'all come!

Lewis Graber

Personal Users SIG

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

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

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

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

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

The four classes for December 1992 will be:

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

Bob Presley

Advanced Programmers SIG

In a rare, but annual appearance, Elvis led the Pro SIG in a discussion of multi-media program-

ming and its implication in music in the 1990's. John Keohane asked the King if he was planning a come back. Elvis evaded John's question by asking Billy Gilbreath for some of the french fries that Billy was eating.

Join us next month as we hold a seance to contact the spirit of ENIAC.

Jim Hoisington

Unix/Xenix SIG

Well! For those that didn't attend the October meeting the scheduled presentation by representatives of Informix Software did not take place. The fellow scheduled to come and make the presentation decided to pursue other career opportunities the week before the meeting. Unfortunately, there wasn't a chance to schedule anyone else in his place.

We are trying to reschedule the presentation for the January meeting. Please watch the bulletin board for more details.

Moving on to the November meeting. If all goes well, we will have discussed more on the basics of Unix. The topic for the November meeting is editors, a sure fire bet to create some discussion. Editors are like religions. Everyone has one that they prefer over all of the others.

Doug will be on vacation at the time of the December meeting so I'll be on my own. I would like to discuss some of the basic Unix commands and utilities in December. To help that discussion I would like to use a copy of 386BSD on a laptop so that everyone can see the results as we go along. If anyone has a 386 based laptop that we can use for

The best word processor for Windows is by Lotus. Says who?

Software Digest RATINGS REPORT
The Independent Computer Ratings Report
to Software Digest Magazine
Vol. 9, #6, September 1992

Advanced Word Processors for Windows	
	Overall Evaluation
1 ST Ami Pro 3.0 for Windows	8.7
2 ND Word for Windows 2.0	8.1
3 RD WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows	6.1

The most respected and objective evaluator in the software industry, that's who. Their conclusion? "Lotus" Ami Pro 3.0 offers an unbeatable combination of peerless usability, top-level features and fastest overall performance."

Ami Pro 3.0 earns the highest overall evaluation for Windows word processing

In recent tests conducted by the National Software Testing Laboratories (Software Digest), Ami Pro 3.0 received the highest Overall Evaluation in the Advanced Word Processors for Windows™ category. Plus, InfoWorld gave Ami Pro the highest score ever (8.9) for a



Windows word processor. Even a tenth of a point means a big difference in these evaluations.

Ami Pro 3.0 earned top scores in performance, ease of learning and ease of use.

According to test results published in Software Digest® Ratings Report, Volume 9, Number 6, September 1992, "The latest Ami Pro version manages to be powerful and feature rich, yet it is exceptionally easy to learn."

One evaluator quoted in the Ratings Report said, "Ami Pro is the kind of program that I'd like to go out and buy right away. It's that easy and it did that much."

Call for your free Ami Pro 3.0 Working Model and you'll know why it's the best.

Ready to discover why the evaluators rated Ami Pro #1? Just call for your free Working Model at 1-800-872-3387, ext. 7119. You'll see why this

peerless, award-winning word processor for Windows is now the best word processor money can buy.

"Ami Pro stands out as the most usable program with the best performance."
Software Digest Ratings Report

"Ami Pro answers all the formidable challenges that Word for Windows 2.0 laid down and presents some new challenges for Microsoft to wrestle with."
PC/Computing (8/92)

"Ami Pro 3.0 takes the lead over Microsoft Word as the Windows word processor to beat."
InfoWorld (9/28/92)

Lotus Ami Pro 3.0 Word Processor for Windows

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the demonstration please let me know.

As always, if you have a topic that you would like to discuss, please let us know.

Jim Stallworth

Visual Basic SIG

The December 19 meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will feature a presentation on the improvements Microsoft has made in Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0. Very few copies will be delivered by then, but there's a chance some of the members will have Version 2.0 up and running. Bring any questions you may have on any version of Visual Basic.

If all went well, Mike Risse of Microsoft attended our November meeting and demonstrated Visual Basic for Windows 2.0. Mike is set to visit our SIG meeting and follow it up with demonstrations in the Auditorium between 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM. I hope a member(s) of our SIG won some of the prizes.

Thanks to Microsoft for releasing Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0 in time for Santa to place it under the tree and thanks for sending Mike Risse to educate us.

Membership is growing as we have passed the forty member mark. Spread the word to others that we meet every Super Saturday at 9:00 AM in Room 7011 at Infomart.

See you there on December 19.

Jim Carter

Word SIG

Microsoft has finally gotten the Word for Windows 2.0B kits out to users and improvements, including full-screen view, will be a focus of the December Word SIG Meeting. We'll also spend a little time discussing setup alternatives available.

There's a good chance that Microsoft was showing an Alpha version of Word for DOS 6.0 at COMDEX. If Reagan was able to get a preview of the new DOS Word, he'll report back on what he did - and didn't - see at Microsoft's COMDEX display.

Hint on SETUP ...

If you get as tired of watching slow screens during Word for Windows' SETUP, here's a small hint to speed things up. This only works if you have quite a bit of spare space on your hard disk, though.

When I get a new version of W4W, I setup a series of subdirectories on my hard disk labeled "DISK1" through "DISK?". Then I copy the distribution diskettes to the subdirectories using DOS' XCOPY command. Since I usually use my F: drive, syntax is as follows:

```
XCOPY [d]:.* [F:]DISK1 /S/E
```

Here the "[d]" is the floppy drive, i.e., A; or B; and [F:] is the drive on my machine where I made the \DISK1 subdirectory. The "/S/E" switches are quite important since they direct XCOPY to create necessary subdirectories on the target directory and copy files from subdirectories on the floppy disk into them. You'll discover that XCOPY is much faster than DOS' COPY command.

After you've XCOPY'd all the disks into their respective subdirectories on the hard disk, you can run SETUP from the hard disk directory rather than from a floppy. SETUP will handle the directories as if they were floppy disks and you'll be prompted when you need to change directories by SETUP. You'll also discover that SETUP runs much, much faster than off the floppy drives.

Reason for the speed increase has to do with Microsoft's practice of file expansion while copying off the floppy which creates a huge slowdown in operations. It also accounts for some of the "bad disk" or "bad sector" messages occasionally seen during installation.

I've discovered that most Windows programs can be installed this way, and some can be installed from one single, large directory. In this case, SETUP is so fast you won't believe the speed.

A last shot ...

Made a really interesting discovery when I ran the Word 5.5 speller on my Variety Store column this month. A little incidental humor crept into the process when the Word speller came across "Pentium" Intel's name for the 586 CPU.

Speller didn't recognize "Pentium", but its suggested replacement was most amusing.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

WP/DOS TIP OF THE MONTH:
Revising your Supplemental Dictionary.



So the boss has been fired. And you've been instructed to remove all references to this person. This includes your supplemental dictionary. So where do you find it? Check the Location of Auxiliary Files (Shift){F1} and L. The third item in the list is for the location of the main and supplemental dictionaries. List files on that directory and locate your dictionary. If you've never used the ADD option during spell check, you won't have a file.

Supplemental dictionaries have the extension .SUP. If you're on a network, there may be many files. Yours is the one with your initials in it (i.e. WP{WP}xxx.SUP, where the x's represent your initials).

Stand-alone files will simply be WP{WP}US.SUP. Retrieve the file (it's a regular WP file) and make changes as needed. Keep in mind that there should only be one word per line and using upper or lower case does not matter. You can add words randomly. The next time you perform a spell check, WordPerfect will automatically alphabetize the words. Make sure you save the file back to the same name, replacing the original version.

Why is it important for you to be aware of the words in your supplemental dictionary? Because any words listed here WILL NOT come up as an error during spell check. How else can you get words to appear in this list? By choosing the ADD option when you spell check. What's the first

thing you should look for when you suspect spell check isn't catching all of your errors? Make sure the words in your supplemental dictionary are indeed correctly spelled.

December SIG meeting: Obviously, you've already got WordPerfect installed. But there are some tips that you may not know that will make finding files easier and speed up how your WordPerfect works. We'll also concentrate on the Setup feature which is a natural combination with installation.

If I don't see you at this meeting, have a wonderful holiday!

Lori Quinn



Symantec User's Group Summit Meeting

by Andy Oliver

As I mentioned in my November Prez Sez column, I was invited to a users group summit meeting at Symantec headquarters in San Jose, California. So what is a UG Summit Meeting anyway? The PC user group has become a formidable entity in the world, with both buying power and buyer influence at the forefront. Major software vendors realize that we want professional demonstrations and answers to technical questions when they come out to visit. With the above goals in mind, they invite a representative to visit their headquarters, talk to the development teams, the CEO, and the User Group Relations department for an EXCHANGE of ideas.

In a recent letter to another vendor, I stated that the users group is the software vendor's least expensive form of end-user support. The group reaches both novice and sophisticated users with answers to their questions in an informal atmosphere with people

who actually use the program to get their jobs done. We are the most appreciative of a good product (heck, we will start a SIG to help enhance a good product), but we also show little tolerance for a poorly written or tested software program. Companies like Symantec know that our organizations are run by volunteers who enjoy helping others and they want to keep this system going.

It is exciting to go to meetings with the CEO and the software developers where they listen and ask you questions. When they start writing down your suggestions and ideas, then you know you have made an impact.

Gordon Eubanks, CEO of Symantec, said that in the 70's PC's were a joke, in the 80's the MIS departments did not embrace them, and in the 90's, PC's are the mainstream of computing. He stated



that Symantec's goal is to focus on project management software, utilities, and development tools. Software like the Norton Desktop products make the computer easier to use, and they are looking at utilities for OS/2's HPFS and Windows NT.

The question was asked, "What about the rumored DOS 6.0 inclusion of utilities that will take market share away from the Norton Utilities, like antivirus, backup, and speed disk?" To which Gordon replied that Microsoft has every right to continue to improve DOS. They (MS) are tough, but fair. Symantec's job is to add value to their product line. Symantec has acquired companies like Norton, Certus, and the Whitewater Group because they have the best technology. Symantec can add the marketing, distribution, and their own technical expertise to push the products to the forefront. (my statement not Gordon's)

Someone suggested that Symantec develop a utility that would go out and analyze the programs on your hard disk and come back and tell you that "You have 15MB of unnecessary files." It would then allow you to delete some or all of them. The program could also clean up your Windows SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI files. Another voice shouted that they could call it NORTON JANITOR.

A welcomed respite (and unusual for summit meetings) was the inclusion of non-Symantec speakers in our two and a half days of meetings. Ken Wasch of the Software Publisher's Association gave a talk on the SPA efforts to stop software piracy. The way the SPA judges the theft problem is through the statistics on software programs sold per unit of hardware sold. In 1990, there were 1.78 units of software sold per unit of hardware. Where the average user uses 3.0 units of software, there is a deficiency of 1.22 units. This calculates to a \$2.4 billion

problem. Through the efforts of the SPA and the law enforcement agencies, this dropped to about \$1.4 billion in 1991.

In countries like Spain and Italy, only .3 software programs are sold per unit of hardware. The SPA statement on why this problem exists is that "We (personal computers) are the only industry that empowers every customer to be a manufacturing industry." On the litigation side, last year the SPA filed 200 actions (mostly audits) and only 11 of them used U.S. Marshals. The SPA hotline takes about 20-30 call per day, and 95% of their cases come from disgruntled employees.

Recent legislation to aid in piracy effort includes the Software Rental Act. Renting software is against the law. Also, a bill waiting for President Bush's signature is the Felonization Bill which increases the penalty for copyright infringement to a felony if 10 or more illegal software programs are found with a total value in excess of \$2,500.



Norton Utilities is the most pirated software program followed closely by games like Tetris and Leisure Suit Larry. The SPA has produced a rap video titled "Don't Copy That Floppy" aimed at the 8 to 12 year olds. The SPA and the software vendors are very serious about ending this problem. We will try to have them out to talk to the NTPCUG in the future so you can ask your questions.

The second half of this discussion on the Symantec User Group Summit Meeting will concentrate on Symantec's software and where it is headed. Watch for it next month.

Andy



May the good cheer of Christmas

NTPCUG Community Services

Part I: The Opportunity

Today, we have become used to the continuing dramatic decreases in the price of personal computers while their ease of use and computing power increases. That system you purchased 3 years ago for a few thousand dollars is now worth a few hundred. Great if you are a buyer; terrible if you are a seller.

There is a group of people in this country that are neither buyers nor sellers of computers, but who can greatly benefit from this dramatic drop in the price of used computers. That group of people are our nation's poor. These are the people who by circumstances of birth have not had the educational and job opportunities you and I have enjoyed. They are the working poor and the uneducated poor. This group either doesn't have the required job skills and education for employment or these skills are so low that they are permanently entrenched in the cycle of poverty.

What specifically is this opportunity for the poor in our cities? It's your old computer! Yes, that old computer you bought a few years ago and are now trying to sell for a few hundred dollars (if you can get that). The computer you were so excited to get a few years ago because of all the great things you could do with it. Now you are trying to convince your neighbor's high school kid to buy it, but he wants more than your old machine offers!

How is your old computer going to help some poor person in the inner city? The answer is the same way it helped you or your children. Because computers are interactive they have great value in education and training. Look at any large business today. They are using computers to train large numbers of employees. They do it because it is cost effective. Computer learning is not a panacea for education, but it is a valuable tool as part of the process.

What good is one old computer going to do anyone? One old computer will not do much, but there are tens of thousands of old computers in Dallas and there used to be no mechanism to recycle them to the people who could use these machines to learn with. The Dallas Computer Literacy Program, Inc. (DCLP) was formed to solve this very problem. The DCLP is setting up a network of people and organizations to recycle old computers and place them at inner city computer centers.

What good will a "computer center" do in a poor neighborhood? Think about how the computer has impacted your business, how rapidly this technology is advancing and what the future holds. To be employable in the 21st Century, computer skills will be required. Additionally there are hundreds, if not thousands, of educational programs available to learn with.

The long and the short of it is this: because of the rapid technical advances of personal computers (with the resulting dramatic drop in the price of old computers) inner-city children and adults can now have unprecedented access to modern technology. They might be using an 8088 processor instead of a 486 at 50 megahertz, but so what. When you are first developing computer skills, the speed of the processor is not that significant. Additionally, in a few years 486 computers will be the "old technology" that nobody wants.

How does this work? The DCLP is putting old computers in churches, community centers and schools that are located in Dallas's inner city neighborhoods. Additionally we are offering free computer classes to local residents and students. When classes are not being taught at these computer centers they are open for lab practice. This allows people who have taken these computer courses to come in and further develop the basic skills they were taught.

Part II of this article will be in the next issue. For more information or to donate a computer call Brian J. Mickel at 521-6670.

fill your heart throughout the New Year



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

This month the newsletter deadline came right up, sat down next to me on the park bench, and said "I'm here again." Had to shake myself out of my reverie watching the leaves turn. This is such a pretty time of the year.

Fall also brings a flurry of PC activity. Major trade shows like NetWorld and COMDEX, which a number of our members attend, occur in the fall. It's also a time when we are likely to see lots of announcements of new PC products by many vendors and software publishers.

Perhaps because of this increased activity in the PC world, we also see increased attendance at our

monthly meetings and more work for our volunteers. Please be encouraged to raise your hand, any time, and ask what you can do to help out.

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

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VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)263-0036 (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	681-4626 (w)
DOM Booth Scheduler Charles Cashion	881-0952 (h) 519-2583 (w)
DOM Software Review Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information Connie Andrews	828-0699 (h)

CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

This column is the 96th column I've written. The first column was a question and answer format column which appeared in the HAL-PC User Journal in January 1985 and has appeared monthly without interruption since then. (The column has also appeared in the North Texas PC User Group Newsletter for almost 2 years now, too.)

In the history of personal computers, eight years is a lot of time and much has changed since I wrote that first column. My first column in 1985 answered questions on how to create a macro menu and how to create a date entry macro. Those two macro methods really haven't changed since then. This month's column will discuss the changes that have transpired since January 1985 in my version of the world of spreadsheets as well as discuss some of what I have learned about new improvements in products due in the next few months.

Back in 1985, whenever anyone discussed spreadsheets, they were referring to Lotus Development's 1-2-3 1A or Symphony. In fact, today many people use the word Lotus when they really mean 1-2-3. Version 2.0 of 1-2-3 was not shipped until September of 1985, adding many new features such as 6000 more rows, while Symphony 1.1 had shipped in July. During 1985 and 1986, Lotus acquired several different companies which brought diversity to the company, helping it enter the graphics market and other vertical markets such as information and stock market quotations. Some of these companies have since been sold, but others such as Freelance, represent very strong products in the Lotus line.

In July of 1986, Lotus shipped version 2.01 of 1-2-3, which was greatly needed to fix some of the problems and differences between 1A and 2. October 1986 saw great celebration at Lotus when the two-millionth copy of 1-2-3 was shipped. The next month,

Lotus shipped Freelance Plus and Manuscript, the word processing program shipped another month later, in December. It's hard to believe, but 3.5 inch disks weren't shipped or used much until April 1987! Now, you would think they have always been part of the personal computer world.

During the summer of 1987, Borland shipped Quattro, it's first spreadsheet product, which was touted as being the 1-2-3 killer in the DOS spreadsheet world. Borland started the pricing wars with the introduction of this lower priced spreadsheet. By this time, Microsoft had a version of Windows on the market and had introduced Excel, the Windows based spreadsheet, to the market. I couldn't find out which month, but it was in 1987. Lotus, Intel and Microsoft announced a major upgrade to the expanded memory specification in August of 1987, which is still being used by many programs.

In September of 1987, Lotus shipped it's first free add-in disk to owners of 1-2-3 (Speedup and Learn). February 1988 saw version 2.0 of Symphony being shipped. In May 1988, Lotus again shipped a free Value Pak disk to owners of 1-2-3, which was additional enhancements to the spreadsheet. During this month, Lotus announced the shipment of it's 4 millionth spreadsheet.

1-2-3 version 3.0 finally shipped in June of 1989, with version 2.2 of 1-2-3 following in July. The 2.2 version of 1-2-3 included the Always add-in which integrated a WYSIWYG formatting of the output to the spreadsheets. In September of 1989, Lotus shipped Symphony 2.0 plus which added Always technology. The next month in October, Borland shipped Quattro Pro 1.0. QPro added a graphical user interface which could be used while actually doing work in the spreadsheet, unlike the Always add-in which only allowed formatting of the output.

March 1990 saw another new version of 1-2-3, which was the first OS/2 version of the spreadsheet product. Lotus also shipped Symphony 2.2 during the same month. During September 1990, Lotus shipped version 3.1 of 1-2-3, which was an improved version of the previous release. The next month in October 1990, Borland shipped version 2 of Quattro Pro. The next year in February of 1991, Lotus shipped Improv for the Next machine. (Look for a Windows version of this product in the very near future.) In March, Borland shipped version 3 of Quattro Pro which in-

cluded greatly improved graphics and screen show features that even included the ability to add sound. Lotus and Hewlett-Packard announced the 95LX Palmtop computer which had Lotus 1-2-3 included in the ROM. 1-2-3 version 2.3 was shipped in May. This new version included WYSIWYG (Impress technology) that allowed editing and all work to be done in the graphical mode. Lotus shipped 1-2-3 for Windows in August of 1991. Freelance for Windows and 1-2-3 for the Macintosh also shipped near the end of 1991.

Lotus shipped a free upgrade for 1-2-3 for Windows during the early part of 1992 and soon followed it up with SmartPak, which is an add-in that gives many new features to the product. 1-2-3 for the Home and SmartPics for Windows were shipped in the second quarter of 1992. 1-2-3 version 2.4 and Symphony 3.0 were shipped in the middle of 1992 and added SmartIcons to the DOS spreadsheets. Borland shipped Quattro Pro 4 in February of 1992 and the new Windows version of Quattro Pro shipped in September. Microsoft shipped Excel 4 in early 1992, so the Windows spreadsheet market has grown very competitive since 1987.

The DOS spreadsheet market has also seen tremendous competition during the same period of time with many different companies trying to penetrate the market. Borland and Lotus both have excellent spreadsheet products. Each of the products have unique features that make the decision of which program to use a very interesting challenge. All the spreadsheet programs, whether DOS or Windows based, now feature some sort of graphical interface.

In January 1985, the idea of a graphical interface was just a far off idea for the future. Back then, most people had CGA monitors and very small hard disks, if they even had one. A 10 Mb or 20 Mb hard disk was considered quite adequate for most needs. Now, some of the newest Windows based spreadsheet programs require that much disk space for themselves. When I first started writing my column, I was using an IBM PC with a 64k motherboard and an add-in memory board, a ROM upgrade to allow 640k memory and a hard disk, which had been added on a year or so after the initial purchase of the machine (sometime in 1983). The hard disk was a 20Mb and I had a color CGA monitor. The motherboard ran at 4mhz.

I used this machine for several years and then my children took turns using it for awhile. Since the kids now have newer computers and the old one is still

working fine, my parents are using it. It takes a lot for those early computers to die!

I now am using a 386/25 machine which has 8Mb of memory and two 200 Mb hard disks along with a 90Mb Bernoulli drive and an 44Mb Bernoulli drive. The 386 chip has been upgraded to a 486 by using the new upgrade chip from Cyrix as described in last month's column. I also added a 387 math chip and now the machine tests out as a 486/28 machine! By the way, I seem to be able to fill up the hard disks very quickly with all these new spreadsheet programs and other related programs such as graphics, word processors and database programs.

Times have really changed. In 1985, I certainly did not envision having such a powerful machine and so many different types of programs at my disposal. Actually, my machine is nowhere as powerful as many others available on the market now either. Progress is very difficult to keep up with in the personal computer world these days and impossible for me to afford, too.

The week this column was due, I had a chance to go to Boston with my husband on a business trip. I took advantage of this opportunity to see some of the people I know at Lotus Development and discuss what is new. The products I saw were not released or announced at the time. A couple will be announced and maybe even shipping by the time you read this column. There were no dates given to me for any of the releases of the products because Lotus wants to make sure the products are at their best before shipping them. Lotus has been spending a great deal of time and effort to make all their new products the most usable programs on the market. The developers are working with the Usability Lab to help them make this goal a reality.

Freelance Graphics for Windows 2.0 will be a showcase for this new goal. They started doing usability testing early on in the development cycle to insure that the program was written with ease of use as its most important feature. From what I have seen of this product, Lotus is meeting the goal.

Freelance will feature new chart types, the ability to create organizational charts and text charts. You will be able to build a series of pages of bullet charts that introduce new points on each page while leaving the other points greyed out. All parts of the program feature greater flexibility in how to use them. The text charts pages and the organizational chart pages

are extremely easy to create because there are dialog boxes present to help guide you through the process.

I was shown the process of how the usability lab was used to watch people try to create the organizational charts at different points in the development cycle. As the usability testing showed where the users were getting tripped up and not understanding how to do the procedure, the developers added more dialog boxes and tip boxes to guide the users. Lotus already had a good product in Freelance Graphics for Windows 1.0, but version 2.0 will bring the product to the front of the entire graphics market.

Lotus will be shipping 1-2-3 3.4 in the very near future. It adds in the SmartIcons like those in 1-2-3 2.4, but is a superset of them. Of course, since version 3.4 is a 3-D spreadsheet, there are icons that are unique to working on that type of spreadsheet, much like some of those found in 1-2-3 for Windows. One of the features that made me happy to see is that the user definable icons can be changed by editing the bitmaps for those U1 to U12 icons or by importing a new bitmap icon file. In 1-2-3 2.4, you could only create a one line macro to go with the user definable icons. This is no longer true in version 3.4.

The most important new feature of 1-2-3 3.4 is the huge improvement in the performance of the spreadsheet. The bootup time of the program is substantially faster than the previous version. It is only a couple of seconds slower than the bootup time of version 2.4 and that included the time to start the WYSIWYG add-ins. The SmartIcons in 3.4 are not an add-in but are part of the WYSIWYG function of the program which should also speed up performance of the product. In the next couple of years or so, we should be seeing some more exciting things happening with the 3.x series of the 1-2-3 DOS spreadsheets. The product is looking very good.

1-2-3 for Windows 2.0 is shaping up to be an exciting and very competitive product. Although I can't tell you too much about what I saw of the product, it is looking great. Lotus is not in a hurry to release this product because it wants to be sure the program is working well, providing good performance and is easy to use.

The usability lab people have been busy working on the interface and menus of this product to help make

it the easiest spreadsheet product to use. Some of these dramatic usability gains are: in-cell editing, live status bar (like the one in Ami Pro), context sensitivity, edit in place graphs, working together suite user interface and integration, drag and drop, row and column selection, collections of noncontiguous ranges, and the scenario builder which makes it the first spreadsheet for workgroups. The scenario builder allows more than one set of data for the same table or range in the spreadsheet. This will be very useful for best case and worst case scenarios. Hopefully, before too many more months, I'll be able to tell you more about this product.

By the way, if you ever have a chance to visit Boston and have extra time, make a visit to the Boston Computer Museum. I had a chance to go there with macro columnist Daniel Gastelger and enjoyed the tour. He had not been in a couple years, so it was mostly new to him, which made exploring all the exhibits very interesting.

The exhibits start with computers from the 1940's and go on through the present day products. There were a lot of exhibits on robotics to see there, too. It is fascinating to see how far things have advanced in the past few years. Technology is improving by leaps and bounds.


After spending the afternoon carrying two of his latest books around in a book bag, Daniel presented them to me as we parted at the end of our tour. I've had a chance to do a quick review of these books and would like to recommend them to people interested in learning more about using 1-2-3. The books are published by Lotus Books (division of Brady Publishing) and are named: Start Here With 1-2-3 for Windows (\$19.95) and The Lotus Guide to 1-2-3 Release 2.4 (\$26.95).

Daniel and his partner, who co-authored the books, also publish a great newsletter called The Spreadsheet Consultant (\$79/yr). They both are well known are columnists for Lotus Magazine and have been the macro gurus for several publications through the years. In my opinion, anything they write is worth reading!

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.

JULIA KELLY 214/881-9538



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NEW DISKS

...from the DOM Squad

THE FOLLOWING DISK IS DISTRIBUTED ON A 1.2M DISK ONLY

Disk 774. HyperText VSUM X9210, 10/22/92 - Virus Information Summary List by Patricia M. Hoffman, 3339 Bowers Ave Suite 130, Santa Clara, CA 95054. (Telephone)1-408-988-3773 / (Fax)1-408-988-2438. Shareware = \$30 (Site License Also Available).

Need to find out what a specific computer virus does, how it is activated, how it affects your system, and how to get rid of it? Interested in finding out more about computer viruses, but lacked the time or resources to do the research yourself?

HyperText VSUM is an encyclopedia, a reference work on computer viruses. The database is from ongoing research on the detection, identification and removal of MS-DOS viruses. The information is displayed in HyperText, which is a real time saver. You can move easily from topic to topic, rapidly accessing whatever topic is of interest at the moment. Once you have identified the entry (or entries) of interest, they can be individually selected and printed out.

It is really easy to use; on the other hand, it is REALLY, REALLY big. The ZIP file is 660,408 bytes; which unzips to 1,722,848 bytes in 8 files. (Translation: if you don't have a hard disk, forget it.)

Once the program is loaded, a menu appears. The selections include: * Virus Index - The entries in alphabetical order * Relationship Chart - A sort of genealogy of the viruses * Using VSUM - An on-line tutorial for using the HyperText database. There are lists of the most common viruses, of activation dates and scan IDs, and of companies

that sell Anti-Viral products. There are several cross-references: Common Names, Length, Origins, and Viral Type (for Boot Sector Infections and Stealth & Sub-Stealth Viruses). There is also an explanation of the fields that make up the records.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Kenneth Loafman (11/92).

Disk 775ABC. VirusScan v97, 10/16/92 - 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. REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 for individuals.

CLEAN-UP Version v97

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 v97

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 de-

tect the presence of unknown viruses.

NETSCAN Version v97

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 v97

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 v97

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

Downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/92).

Disk 776AB. RoboComm 4.2, 7/20/92 - Unattended BBS Communications, Parsons Consulting, 5020 S. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 3301, Chicago, IL 60615-3249. Shareware = \$40.

On-line registration (MasterCard or Visa): Call 312-752-1258 (Group One BBS). Register and receive your personalized ROBOUSR.DEF file immediately!

ROBOCOMM is automated software to make BBS access easier for both the novice and the experienced BBS'er. It is designed to work with PCBoard and Wildcat BBS systems primarily. It will support other BBS's via a scripting language that's easy to use. ROBOCOMM will automate the following activities to run at any time, day or night:

- Transfer message and reply packets via a variety of doors

- Scan for New Files in any of the BBS's file directories

- Point and Shoot interface for selecting files to upload and download

- Execute script files to perform virtually any task not already provided

- Support for the PC Pursuit communication network is built in

- and the list goes on...

If you do a lot of BBS'ing, this package is for you!

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 100% IBM compatible PCs, at least 512K free RAM (optimal execution requires 560K or more free RAM); hard disk; modems which conform to the Hayes command set (communications speeds from 300 to 57600 baud supported). See configuration section of ROBOCOMM.DOC for information on expanded memory (which RoboComm will attempt to use for virtual memory and when swapping to run outside utilities).

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/92).

Disk 777. RoboComm Utilities 4.0, 6/92 - Freeware Utilities for RoboComm, Michael MacDonald, 4273 148th Ave NE Apt E-104, Bellevue, WA 98007.

DUP v4.0 03/10/92

DUP's purpose is to check RoboComm's database for duplicate file names (the same file on multiple BBS's). Unless you use the 'preferred bbs' command line switch, it will keep the first occurrence of a duplicate file name in the database and delete the rest. If you specify a 'preferred bbs', DUP will keep the file names from that BBS.

NUKE v4.0 03/10/92

NUKE's purpose is to check RoboComm's database for strings of text that you

input, then mark as deleted any matches it finds. It will first ask if you want to search the filename field. For instance, if you want to delete all filenames with an extension of GIF, you would input '.GIF'.

RECALL v4.0 03/10/92

RECALL's purpose is to search RoboComm's database for records that have been MARKED as deleted, and 'undelete' them. Note that when you delete a record, RoboComm only MARKS it as deleted. The information pertaining to that file is still there until the database is packed, either by choosing PACK from the edit menu, or using the '/p' command line switch.

TRIM v4.0 06/26/92

TRIM's purpose is to search RoboComm's database and 'trim' out any filenames which don't actually exist in your configured download OR upload directories, OR that haven't been moved offline by RoboComm. This makes it easy to keep a 'clean' database if you

download, then subsequently delete, a bunch of files.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
100% IBM compatible PCs.

Downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/92).

Disk 778. BBS-SIM, 1/5/92 - BBS Simulation Game by David T. Smith, 8305 Skyline, Odessa, Texas 79764. Shareware = \$5.

"For a lot of people logging on to a BBS can be a trying experience. I know of one man who bought a modem, installed it and then tried to log on to one of the harder BBSs. He became so frustrated that he disconnected the modem and hasn't used it since." - D.T. Smith.

Sound Familiar? Experienced BBSers regard logging on to a BBS as a recreational activity, something done for amusement

Some novice BBSers are not as amused as they are confused.

BBS-SIM is a simulation of an Electronic Bulletin Board System complete with a message area, file areas, bulletins, simulated file transfer protocols, page the Sysop function, and simulated on-line games. The author wrote it to show people what to expect when logging on to a BBS. You can play at logging on, sending messages, uploading and downloading files, playing BBS games, and sending pointless complaints to the Sysop. You also get to experience real life BBS events: such as losing the carrier, slow vs fast file transfer protocols, reminders of how much time you have left, and keeping track of where you are in the menu structure.

BBS-SIM can also be run as a game, the object of which is to raise your security level high enough to take over the board. You could play alone, but to make the game a challenge you will need two or more players.

If you already have your modem and your communications software, this could be used as a test run so you won't spend your logon time dithering and worrying about making mistakes.

If you don't have a modem, you can find out what a BBS looks like. There are, however, a number of topics that BBS-SIM doesn't address: how to buy a modem, which communications software package to get, how to install the modem on your PC system, where the phone jack nearest to your modem is and how long the phone wire needs to be to reach the phone jack, how to configure the communications software to work with your modem and your system, how to use the communications software, and how to add the phone numbers and logon parameters to the directory so the communications software can call up the BBS.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Kenneth Loafman (11/92).

Disk 779. Mazewars 1.01, 2/92 - Virtual Reality Maze Game, Amazing Graphics, 430 East Glenn Avenue, Auburn, AL 36830, (205) 821-4211. Registration Fee: \$15.00.

Mazewars is a virtual reality three-dimensional maze game. However, before you can exit the maze, you have to hunt down and destroy monsters. The only problem is that in destroying the monsters, you get disoriented and may not be able to find the exit. The game has good graphics and 11 levels of play.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Any IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with a VGA monitor and a mouse.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (11/92).

Disk 780. Quizzle 1.0, 2/12/92 - Build Your Own Quiz Game! Copyright (c) 1990 By PractiComp, 6490 Dubois Rd., Delaware, OH 43015. Registration - \$15.00.

Quizzle is a unique quiz program which may be used as an entertaining and educational game, or for more serious study. Quizzes may consist of various topics and may be created for users from beginning readers through adults. Quizzle may be played alone or against an opponent. A Quizzle screen consists of sixteen squares. Each player selects a square and then receives questions or clues for that square. Points are awarded for answering a square correctly. The fewer questions or clues required, the higher the score. Bonus points are awarded for winning four squares in a row either across, up and down, or diagonally. The program can optionally track missed questions and print a study sheet for each player. The Shareware version of Quizzle includes quizzes covering Famous Quotations, Inventors and Inventions, Women of the Bible, the Books of the Bible,

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SnapPro! . . . The Image Utility for Windows

A review by Howard Peña

Have you been noticing how much better the screen illustrations are looking in the user's manuals for Windows applications? It's because Microsoft Windows has a feature that lets you copy a window or even a full screen as a bit-mapped image to the clipboard. Under the right conditions, a simple key se-

quence (Alt + Print Screen or Shift + Print Screen) does a screen capture that you can paste directly into your document. The results can be very impressive.

There is a down side, though. The image must be pasted as a .BMP file and the capabilities are limited if you are not running in Enhanced Mode. You can probably forget about sharing clipboard (.clp) files with your neighbors, too. Although it's not supposed to happen, there are palette shift problems (caused by inconsistencies among applications). It will be easy for you to see the problem when it happens; colors are replaced with other colors that don't look the least bit correct.

Although most users have no need for capturing and pasting screens, I do user documentation and on-line tutorials for a living, and SnapPro!, by Window Painters, Ltd., has been a helpful tool. Its requirements are minimal. SnapPro! uses 1MB of memory, 6MB of hard drive space, and requires a VGA video system. Of course, more is better when it comes to hardware, and SnapPro! will make use of additional RAM and hard drive space. If you have a VGA card that can do 16 million colors, you'll be able to use that too.

The installation process is not the simple INSTALL routine that most Windows programs use. Instead, you must use the MS-DOS COPY command - remember that? The good part is that SnapPro! has an easy, organized interface that almost lets you push the reference manual aside. (The reference looks good and reads well.)

NEW DISKS

continued

U.S. States and Capitals, and Third Grade Vocabulary. All registered users receive additional quizzes as well as a program which allows you to create your own quiz files.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM or compatible computer with 512K RAM; monochrome or color monitor. Will work with two floppy disk drives, or a hard drive. A printer may be used to print the optional study sheets.

Downloaded from the SDN, Shareware Distribution Network by Mike Ashley.

This review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Kathryn Loafman(11/92).

Disk 781. XYSee 3.0, 12/14/91 - VGA Computer Aided Math Tutorial, ALGEBRA, GEOMETRY, TRIGONOMETRY MATH EDUCATION, INSIGHT ADVANTAGE, 4509 Yellowleaf Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76133. Dean M. Thompson - Registration \$30.00.

XYSee supplements high school and college level studies in Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry. XYSee's intuitive menu structure, comprehensive tutorial, and context-sensitive help, make it suitable for home use without professional supervision.

Teachers and parents alike will welcome this computer aided in-

structional program because it is specially designed to aid the struggling student as well as enrich the advanced.

XYSee promotes visualization of equation-defined functions from points to parametrics through the use of highly interactive color-graphic displays. In addition, XYSee's unique formula-model expansion capabilities lend powerful emphasis to critical concepts like axis translation.

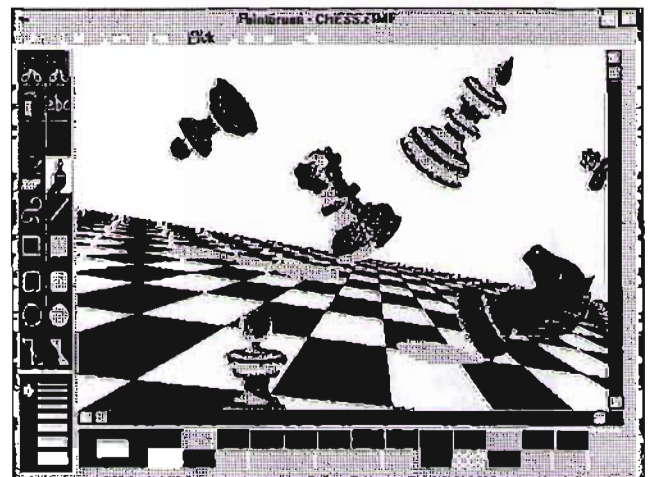
XYSee's enigmatic game module challenges the student to duplicate the form and position of displayed functions through the proper selection of variable values. Special help is always available when identifying boundaries and zeroing in on solutions.

Other important features include full macro control, intelligent mouse support, context-sensitive statistics, and an auto-validating macro and puzzle editor.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM/Tandy and Compatibles; VGA; 384K RAM; DOS 2.1 or Higher; mouse and graphics printer optional.

Downloaded from SDN, the Shareware Distribution Network, by Mike Ashley.

This review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Kathryn Loafman(11/92).



SnapPro! Screen Capture Example

The capture interface lets you do all types of captures, even in Standard mode. You can capture the entire screen, the active window, or you can manually frame the area you want to capture. You can capture the whole screen by pressing a hot-key combination that you define. You can capture a part of the screen by framing an area with your cursor. Typically, when you do a screen capture, you'll probably want to do a series of screens to illustrate a procedure. SnapPro! can help keep you organized by automatically saving each capture. (It creates a new filename by incrementally adding numbers to the end of a common file name). SnapPro! offers additional image editing and control features that make it a better tool for big documentation projects and frame-based bitmap animations. For example, you can flip the picture (horizontally or vertically) and do 90 degree rotations.

The file formats supported by SnapPro! are Windows BMP, Windows RLE, OS/2 BMP, PCX 5.0, Mac PICT 2, TIFF, WPG, TARGA, GIF, and EPS (using a bitmapped image for presentation).

The palette types supported by SnapPro! are 16 million color, 256 color, 16 color, black and white, black and white dithered, and inverted color. The palette styles supported by SnapPro! are color, gray scale, and high-contrast gray scale.

The best part of SnapPro! is the Image Builder. It lets you merge pictures from any of the supported file formats. For example, you can merge a BMP with a PCX. You can then save it in any of the supported file for-

mats. Image Builder can also mask a file. Masking makes all white space and the image's boundary transparent, just like the option available for all CGM files. (This feature can save lots of time for anyone making frame-based bitmap animations.) And, if in the middle of all this merging, you see palette shift problems, there's a palette merge utility to help clear it up. The palette merge also helps repair palette problems caused by moving the image to another computer. Finally, you can view all your saved files in a small preview window and then create a print queue of the files you want to print. The files can be sent to Print Manager as a batch job.

I've used SnapPro! on a few projects and found it to be a fair performer. I like to use it when speed and quality are important. However, when quality alone is important, I prefer to capture the screen using Windows' built-in capture feature along with a good paint program or palette editor.

I recommend SnapPro! to anyone needing a one-stop program for capturing and cleaning-up windows screens. It has a suggested retail price of \$69.95. You can obtain a copy by contacting:

Window Painters, LTD. 7275 Bush Lake Rd. Minneapolis, MN 55439 FAX (612) 897-3648

(They had been running a 50% OFF sale to User's Group members. It might still be available.)

Howard



BBS Tip of the Month

Doug Gorrie

Many members have asked for an easy way to delete obsolete personal mail that has accumulated in their IN BOX. From the Mail Menu, under Electronic (M)ail, QUICKSCAN can be used to quickly identify and mark messages for deletion. Unfortunately, QUICKSCAN's listing does NOT include a date field, making it difficult for users to determine how old each message is.

At present, TBBS software does not allow us any way to include the date on the normal 80-character QUICKSCAN line, but we have identified a work-around. Through diligence and perseverance (i.e., accident), we discovered that QUICKSCAN's display can be changed by reducing the terminal width field in your TBBS profile from 80 characters to 79 or less. Since the normal

QUICKSCAN display uses the full 80 characters, a reduction results in a different display, one that includes the date.

To change your terminal width, select the (P)rofile option from the Main Menu, then set (w)idth to 79. If you desire, after deleting obsolete mail, return to (P)rofile and set the terminal width back to 80.

Two drawbacks: With a terminal width under 80, the single QUICKSCAN line is replaced by several shorter ones. Also, your introductory mail announcement (when you first connect) will appear differently. This may impact how you set your width on an ongoing basis.

I hope this speeds things up for you. As usual, questions may be referred to the SYSOP.





9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Humanizing the Computer With Logitech (See page 1 for description of programs.)

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Superbase Version 2.0 for Windows

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Computer Associates Software Review

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4979 w (214)517-7430 h
	Paul Williams	
ACT1	Michael Hill	(214)423-7585 w (214)487-0085 w
	Jim Thompson	(214)278-3661
Alpha Four	Ron Jackson	(214)423-9221 h
Assembler	Frank Cavalitto	(214)827-7734
BASIC Prog-Adv.	Mike Firth	(214)290-3485 w (214)283-2292 h
BASIC Prog-Visual	Woody Pewitt	(214)235-5968
	Jim Carter	(214)224-2880 h
BASIC Prog-Begin.	Charles Jacobus	(214)296-9738 w (214)233-8353 w
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)775-1503
C Lang. Begin.	Stan Milam	(214)343-3882 h
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	(214)341-1890 w (214)618-8002 h
Communications	Tom Cook	(214)464-7942 w (817)731-1308 h
	Doug Gorrie	(214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
Community Svc	Bill Green	
	Alex Lilley	
	Brian Mickel	(214)296-1789 w
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DOS	Jim Holington	(214)416-3101 h
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
Fox Pro	Kevin White	(214)644-7536
Genealogy	Al Sanford	(214)278-7888 h
Hdw Solutions	David McGahee	(214)681-0202 h
	Gary Johnson	(214)937-5851 h
Investors	Nash Kapoor	(214)458-9158
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roetel	(817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
	Francis Bright	
MS Works	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734
OS/2 Dev	James Dunn	(214)279-1738 h (817)962-4598 w (817)481-4966 w (817)481-6625 (h)
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Femler	(214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)687-1879 h
	Greg Kane	(214)422-4289 h
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)458-8711 w (214)317-0125 h
	Bob Russell	(214)416-3101 h
Programmers	Kent Kingery	(817)430-8148
Quicken	Jim Holington	
	Billy Pitts	
	Jo Johnston	(214)352-0888 h
R:Base	Don Branham	(214)495-4410
Roots III	John Wyllie	(214)271-4911 h
Software Review	Pat Henley	(214)229-9216 w (214)964-8174 h
Spreadsheet	Mark Gruner	(214)618-1608 h
Spreadsheet Dev	Betty Brooks	(214)964-8174 h
	Mark Gruner	(214)618-1608 h
StarText	Betty Brooks	(817)355-9594 h
	Beverly Kurtin	(817)478-6685 h
TI Pro	Jim Boughton	(214)821-4788 h
	James Corbett	(214)634-2360 w (214)348-3788 h
Unix/Xenix	Kurt Krider	(817)287-0758 h
	Doug Scott	(817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w
Windows Applic.	Arthur English	(214)618-1268 h
Windows Dev.	Arthur English	
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699
	David McGahee	(214)881-0202 h
	Dorothy Bertine	(817)387-9993 h
WordPerfect	Lois Quinn	(214)255-0555 w Metro (817)481-6453 h
	Mich Milam	(214)823-9837 w

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	11:00 - 11:55	12:00 - 12:55 cont
BASIC Programming-Visual DOS	BASIC Programming-Begin. Assembler	R:Base TI Pro General Mtg cont
General Genealogy	Family Roots - Gnlg.	
Hardware Solutions	MS Works	
Personal Users	Roots III - Genealogy	1:00 - 1:55
Quicken	Spreadsheet Developers	ACT1
Software Review	Windows Developers	Beginners C Language
Windows Applications		Business Apps./DAC Easy
WordPerfect		OS/2 Developers
10:00 - 10:55	11:30 - 11:55	Personal Users
BASIC Programming-Adv. CAD	Orientation	Spreadsheet
dBase for TI Pro	TI Pro General Mtg	Startext
Fox Pro Database		WORD
Networking	12:00 - 12:55	2:00 - 2:55
PAF -Genealogy	Alpha Four	Advanced Programmers
Paradox	C++/Advanced C	BBS
Personal Users	Communications	
Unix/Xenix	Investors	
	OS/2 for End Users	
	Personal Users	

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.



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Reagan Andrews	Mark Gruner	
Jim Holington		
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Membership Dir.	Jim Holington	(817)275-4109 h
Advertising Dir.	John Pribyl	(214)462-7980
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Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699
BBS	Tom Prickett	

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain	Jim Holington
John Pribyl	Stuart Yarus

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from outside Area Code 214, use Area Code 214. (This is NOT a toll call from 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 Tennison
Adviser	Pete Testa
Voice line for validation problems:	(214)565-2814 Ask for Adam

TI PRO BULLETIN BOARD (214)361-5275

See footnote*

SYSOP: Tom Blackwell

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.)

* Editor's Note: The TI Professional Computer BBS is a valuable resource to members with TI Pro PC's. If you don't own a TI Pro computer and are tempted to check out this (TI Pro) BBS, please DON'T. Running TI Pro software on another brand of computer could lock up the machine, reset the CMOS RAM and other such nasties. Fair Warning--

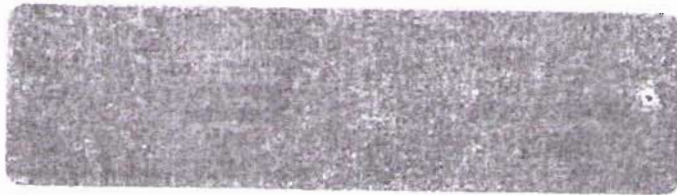


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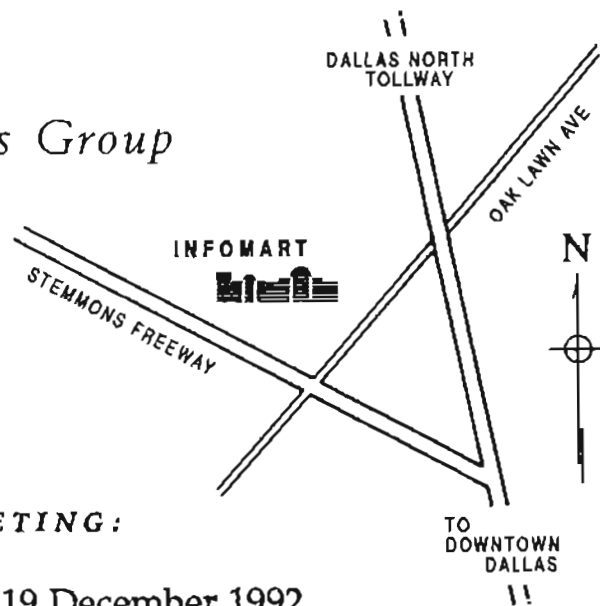
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11.12



North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

19 December 1992