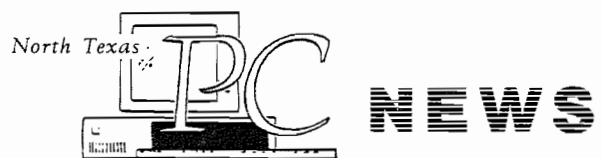


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Publisher John Pribyl
(817)275-4109

Editor Doug McQuaid
(214)313-0086

Assistant Editors Gerry Heine
(214)938-7266
Alan Lintel
(214)220-8285
Randy Lahti
(817)429-5255

Newsletter Exchange Lewis Graber

Advertising Director John Pribyl, (acting) -
(817)275-4109

(Mail all advertising material
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North Texas PC NEWS
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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2076 last month.

Member distribution was 2076; 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 Banff.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for April
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, March 10th

Meeting Dates:

March Meeting - 3rd Saturday
April Meeting - 4th Saturday
May meeting tentatively scheduled
on the third 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 March

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Ventura Publisher 4.1 for Windows

Ventura Software, Inc.

Scott Shiffert, Regional Sales Manager

Ventura Publisher 4.1 for Windows includes all the automation, precision, and sophistication that has made Ventura Publisher the definitive professional DTP package for the PC since 1986. New features include: customizable button bars to access menu functions by mouse, multiple-zoom levels, frame tags, interactive tab and indent editing, and paragraph and text mode convergence. Ventura Scan and Ventura Separator, formerly sold separately, are now included as part of the Ventura Publisher 4.1 package.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Object Based Development for Windows

Serius Corporation

Greg Perugini, System Engineering Manager

Serius Developer Pro 1.0 for Windows is a complete programming development kit for object based cross-platform application development. Using the Workshop module, projects can be built by non-programmers for Windows and can be easily ported to the Macintosh, and vice-versa. The Object Construction Kit enables programmers to create new objects in their favorite C, C++, or Pascal environments. Object libraries for GUI and multi-user relational database management are included, and other libraries for communications, networking, DDE, and multimedia are coming. There will be a drawing for a free copy of Developer Pro for Windows (\$1495 list). *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Access and FoxPro 2.5 for Windows

Microsoft Corporation

Come see the latest database management software from Microsoft. This will be a demonstration of Microsoft Access and Microsoft FoxPro 2.5 for Windows, with an extended question and answer session after the main presentation. Microsoft is sponsoring this presentation in conjunction with a membership drive which offers a \$10 rebate for all new NTPCUG memberships on this day. There will be a drawing for free products. *

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

Prez Sez...



Elections

At the January meeting of NTPCUG's Board of Directors, Secretary John West announced the winners of this year's election. They are (alphabetically):

Reagan Andrews
Jim Hoisington
Andy Oliver (President-Elect)
Fred Williams

The Secretary was especially pleased to announce the receipt of 149 ballots, the largest number in NTPCUG's history. We tried very hard to entice more members to run, as evidenced by the six candidates that sought the three at-large Board positions. My thanks to all that volunteered.

Special thanks go to Mark Gruner for providing his special guidance and insight as part of the 1992 and prior Boards, and for all the other contributions he makes to NTPCUG's successful operation. We are already making plans to draft him into a new assignment to avoid losing his expertise.

Membership

I am declaring March as Membership Drive month. Microsoft Corporation has reconfirmed their intent to contribute \$10 toward each NEW membership received in March, whether or not the member attends Microsoft's 1:00 PM presentation on ACCESS and

Prez Sez... continued

FoxPro for Windows. This is an extremely generous offer, and one that demonstrates Microsoft's commitment to the ongoing success of NTPCUG. Their support not only benefits new members, but assists in our ability to keep yearly dues the lowest in the nation (for a group our size, that is). You can do your part by spreading the word to students, your friends and business acquaintances. We also have a voice mail line at (214) 746-4699 that explains NTPCUG, and a message left there will ensure a return phone call or membership application. If each current member gets just ONE person to join, our membership would double to over 3,500!!

Please express your thanks to Microsoft for this very generous contribution by attending their presentation, and by considering Microsoft for your next software purchase.

Community Service...

Have you been keeping track of the Community Service group? If not, take a few moments to read about what NTPCUG and the Dallas Computer Literacy Program are jointly doing to bring computer literacy to Dallas' underprivileged.

Consider for a moment what your life would be like without access to and knowledge of computers. Many of us make a living by selling, programming, and/or using computers. Their absence would no doubt leave a major void in our lives, and would severely limit our ability to earn a decent wage.

I'm truly impressed at what Alex Lilley, Brian Mickel and others have achieved so far, and see their efforts to bring the computer revolution to the underprivileged as benefiting us all. As you read their reports in PC NEWS, ask yourself what YOU might do to help. Do you or your firm have old XTs and miscellaneous parts taking up valuable space? Are you looking for a good excuse to upgrade from older hardware while doing a good deed? Just as important, would you consider giving a little of your time to monitor students in a neighborhood computer lab, and/or perhaps teach them the basics? Any contribution of time and materials is appreciated. Give it some thought.

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Are you interested in forming a SIG on Microsoft's Access product? We've heard of some interest, and

seen several discussions on the BBS. To initiate such a SIG, we need at least eight candidates, plus a SIG leader. Please advise Alex Lilley by phone or BBS if you have such a desire to participate in such a SIG.

SIG meetings are one of the main ways that NTPCUG assists its members. As you attend your favorites, note that your leader is a volunteer, probably one that at one time sat where you sit. Consider becoming an assistant in such a SIG. You can help in a number of ways, by writing SIG Haps, scheduling vendors, or by co-leading. Volunteers are the major reason any SIG exists; without them, the SIG would fold. Please consider taking part.

Anyone, SIG Leader or not, is encouraged to write articles for NTPCUG's PC NEWS. We have a lot of expertise within our membership, and that knowledge can be invaluable to your fellow members. Recently reviewed hardware or software are prime article candidates, as well any other experiences in the field of computers. General instructions for uploading are in PC NEWS.

Bulletin Board System

In February, SYSOP Fred Williams initiated a security contest against NTPCUG's BBS software. The idea is to sanction a little "hacking" in order to identify any holes that might allow true hackers unauthorized access to private SYSOP areas or commands. eSoft, the BBS vendor, swears that no holes will be found (their software is used in the White House...), so I feel comfortable in offering any member a free year's membership if a true defect is found and confirmed by us.

Needless to say, this is a FRIENDLY contest, so don't erase all the databases if you get in.

Volunteers

I'd like to pass along a special "Thanks" to Will Davis, who graciously responded to my previous PREZ SEZ request for a volunteer to assist the Disk of the Month (DOM) group. Will tells me it's a perfect match, combining his desire to help with an opportunity to expand his knowledge of computers. A side benefit is free access to all of NTPCUG's newest shareware titles!!

As I've said before, it's more fun when you participate, at least every few months. Give it some thought. Feel free to call me if you would like more information.

Have a happy St. Patrick's Day!!

Doug Gorrie

■

Ami Pro gives Word and WordPerfect what they've never had before.

Features	Ami Pro 3.0	Word for Windows 2.0b	WordPerfect [®] for Windows 5.1
True WYSIWYG in all views eliminates guesswork	Yes	No	No
Fast Format—quick repetition of text formats	Yes	No	No
SmartMerge step-by-step mail merge guide with a card file data manager	Yes	No	No
Preview of Style Sheets for memos, faxes, newsletters, etc.	Yes	No	No
WYSIWYG preview in File Open to quickly view, print, or extract text	Yes	No	No
More import/export filters	45	27	37
On-line Tutorial	Yes	Yes	No
Automatic re-numbering of lists	Yes	No	No
Customizable, editable, sizable, colorful SmartIcons™ for one click access to frequent tasks	Yes	No	No
In-context editing of drawings and charts	Yes	No	No
Laptop install option for quick and minimal configuration on a laptop	Yes	No	No

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†Among Windows word processors tested. Reprints of report available upon request. *Offer expires 3/31/93. Call for a list of eligible word processors. Education-priced Lotus products not included. Offer valid in U.S.A. only. Not to be combined with any other offer. Please have your credit card and current word processor ready when you call. In Canada, call 1-800-GO-LOTUS. © 1992 Lotus Development Corporation, 55 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02142. All rights reserved. Lotus and Ami Pro are registered trademarks and SmartIcons is a trademark of Lotus Development Corporation. Software Digest is a registered trademark of NSTL, Inc. InfoWorld is a registered trademark of InfoWorld Publishing, Inc. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of WordPerfect Corporation. Adobe Type Manager and the ATM logo are registered trademarks, in the United States, of Adobe Systems, Inc.

Creating a Boot Disk

By Roy H. Kinslow, Ph.D.

Why?

If your hard disk crashes (for whatever reason) you are dead in the water unless you have a copy of certain DOS files on a floppy disk handy. If you have purchased a set of DOS diskettes or if you got a set with your computer, you are in good shape. You don't need an emergency boot disk.

On the other hand, for many of us DOS came already installed on our machines. Unless we made back-ups of our DOS files, we don't have doodly squat as far as the essential DOS files to boot our systems are concerned, except what is on the hard disk. In case of a hard disk disaster, we have to (1) take our machine back to where we got it and have the DOS files installed again, (2) borrow DOS files from a friend (expedient, but could be illegal), or (3) buy a copy of the latest DOS. Hence, the need to have an emergency boot disk on hand.

I am sure you know by now that when you turn-on your computer it automatically goes through a certain start-up procedure that includes loading the essential files necessary to permit you to do all the wonderful things you plan to do with your computer. This is what is going on while you are staring at a blank screen between the time you press the power switch and when the C:\ prompt appears on the screen. Bob Presley may have taught you this in the Personal Users SIG.

The start up instructions even tell your computer where to look for the essential files. First, it tries to read them from drive A. If a diskette is in drive A, DOS tries to boot from the diskette in drive A. If it is an ordinary diskette, (that is, it contains application or data files but no DOS system files on it) you will get the familiar error message:

```
Non-System disk or disk error
Replace and strike any key when ready
```

You remove the diskette in the A drive, and press any key. DOS now assumes drive A is empty and proceeds to look for the essential operating files on your hard disk, which is usually drive C. It locates the system

files and executes the commands contained within the CONFIG.SYS and the AUTOEXEC.BAT files.

If the unthinkable has happened and your hard disk is inaccessible and drive A is empty you are going to stare at a blank screen for an awful long time. To be blunt, unless you have an emergency boot disk, you are dead meat. Be calm! All is not lost! Read on.

How?

DOS 5.0 includes a number of disaster recovery files. They aren't the best that are available on the market (the computer gurus will tell you they aren't worth a hoot), but they will do until you can afford to get something better.

The first step in creating an emergency boot disk is to format a diskette and copy the essential DOS files to it. You must do this ahead of time. Waiting until you have a hard disk crash is too late, friend.

The thing that will make your emergency boot disk "bootable" is two hidden DOS system files it will have on it. Don't ask me why they are hidden. I don't know (or care). Ask a guru. The guru most likely will not know the real answer either, but it will make him go away. Gurus don't like to be embarrassed by not being able to answer simple questions.

Assuming you have a blank diskette of the correct density, insert it into drive A and type the following:

```
FORMAT A: /S
```

The /S part of the command is a "switch" that places the hidden DOS files onto the diskette during the formatting procedure. This makes it possible for you to boot your system from drive A. Want to make sure the hidden files are there? Okay, make the A drive active. After you are in the A drive, type:

```
CHKDSK
```

See! Right there on the second line it tells you that out of the total number of bytes of disk space available, "x"-number of bytes are in two hidden files. Congratulations, you are on your way to salvation.

While you are still in the A drive, do a directory listing. You know, type:

```
DIR
```

Well what do you know! It says you have a file called COMMAND.COM on the diskette. That's good because COMMAND.COM is another one of the essential files you need.

Go back to the C drive and copy the other essential files to your emergency boot disk. They should be in your DOS directory. You may want to make a DIR listing of your DOS directory first to make sure the files are there. Copy the following files to your newly formatted emergency boot disk using the commands listed below:

```
COPY C:\DOS\CHKDSK.EXE A:
COPY C:\DOS\FDISK.EXE A:
COPY C:\DOS\FORMAT.COM A:
COPY C:\DOS\RESTORE.EXE A:
COPY C:\DOS\SYS.COM A:
COPY C:\DOS\UNDELETE.EXE A:
COPY C:\DOS\UNFORMAT.COM A:
```

There you have it! You now have an emergency boot disk. Remove it from the A drive, label it, write protect it, and put it in a safe place where you can find it when "the really big one" happens. Remember, it's not a question of "Will your hard disk ever fail?" The question is "When will it fail?" It may be next week or it may be next year. Or you might be as lucky as I have been. So far, I have not experienced the big "hit." Its been nearly seven years and I know I'm living on borrowed time. However, I have my trusty emergency boot disk, so I'm prepared.

Now What?

You have one more thing to do. Check in your DOS documentation to see what each of the files on your emergency disk is for and how to use it. If you learn how to use the files while you are in a calm situation, you more likely will be able to use them effectively when you are in the midst of a personal disaster. Also, you will be able to make a more intelligent decision if you decide to upgrade to a commercial utility program like *PC Tools* or *Norton Utilities*.

But please, don't start talking like a guru. We're already overstocked now.

Roy



NTPCUG On-Line

By Fred Williams
Sysop, NTPCUG BBS

Well, since you are reading this column once again, the BBS must have survived the Last Annual Hacker Extravaganza. Now that we know how secure our BBS communications are, I'm sure many of you are wondering how to increase the volume and quality of your BBS communications.

Back in December of last year we installed the TBBS QWK mail packet option, QSO, QWK Support Option. QWK mail allows the off-line reading, reply, and creation of BBS messages.

"QWK" is an acronym for "QuickMail" which was the name given the original implementation. Mark "Sparky" Herring designed and developed the Quick-Mail system for the PCBoard BBS software in 1987.

Sparky's original QWK mail design specifications has evolved into a de-facto standard. QWK services have been implemented on a broad range of hardware and software platforms and its use and evolution continues to expand. It is touted to be the most prevalent and universally implemented off-line mail reader format in the world.

I have had several ask for a simple explanation of what exactly is required to use the BBS's QSO off-line mail reader module, and very simply how does it work. So, here goes:

All that the TBBS QSO module does is scan the BBS for data and messages related to the areas you have personally selected. QSO then packages this data into a Pkzipped file. This "mail packet" is then downloaded to your machine. Later after you have terminated the communications session, you may use your choice of off-line reader software to unzip, read, and optionally reply to mail within the packet.

The next time you sign on the BBS, you may upload your optionally created "reply" mail packet to QSO. QSO will then "toss" your reply mail into the proper conference and/or user's mail box.

To use an off-line mail reader, you must continue to use your normal communications software to send and receive the QWK mail packets. The off-line



reader software you choose is used only for reading and managing the mail packets on your machine.

The latest release of the shareware communications software, Qmodem, is an integrated package which provides both communications and off-line reader services. I have not used the new Qmodem so can't give an opinion on the worthiness of the product. There are several shareware off-line mail reader packages available from the NTPCUG DOM Group.

If you are interested in trying out the services of the QSO module I highly recommend you download the QSouser.DOC from the BBS Download area. Once you have scanned this document, sign on the BBS and select "Q" from the Main Menu.

The first time you select QSO, you will automatically be placed in the QSO configuration screen. Choosing a "wrong" setting for an option on the QSO configuration menu will not set your computer on fire or permanently terminate your BBS connection for life. This BBS encourages experimentation and education. Go ahead and give it a whorl. If you try it and don't like it, switch back to the old real time BBS access.

Speaking of the BBS, I thought that you might be interested in knowing a little more about the person most instrumental in operating the BBS since shortly after its inception in the mid eighties up to just a few short months ago.

Tom Prickett—

Sysop Extraordinaire

Tom Prickett, current NTPCUG BBS Co-Sysop and past Sysop, is an Okie but I promise not to hold it against him. He was obviously smart enough to move to Texas. Tom was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, received a Bachelor of Business Administration, with a minor in Statistics and Finance from the University of Oklahoma.

After a short foray into the boring (his words) world of mortgage banking, Tom returned to OU where he received his Masters in Computer Science. This, he said, changed his life.

In 1977, Tom accepted a job with Texas Instruments working on their CAD/CAM product project. Tom said in its day it was the most sophisticated CAD/CAM product on the market. But, TI missed the marketing window.

After five years on the CAD/CAM thing, Tom was moved to a newly created R and D department that must have been TI's version of a "skunk works" department. That assignment lasted three years. He then spent two uneventful years in the Industrial Systems Division.

He finally landed an exciting project when he was transferred to the Calculator division and named Software Program Manager for the TI 81 calculator then under development. The TI 81 proved to be the second of the two most wildly successful calculators ever produced by TI. Tom said it even generated huge piles of positive cash flow. The TI 81 also won many quality and design awards.

Tom is the envy of my wife, as he has his very own back yard greenhouse, where he raises house plants and flowering hanging baskets. He is also remaining involved with computers even though he has assumed a less active role on the NTPCUG BBS. Tom also stresses that he is very busy pursuing "other interests".

The Prickett homestead in Richardson is home to his wife, a fifteen year old son, an eight year old daughter, two dogs, and one cat. Tom feels, that in spite of all of this, he will be able to retain his sanity.

Tom is not exactly sure of the date that he joined the NTPCUG, but he says he joined at the last meeting John Pribyl brought donuts. He was one of the early newsletter exchange volunteers, before the fateful day when Jim Hoisington ask him to take over management of the struggling BBS system.

I think one of the first things Tom was asked to do was to get the darn thing out of Jim's garage. The BBS ended up in Maggie Moomeys's spare bedroom. It remained there several years until it was finally relocated to office space near Addison Airport.

Tom spent many long hours of his spare time babying the BBS system. I think there has been very little realization and recognition of just what is required to keep a BBS up and running. I'm aware of how much effort is required now using TBBS. I can surely appreciate what it must have been like using Chairman BBS software and someone's spare bedroom.

Let's all give Tom a round of applause!

Fred

■

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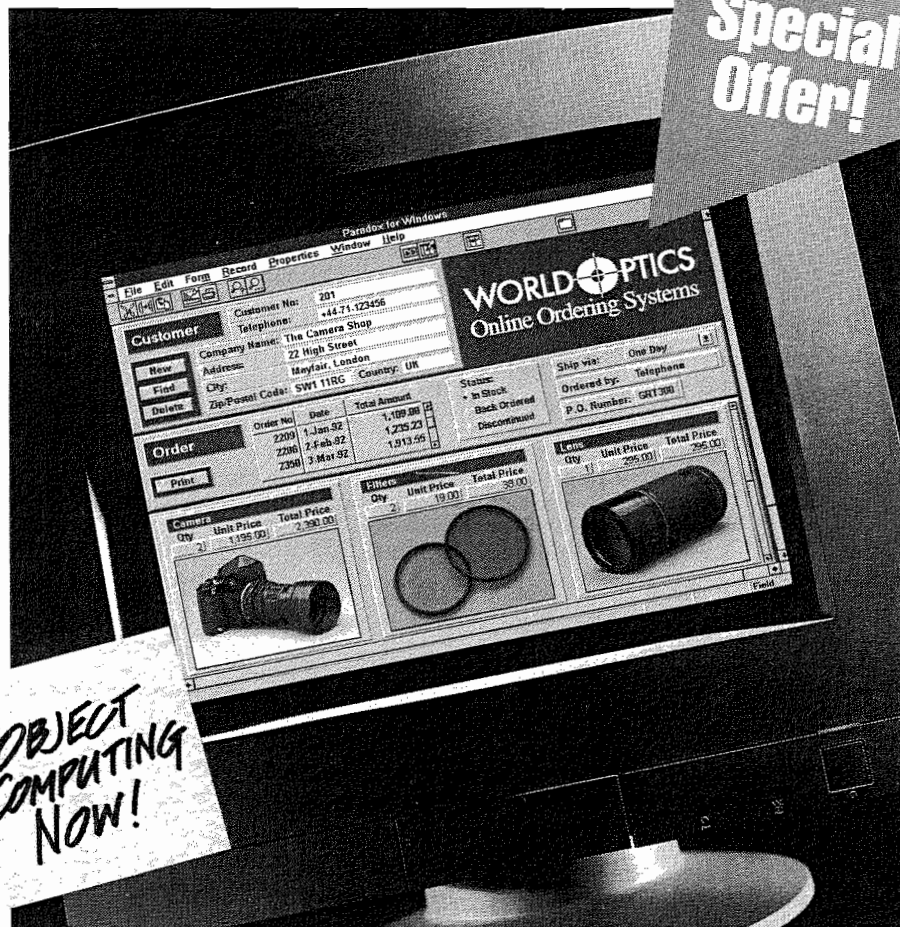
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Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

The Variety Store

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

At the top... Late-breaking PC news

Has this been a month? I don't ever remember seeing so many late-breaking, important, PC-related news stories during winter.

I had planned this month's column to focus on some of the fun products from Comdex, but I just have to start things with another Microsoft story. Also a Next story, an IBM story, a Stac (and Microsoft) story, and, yet one more (sad) Novell story.

Microsoft evades FTC (so far),
Discovers new friends,
Now accused by Stac,
Jobs gives up Next ...
IBM searches for new head
And, Novell dumps Dallas show,

Microsoft won't be slapped with an injunction by FTC after all -- so far. What happened is that the FTC commissioners overruled staff recommendations that the agency "seek an injunction to prevent Microsoft from creating built-in incompatibility in its software," according to the February 8, 1993, issue of the *Wall Street Journal*.

The *Journal* article described a closed-door hearing by the FTC commissioners and staff to discuss the Microsoft case where commissioners voted 2-2 and rejected the staff recommendation.

Microsoft has such good friends. The *Journal* reported that the FTC commissioners met earlier in the week with representatives of *Novell, Inc.*, *Lotus Development Corp.* and *Borland International Inc.* PC industry media have suggested that at least one of the above, if not all three, are considering a class action suit against Microsoft in light of the unfavorable (for them) decision by the FTC.

Stac charges Microsoft Stole DOS 6.0 technology

Stac Electronics filed suit against Microsoft over a feature planned for the forthcoming *DOS 6.0*. Stac is alleging patent infringement and claims that Microsoft "knowingly infringes" two Stac patents for file compression.

Publishers of the *Stacker* disk compression product, Stac is seeking an injunction to stop distribution of "their" code, according to the February 1, 1993, article in *InfoWorld*. Stac is also seeking treble damages from Microsoft.

Can you say "Public Domain?" Can you say LZH? Microsoft can. The Redmond, WA, software giant claims their new *DoubleSpace* technology is based on public domain technology. Now what happens to *DOS 6.0*?

What next for Next? Jobs goes software Quits on hardware

Steve Jobs, stormy former *Wunderkind* at Apple Computers, gave up on hardware in February when he announced that he'll focus entirely on *Nextstep* OS. Jobs was a prime mover in the Macintosh creation at Apple and expected to carry Next into similar glory.

Next never achieved the penetration Jobs desired in spite of venture capital support described as very impressive by the PC media and design innovations praised by the same sources. Next will sell its hardware design center to Canon Inc. and close its Fremont, CA, manufacturing facility. Canon was an investor in Next, but hasn't announced a decision to continue making the computer hardware.

Variety

Novell jerks plug on Dallas NetWorld show

This is a Novell story I don't enjoy. I did enjoy stealing the headline from the *Dallas Morning News'* Tom Steinert-Threlkeld, though.

First, Novell owns the *NetWorld* name. They can do as they wish with it. They don't wish to have a NetWorld show in Dallas -- after the October, 1993, show. That doesn't mean there won't be a show but it does mean Novell probably won't participate here again and the show won't be called NetWorld.

According to Steiner-Threlkeld's *DMN* article January 23, the Dallas NetWorld show started with 13,330 feet of exhibition area at InfoMart. By last October's exhibition, NetWorld covered 220,000 square feet at the Dallas Convention Center.

Should I have been nicer to Novell last month?

IBM seeks new chief To replace Akers -- Gates not mentioned

IBM is seeking a new chief to replace John Akers in the midst of sure corporate reorganization/restructuring and possible corporate breakup. Lots of impressive industry names, including Apple's Sculley, Compaq's Pfeiffer, Dell's Dell, Motorola's Fisher and Perot's Meyerson have been bandied about in the media. (Among many, many others.)

The only nominee the media hasn't proposed is Microsoft's

Bill Gates. Even Ross Perot has been mentioned as possible new head for Big Blue (and, for GM as well). The stakes are tremendous as IBM is going through either an agonizing rebirth, or a slow and equally painful terminal slide.

And now, Reagan's "Best of Show" at COMDEX/Fall '92 Headed by cooling fan, inkjet printers, small big disks

What was really impressive at Comdex in November -- after all the flash, glitter and noise subsided? Mostly, it was the non-flash products that were clearly ahead of their competition and outstanding in functionality. Absolutely the best product I came up with was a surprize for me -- a small cooling fan.

Best of breed in 92 PC Power & Cooling

Unless you've got a 486/50 or 486DX2/66, this may not make much sense. Heat has become the number one problem for high speed CPUs. Small cooling fans mounted on 486 form-factor heatsinks were almost universal at the Las Vegas show this year.

PC Power & Cooling's *CPU-COOL* gets top honors. Why? Because it was designed and implemented better than any of the others seen. First, PC Power & Cooling's engineers produced an integrated unit. It uses thermal tape for mounting and drops the outside case temperature of a 486/50 from 185 degrees F to 90 degrees F.

This was the only vendor to mention thermal conduction from case to heatsink and provide good mounting simultaneously. Everyone else bypassed the issue and looked like I'd asked a stupid question when I mentioned conduction.

Inkjet printers Real 'stars' at Comdex/Fall '92

If you think laser printers took off, wait till you see market penetration of the inkjets. The best I saw at 8.5" x 11" page size at Comdex came from an unlikely source -- Lexmark International, IBM's spin-off printer maker.

IBM 4070 IJ Lexmark was showing their IBM 4070 IJ desktop printer that is optionally battery powered. This model produced excellent output at 360 x 360 dpi (dots per inch) on plain bond paper. Output quality actually surpassed some of the laser printers shown this year.

The 4070 IJ is small, 8.7" x 12.4" x 2.1" (or 4.4" with feeder) and can be operated in either horizontal (flat) or vertical (upright) orientation.

Three years ago, the IBM 4070 IJ would have been described as a "portable" since it weighs a scant seven pounds with the automatic sheet feeder and four pounds without it. It emulates the IBM Proprinter X24E, Epson LQ 510 and Canon BJ-130e

IBM ExecuJet -- bigger, heavier and flexible. Lexmark was also showing the new wide-carriage, IBM ExecuJet printer that fol-

Variety

lows the trend to larger paper sizes and can handle 14" wide paper. Output is equally as impressive as the 4070, and paper handling options are awesome.

It comes with a 100-sheet, automatic sheet-feed first bin and there's an option to add a second, 100-sheet second bin. This is in addition to a front-slot cut-sheet feed and a tractor feed for continuous forms.

But, all those options come at a price. The ExecuJet's front panel controls are enough to confuse most users and even some engineers.

Pacific Data ProTracer -- at the large end of the inkjet spectrum. If you want to go big, Pacific Data's ProTracer has the answer, handling sheet sizes up to 17" x 22" at 360 x 360 dpi. The ProTracer is probably a CAD/engineering product, but is priced somewhat below the larger CAD/CAM inkjets shown at Comdex this year.

PostScript makes the ProTracer stand out in the field with an optional PostScript emulation card from Pacific Data. Quality from the demo unit was very good with none of the jitters I expected from such a wide carriage machine. Pacific Data also has a "high-speed" 180 x 180 dpi mode to speed drawing output.

Lasers not dead at Comdex High speed, high resolution Even Z-fold featured in 92

Lots of activity on the laser front among printer makers showing at Comdex this year. 600 dpi (and higher) resolutions

were quite common as were printers capable of handling 11" x 17" paper. There seemed to be some universal problems here though.

Almost every manufacturer's demo lasers were printing quite unevenly on large expanses of gray and halftone graphics. Some printers did very well on halftones and not well on type reproduction while other machines did type magnificently but did a poor job on halftones.

OTC LaserMatrix 1000 Model 5 & 6. Output Technology has been best known for line printers in the past. They also produce a line of tractor-fed laser printers that are fun to watch in action (this year). Featuring 16 pages per minute (PPM) speed, these printers are aimed at applications where continuous feed is necessary.

The LaserMatrix 1000 was used for OTC's Comdex follow-up advertising sheets with their entire product line shown in 300 dpi laser output on Z-fold paper. The mezzotint graphics were stunning, but the solid graphics output showed the same disturbing "banding" that seemed universal at Comdex this year.

Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 4. HP sprung a surprize at Comdex this year. I went by their booth several times and saw some pretty fair output from this new machine. Not good, just pretty fair. That was the surprize, that the output being demonstrated really didn't live up to the anticipation. It may have been the way the machines were setup, or it may have been something

else. I don't know, but the output wasn't much better than from the IIP Plus being demonstrated.

LaserMaster. LaserMaster probably puts on the best printer show at Comdex. It's a mixture of side-show barkers hustling customers and dead serious discussion of printing and how their machines are as good as they claim.

LaserMaster showed their entire line at Comdex including the WinPrint products -- a series of printers and add-ons engineered for working in Windows -- up to the Plain-Paper Typesetters series (See below.)

LM 1200XL. Showmanship. Imagine the entire United States Constitution printed six times in 2pt type (yes, two-point type) on a sheet of 11" x 17" paper. Imagine reading this. They'll even give you a magnifying glass to help. Impressed? Absolutely. It was really impressive because I saw the printer produce the document.

Halftones and graphics were equally well-produced, sharp, crisp and even in quality. Other LaserMaster machines looked good too, but the 1200XL was outstanding. I want one.

QMS. Sharks were floating about the QMS booth at Comdex this year. They're aimed at the competition. Across the line, QMS had some of the better and most consistent output being shown at the show. No, they didn't have anything on the order of the 1200XL, above, but these are business machines, not typesetter substitutes.

Variety

QMS 860 was the machine that caught my eye this year. A true 600 x 600 dpi, 11" x 17" printer, the QMS 860 features a Canon LBP-BX print engine and cranks out 8 PPM in PostScript and HPGL modes. A SCSI connection is included allowing external hard disk support for spooling and font storage capabilities.

Output from the QMS 860 looked very nice with excellent type sharpness, contrast and good line-art graphics. Half-tones and grayscale graphics were another matter and showed the same banding seen in almost every other laser at Comdex this year.

Xante. Another surprize. Xante was demonstrating their **Accel-a-Writer 8100** this year with really nice output. The PostScript Level 2 compatible, 11" x 17" printer is powered by an AMD 29000 RISC processor that gave PostScript graphics speed a significant boost. The base printer is a true 600 x 600 dpi, according to Xante, and can be boosted to 800 x 800 or 960 x 960 dpi via Xante upgrades.

Speed -- this is the catch in most printer advertising. Everybody advertises PPM, that's pages per minute of type only. Nobody brags about speed doing PostScript graphics. Xante's 8100 appeared to produce PostScript graphics much quicker than the competition which may be the influence of the AMD 29000.

And now, for something Completely different ...

Raytheon's Submarine Signal Division at Comdex? Raytheon is much better known for their military/aerospace capabilities than for Comdex-style displays. Especially in the Comdex Multimedia Zoo this year.

TDU-850/TDU-1200 Thermal Display Units were impressive in spite of the location at Comdex. These are 203/300 dpi, continuous feed thermal printers intended originally (I'd imagine) for high-speed display of high-altitude surveillance data. The units operate at 40 ms/line for 256 levels of gray or 5 ms/line for black and white.

Raytheon's engineer (looking somewhat uncomfortable and out of place at the Bally's Multimedia area) admitted this a quick foray into commercial waters. However, he was showing some very nice medical and scientific applications output.

The Little drives Have big capacity Push tape backups

Hard disks continue shrinking in size while expanding data capacity to realms undreamed of a few years ago. Two drive makers were showing 3.5", 1+ Gigabyte (GB) at Comdex this year that caught my attention.

Micropolis Micropolis has been in the hard disk business since 1976. They introduced a 3.5" drive, the 2100 series featuring 1.2 GB storage capacity in both SCSI-2 and IDE interfaces. Both versions are listed with 10 ms "average seek" times and both consume approximately 11.5 W.

Each version has a "smaller" sibling with 648 MB storage capacity and similar speed and

And we all thought MS was organized?

Former Fox CEO Dave Fulton shared the following anecdote during the joint *FoxPro 2.5 - Microsoft Access* roll-out at Caesar's Palace on November 16.

According to Fulton, his first day at Microsoft was a "little confusing." When he arrived at his office, he wanted to do some E-Mail work, but was blocked by not knowing his access code(s). When he mentioned this, he was told to check his voice mail since his

new E-Mail code had been sent to him via that medium.

On attempting to check his voice mail, he was stymied again when he was cheerfully informed he'd need his voice mail code(s) which "had been sent to him via E-Mail."

Fulton reported to the audience at Caesar's Palace, that he wasn't quite sure what the messages meant.

Variety

power specifications. Micropolis entered the 3.5" arena several years back, then quickly withdrew. Nice to see them back in competition.

Quantum Quantum was showing their 1050 and 1225 ProDrive Series at their Comdex booth. Both are 3.5" drives with average seek times of 10 ms and 1.05 GB and 1.2 GB capacities respectively. Both drives are SCSI interface only. At Comdex, both were described as SCSI-2, but the follow-up literature doesn't mention SCSI-2 capabilities.

Quantum also makes a "smaller" drive in the ProDrive Series, the 425i, that's available in both SCSI and IDE interfaces. This drive has an average seek

time of 14 ms and a rated MTBF of 350,000 (POH).

Now you know why Tape backup sales Booming this year


Backing-up 1 GB will take a lot of floppy disks. Even if you were a lucky winner at the NTPCUG drawings at the January Business Meeting, you probably don't have enough floppy disks to do the job.

The answer is tape. And, this was a sort of sneaky way to talk about Exabyte which I desperately wanted/needed to do.

Exabyte makes a very good line of helical-scan, 8 mm and 4 mm cartridge drives with capacities ranging from 2 GB to 5 GB. The

drives are available in full and half-height, 5.25" packages. The drives are quite good and worth consideration, but that's not why I wanted to mention Exabyte.

Exabyte has style -- and had one of the best displays at Comdex this year. They hired artists to reproduce impressionist art pieces daily at each end of their display area. First time I saw the Exabyte booth, there was a beautiful copy of a Matisse at one end while the artists appeared to be doing a Chagall at the other. The next day the Matisse copy was gone and the artists were preparing another work at the opposite wall. I had to force myself to leave.

Reagan 

If East is East, and West is West, Where does the sun rise in Las Vegas?

This is true. I swear, I really did this and can only blame the water.

Connie and I stayed at the Desert Inn this year at Comdex. Got the reservations through AP-CUG (Sandy Frunzi) after I finally couldn't tolerate any more Interface Group BS.

When we arrived in Las Vegas Sunday afternoon, we went to the Comdex registration area to pickup our badges, show guides, etc., before checking in at the Desert Inn. Went up to our room and were very pleasantly surprized by the layout and view of the sun setting over the mountains in the distance.

The scene was magnificent. Colors of the setting sun were glorious and it was the perfect end to a good day -- one that went according to schedule for a change.

I woke up on Dallas time -- about 5 a.m. and still dark outside on Las Vegas time. Since the sunset had been so beautiful the day before, I thought a similarly-magnificent sunrise would be a really nice way to begin the first day of Comdex.

I waited and waited. I noticed it had become quite light outside, but still no sunrise. I began to become slightly miffed and irritated as I waited expectantly for the sunrise.

It was broad daylight when Connie asked what I was looking at so early in the morning. I told her I was waiting for the sunrise. She gently reminded me I was looking in the same direction where the sun set the day before.

It finally "dawned" on me what I was doing.

Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Assembler SIG

The Assembler SIG meeting for January featured a discussion on co-processor programming, including a look at the algorithms used to compute square roots. Spontaneous Assembly was not released in time for the February meeting (March is a definite possibility). Our meeting in March is expected to discuss the use of Assembly in HLLs. We hope to have examples of Assembly in C, APL, Pascal, Visual Basic, etc. To quote Jeff Duntemann (PC Techniques, Feb/March 1993) "I still say that if you don't learn assembly, regardless of what miracle language you specialize in, some ugly day you're going to find yourself in that awful brand of trouble that you just can't get out of".

We are STILL trying to arrange a presentation on protected mode programming. As usual, we are always looking for ideas for future presentations and welcome input from one and all. We expect future meeting subjects to include programming for the 386/486 (+) processors, graphics programming, debugging/disassembly techniques, Windows/OS2 programming, etc.

Any last minute changes or notices will be posted on the club BBS. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Frank Cavallito

Beginners BASIC SIG

Step-by-step program writing with small sample programs. Six to eight page instruction sheet each meeting. Questions and answers on any subject at any time.

Subjects covered during 1992:

July 1992	Writing a program
August	The Report pgm & String Variables
September	Sequential files
October	Random files
November	Math & Number Variables
December	Arrays explained
January	Sort & merge theory

To be covered this year: Editing techniques, Debug & testing, Error traps, CRT & printer code, ASCII table explanation, Bit/hex/decimal conversion, memory and disk exploration, shareware gems, screen design techniques, data input and correction, sort algorithms, report design, programmer's tools, general ledger programs, payroll programs.

Charles Jacobus

Visual Basic SIG

The March meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will continue Woody's description of the Clock program he described in the February Meeting. Members will be requested to offer suggestions for how the Clock program can be enhanced.

Last month, Woody described several database add-on products and distributed literature to all at-

tendees. Two members received software in a drawing.

As always, we will have a Q&A session and a drawing for some Microsoft software at the SIG meeting. See you there!

Jim Carter

BBS SIG

The BBS SIG now meets at 1:00 PM most months. Any exceptions will be noted here.

The BBS SIG is geared to the use of NTPCUG's BBS system. Anyone unfamiliar with our BBS, or wanting to know more about its use, should drop by.

As always, questions regarding the BBS can be directed to the SYSOP throughout the month, or placed into the conference named "BBS Directions."

Doug Gorrie

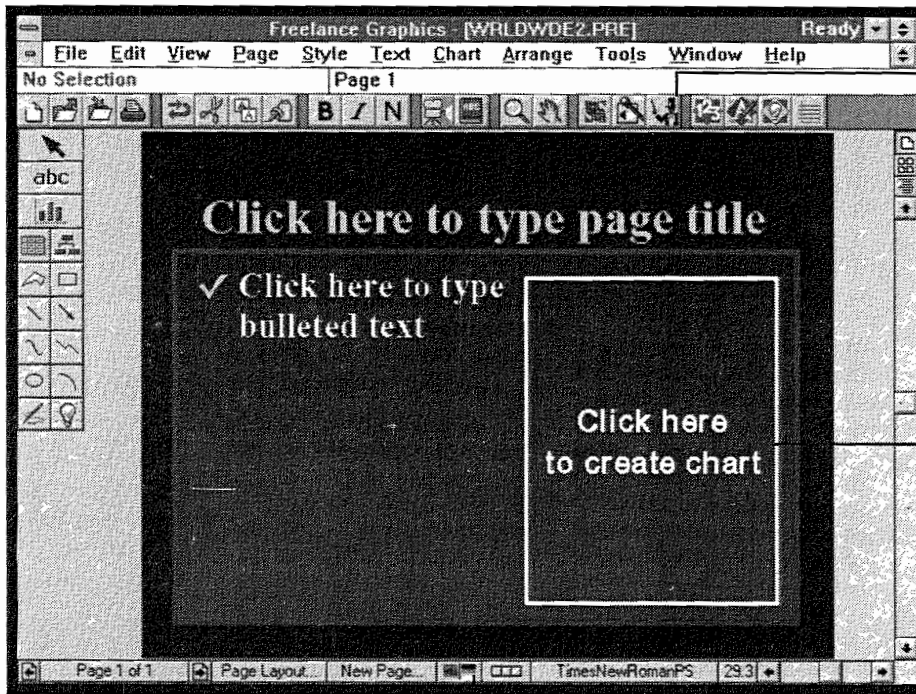
Business Applications & DAC Accounting SIG

After three successive meetings on accounting systems, the March 20th meeting (please note-the THIRD Saturday) will bring us a change of pace. We appreciate the presentation by Maurice Kelley of "Pacioli 2000" in January. It gave us a look at the lowest priced, full featured accounting program on the market and most of us left with some software which was donated by the publisher, M-USA Business Systems, who also publish "Cash Biz", their entry level accounting system for "Non-Accounting People". Many thanks for their generous contribution!

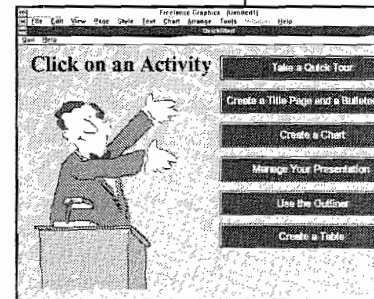
February's meeting was our rescheduled presentation of Dac Instant Accounting for DOS & Win-

continued on page 16

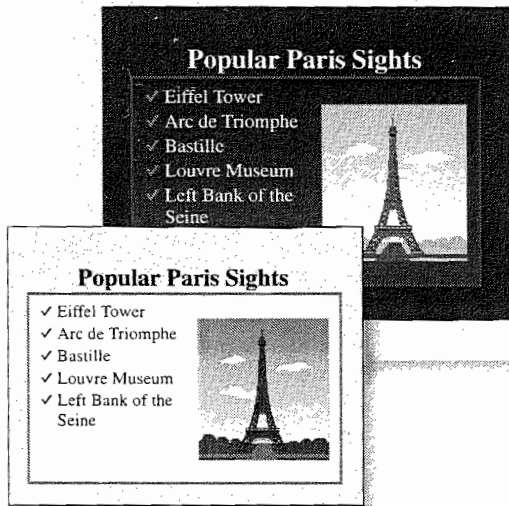
New Freelance Graphics (Especially the decision



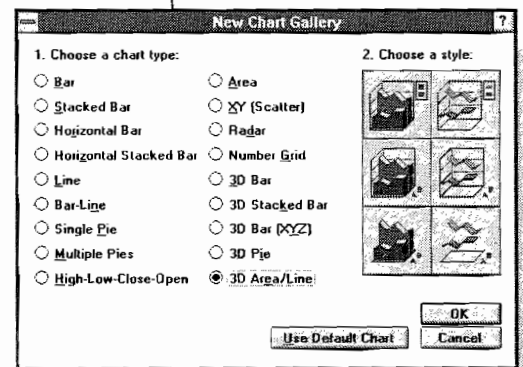
Single-click access to powerful presentation tools makes Freelance Graphics easy to use.



Just click to view the animated QuickStart tutorial. It walks you through your first presentation in under 30 minutes.



Just click to instantly see your presentation in color or B/W. It's automatically optimized for printing both.



Just click to browse through a gallery of 108 ready-to-go chart styles including new 3-D line, 3-D area and radar selections.

2.0 makes everything easy. (to leave Harvard Graphics.)

If you've been using Harvard Graphics® for DOS, maybe it's time to make a change.

Introducing Freelance Graphics For Windows,™ Release 2.0.

The first release of Freelance Graphics™ won every major award in the presentation graphics category in 1992. And users agreed in two recent studies by the Usability Sciences Corporation that Freelance Graphics was easier to use than Harvard Graphics for Windows or Microsoft® Powerpoint® 3.0.

Now, in Release 2.0, we've built on the innovations of the first release, adding many ease-of-use enhancements and exciting new capabilities. And we subjected every enhancement to rigorous usability testing. The result is the fastest, friendliest, and most intuitive presentation software available today.

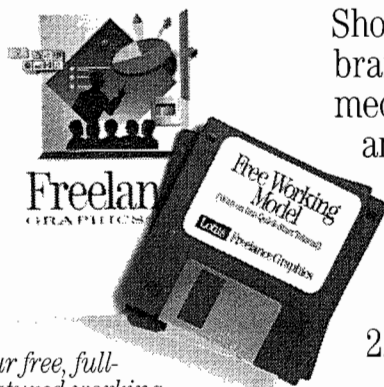
There's No Easier, Faster Way To Create Presentations.

Only Freelance Graphics includes SmartMasters,™ which automatically guide you through every step of the design process.

All you do is select the look you want for the entire presentation, choose a page layout, and fill in the blanks. It's that easy. And now, to give you even more possibilities, Freelance Graphics offers more SmartMaster designs and page layouts than ever before.

Other new enhancements include: full functionality for tables and organization charts; Speaker Notes; special text effects such as automatic build slides; Screen Show features like branching; multi-media capabilities; and easy import of your files from Harvard Graphics for DOS (Versions 2.3 and 3.0).

Getting Started.



Our free, full-featured working model will prove that it's time to switch to Freelance Graphics 2.0.



If You're Using Harvard Graphics, Make The Switch Now.

Call **1-800-872-3387, ext. 8403** for your free, full-featured working model, and ask about our special competitive upgrade price. And remember that Freelance Graphics is included in Lotus® SmartSuite™ four award-winning Windows applications at a great price.

Lotus Freelance 2.0

Presentation Graphics for Windows



dows by Debbie Sheldon who is with DAC Software. Debbie showed us that Instant is not JUST an accounting program, but also offers some nice account management features.

March's meeting will be a demonstration of a contact management system, appropriately named "Contact Plus". This program, published by Contact Plus Corporation, provides a method by which your computer can support your efforts to stay in touch with customers, and make an easily accessible record of all your personal, telephone and written communication with them. The program fully supports WordPerfect for your sales letters and presentations; and also includes a customer database which can access a dialer through your modem, a weekly appointment calendar and an alarm system to alert the user to appointments. The program sounds interesting to me and should have possibilities for a wide variety of business situations. Bruce Schubert will do a complete demonstration so don't miss the March meeting.

Putt Shaw

Communications SIG

Our February meeting included a demo of Carbon Copy+ by Charles Jacobus (re-scheduled from December). Based on a room full of attendees, it was obvious that there was a lot of interest on the topic of remote control of PCs which, is Carbon Copy's forte. Thanks Charles for coming through with a great presentation.

Our March meeting will be centered around the introduction of new BBS software for our own

club bulletin board. The software chosen is TBBS and we will do our best to show you why you will really like it over the older software package. We are hoping to have several representatives from the NTPCUG BBS Committee on hand to answer any questions you may have. So please plan to attend and bring any other communications related questions that you may have and we'll do our best to pull you out of the fog.

Bill Green & Doug Gorrie

DOS SIG

The DOS SIG March Meeting should be a lot of fun. We can talk about the Stac suit against Microsoft's DOS 6.0 use (Stac claims) of patented code -- if it hasn't been settled. We can also speculate about DOS 7.0 and what it will contain -- and not contain -- since 6.0 is close to delivery unless further hindered by topic #1, above.

Or, we can focus on actual DOS usage rather than speculate on future releases. Such a discussion would have to include the ever-growing list of unanticipated, pleasant surprises coming from the DOS - Windows interface, and what to do about these late-night features. Jim Hoisington and Reagan Andrews will share their suspicions concerning cause(s) and what can be done to alleviate the problems.

Latter part of the March DOS SIG Meeting will be devoted to the usual Q & A session designed to allow SIG members to air their problems with DOS and participate in discussing possible solutions.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy SIG

The General Genealogy SIG is not restricted to a particular software program or computer type. It is one of four genealogy SIGs that meet each Super Saturday at the Infomart. There are usually 60 to 70 present. We have a disk library with public domain, shareware, and freeware disks available for \$2 each. At present the disks are all for MS DOS compatible computers but Apple, Macintosh, Commodore, Atari, Amiga, Coco, and others will soon be made available. Our hard copy library has books, periodicals, genealogical printouts, etc. available for checkout.

There are also several good magazines or newsletter subscriptions available for the genealogist using a computer. Some of these are: Computer Genealogy Notebook, 1104 Carroll Dr. Garland TX 75041-5011 (214 278-1742), \$13 for 12 monthly issues; Genealogical Computing, P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, Utah 84100 (800-531-1790), published quarterly, \$25 per year subscription; International PAF Users' Group Quarterly, 2463 Ledgewood Drive, West Jordan, Utah 84084-5738 (801-967-8400), \$15 annually; Genealogy Bulletin, Dollarhide Systems, 203 W. Holly St - M4, Bellingham WA 98225 (800-733-3807), quarterly, \$10 per year. Each of these publications is fairly personal in the effort to aid the computer genealogist. I am the editor of CGN; Art Rubeck, a SIG member, does a column in GC; IPAFUG has Ned Hoover (867-0284), Leon Stirm (437-2371), and Larry Kerns (517-6641) from our area, who are called mentors, and are willing to help you with your PAF problems; GB is published by Bill Dollarhyde, (Everyone's Family Tree) and has a unique feature, Genealogical



Event Queries, where members can submit names to share with others - a typical issue will have about 2,000 new names.

Interest in genealogy, especially in this area, has grown tremendously the past few years. One result of this growth was a regional computer genealogy conference January 22 and 23. This was sponsored by Gentech, Inc., a non-profit, non-membership organization who plan to make this a yearly event. The conference drew approximately 500 people to its various activities; a Friday study day at the Dallas Public Library, a Friday evening keynote buffet, 14 lecture series, various demonstrations, and an exhibit area with over sixty vendors.

Al Sanford

PAF SIG

PAF (Personal Ancestral File) is one of the most popular genealogy software programs. This program is available for both MS DOS compatible and Macintosh computers. It is also available for older Apple computers but this program is no longer updated or supported. The PAF SIG meets from 10 to 11 on Super Sat at the Infomart. There are usually 50 to 60 people in attendance.

The latest issue of PAF is version 2.2, (5 Aug 1991) upgrade. If you are using PAF and do not have this latest upgrade, come to the SIG at the Infomart with a set of blank disks (3 disks if using 360K 5-1/4") and proof of PAF ownership and you can exchange the blank disks for the upgrade. If you cannot make it to Super Saturday, then call 800-537-5950 and ask how you can upgrade. This

software is put out by the Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) who also have free computer genealogy at the LDS church libraries locally (see your phone book for locations and times). The computer programs at the LDS libraries are called Family History Center (FHC) and are comprised primarily of Ancestral Files, International Genealogical Index (IGI), Social Security Death Index (SSDI), Korea and Vietnam War veterans.

At the Gentech, Inc. sponsored Computer Genealogy Conference on January 22, 23, Bill Harten, of the LDS research department announced that PAF and the Family History Center (FHC) library software will be upgraded. This apparently means that PAF version 3.0 will be available in about 15 months. The emphasis on the upgraded software will be on citing the sources you use in your genealogy. It will also concentrate on a GEDCOM approach to all movement of data, especially notes, so that genealogists can more easily access each other's databases to import or export data, especially source listings.

The January PAF SIG program was on fundamental DOS as applied to computing in genealogy. It was presented by Joe Waldrop, the new SIG leader. The 13 February meeting covered PAF configuration and basic data entry into PAF.

Al Sanford

Networking SIG

During the January Networking SIG meeting we began the Networking Seminar series. In the February meeting we discussed several example applications of networks and some alternatives to networks. The Networking Seminar is intended to provide a

foundation of basic information for the networking novice and a review of the basics for the more experienced network users.

The tentative schedule for the rest of 1993 is:

Mar.	Open Q/A Session
Apr.	Network Access Methods and Topologies
May	Vendor Presentation
June	Open Q/A Session
July	Network Design Considerations
Aug.	Network Installation Considerations
Sept.	Open Q/A Session
Oct.	Case Studies
Nov.	Network Administration Considerations
Dec.	Open Q/A Session

Watch the newsletter "SIG Happenings" and the BBS for the most up to date changes to the schedule.

Come join us at 10 am on Saturday, March 20th when we will have an open question and answer session. Bring your questions, comments, and answers and we'll see if we can make them all match up. See you then.

Bernie VanRoekel

Personal Users SIG

This Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you!... if you consider yourself any of the following: ... a novice... a new PC owner... a beginner with PCs... a person curious about PCs... 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 be-



gun 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 March 1993:

- 9:00 am Class 13 Printers for Personal Computers
- 10:00 am Class 14 Writing LOTUS Macros
- 12:00 noon Class 15 Software for Personal Computers
- 1:00 pm Class 16 PCs to the End of the 20th & Into the 21st Century

Bob Presley

Quicken SIG

Thanks again to Jim Hall for his support of the Quicken SIG through its inception and as a great Q & A man for the December meeting. And now the latest version of Quicken is visible and accessible to all through the overhead screen and the generous impulse of a portable computer owner. Having the current version reduces the likelihood of confusion with the functions of an earlier version and helps you with the decision to upgrade. However, the available projector equipment is limited and may need to be shared.

We are so fortunate to have a SIG leader who not only has a Windows Version of Quicken, but exports to TurboTax and imports from Prodigy. This, I think, is the closest definition of EXPERT we will find in this group. Please reciprocate by sharing information about the Windows version, QuickBooks, and transferring data to and from Quicken.

Which brings me to the sizzling BBS dialogue generated over QuickBooks... tune in to the "Bus/DAC/Quicken" conference on NTPCUG's Bulletin Board. For those of you using Quicken for investments, don't forget the "Investor SIG" conference on the BBS.

Help in using the BBS is found at the BBS SIG which is moving to a 1 PM time slot. When I attended in December, a handout outlining the orientation hour was available along with an "Introduction to Using the NTPCUG TBBS Bulletin Board System" which is a marvelous 5-page handout included in the new members' packet.

Since the majority of this SIG is composed of fairly new users of the software, Billy has developed a program of basic usage which he will present starting in January in the general order in which the software manual is arranged. This does not preclude going into more depth in a topic or in answering questions at each meeting.

Jo Johnston

Software Review SIG

Our February collection of programs included FastBack Plus Windows, Orbits, Bodyworks, EasyCad2, Contacts Plus, On Time, AutoMap Europe and AutoMap Windows. If you had reviewed one of these programs, it would be yours today. If you have a creative writing flair and want a forum, dis is da place! We talk about programs, write about them ... and when there's enough space in this newsletter, your review gets published. If state-of-the-art software is of any interest to you, come sit in on our 9 AM session.

Pat Henley

Spreadsheet SIG

The Spreadsheet SIG meeting will have a representative from Borland International show the members how to get started developing an application in Quattro Pro for Windows. This is a fairly new product, so even those members who are familiar with other spreadsheets might find this presentation interesting. Hopefully everyone will learn some new tips on how to plan and develop a spreadsheet application.

Betty Brooks



Spreadsheet Developer's SIG

The March meeting of the Spreadsheet Developers SIG, 11 am, will feature a representative from Borland International plans to show members how to create a new user interface for Quattro Pro for Windows. The presentation will show us how to create great looking dialog boxes and new speed bars plus, other features that help the spreadsheet look and behave differently. If you are not familiar with the flexibility of Quattro Pro for Windows, you will definitely want to attend this SIG meeting as well as the regular Spreadsheet SIG meeting.

Betty Brooks

Windows Developers SIG

At the February meeting of the Windows Developers SIG, we looked at how to build a Windows program using Microsoft C++ and the Microsoft foundation Class Library 1.0. The first part of the meeting was a tutorial on C++ programming for Windows that was based on Michael Young's book, Windows Programming with Microsoft C++, that's published by Sybex. The last part of the meeting was an open discussion of C++ programming for Windows. Throughout this year we will be proceeding through this book to learn more about how to develop Windows programs using C++.

For the March meeting, we will discuss how to debug Windows programs. It's starting to become a running joke about how many times this subject has been postponed -- and this meeting

shouldn't be any exception. For the last week of February, I will be attending Software Development '93 in Santa Clara, CA. If all goes well, Microsoft will be announcing their next generation of C/C++ development software: Visual C++ for Windows. If Visual C++ becomes a released product, we will discuss this new development environment and answer: What Visual C++ does and doesn't do for you. Is it really like Visual Basic? Do you finally have to give up on C programming and learn C++ to take advantage of the new tools?

This should be a very exciting meeting. If possible, I will try to get some people from Microsoft to attend. Oh, by the way -- debugging is now scheduled for April.

Arthur English

Word SIG

Word SIG for March will be devoted to organizational issues. We will announce new Co-leaders for the Word SIG, and solicit SIG members' input for directions for the SIG activities in coming months.

A major theme for discussion will be format of the Word SIG Meetings in the future. Do SIG members prefer formal presentations from Word experts, including Microsoft and other vendors, or the present free-form discussion format? What areas of Word products need closer attention, and what version -- DOS or Windows?

Many members use both versions of Microsoft Word. Is there sufficient interest to alternate meetings, i.e., devote every other meeting to DOS Word rather than the present attempt to combine both versions in one meeting?

Come to the March Word SIG Meeting so your voice may help determine the course of the future SIG meetings.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

WordPerfect DOS Tip of the Month!

There are some occasions when the mode you are working in changes the way some of the key-strokes work. For instance, if you are in Outline mode, when you press [Enter], you get the next level of outline -- not just a blank line. When you are in Tables and press [Tab], the cursor jumps to the next cell -- a tabbed column is not created. If you've blocked text, the prompt "Move Cursor and press Enter" appears. But there may be times when you want to create a blank line or two before dumping the information.

If you've been caught in any of these traps, here's a tip. (Judy, even 5.0 has this capability!) There's a feature called "literal". It's interchangeable with Compose and you've probably already used it. It's [Ctrl] V. The word KEY= appears at the bottom of the screen where you can type in compose characters. Or you can press the key that you want literally inserted, ignoring the present mode of operation.

Let's play those scenes again.

Outline is on. You want to create a blank line but NOT create a new outline number. Press [Ctrl]V and [Enter].

You're in a Table and want to anchor information on a tab that you've set. Press [Ctrl]V then [Tab]. This is different than [Home][Tab] and you'll like this

The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

This month, I would like to review three books recently released for Visual Basic programmers.

The first book to be reviewed is "The Visual Guide to Visual Basic for Windows; The Illustrated Plain-English Encyclopedia to the Windows Programming Language" by Richard Mansfield and published by Ventana Press. This book consists of just three sections. Section 1 is entitled "A Step-by-Step Guide to Programming Visual Basic" and presents the basics of programming in Visual Basic for Windows in just 44 pages. Very succinct coverage. Section 2 of "The Visual Guide to Visual Basic for Windows" is entitled, simply, Reference A-Z. and is clearly the most valuable section. This section includes extended descriptions, in alphabetical order, of the properties, methods, objects, statements functions, events and controls utilized in Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0. Over 350 descriptions are included in nearly 1300 pages! The third and final section includes appendices on the Windows API, debugging, operator precedence and a brief listing/description of add-on products. A companion disk is available from the author at additional expense. This book is an excellent desk reference for those who find the standard documentation too cryptic.




continued

method better. It's too lengthy to tell you the reasons why here but ask me sometime in a SIG meeting and I'll show you.

You've blocked text to move or copy but in positioning the cursor to the place you want to restore the information, you realize you need to create a blank line. Press (Ctrl)V and (Enter). The message is still at the bottom of the screen.

You can do any of these multiple times. There are several other areas where literal plays an role.

On to business. For the March meeting, we'll show you how to create and modify a Table of Contents and a few other options found under the (Alt)(F5) key. See you there!

Lori Quinn 

Jim 

Ventana Press has sent NTPCUG coupons granting a 30% discount of the \$29.95 price until May 1, 1993. These are available at the Visual Basic SIG meeting at 9:00 AM on Super Saturday, while they last.

The second book I would like to review is "Do-It-Yourself Visual Basic for Windows" Second Edition by William J. Orvis and published by SAMS Publishing. This book is clearly the choice for novice programmers in Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0. The "Do-It-Yourself..." series format has been successfully used in programming books for several languages. This second edition covers Visual Basic for Windows Version 2.0 and concentrates on programming technique. There are four Parts to this book. Part 1 is an introduction to Windows programming in general and Visual Basic in particular. Part 2 is a tutorial on Visual Basic programming. This is the part of most interest to novice Visual Basic programmers. Part 3 is a step-by-step development of an application in Visual Basic. Finally, Part 4 is the appendices covering ASCII character codes and keyboard codes. A companion disk is available from the author at additional expense.

The third book is not necessarily for the novice programmer in Visual Basic, but is an excellent resource for information on the Windows Application Programming Interface. The book is "PC Magazine Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Windows API" by Daniel Appleman and published by Ziff-Davis Press. The serious programmer in Visual Basic must understand the Windows API in order to optimize his/her application for speed and effectiveness. This book describes the Windows API and how to use it effectively in Visual Basic. The author emphasizes those features that are significant to Visual Basic Programmers. Part 1 introduces Windows and shows its relationship to Visual Basic. The chapters in Part 2 describes an aspect of Windows and then describes, in detail, how to use the APIU calls related to that aspect. Part 2 is the majority of the book. Part 3 describes the Windows messages and how they can be used to extend the functionality of the standard Visual Basic controls. The final part, Part 4, contains several appendices that define the common data structures and file formats used by Windows. A sample disk is included with the book contains sample programs which demonstrate the use of API functions and teach certain concepts. This book might be slow going for beginning Visual Basic programmers, but must be invaluable to an intermediate/advanced Visual Basic programmer.

New PacificPage PE/XL v5.1 -- A good product becomes great

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

So many superlatives come to mind after three months living with the new *PacificPage PE/XL v5.1* that this short article was very hard to write. Really. I try to keep at least some neutrality when reviewing products for the PC News and I'll try here, but it's a problem.

The new *PacificPage PE/XL v5.1* is Pacific Data's latest revision of their combination PostScript cartridge and RISC coprocessor board for HP LaserJet IIP, IIP Plus, III, IIIP and IIID printers. The set consists of a plug-in PostScript cartridge that can be used alone or in combination with a PostScript coprocessor board powered by an Intel i960 RISC processor. The board also includes 4M printer memory that takes the HP IIP to its 4.5M maximum -- and beyond. (More on this later.)

Everything works together

What you get is very good PostScript from the HP printer. Part of this is due to the Phoenix Technologies Ltd.'s *PhoenixPage* (PostScript emulation); part is due to Bitstream PostScript fonts; and usability is courtesy of LaserTools language-sensing emulation switching that really works.

The first two are subtle, very good, but subtle. The last is outstanding. I lived with PostScript via the v4.2 PE/XL for a year or so and was hugely impressed by the speed on PostScript and HPGL graphics.

But, I sorely missed [Shift][Print Screen]. I didn't know that I had been accustomed to using this so frequently until I got the IIP. I became even more aware when the PostScript capability was added. There was a batch utility to switch between PostScript and H-P emulation(s), but it was very, very slow and didn't have language recognition capability.

Great emulation sensing

Now, I don't even think about it -- I just send whatever I'm working on to the printer and the PacificPage sorts it out.

I've tried this with the Adobe cartridge and the QMS family of printers, but always had "accidents" usually when sending PostScript jobs to the printer in HPGL mode. The result was usually pages and pages of ASCII programming codes before I got things stopped.

Pacific Data's PacificPage has yet to stumble in either DOS or Windows 3.1. in three month's usage. Very impressive.

Fly not a "bug"

All but one small "fly." It's documented, so I don't think it's a "bug." (I was so confident I didn't read the documentation until later.) The automatic language sensing "is optimized using 4K of print data to classify the print job."

I got into the habit of doing print-screens from DOS applications such as beta error messages, BBS notes, etc. I noticed that occasionally the printer would hang, but doing another print screen would "free" the printer and output the print-screen -- plus a second copy of the print-screen. It was the 4K optimization and a second print-screen put enough in the buffer to complete the task.

All-Ports Active

For multiple users or networks, there's an All-Ports-Active feature that allows automatic serial and parallel port sensing as well as language sensing. You could have one user on the HP's serial port and a second on the parallel port with no "switching" required.

The All-Ports-Active sensing works very well -- as long as one of the users isn't using downloaded PostScript fonts while the other user wants HP mode. The printer does a fast RESET when going from PostScript to HP mode and all downloaded fonts installed are lost.

They'll need reloading when a PostScript job is received later. ►

Fast installation and setup

Out of the box, the board and cartridge takes about 10 minutes to install, including time to remove the "old" printer memory or coprocessor board and cartridge. Pacific Data's default settings are good enough that usually no "messaging" with the printer's front panel will be necessary for most users after the switch. Except one.

Pacific Data decided it would be nice to print a test page each time the printer was turned on. It doesn't take too long to notice a lot of test pages stacking up. I turned this feature "off" just before writing this article since it seemed to be "eating" a lot of paper.

Remember my comment about the IIP's "maximum" 4.5M of memory? The new PE/XL v5.1 takes the user a little bit further when running in PostScript mode -- about 3M further. This feature is really helpful if you are accustomed to printing really large, complicated graphics. You'll know what I mean if you've ever sent a 3M graphic file to the printer, waited the usual 25 minutes or so, and then watched the printer go back to "ready" without printing.

Add memory with the "right" board

But there's a catch, and not a small one. The newer Pacific Data memory boards may NOT have the required connector! I had a Pacific 4 Memory board

with 4M installed. I reset the board switches to 3M, then tried to hook it up with the PE/XL board. No way. The connector necessary to mate with the PE/XL wasn't on my board. Older memory boards do tend to include this connector, as did my Pacific Data 2 Plus 2 board with 2M aboard. It's not the full 3M, but I can live with a total of 6.5M in PostScript mode.

All in all, I highly recommend the PE/XL for HP owners who want PostScript capabilities, speed, automatic language sensing and the other features combined with HP's superb printer output on the IIP and III series LaserJets. I've always felt that the IIP tends to produce cleaner and visually "sharper" output than their specs indicate. Couple that with PostScript and you've got a real winner.

Small shop networks and multiple (two) users may find this upgrade more appropriate than buying a new printer, particularly if IIP's or III's are already in place.

Pacific Data lists the *PacificPage PE/XL v5.1* at \$995. for both the coprocessor board and cartridge. The cartridge alone is \$399. Users with older versions can upgrade for \$399 and \$99 respectively. Both units have a lifetime warranty and 60-day money back guarantee.

Reagan



Membership Application
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Member # _____
 Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: (Check Preferred No.) Home ____ (____) _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___
 Work ____ (____) _____ (Ext) _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___
 Occupation/Profession: _____

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

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

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

NTPCUG Community Service

by Brian Mickel

Part 4: Your Part

In the previous three articles, I have described some of the opportunities for inner city residents and youth that are possible due to the current rapid drop in price of used personal computers. The riots in Los Angeles and the indiscriminate violence here in Dallas during the Cowboy's Super Bowl Parade demonstrate the need to pull inner city youth from the strong culture of violence, crime and drugs that infest a large portion of Dallas' poor inner city neighborhoods. For many of these youth, the opportunity to have convenient access to computers will make a significant difference in their lives.

With the support of the NTPCUG the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP) is providing a vehicle to funnel older PCs to inner city schools and neighborhood computer labs. The old hardware and software is easily available for the asking. In partnership with the Dallas Independent School District we are teaching free computer classes after school at DISD schools. All the resources are easily available for a large scale computer literacy program to be implemented except one — volunteers.

The Dallas Computer Literacy Program needs volunteers to collect donated computers, setup donated computers at YMCAs, churches and other locations, to teach basic computer classes, to administratively help manage the organization, to help with fund raising and with the many other needs of an all volunteer, non profit organization.

The hardware and software are easy to get. The support of city government and the school system is there. Will there be enough volunteers to help this program make a difference in Dallas?

The need was visually presented to all Dallasites with the violence of inner city youth rampaging through downtown Dallas recently. This culture of violence, crime and drugs is strongly entrenched in poor inner city neighborhoods. Education and the opportunity to use computers will offer youth a better choice to spend their time doing something productive (and for some of them addictive in a very

positive way) rather than "hanging with the gang" or doing drugs.

Currently, there is very little in poor neighborhoods to compete with the local gang and drug activity. Neighborhood computer labs can offer young people an enticement away from the entrenched gang and drug culture. As interactive, multimedia computing of the 90's becomes the norm, I believe it can effectively compete against the entrenched drug culture of poor inner city neighborhoods for the interest and time of young people growing up there.

There are also many good, hard working people who live in Dallas' inner city neighborhoods. They are the role models we need to support and through neighborhood computer labs we can give the good citizens in the inner city community the tools with which to get young people started on the right track. But for this to take place people must decide that THEY will do something. Otherwise, it will not happen.

Currently, the Dallas Computer Literacy Program has approximately 25 volunteers assisting 7 organizations implement computer lab programs. We would like to establish 50 to 100 neighborhood computer labs in the next couple of years. Establishing this large number of neighborhood computer labs will take an equally large number of volunteers, each helping a few hours per month.

Please consider sharing your technical knowledge with those who need the educational opportunities modern computer technology can provide. By helping an inner city YMCA set up 20 computers in a neighborhood computer lab think how many young people and adults you will impact. By teaching 20 people how to use an IBM computer you can start them on a learning journey that can make a major difference in their ability to find a job and provide for their families.

Individuals can make a difference and computers greatly increase a volunteers effectiveness. When the volunteer goes home, the computers remain and the educational benefits of the volunteers efforts continue. Individuals don't make a difference by saying "I'll let others do it." What this really means is that the status quo remains and Dallas' inner city problem continues to get worse. Its your choice. The organization to bring a large scale computer literacy program to poor neighborhoods has been set up. The question is this: are there enough people in Dallas interested in changing the direction this city is heading or will

QUE Books Hits a Paradox Home Run

by Fred Williams

Lately, I have been using a new Paradox 4.0 book. The book is "Paradox 4.0 Developer's Guide", by Dana Greaves & Jenifer Lindsay, published by QUE Books. In the past, I have been none too impressed with QUE books. I only own one other that I can see on my book shelves. But after several weeks of use, this one seems to stand a measure above most QUE books.

Two diskettes are included with the book. One contains the Paradox Application Language (PAL) source code from the book. The second one has a full release of R&R ReportWriter. The PAL source is good and they call it "tool-box" quality -- close, but not my tool-box. The R&R ReportWriter looks promising enough that I may do a separate review of it later.

With the release of Paradox 4.0 and Paradox for Windows, the world of Paradox database design and PAL development has been turned upside down. What you knew about PAL programming still matters, but the introduction of "events" dramatically changes how you programmatically manage user interaction with Paradox.

The introduction of one to many to many relationships, and improved secondary index management

has brought Paradox much closer to the "true" relational database design specification than ever before. Now you can actually apply much more of the widely accepted relational database design procedures and concepts to your Paradox database system designs.

"Paradox 4.0 Developer's Guide" does a really good job of addressing all of this newness with entire chapters devoted to each major new issue the PAL developer and Paradox database designer must master. The entire book is well written and the explanations are clear and straightforward.

The book is done so well that an experienced programmer facing their first ever Paradox development effort could probably use this book and the Paradox manuals to do a reasonably good job of getting up to speed with Paradox database design and PAL development. A starting PAL coder could use the example code straight out of the book and have a well thought out, first set of building blocks.

As an experienced PAL developer, I tend to want to change the "tool-box" code to suit my personal preferences. At least I don't have an overwhelming need or urge to totally rewrite the supplied examples. That's a lot more than I can say for many of the programming books out there.

The first major section of "Paradox 4.0 Developer's Guide" is devoted to designing PAL (read, Paradox database) Applications. A good introduction to database design is presented. Also, there is an excellent chapter on the basics of relational database design.

The authors named this chapter "Real World Database Design." The discussion is not the final word on the "real world", but it does a creditable job of applying "book theory" to actual application design. This chapter does manage to address the major issues of relational design concepts and real world system performance.

A good introduction to Paradox Forms and Paradox Report design is included in the application design chapters as are PAL programming basics. I would rate the design section of the book as a good strong basic introduction to database design with a whole lot of Paradox specific issues addressed.

Another rather substantial section of "Paradox 4.0 Developer's Guide" is devoted to code design and development for an event driven environment. This

Community Services continued

the Dallas of ten years from now resemble the L.A. of today?

To donate a computer or to find out more information, please call Brian Mickel at 521-6670 or Alex Lilley at 953-4970.

Brian

▲

section of the book is titled "User Interface." The subjects include: window and desktop management, working with PAL canvasses, event driven programming, pull-down and pop-up menu coding, and the ubiquitous dialog boxes which permeate any windowed application.

There is a very good chapter on applying the new event driven concepts using the PAL "WAIT" command. The new strengths of the event driven "WAIT" are covered in detail. Good examples of how to exploit the new WAIT command's power are also provided.

The "User Interface" section wraps it all together with the full discussion and development of a sample application. At least it's an order entry and invoicing system, and not another weak personnel and payroll application so many other "text book" design books seem to use. The application is quite robust and uses the concepts presented in the book.

Errors and error management strategies are covered in one of the chapters of the last section titled, "Special Topics." Additional information related to resource management, network operation, and DOS command usage is also presented in the final few chapters. There is even a chapter devoted to advanced query use. I guess this is included so that if you just can't get your PAL code to fly, you can al-



ways punt and retrieve the information you need with a good interactive query.

I rate "Paradox 4.0 Developer's Guide" on the same level as my most favorite ever Paradox book, "Paradox Programmer's Guide, PAL By Example", by Zenreich and Kocis. The difference is, "Paradox 4.0 Developer's Guide" is written for the next generation of PAL developers. "Paradox 4.0 Developers Guide" also does a much more thorough job of addressing the basics of the tasks involved. It also has at least twice the number of pages.

Fred

■

Chemistry Works

A review by Pat Henley

Automated installation of the zipped file went flawlessly. The initial screen is the familiar periodic table of elements we remember from high school chemistry or college chem 101. Whether mouse or keyboard operated the program moves swiftly from one element or menu to another in its 718K of data. With a color monitor you instantly see which elements are solids, liquids or gases in nature and which are synthetics.

Hypertext is the MO of the program: point and click and you get another screen of general or specific information related to the previous screen item. {ESC} or the Right mouse button will get you back to that previous screen. Spectral, isotopic, electronic and crystal configurations are a click away for any element. Graphing of selected elements or the whole table with virtually any pair of properties, e.g.: melting point vs. density is a near instant function. Elements may be listed or displayed in the table. Any of the screens or other report you construct may be exported to an ASCII file or printed.

The program is a slick learning tool for anyone needing help in memorizing the statistics of basic chemistry. With a list price of \$69.95 and a street price of half that, it costs less than many textbooks with the same information. Major resellers offer it or you may call Software Marketing Corporation of Phoenix AZ at (800) 545-6626.

Pat

■



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

By Claude McClure

VOLUNTEERS ARE IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Super Saturday morning is here again! It's going to be a full day of activity at the Infomart. It's a fast drive downtown in the light weekend traffic. The first people I see are the six volunteers NTPCUG furnishes for setting up the tables in the vendor area. The Disk of the Month squad shows up next. Wow, that's a lot of stuff and a lot of hard work has gone on in the background to produce and keep track of the hundreds of software titles they will sell this Saturday.

The Information Booth is coming to life now and this is the place where many SIG leaders drop by to get a feel for the kind of day it's going to be. The early morning volunteers at the information booth are already discussing the programs that will take place in the auditorium, making this month's meeting important in it's own special way. The Bulletin Board has maintained the vital link for putting this activity together and the North Texas PC News has kept us informed.... All this was done by volunteers. They're pretty good, aren't they?

PLEASE remember to say "thanks" to our volunteers!

INFOMART Liaison
David Harned

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
Mike Griffin
David Slavik
Paul Weathers
Crew:
Jim Aragon
Bill Vallance
Paul Weathers

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

BBS Champion
Pete Testa

Information/Registration
Booth
Statistician:
Connie Testa
Scheduler:
Dianne Arnold
Anchors:
Connie Andrews
Harvey Andrews
John Arnold
Mike Ashley
Ralph Beaver
Loyce Coolidge
John Ferguson
Paul Fredd
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh

Hank Holt
Ned Keig
David Martin
(double)
Wade Mayfield
Raymond Reyes
Everett Turner
Jean Waldrep
Peyton Weaver
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller
Booth Crew:
Norma J. Baker
Eteta E. Eta
Cinda Lovil
Ed Moreland
David Opaleye
John Timbes

Disk of the Month (DOM)
DOM Desk Crew:
Joe Allen
Doug Athas
Bernie Baars
Roy Bales
Ralph Beaver
Rob Bender
Norman Dang
James Donlon
Williams Farris
Charles Fernandez
Thomas "Tuc"
Goodwin
Judy Griffiths
Steve Hay
Jo Johnston
Tim Lanz
Lloyd
"Mac" McKeethen

Harold Menzel
George Read
Ed Snuggs
Oscar Tyler
Robert Walton
With Special Thanks to:
Set-Up Crew:
Bill Chambliss
Jay Chambliss
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
Jerry Stone
Shift Supervisors:
Gene Carleton
Don Chick
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley

Claude Walston
Inventory and Take-Down
Crew:
Charles Carter
Frank DeVault
Jimmy Green
Tim Lanz
DOM Desk Scheduler:
Charles Cashion
Disks-for-Review Manager:
Howard Hamilton
Disk Production:
Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)263-9036 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations Timothy Carmichael	(214)661-4626 (w)
DOM Booth Scheduler Charles Cashion	(214)881-0952 (h) (214)519-2583 (w)
DOM Software Review Howard Hamilton	(214)644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information Claude McClure	(214)867-0978 (h)

NEW DISKS

...from the DOM Squad

Disk 797. OMNIDay 3.11, 8/92 – Keep a Computer Diary and Journal, Unicorn Software Limited, P.O. Box 911, Wabash IN 46992-0911. Registration Fee = \$30.

OMNIDay is a program that will enable you to keep a diary and a personal journal. "Helping You Document Your Memoirs & Thoughts" as the author puts it. Program features:

- * Handles up to 10 users with optional encryption of data.
- * 10,000 different encryption possibilities (User defined) with PassCode entry to protect privacy.
- * Automatic entry of text date line.
- * Dynamic data file (only as large as entries) and entries can be from 1 to 5,000 lines.
- * Full featured full screen editing of entries using common word processor commands. Word Wrap & Scroll toggle on/off.
- * On line editor Help available (F1).
- * Reminiscence feature allows user to 'thumb' through entries.
- * User can also print out the entire opus or selected dates.
- * Works with TSR spell check/thesaurus programs.
- * User names the opus and enters own name into program as the author.
- * Date formats for France, Britain, Germany, Italy and America.
- * User can set the colors, printer codes, default data drive and data file name.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: MSDOS compatible, 256K RAM, IBM graphic/laser printer, mono or color monitor, can operate on one/two floppy or hard disk drives.

Downloaded from SDN, SHAREWARE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, by Mike Ashley.

Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (2/93).

Disk 798. AnaDisk 2.07, 9/92 – A Complete Diskette Utility Program, Sydex, P.O. Box 5700, Eugene OR 97405. Telephone (503) 683-6033. Registration Fee = \$25.

AnaDisk is a utility for examining, editing and analyzing disk-

ettes. AnaDisk performs the following functions:

- * Analyzes diskettes for content and consistency. The density and format of the diskettes are automatically determined. Any format changes or media errors are noted.
- * Searches diskettes for text. Both the active data areas, as well as the inactive or erased data areas may be searched.
- * Examines and prints data on a physical sector, as well as on a file basis. Either ASCII or hexadecimal displays may be used.
- * Copy a diskette without regard to format or type.
- * Modify data on a diskette.
- * Repair DOS diskettes containing data errors.
- * Format a diskette according to custom specifications.
- * Copy an area of a diskette to a DOS file.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible with a minimum of 512K of memory. Not for Tandy 1000, Tandy 2000, or IBM PCjr. Hard disk drive recommended.

Downloaded from SDN, SHAREWARE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, by Mike Ashley.

Readme prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (2/93).

Disk 799. QUIZ BUSTER 2.2, 12/92 – Create and Print Math Quizzes by Greg Duncan, 29 Fir Avenue, St. Catharines ON Canada L2P 1B8. Registration Fee = \$35.

Invaluable for creating math quiz problems. Create Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division quizzes. Create problems with or without decimals. All numbers are generated randomly. No two quiz questions are ever the same!

Print up to 50 quizzes of each type - 99 when registered. Complete numbered ANSWER KEY is also printed with each Quiz.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 640K RAM, IBM PC or compatible computer, printer.

Downloaded from SDN, SHAREWARE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, by Mike Ashley.

Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (2/93).

Disk 800. GAMESCAPE C.1, 10/92 – Adventure Game Development System by Dennis Drew, P.O. Box 101, Joplin MO 64802. Registration Fee = \$95.

GAMESCAPE is a program that allows you to design and distribute your own adventure games. GAMESCAPE is a powerful "adventure engine" that allows you to describe locations and rooms, objects, recognizable words, messages, and occurrences that happen within the game. You can also include sound, music, and any of the standard IBM special graphics characters (terrific for mapping). Registered users can create high resolution color graphics to go with their games.

GAMESCAPE encodes information so your game secrets cannot be easily deciphered by end users, and allows games to be "linked" so that your adventures can be of any length. It provides you the ability to design incredibly detailed and large adventure games with far greater ease than using a raw programming language. Once the game is finished, registered users are allowed to distribute the games with no royalty fee.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: DOS 3.0 or higher, 8088 based systems will work but slowly; 80286 or better is recommended with a hard drive (or a minimum of 1.2 mb floppy). Mouse is optional.

Downloaded from SDN, SHAREWARE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, by Mike Ashley.

Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (2/93).

Disk 801. TAKEOFF 4.06C, 9/92 – Construction Material Estimating, T.E.H., Inc., P.O. Box 235, Buford GA 30518. ShareWare Fee = \$69.95.

TAKEOFF is a construction material estimating system, which allows contractors and do-it-yourselfers to estimate the amount of material needed to complete certain interior construction jobs. TAKEOFF will handle carpet, vinyl, tile, wallpaper, parquet, ceiling tile, blocks, base, paint, cubic yards of concrete for slab and more. It is not designed for framing or exterior or roofing calculations.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: DOS 2.0 or higher, any monitor, 128K RAM, hard disk recommended (use is limited with 1 or 2 floppy disks). Wide carriage printer or use of compressed print is required as program cannot be customized for a particular printer.

This software was provided by the Author.

This review prepared by Preston Brashear, edited by Will Davis (2/93).

Disk 802. PC Magazine Utilities Disk Vol. 4 – Recent Utilities from PC Mag By Contributors of PC Magazine, Ziff-Davis Publishing Company.

A collection of utilities and programs for use on IBM and IBM-compatible computers, by the publishers of PC Magazine. Included are a wide assortment of utilities to help manage files, programs, directories, and host of others.

This disk is a successor to PC Magazine's well-regarded Volume I, II, and III sets of utilities. Documentation is very clear and complete, enabling most users to get the programs up and working quickly. Users are also warned of any program that is more difficult to use.

The utilities included on this disk include the following:

ANSI	A fast, convenient replacement for ANSI.SYS
BCOPY	Make a background file copy
CHKFRAG	See when your disk needs de-fragmenting
CONVERT	Convert hexadecimal, octal, decimal, and binary numbers
DIMMER	Blank-out your screen and controls brightness
LASERLST	Perform two-up printing on a

- LITES LaserJet printer.
A simulated RS232 breakout box.
- MONO Kill color displays on LCD screens
- MOUSECTL Adjust your mouse sensitivity
- SETUP2 A pop-up printer configuration
- SLICE Distribute a large file among multiple floppy disks
- SMOOTH A smooth-scrolling text file viewer
- ZCOPY A high-speed serial file transfer program

This software was contributed by PC Magazine.

This review was prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (2/93).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following warning applies to DOM Disks 803 and 804.

****WARNING**:** This and other tax preparation programs should be thought of as fast and semi-smart adding machines only. The program cannot contain all the logic necessary to connect all the provisions of the tax laws with the particular situations of all taxpayers. The IRS will hold you responsible for all errors in your return, whether mathematical or substantive. Reliance on a tax program will probably not save you from penalties (including fraud) or

interest charges, if you claim some tax benefit you are not entitled to. Use this and other tax programs for preliminary calculations and "what if" scenarios to check the tax effects of making or not making IRA contributions, etc. Thoroughly check the instructions that the IRS furnishes with each form to be sure that you are entitled to use the form, and that the data is properly entered and that all adjustments and limitations have been applied. Be sure that you are not required to fill out additional forms or schedules not included in this package. And manually check all calculations, and table lookups to be sure that the figures are correct. There could always be obscure errors that do not show up in trial runs with sample data.

Disk 803. Share-TAX/1040, 12/23/92 - Tax Return Preparer for 1992, Bammel Software, P.O. Box 382194, Duncanville, TX 75138-2194. Shareware registration is \$15.00.

WHAT IT DOES: Using the data you enter, Share-TAX/1040 does all computations and prints out your complete tax return (Form 1040 and Schedules A, B, and C). For all schedules and forms other than Form

1040, it prints substitute forms approved by the IRS. Share-TAX/1040 will not make a tax expert out of you. It only performs the mechanics of tax return preparation using the numbers you supply. Therefore, you must know as much about taxes as you would if you were filling out your forms with pencil and eraser. You need only enter the correct numbers, and Share-TAX/1040 will do all computations for you, forwarding amounts from one form to another as necessary. The order in which you enter your data is arbitrary, and you can at any time suspend your data entry to work on a different tax return or exit the program. Then later you can resume where you left off. When tax season arrives, you might want to have an idea of what your tax bite is going to be before you have all necessary information. With Share-TAX/1040, you can enter the data you have, estimate the significant items you don't have, and in a few seconds have your estimate. When you get the missing numbers, you simply enter them, and in just a few moments have your complete tax return ready to submit to the IRS.

REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compatible, one or two diskettes or hard disk, and printer. You need at least 256K of free memory plus that required by DOS and any resident utilities.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(2/93).

Disk 804. AM-Tax 1992, 11/18/92 - 1992 Tax Preparation Software, Copyright 1985-1992 by: AM SOFTWARE, P.O. Box 25010, Kansas City, MO 64119. Phone orders: (816) 426-8361.

AM-Tax is a software program designed to assist you in the

preparation of your 1991 federal tax return. There are several versions of AM-Tax, a shareware program and several advanced versions of the registered program. This disk contains the shareware version of AM-Tax. It can prepare a complete tax return consisting of the Form 1040 and Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, R, and SE. Form 1040 cannot be filed as it comes from the printer (you'll need to transfer the figures to an official form 1040), but all of the other Schedules print out in a format accepted by the IRS. For simple tax situations, the shareware version may be all you need to use. Registration to use this version is \$20.

The advanced versions, called "Personal-1" (\$40) and "Personal-2" (\$65) and "Professional" (\$125), support additional forms with each increase in cost, with support for printing a "fileable" dot-matrix 1040 at the \$40 level, and laser printer support ("T" cartridge req'd) with the \$65 and \$125 packages.

AM-Tax is easy to learn since it's designed around the Federal 1040. Supporting documents are accessed by pressing the F6 key when you're on a line calling for one of the schedules or forms included in the AM-Tax program. General-purpose worksheets are also available to enhance your record keeping. You'll find many other useful features after reading through this manual and trying the program.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible; DOS 2.0 or later; at least 220K of available memory (up to 512K for advanced version); one 360K drive or hard drive (hard drive required for the Professional version).

This software was downloaded and donated by the author.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(2/93).

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

• *March is membership month. . . Get your friends to join our Group.*



(See page 1 for description of programs.)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Ventura Publisher 4.1 for Windows Ventura Software, Inc.
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Oject Based Development for Windows Serius Corporation
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	NTPCUG Business Meeting
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Access and FoxPro 2.5 for Windows Microsoft Corporation

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
ACTI	Jim Thompson	(214)487-0085 w (817)261-6159 h
Alpha Four	Ron Jackson Mac McKeethen	(214)276-3661 h (214)556-1352 h
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BASIC Prog-Visual	Woody Pewitt	(214)230-3485 w (214)283-2292 h (214)235-5968 h
BBS	Jim Carter Fred Williams Doug Gorrie	(214)492-1315 h (214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w (214)272-2869 h
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C++ / Advanced C CAD	Kent Cobb Bill Shepton	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w (817)731-1308 h (214)521-2938 h (214)521-6670 w (214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
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DOS	Jim Holsington	(214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)828-0699 h
Datalflex	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David King	(817)640-6130 hM (214)313-0408 w (214)335-9103 h (817)481-2350 hM
Desktop Publi	Lewis Graber Larry Linson	(214)644-7536 h (214)278-7888 h (214)462-7980 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h (214)827-7734 h
Fox Pro Genealogy	Kevin White Al Sanford	(214)644-7536 h (214)278-7888 h (214)462-7980 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h (214)827-7734 h
Hdw Solutions	Peyton Weaver Gary Johnson	(214)462-7980 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h (214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 hM
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Middle C	Tom Cook	(214)871-8177 w
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OS/2 Dev	Francis Bright James Dunn	(214)279-5712h (214)497-8978 w (817)481-8625 h (214)444-2195 w (817)498-5856 h (214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)867-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	(817)481-8625 h (214)444-2195 w (817)498-5856 h (214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)867-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
PAF	Joe Waldrop	(817)498-5856 h
Paradox	Fred Williams Greg Kane	(214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)867-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
Personal Users	Bob Presley Bob Russell	(214)867-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
Programmers	Jim Holsington Kant Kingerly	(214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
Quicken	Billy Pitts Jo Johnston	(817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
Roots III	John Wylie	(214)495-4410 h
Software Review	Pat Henley	(214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
Spreadsheet /Dev	Neil Berkowitz Mark Gruner	(214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
StarText	Betty Brooks Beverly Kurtin	(214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
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Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
Windows Applc.	Rick Silvermell	(214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h
Windows Dev. WORD	Arthur English Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. Dorothy Bertine	(214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (817)387-9993 h (214)255-0555 w (817)481-6453 hM (214)823-9837
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn Mitch Milam	(214)255-0555 w (817)481-6453 hM (214)823-9837

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 General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Personal Users Quicken Software Review Windows Applications WordPerfect	BASIC Programming-Begin.. Assembler Brother' Keeper Genealogy MS Works Roots III - Genealogy Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers	Investors OS/2 for End Users Personal Users
10:00 - 10:55	11:30 - 11:55	1:00 - 1:55
BASIC Programming-Adv. CAD Fox Pro Database Networking PAF -Genealogy Paradox Personal Users Unix/Xenix	Orientation 11:30 - 1:00 TI Pro 12:00 - 12:55 Alpha Four C++/Advanced C Communications Desktop Publishing	2:00 - 2:55 Business Apps./DAC Easy Middle C OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet Startext WORD Advanced Programmers Community Services

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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Doug Gorrie, Chair	Reagan Andrews
Jim Holsington	Andy Oliver
Fred Williams	

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Membership Dir.	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101h
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Assistant Sysop: Tom Prickett
Assistant Sysop: Doug Gorrie
Information Mgt: Lewis Graber
User Relations: Adam Peterson
DOM Index: Pete Testa

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

TI PRO BULLETIN BOARD (214)361-5275
SYSOP: Tom Blackwell

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Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)



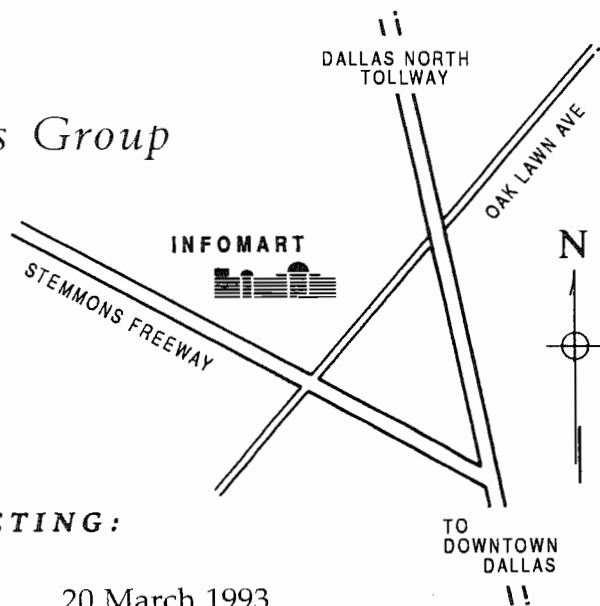
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20 March 1993