Price $2.00

NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

May 1993

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 5

North Texas PC NEWS

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

Send address changes to: Membership Director, NTPCUG, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066.

Publisher John Pribyl (817)275-4109

Editor Doug McQuaid (214)313-0086

Assistant Editors Gerry Heine (214)938-7266
Alan Lintel (214)220-8285
Howard Peña

Newsletter Exchange Lewis Graber

Advertising Director John Pribyl, (acting) - (817)275-4109
(Mail all advertising material and ad payments to North Texas PC NEWS 2025 Rockcreek Drive Arlington, TX 76010)

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or its members. Copyright © 1993 by North Texas PC NEWS. (Articles without specific copyright notices may be reproduced unchanged by other not-for-profit User Groups if credit is given to the author and the publication.)

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 2468 last month.

Member distribution was 2174; 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 June North Texas PC NEWS: Monday, May 10th

Meeting Dates:

May Meeting - 3rd Saturday
June Meeting - 1st Saturday
July meeting tentativly scheduled on the *second* Saturday.

Member

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

b) Snail Mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service). Put the article on a floppy diskette and mail it to: 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.

Table of Contents

President's Message 1
Doug Gorrie
NTPCUG On-Line 6
Fred Williams
ImagePals A Review 7
Neal Berkowitz
Variety Store 12
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.
The Visual Basic Corner 15
Jim Carter
Dachshund A Review(?) 27
Pat Henley
BeckerTools A Review 28
Neal Berkowitz
Telix 3.21 Review 30
Fred Williams

Special Items:

Agenda 1
Membership Application 9
SIG Reports 18
New Disks from the DOM Squad . . . 24
Volunteer Guide . . . 32
Officers, Meetings & Times 33

Program for May

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **Removable Storage Solutions From IOMEGA**

IOMEGA Corporation

Russ Levinton, District Sales Manager

IOMEGA will be presenting its family of storage products, including: TheIOMEGA Tape250, the next generation pc tape backup drive and; The new Floptical 21MB drive that will read and write 720KB and 1.44MB floppies, yet allow you to use special 21MB disks at 2-3 times the speed of a conventional floppy drive. IOMEGA will also talk about the new 150MB Bernoulli Multidisk system. There will be a drawing for a free Bernoulli 90MB PC powered Pro Drive. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Quicken for DOS and Windows**

Intuit, Incorporated

Richard Katz

Come see all the new features of Quicken, the well-known financial organizer and checkwriting software which is now available for DOS and Windows. Other Intuit products will also be demonstrated. Richard Katz will give us a lively and entertaining presentation. There will be a drawing for free software. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM **NTPCUG Business Meeting**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **FileMaker Pro 2.0 - Database Power Without Programming**

Claris Corporation

Edward Phillips, Account Manager

FileMaker Pro 2.0 is a database manager which is available for both Windows and Macintosh systems, allowing sharing of databases over a network without requiring file translation. It has won many awards for its powerful features for managing, presenting and sharing data, and can be easily used without having to learn a programming language. There will be a drawing for free software. *

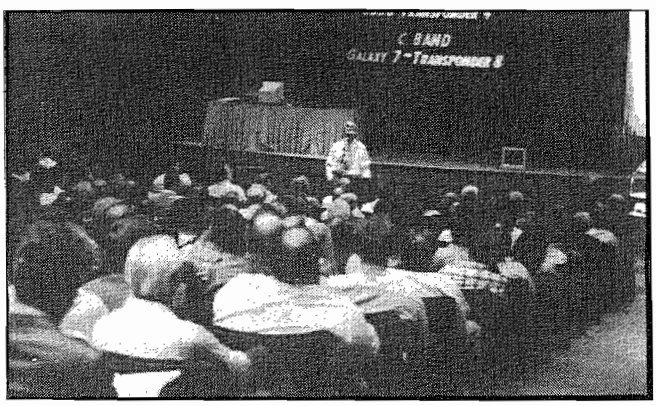
* Tickets for each drawing will be given out from 10 minutes before until 15 minutes after the start-time of the meeting to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership.

Prez Sez...

Membership ...

Our March membership drive, heavily sponsored by our friends at Microsoft, netted us a total of 441 NEW members. Of those, 355 joined at our March 20 "Super Saturday" meeting, or at Microsoft's Business Solutions conference on March 5th. The remaining 86 came to us at the March 30 launch of DOS 6. This was our biggest month ever! We'll try to give both old AND new members their money's worth, and more.

An interesting story concerns Frank Bede, who joined on March 20, then attended the Microsoft Access/FoxPro demo where he won a free copy of FoxPro. To celebrate his winnings, he then volunteered to assume leadership of the Desktop Publishing SIG! Not a bad day for a $14 investment in the largest PC club in the D/FW area!! ►



Doug Gorrie's preamble to the DOS 6.0 Rollout.

All our new members are encouraged to get involved, just as Frank did. Membership is more enjoyable if you participate, and it is no small chore running an event this size.

Special Interest Groups (SIG)...

As you may have noticed, the number of SIGs and their leadership varies from month to month. Many of these changes are now being outlined at the beginning of the SIG Happenings section by Alex Lilley. And, as usual, check SIG Happenings each month for what's new and interesting.

Speaking of changes, I've been told that Betty Brooks has felt "withdrawal" from the heat, humidity and mosquitoes of the Houston area, so has accepted a new position there. Betty has been a great asset in the Spreadsheet SIG arena, and a regular contributor to PC NEWS. Thanks, Betty, for the many contributions. And, for all those old and new members remaining, please consider helping Mark Gruner fill the Spreadsheet void.

If you are interested in Microsoft ACCESS, I understand the ACCESS SIG is now officially in place and meeting monthly. In addition, WordPerfect for Windows is going strong, and there is discussion by some of our newest members about creating a "Networking" SIG. More on SIG activity next month.

DOS 6 Launch ...

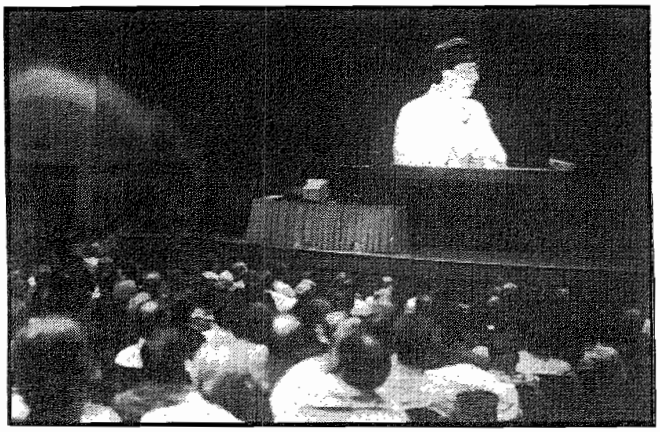
The official rollout of DOS, held on March 30 at the Infomart, was a major success. As those of you who attended know, we underestimated how many folks wanted to listen to Bill Gates. As a result, we completely filled the Auditorium (500+), put about 25 more in the aisles, and hurriedly set up about 75 more chairs and a TV elsewhere to accommodate the overflow. Many thanks to Stuart Yarus and Timothy Carmichael for helping in these last minute logistics.

Due to our faulty estimates, we did not have enough DOS 6 T- shirts to meet the demand. For that, we apologize. It's always a guess on a deal like this, and both we and Microsoft learned some things that should make the next launch smoother. Sergio Pineda, the Microsoft Product Manager on site, inadvertently announced to the audience that "everyone would get a T-shirt", not knowing at the time that we had an insufficient quantity. Before we could clarify what "everyone" meant, the satellite downlink started. Although difficult to arrange after such an event, I am attempting (without guarantees, you understand) to secure additional T-shirts. I'm in hopes that the honor system will allow us to distribute these shirts, IF THEY ARRIVE, to those (a) that were present at the DOS 6 launch, and (b) that did NOT already get theirs. Look for signs at the Information booth if the shirts come in.

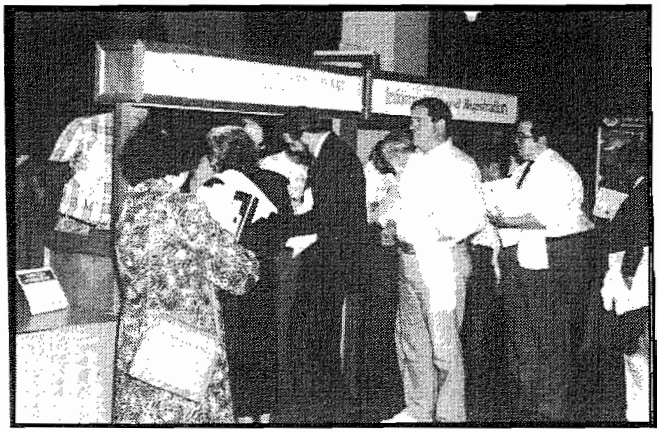
Community Service...

Alex Lilley tells me the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP) received $1,114 from those attending the DOS 6 rollout. The DCLP is very grateful for the financial support, especially in light of Microsoft having matched that amount, for a total of $2,228 to DCLP. Brian Mickel did an excellent presentation to the DOS 6 audience, describing DCLP's goal to bring PC literacy to the Dallas "inner city". NTPCUG is proud to be associated with such a fine project.

Brian, Alex and the remaining 32 members of the Community Service group are to be commended for the rapid success of this program. If you have an interest in doing something truly worthwhile, I encourage you to contact Alex to discuss the various ways you might contribute some time. ►



Bill Gates on the downlink at the DOS 6.0 Rollout.



New User Group members signing up at the InfoMart, March 30th.

THE WORLDWIDE STANDARD

New dBASE IV v2.0 gets you home for dinner

Get your work done faster

New dBASE IV® version 2.0 is up to ten times faster than version 1.5 and dBASE III PLUS®! Browsing data, executing queries, and generating reports are all faster—even on networks.

But program speed is only part of dBASE's overall performance superiority. dBASE® gets your work done faster because it's more usable. A recent study proves it!* For everyday tasks, dBASE users got their work done 25% faster than FoxPro users.

COMPUTERWORLD
PREFER TO DO BUSINESS WITH
PLAN TO BUY
INSTALLED IN COMPANY

1992 DATA BASED ADVISOR Readers Choice Award
BEST NEW DATABASE MANAGER
MOST IMPROVED DATABASE PRODUCT

powerful applications with less code. And now you can generate royalty-free .EXEs using the new, 100% language-compatible **dBASE Compiler**!

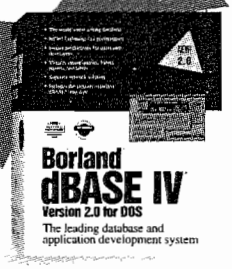
Get dBASE today and get home for dinner tonight.

SPECIAL UPGRADE PRICE!

$99.95

(Suggested list price $795.)

Offer good for standalone or LAN upgrades



dBASE makes it easy to do more

Whether you're a database user or application developer, dBASE puts your information to work. Visual design tools let you create database tables, queries, forms, and reports onscreen. Query By Example gives you fast answers to your questions. No wonder NSTL rated dBASE tops in versatility and usability.†

The #1 choice for application developers

The dBASE language lets you use English-like commands to create

dBASE IV outfoxes the competition

	dBASE IV	FoxPro
Industry standard	Yes	No
Designed for users	Yes	No
Designed for programmers	Yes	Yes
Queries optimized for stand-alone & networked computers	Yes	No
Instantly accessible visual design tools	Yes	No
Full cross-platform compatibility	Yes	No
Transaction processing	Yes	No
Multiuser ready	Yes	No

90-day, money-back guarantee!

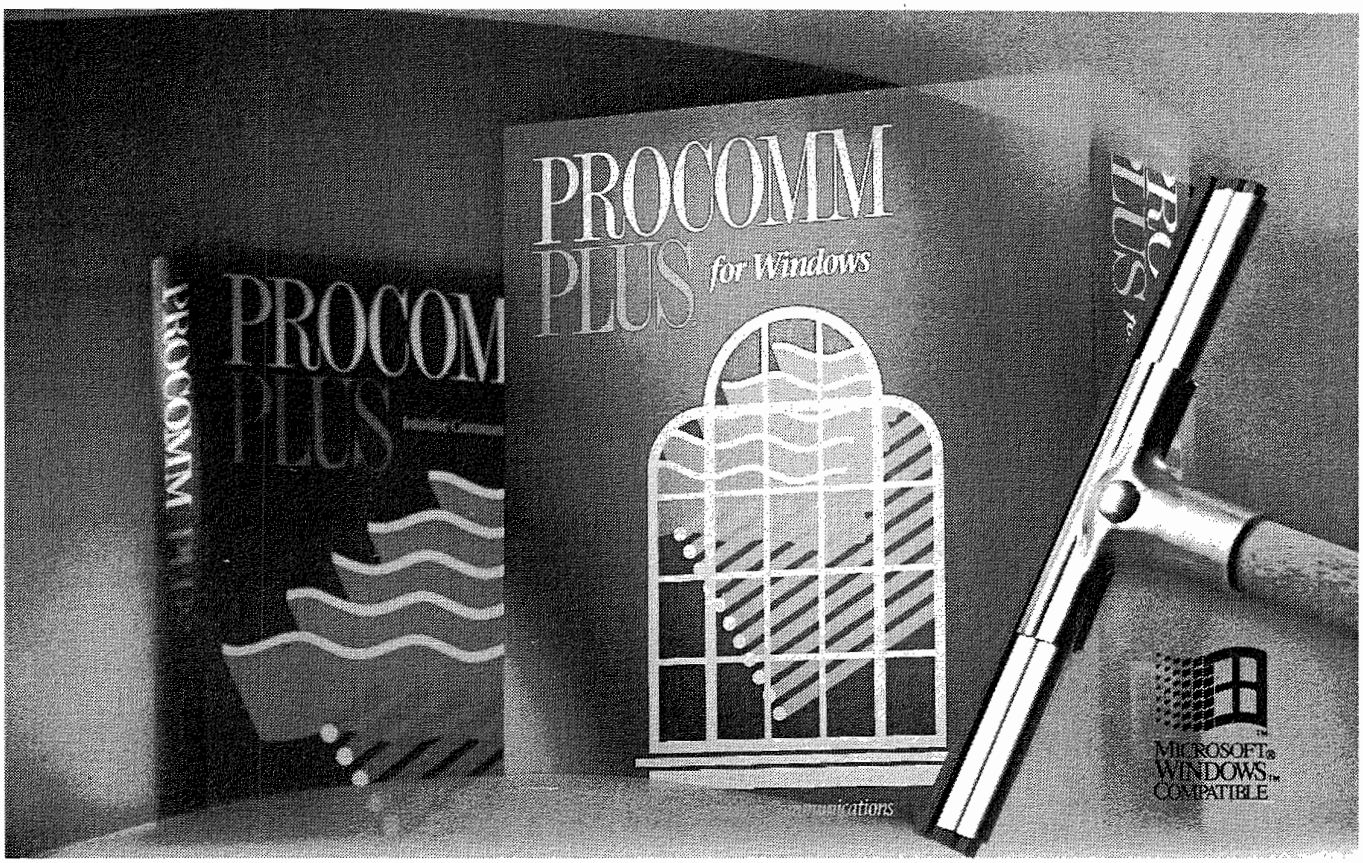
See your dealer or call now, 1-800-336-6464, ext. 6659

In Canada, call 1-800-461-3327.

Borland

Power made easy

*Usability Sciences Corp. study, 1992. †*Software Digest* Ratings Report, multiuser database programs, May 1992. Copyright © 1993 Borland International, Inc. All rights reserved. All Borland product names are trademarks of Borland International, Inc. Prices good in the United States and Canada only. All prices are in U.S. dollars. Dealer prices may vary. BI 5341

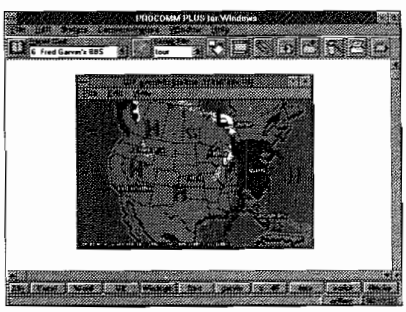


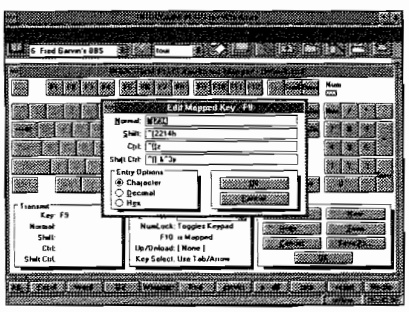
The Streak Continues!

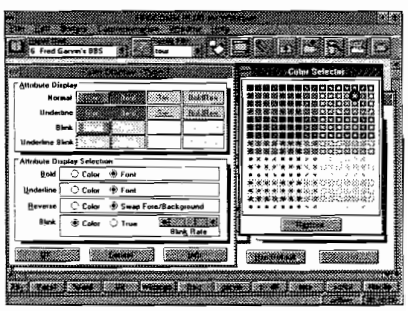
Introducing the Windows version of the best-selling communications software in the world.

PROCOMM PLUS has opened the eyes of the world to a superior communications package. Now, people with their sights set on communicating with Windows have a choice just as clear. PROCOMM PLUS *for Windows*.

The power and ease of use of PROCOMM PLUS combined with the elegance of Windows. Look for it now at your software dealer. And discover for yourself why PROCOMM PLUS *for Windows* leaves the competition in the fog.







DATASTORM
DATASTORM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

P.O. Box 1471 • Columbia, MO 65205 • 314.443.3282

Copyright © 1992
DATASTORM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
All Rights Reserved

Bylaws Changes ...

Members attending our April 24th business meeting were to vote on suggested bylaws changes. (This was written before the April meeting. Editor.)Most significant in these revisions was to be an increase in "at-large" Directors comprising NTPCUG's Board from three to five. Since greater representation is generally regarded positively, I will assume that the bylaws were accepted as written. If passed, the additional positions would have been filled at the April 27 Board meeting from among the Board candidates that appeared on the January ballot. These names will be announced at the May 15th business meeting, and on the bulletin board system. Again, my thanks to those that agreed to take on this additional responsibility.

Prez Makes Mistakes?? SOMETIMES ...

At a previous business meeting, I mentioned that Usability Sciences was looking for PC users of all levels to help test the user friendliness of software. They even pay you for your time!! Several of those present took me to my word, and called for more information. Little did they know that I had given them the wrong phone number, so some poor secretary unfamiliar with PCs began getting a bunch of funny calls.

Does using two index fingers classify one as a "touch" typist? I think not, especially when I touched "0" rather than "9" when entering Usability Science's phone number into my business meeting notes. If you are interested in making a few bucks and perhaps having some fun, contact Deborah Green at Usability Sciences. Phone number is (214) 550-1599. Tell her you are an NTPCUG member.

Board of Directors Meetings -- What Goes on ...

Someone recently asked about the format of our Board meetings. No, we don't just meet in a bar somewhere and play pool (not a bad idea, though). The meetings require space for about 17 people, consisting of the President, President-Elect, five "at-large" Board members, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Publisher, and those representing Programs, Membership, SIGs, Volunteers, Disk-of-the-Month (DOM), Publicity, BBS, and the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD). Others attend as circumstances warrant. Many of those attending for the first time tell me that there are a lot more issues discussed than they had ever expected.

Each person above has a role in making the Group successful, so each reports on their area monthly. For instance, meetings always discuss the financials associated with dues from new and renewing members, DOM income, and bills paid.

Each meeting always has a number of non-routine issues. In recent months, we have discussed the DOS 6 rollout, a new Voice Mail system, BBS modem upgrades, PC hardware needed for SIG presentations, changes to bylaws for the CCD and NTPCUG, and others. Starting next month, I'll try to include detail about each month's meeting.

Newsletter Exchange ...

At past business meetings, I have touted the availability of our Newsletter Exchange. Lewis (Dee) Graber has put much effort each month into binding and organizing the newsletters we receive from other User Groups nationwide. The binders of newsletters are located at the Information Booth, and available for checkout by NTPCUG members.

Until recently, however, I had not taken advantage of the Exchange. But in examining a single binder, I came across no fewer than 15 articles of significant interest to me. Topics included:

(a) the first 30 seconds after a PC is powered on, (b) the top 15 shareware utilities, (c) reviews of Microsoft Powerpoint, Telix, Logitech Fotoman, (d) an explanation of Direct Memory Access (DMA), (e) DOS I/O Redirection and Filters, (f) DOS CHKDSK command and disk organization, and(g) Desktop Publishing.

Expertise not found in our User Group can often be found in another. If you enjoy the articles and reviews written by our membership, consider having access to 10 times that amount, and you have the Newsletter Exchange. I would urge you to take advantage of this resource.

More Giveaways ...

Well, it's that time again. My closet runneth over with nasty old (or new) software, and the wife says to Get Rid Of It. So May will be another Giveaway Month, in Infomart's auditorium, immediately following the Business Meeting. We do this every few months just to break the monotony. For those of you that come to Business Meetings regularly, this is your reward, so don't tell the rest of the members -- keep it to yourself. And remember to bring your membership card OR newsletter, because the drawings are for NTPCUG members only. ►

Speaking of giveaways, a MAJOR one (for members only!!) was being planned for the April Super Saturday as I wrote this PREZ SEZ. Through the graciousness of Microsoft, and a little arm twisting on Woody Pewitt's part, 300 (yes, that's THREE HUNDRED) copies of Visual Basic, Version 2.0, were being slated for dispensing on April 24th. Of course, Woody's Visual Basic SIG got first crack, so the excess (if there were any) were went to the Business Meeting. I hope you were present. (Sorry, no mail orders!!)

Reminder ...Sunday, May 9 is Mothers Day. If you forget (forgot?), it's going to be a rough year.

Have a great month!!

Doug Gorrie

NTPCUG On-Line

By Fred Williams
Sysop, NTPCUG BBS

Seems I've been rather preoccupied with modems of late. Fact is I'm starting to dream about them. I keep waking up choking from thirst, after crawling thousands of miles across burning sands attempting to reach Addison so I can make just one more modem shuffle!

Having been involved almost daily in the "dance of the dieing modems", I though I might pass along some of my (mostly unintentionally learned) modem education. I will not refer directly to any brand names in this little discussion. Hate mail, I already got enough of thank you. And I do hate stomping on other peoples baby ducks.

Therefore these words of wisdom will be some general observations drawn from a rapidly changing background. As I speak, advanced feature high speed modems' price curve is rapidly approaching the trajectory of a falling stone. This fact, and the lure of keeping up with the Gates and Kahns, is stimulating more and more PC owners to seriously consider chucking that old 2400 baud modem that they bought just yesterday.

One word of warning up front. The more sophisticated modems require a level of knowledge at least an order of magnitude above that required to fully utilize the older "plain vanilla" modems. These turkeys are definitely not your basic "plug and play" add on. If you really get lucky, you just might get the thing to work "full tilt boogy" on the first shot. The need for basic knowledge comes when you're not that lucky.

If you are going to use a technology, I would recommend that you educate yourself as well as you can prior to attempting to apply the subject technology. If you're hanging around, and there is a v.42bis specification and a hole in the ground laying there, and you can't tell the difference, you got a problem.

You will simply not believe the "robustness" that has been added to the lowly modem AT command set since the last time you looked. And there are commands that act differently depending on, sometimes more than one of, other command settings and/or "S" register values.

Is it really worth all that trouble and anxiety? Do you remember the day you plugged in that 1200 baud modem to replace that stalwart old 300 baud door stop? Have you ever had to use someone else's 1200 baud modem lately? Once you have traveled at 9600 or 14.4k baud, you will immediately wonder how you ever managed to make it through the day at 2400 baud.

If you evaluate your PC purchases strictly on a need/economic reward basis NOT!, then your monthly data communications portion of your long distance bill will require an average of close to $40 a month to get a full pay back in about a year (28.8kb v.Fast is just around the corner). Another really good reason to move up is if you are doing a lot of remote software development and support that causes you to spend a great deal of time either on- line or transmitting program changes.

When you go to buy, the "old line" modem manufactures with a long track record of solid products is your safest play. These makers' modems will be the most expensive products out there, but you can be pretty much assured that the modems will perform as advertised with a life span greater than the average moth.

This is not to say that some of the heretofore unknown startup modem manufactures are not producing a viable product, you just need to do a little more work before you read the number on the plastic over the phone. I have noticed a distinct trend in the industry. If you can wait for six months after hearing about a new modem manufacture, then call the 800 number, and it is not disconnected, the manufacture has passed the first selection criteria.

You might also try calling the manufacture's support BBS system. It is kind of amazing the amount of "hate mail" some manufactures leave on their BBS ►

systems. You can also check to see what quality, or lack of, support you might expect after the purchase. If the modem manufacture has no support BBS system, you got to wonder why. Maybe, their modems won't run 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

The best advise I can give you is the most obvious. If you are interested in a particular modem, check around and find some people who are using that modem. Ask them how they like the modem, and if they would buy another from the manufacture. Try to talk to more than just one owner. Some people don't like to admit that they are unhappy with a product they own.

Should you ask a Sysop his opinion on his choice of modems? Maybe, just remember that he probably has a favorite modem. Also he, almost without exception, probably got the modems he is using at the "Sysop" price from the manufacture. This sizable discount carries with it the hidden baggage of at least potentially slanting the Sysop's opinion.

And a final note. If you can use a modem as a space heater or coffee cup warmer, do weigh the odds closely. After a hot running modem takes the big one, it won't even keep your coffee warm. I have noted a propensity of less expensive modems to generate excessive heat. That throws a whole new light on the term "hot" modem.

Fred

ImagePals

A review by Neal Berkowitz

ImagePals by U-Lead is a collection of three programs to make image processing easier. While other companies have taken the approach of just making the best image processing program, U-Lead has decided to take the approach of making the overall process more convenient. To this end ImagePals consists of a screen grabber program- Capture, a basic program to manipulate images- Enhancer, and a program to catalog images- Album All three programs run under Windows.

1.The first utility is the image capture program. The best description for this program is simplicity. Upon clicking the program icon, the user can select the type of capture to take place. Several options are provided ranging from capture of the active window to capture of a cursor selected area of the screen. With just a few point and click operations any part of the windows screen can be recorded to a file or to the clipboard for later manipulation. Giving the program even more versatility, the hot key and delay time before capturing the screen can be configured.

The second program in the collection is the image processor. At first glance it appears that this program is not up the level of its competition. It only has a few filters for special effects. Its ability to mask images for fancy manipulation is limited. It also has a limited number of import and export formats - although it does support JPEG compression.

But on closer look it has several features going for it. Since most images are still only 256 color mode, a program capable of handling these images is generally all that is needed. While it is possible to convert a picture to 24 bit color, manipulate the image, then convert it back to 256 color, it is simpler and often makes more sense to keep the image in the original format. Manipulating 256 color images is the Enhancer's strong suite. The palette can be manipulated either by changing the values for individual colors or by universally shifting shading. The effects of global changes can be seen immediately, both in the picture and in the palette located along the edge of the window. Adjusting brightness causes both the picture and the palette to reflect the change Changing the contrast, color saturation and tint produce similar results. The result was that I was able to adjust color balance in a set of improperly scanned images in a minimal amount of time.

While the 256 color mode is one of the better ones around, the conversion to 24 bit colors was disappointing. For some reason the resulting images appeared grainy. Judicious smoothing made the images more acceptable, but the time and effort needed to make an acceptable image was great. Going the other direction was more interesting. ImagePals presents the operator with several options when reducing the number of colors in an image. Going to a GIF format, the operator can select either a generic palette, a palette with a set number of red-blue-green shades, or a palette optimized for the specific image. A picture of red roses with many shades of red but few of blue could be translated to a palette of an equal number of reds, blues, and green, a palette of ►

almost all reds, or a composite number of shades. Each has its advantages. The generic palette would let the user view several images at a time with a 256 color board. The optimized palette would present the best image.

The final program, Album, is the real selling point of ImagePals. The Album program gives the user the ability to view a collection of thumbnail sketches of graphics files simultaneously. In the same way that a directory listing provides a textual overview of what files exist in the directory, an album graphically represents the contents of the images within the album. The benefits to the user are two-fold. First, viewing many images simultaneously permits quicker selection of a specific image. Second, an album lets the user quickly compare images. An example of an album can be seen in figure 1

Operations performed on albums are similar to the operations that can be performed on files in directories. Images within albums can be sorted based on file properties including name, size, and creation date. In graphics mode, thumbnails can also be moved around like slides on a slide tray.

Albums can be created either manually or through an automated procedure. Either individual images can be selected for inclusion into an album or full directories can be processed for graphics. In either case, a small thumbnail is constructed of the image in one of four user determined sizes, data relating to the image is recorded, and the path to the image is maintained.

This last feature is needed for some of the other nice features of the Album program. By double clicking on an image in an album, ImagePals will display a full view of the picture from its recorded location. The thumbnails can also be used for a "drop and drag" launching of selected programs. On one side of the album screen are the icons for the other ImagePals utilities and for user selectable programs. Images can be dragged over these icons to start the indicated program with the selected image. As an example, a person who uses Designer can add the Designer icon to the screen. Any image dragged over the icon will start Designer with the designated image preloaded. Multiple images can be selected and started with a single drop and drag.

Like any new program there are a few rough edges with ImagePals. Most, however are in the "not critical" category. First, sometimes ImagePals will report an image as being of an unrecognizable format. This is despite other programs being able to read the file. Of approximately 600 GIF and TIFF files that were added to albums, approximately 10 had problems. Some of these difficulties can be attributed to images with partially corrupted data. The remainder of the images, two, appeared to be perfectly normal when viewed by GIF viewers, but would not be processed by ImagePals.

Five other "problems" are more of person complaints than real deficiencies in the program. First, while images can be stored in compressed format, the album viewer seems to maintain its images in an uncompressed mode. This can lead to album files being far larger than necessary. This could be attributed to a desire on ImagePals to minimize the time required to view albums, but anyone desiring to maintain images should have a fast enough machine to make this consideration unimportant. Second problem deals with the border around each of the thumbnails. Each thumbnail has a fairly large border resembling a slide. While visually appealing, I wish there were some way to turn this feature off and get more images per page. The next complaint is one of logistics. While extensive features are available for archiving images the method required to build an album outside the ImagePals directory is a bit convoluted. The album has to first be created, then file manager called to move it. Accessing it from the new location is not difficult provided the user remembers where the album is. A scheme to keep the name and path of the album within ImagePals but permitting the album to reside anywhere would be a desirable feature. The final complaint also deals with image movement. While thumbnails can be moved and copied from album to album, it would be nice to have these features apply to files. Quite often after viewing a file, the operator might want to move it to a new directory. A final feature that would be appreciated would be tape archiving.

While this is a long list of desired changes, it should not be construed as real faults in the program. These are just things I would like to have to make my job easier.

Documentation for ImagePals is exemplary. U-Lead provides four thin manuals with ImagePals- one for each of the three programs and one generic overview and installation book. Information is repeated as needed in all the volumes. This makes it possible for an individual interested in only one program to read only the appropriate volume. Of special note are the sections on file formats. U-Lead presents the various file formats, the pros and cons of each format and numerous suggestions of how to work with images in their documentation. In short, the overview presented is an excellent introduction to image processing.

Overall, ImagePals is quite impressive especially since it is version 1.0 . Most of its features can be

found elsewhere but the overall integration of the programs makes ImagePals simple even for novice users. The album program is definitely the simplest and fastest commercial program available for keeping track of and using pictures. While the enhancer program is not as extensive as some of the competition, it definitely has its uses. The screen capture program is similarly useful. With the addition of the superb documentation, this program is one to be seriously considered by anyone needing the ability to work with large numbers of images.

Neal

Novell Network Classes
Taught by Certified Netware Engineers

- Netware 386 Admin. (3 day) $695
- Adv. Netware 386 Admin. (2 day) $495
- Price includes 200+ page **Wave** training manuals.
- Classes held at INFOMART.
- Prepare for CNA or CNE exams.

For full details, course outlines, and registration forms; call our 24hr automated information line with FAX capability. MicroTrain, Inc. (214) 746-5976

DATA BASE CONVERSION SERVICES

Mainframe to PC Conversion

DBASE • FOXPRO • PARADOX

A Partial and complete data base download

B On-site consultations

C No cost data analysis and test

Increase Productivity Today!

Convert costly mainframe data to the powerful, friendly and flexible world of personal computing.

ITC (214) 386-7043

Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

The NTPCUG is as 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 ___ (___) _____

Work ___ (___) _____ (Ext) _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below:

Payment:		Membership Classification:		Application Status:	
Cash	___	Regular ($24.00)	___	New Member	___
Check	___	Student ($16.00)	___	Rewnewal	___
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.

If you're not considering Lotus Ami Pro, you must know something the experts don't.

"**Ami Pro**® is the best word processor on the market... [it] goes the competition one better in every respect."

1992 MVP, PC/Computing 12/92

"**Ami Pro** 3.0 takes the lead over Microsoft® Word as the Windows™ word processor to beat."

Top Rating Ever for Windows Word Processor, InfoWorld 9/28/92

"**Ami Pro** 3.0 provides a host of new and enhanced features...that save time and make your work easier."

100 Best Products of 1992, Windows Magazine 2/93

"**Ami Pro** is the kind of program that I'd like to go out and buy right away. It's that easy and it did that much."

#1 Rating, Software Digest Ratings Report (Vol. 9, #6, 9/92)†

"**Ami Pro** 3.0...ups the ante in the fight among the Big Three: Ami Pro, Microsoft Word 2.0 and WordPerfect® for Windows. It's full of clever features that make your work easier and faster."

Award of Distinction, BYTE 9/92

"Beg or borrow time on a system running **Ami Pro**, and you'll soon see what a word processor should be."

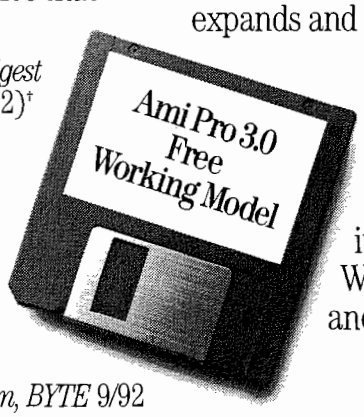
PC World 6/92

"**Ami Pro Version** 3.0...is the most graphical, colorful and in many ways the most powerful word processor on the market...no other package can match its ambition, its range of functions or the sheer pleasure of using it."

Best Products of 1992, PC Magazine 1/93

"You can learn to use **Ami Pro**...in about a day. Put the manual in a drawer as a first step. There are no required control codes, no deeply nested menus, no command words. This friendliness greatly expands and sharply changes the market."

Forbes 2/93



"In the Windows word processing world, **Ami Pro** 3.0 comes close to being perfect... it stands above Word and WordPerfect both in its function and in its speed."

Editor's Pick, Home Office Computing 1/93

Call **1-800-872-3387, ext. 8805** for your free working model or to upgrade from your current word processor for just $129.*

Lotus Ami Pro 3.0
Word Processor for Windows

†Among all word processors tested. Reprints of report available upon request. *Offer expires 9/30/93. Call for a list of eligible word processors. Education-priced Lotus products not included. Offer valid in U.S. only. Not to be combined with any other offer. Have your current word processor and credit card ready when you call. ©1993 Lotus Development Corporation, 55 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02142. All rights reserved. Lotus and Ami Pro are registered trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of WordPerfect Corporation. Software Digest is a registered trademark of NSTL, Inc., a McGraw-Hill Company. Adobe Type Manager and the ATM logo are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems, Inc. In Canada call **1-800-GO-LOTUS**.

Don't miss the Southwest's biggest multimedia event...

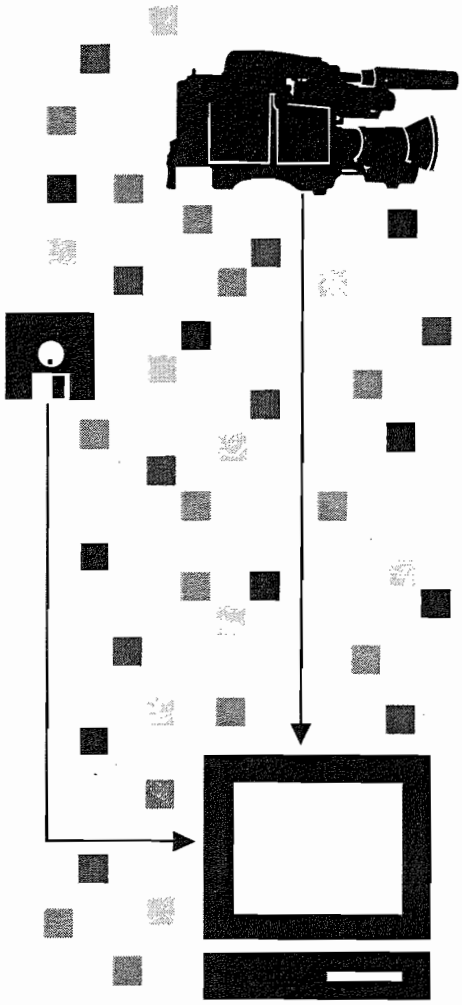


IMAGE WORLD™
DALLAS

JULY 13-15, 1993 • INFOMART, DALLAS
1950 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas

Including Video Expo

If you're responsible for creating images that train, educate and inform, you won't want to miss **IMAGE WORLD Dallas.** Here you'll meet close to 150 leading manufacturers and suppliers with hundreds of creative and affordable solutions you can implement immediately.

Update Your Knowledge... Sharpen Your Skills

The **IMAGE WORLD Dallas** comprehensive conference program focuses on the latest technologies and applications for interactive multimedia, video/desktop video, digital imaging and desktop graphics. You'll find sessions for every level of expertise, taught by experienced working professionals.

For detailed conference information call 800-800-5474 today!

Bring this ad to the show for FREE exhibits admission

You'll save the $25 on-site registration fee. Registration for the conference seminars is separate.

Exhibit Hours:

Tuesday, July 13	10:00am - 4:00pm
Wednesday, July 14	10:00am - 4:00pm
Thursday, July 15	10:00am - 4:00pm

The multimedia event where video, graphics and computers meet!

NTPC

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

The Variety Store

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

After DOS, Green monsters, Gerstner, Disk wars, CPU wars and Non-service -- Spring's a really strange season

Spring just gets stranger and stranger. April and May seem to bring out the most bizarre aspects of the PC business. First, *DOS 6.0* was released by Microsoft and left more questions than it answers. Then, there's a lot of finger-pointing in the hard disk industry, trying to pin the blame for the latest round of "Disk Wars" on someone -- or anyone.

Bringing up the rear (and that's appropriate) there's service -- or the lack thereof. Vendors seem to be breaking their own (sometimes quite shoddy) records for non-service over the past two months. Sometimes (Microsoft) they make up for problems with unexpected response. Other times (ChipSoft) they compound it with totally useless telephone systems -- "Press #1 ..."

Again, sometimes you get a real "shocker" when the mailman arrives.

"Twelve tons and, Faster than a horse"

I swear that's what the cover sheet said! Under the cover sheet was a truly awesome, bright green, soft and fuzzy dinosaur. A real "Green Monster" in the mail.

"Monster" may be a little strong for an 8-ounce, 15" high stuffed-toy dinosaur. It's incredibly cute! I think it's a Tyrannosaurus Rex doll, but I know it's an advance promotion for *Arts & Letters Jurassic ART*.

Computer Support Corporation of Dallas, publishers of *Arts & Letters Editor* and other graphics software, announced the newest addition to the *Instant Art* series of computer graphic products for Windows on April 5. *Jurassic ART* should be available locally by the time you read this blurb.

Shades of *Calvin & Hobbes*

I think all young children (and their parents as well) must go through a period of intense interest in the huge reptiles called "dinosaurs." Perhaps it's their size and power in relationship to parental figures. At any rate *Jurassic ART* features full line and Bezier curve drawing tools, 400 clip-art images of dinosaurs, prehistoric plants and scenery, and an on-line dinosaur database, "All about Dinosaurs."

Looks like a lot of fun for anyone interested in dinosaurs.

Multimedia drives OS Development beyond DOS 6's 640K barrier?

DOS 6.0 is old news. There may be a few surprizes (bugs and other undocumented features) lurking in its depths, but the main event has been placed in open view and we've all had a look.

Microsoft didn't ask me, but my own preference would have been to call it "5.5" since it lacked the feature we really need down the road -- realistic memory and driver handling. The 384K above 640K, even if the "hidden" 64K above 1M is included, just isn't sufficient for our needs -- now or in the future.

Multimedia takes the blame

Multimedia is driving the latest assault on memory. If you want to add a CD/ROM player, a sound board, on-line faxing capability, a scanner, etc., etc., etc., you plunge head-first into Microsoft's device-driver swamp. No matter how you slice it, there's still only 384K of UMBs available -- for all those drivers in addition to

Variety

SMARTDRV (or your favorite disk cache) EMM386, etc.

Maintaining backward compatibility with every PC produced since 1981 has a massive cost -- the above.

That's why *NT, OS/2* and *UNIX* are receiving so much media play. It's also why we all thought *DOS 6.0* was going to "break the barrier" and make better use of "protected mode" operation available in 286, 386 and 486 CPUs.

Enter *Chicago*

The media have a new toy to play with for the next year (or so) -- *Chicago*. What is *Chicago*, and why do we care? The last is easy, we care because of all the above. *Chicago* is the code name given to a Microsoft project that has been described by the media as *"NT-Lite," DOS 7.0, Windows 4.0, Windows and DOS 4.0* ... Take your pick, depending on who you read in *PC Week, InfoWorld, Wall Street Journal* or *Byte*.

Smart money rides on a combined DOS/Windows platform with an end to the 640K barrier via a fully protected-mode operating system. Makes sense, since *Windows NT* (at least my beta -- October) is much too much for a simple desktop user. This beast wants power, lots of power, DRAM and disk space.

What's really wanted/needed is something between the massive resource demands of NT and the dead-end represented by traditional DOS. *OS/2 2.X* might have filled this niche, but IBM's marketing has doomed OS/2 to a much smaller role (so far).

If nothing else, the new Microsoft OS will force us all to look at what we're doing now and what we'd like to do in the future with PCs. You'll be reading a lot of speculation about *Chicago* over the next year— at least.

Gerstner — New IBM helmsman Can the elephant dance?

Louis Gerstner, Jr., is the new CEO for IBM. He comes from a non-IBM, non-technical background to head up the largest computer maker in the world. And, IBM is in trouble. It's probably dying unless the new CEO can turn things around -- quickly.

The trade media blame old, entrenched, IBM "mainframers" for the giant's current plight. That may be the case. I tend to separate marketing incompetence from manufacturing, but I'm definitely not an IBM insider. Watching how IBM handled (or didn't handle) *OS/2 2.0* gave me some clues as to why the giant stumbled and began a long fall.

Gerstner may market IBM

I do know that Gerstner leaves a company noted for real marketing muscle (RJR Nabisco) for his new job at IBM. Whether he'll be able to "turn" IBM is up in the air. The fall may have taken IBM too low, too rapidly. Some of the media "experts" think that may be the case and that IBM's long failure to recognize the PC's real power may have put the Armonk armada too far behind other vendors.

Hard to say, but I'll bet we don't see potential customers having to beg IBM for product in the future.

Who began this round of "Disk Wars"?— Maxtor, Conner, Seagate or Quantum

If you haven't noticed, or read my column last month, we're back in the middle of another round of bitter fighting and price reductions in the hard disk industry. The impact looks to be about 5% - 10% per week on 200M+ drives.

At this rate, vendors may pay users to take drives below 100M off their hands.

The *Wall Street Journal* ran a brief news item on this in early April. Gist was that Seagate blames Maxtor, Conner and Quantum for the latest bloodletting. Conner blames Maxtor, Quantum and Seagate, while Maxtor says Quantum, Seagate and Conner are to blame. The really interesting thing is that heads of all these companies were at one time associated with Shugart and each other.

We'll reap the rewards -- for a while -- with unrealistically-low hard disk prices. We may pay a higher price -- in poor quality -- later, though. ►

Variety

Another war's brewing And CPU prices fall ...

Intel "dropped the other shoe" in early April by announcing that suggested list prices for the *OverDrive* processors would drop by "up to $100 per unit." The most expensive chip in the *OverDrive* series, the 33/66 MHz chip falls to $699 in the new Intel pricing structure.

That's not what these chips have actually been selling for, but street prices should fall accordingly. I haven't received any vendor pricing announcements, but they won't be far behind the Intel news release.

Some see the new price structure as an indication that the P5 or 586 will hit production quantities shortly and will be on the streets soon. It may also be a reaction to the very heavy sales volumes being racked-up by Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) and the Cyrix/TI 486 chips.

The latter, Cyrix/TI 486DLC CPUs are being sold at Super Saturday and 1st Saturday as "replacements" for 386DX CPUs at $125 per unit. Vendors claim they are a direct substitution for 386DX chips in newer motherboards with AMI BIOS sets.

Service for end-users Ranges from 'Great' to 'Terrible' in March

Service is generally one of the first casualties of too-rapid growth and/or severe cost-cutting in the PC industry. I've been following service for the past several months more closely than usual because of the massive PC price reductions and consolidation of vendors.

The following are a few service-related events in March and April I thought might be worth a few words here.

On service— Great!

This may be serendipity. I got another unexpected package in the mail, but somewhat smaller than the dinosaur, above. It was a miniature flashlight from MultiTech Systems. That's what MultiTech was giving away at Comdex in November '92.

When Connie and I dropped by the MultiTech booth, they had run out. The representative asked for a card and said MultiTech would mail it after Comdex. I've heard that before and it ranks just below "The check's in the mail" for Comdex fibs.

Surprize! It came, along with a flyer for MultiTech's "A Modem Primer" booklet. The booklet is a concise information booklet on modems, data communications software and how they work together. I saw a copy at Comdex and it looked very useful. Copies may be obtained from MultiTech at **(800) 328-9717**.

Service -- Good (on second try)

Microsoft is really trying to boost its service reputation. But, sometimes, no good deed goes unpunished. This is one of those times.

As the *Word* SIG Leader, I do have access to MS Word products via an "800" number. Service is very quick. However, I'm also interested in what the typical user meets at Microsoft, so I will usually ask for a maintenance update on one of my licensed Word copies via the public "800" service. I did that with a request for *Word for Windows 2.0*'s "C" maintenance upgrade.

Seven (7) weeks after my call, I received the disks -- for *Word for Windows 2.0B* -- yes, the "B" version I already had. I made a quick, and somewhat angry, call to Microsoft. The lady I reached was quite surprized I had received the "B" version. She promised to send the "C" version via UPS. She was polite and good-humored about it.

Two days later, I had the new "C" version. Nice recovery.

Service -- Terrible and getting worse

I received an upgrade notice for *TurboTax for Windows* in January. I like the product, so I called the non-800 telephone number on the flyer and gave the person on the line all the pertinent data such as name, address, credit card number, etc.

Six (6) weeks later, no *TurboTax* upgrade had arrived. Tried the telephone again. Got a recording announcing their new 800 number. Dialed the 800 number. Went through 20 minutes of "For sales ... Press 1 ..." Gave up. Tried again the next day and stayed on "hold" for approximately 15 minutes -- on a "Sales" line.

Variety

I drove a couple of miles and bought the upgrade for $19 less than ChipSoft's direct upgrade price. This is April 10, and I still haven't heard from ChipSoft. HowardSoft looks better and better.

Please don't shoot! We'll leave quietly

You see the strangest things at Infomart. Just as we were packing-up the Information booth late Saturday afternoon at the March Meeting, a fellow walked into Infomart toting a suspicious-looking bag.

Fred Williams, an expert on such things, said it was a shotgun case -- with shotgun.

The fellow thought Infomart was the Dallas Convention Center, and we were participants at the Gun Show. We informed him of his error and gave him directions to the Convention Center.

He left. We breathed easier.

Reagan

The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

This month I would like to report on the VBITS '93 conference held on March 29 and 30 in San Francisco. The title is an acronym for Visual Basic Insiders Technical Summit. The event was co-sponsored by BasicPro magazine and Microsoft. With only minor exceptions, it was an excellent conference.

The "stars" of the show were Mike Risse and Tom Button, both of Microsoft. You may remember, they visited our Super Saturday meeting last November and treated us to an announcement of Visual Basic 2.0. Mike Risse gave the opening keynote address. With apologies for his obvious partiality to Visual Basic, Mike gave the Microsoft vision for all its development tools, from Assembler through Visual C++, Fortran, COBOL, and Visual Basic. Microsoft's new vision includes applications described as Components and Solutions. He described Components as applications intended to be used over and over, like controls, subroutines, and dynamic linked libraries. Solutions were the applications developed to solve a particular problem like an inventory control system or a supermarket point-of-sale system. He ascribed the mission of Assembler and Visual C++ to the "Components" applications, the mission of Fortran and Cobol to large, calculation intensive business applications, and Visual Basic to the "Solutions" applications. Mike completed the Microsoft vision by describing changes in microprocessors (the Pentium), changes in microcomputers (multiple microprocessors on a board) and other hardware improvements which will challenge us as programmers to create bigger and better "Solutions."

The rest of the day was split into two tracks, one for Visual Basic for DOS and Visual Basic for Windows. My preference was Visual Basic For Windows so I took that track. Joe Robison of Microsoft gave us some tips on optimizing our Visual Basic for Windows code. Steve Podrachik of Microsoft switched his presentation (with nearly unanimous approval of the audience) to de-bugging Visual Basic for Windows code. At lunch, six vendors displayed their wares. The most popular booth during the whole show was Dan Appleman's Desaware display where he was selling his very popular book "Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Windows API" and his software package SpyWorks. Other vendors were Crescent, Software Source, BasicPro, Attachmate, Sheridan, and Media Architects.

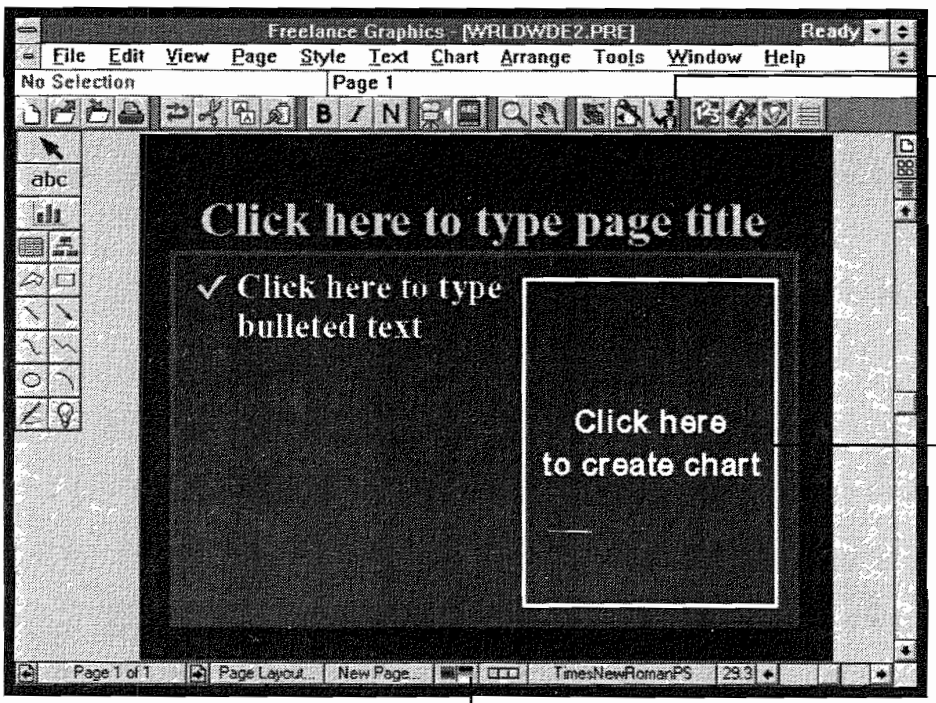
After lunch, there were talks on writing your own custom controls, implementing DDE/OLE in Visual Basic for Windows, and a description of Windows Development tools in competition with Visual Basic.

The second day began with a talk by Tom Button of Microsoft on Applications Programmability. The session required we sign non- disclosure agreements with Microsoft so they could give us some idea of what will be happening in 1993 with new products. Stay tuned.

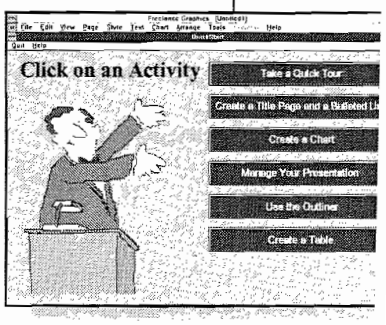
We again were split into two sessions and I attended sessions on Cross Platform DOS/Windows Applications by Steve Podrachik of Microsoft and Accessing the Windows API from Visual Basic by Dan Appleman of Desaware. Steve covered his topic quickly then went to the floor for Q&A. This worked very

►

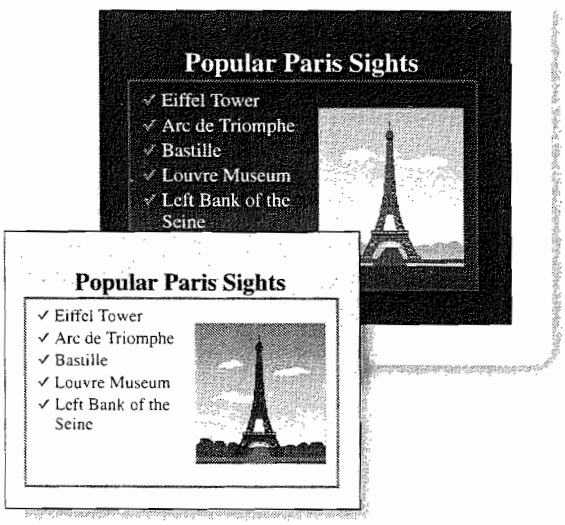
New Freelance Graphics
(Especially the decision



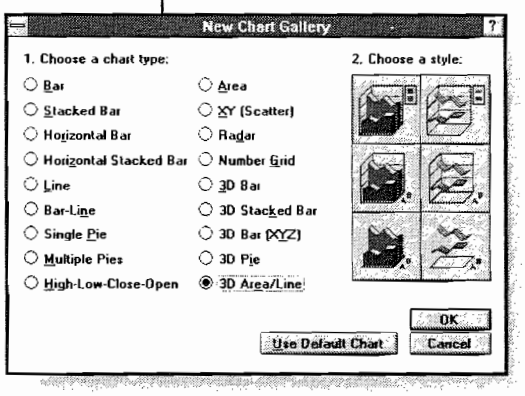
Single-click access to powerful presentation tools makes Freelance Graphics easy to use.



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.

© 1993 Lotus Development Corporation, 55 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02142. All rights reserved. Lotus and Freelance Graphics are registered trademarks an
Harvard Graphics is a registered trademark of Software

.0 makes everything easy.
o 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.

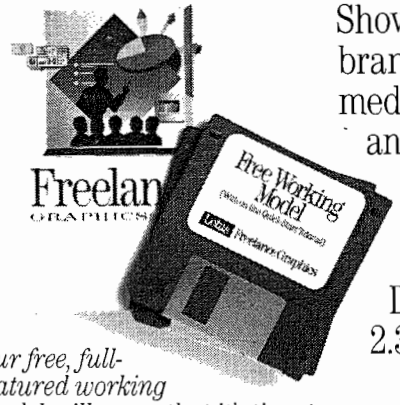
Now, in Release 2.0, we've built on the innovations of the first release, adding many ease-of-use enhancements and exciting new capabilities. And we subjected every enhancement to rigorous usability testing. The result is the fastest, friendliest, and most intuitive presentation software available today.

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; multimedia 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.

PC Computing MVP 92 WINNER™

Release 2.0 has already won PC Computing's coveted MVP Award.

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

Call **1-800-872-3387, ext. 8405** 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

te and SmartMasters are trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. Microsoft and Powerpoint are registered trademarks and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Corporation. Offer valid in U.S. only. In Canada call **1-800-GO-LOTUS.**

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)

From the SIG Coordinator:

As technology changes, so do our needs and therefore our SIGs. The following are proposed changes/additions that the NTPCUG has been asked to consider.

Groups Under Consideration:
Access meeting at 2:00. Contact Larry Linson (817) 481-2350
See Super Saturday's room schedule for location.
Microsoft Works Group at 2:00. Contact Debbie Meaney (214) 714-6000
See Super Saturday's room schedule for location.

New Groups Recently Formed:
WordPerfect for Windows at 10:00 am - Mitch Milam, Leader

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:
Spreadsheet Users. Contact Mark Gruner (214) 964-8174
Spreadsheet Developers. Contact Mark Gruner (214) 964-8174

New Leadership: Desktop Publishing. Frank Bede, Leader (214) 320-8305
Hardware Solutions. Charles Miller, Asst. Leader (903) 938-4220)
TI Pro. Jack McCurley (214) 241-1993 and Walt Rice

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

Leadership - at least one individual willing to lead the SIG and hopefully an assistant
Membership - at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

If you have a group that meets these qualifications or would like help in finding others that might share your interests, please contact me at (214) 517-7430 (H) or (214) 953-4970 (W).

NOTE: Please be sure to try other SIGs that you might have an interest in and don't ever feel you're too much of a beginner and wouldn't fit in. Remember, we all started out as beginners.

Alex Lilley

Visual Basic continued

well. Dan Appleman gave an excellent talk but 45 minutes was too little time.

At lunch time on the second day, there was a panel discussion entitled "Coping with Techno-Dogmatism." The panel was moderated by Kevin Strehlo, Executive Editor of InfoWorld Newsweekly. The question was...Why are Basic programmers not recognized as "real" programmers. One reason was that very few programmers would admit to programming in Basic. The moderator requested questioners to announce their name and, if appropriate, state whether they were a Basic programmer. The next several did so and were rewarded with great applause. The final questioner was a young lady that announced her name and then said "I am a recovering 'C' programmer." Needless to say, she received a loud round of applause.

After lunch, the talks were directed to database applications and Access was the featured topic. There were a few sessions on graphics, animation, and multimedia, as well. A session on Windows user interface design featured a demonstration of a pen computer that was programmed to assist dairy farmers in recording data on their herd right in the barn where they weigh the cow, take her temperature and record her general condition. Questions from the audience disclosed that the programmer had spent some time in the dairy barn with the farmer and his cows to optimize the interface. Not everyone sits down to their computer!

An event like this provides an opportunity to meet with other Visual Basic programmers and discuss our own subjects. Mike and Kay Carr, members of our Visual Basic SIG, were in attendance and we met several other Metroplex Visual Basic programmers. There is more to be learned during the social hours, coffee breaks and meals. Discussions with the vendors were also very informative.

Not everything was perfect in this, their first VBITS seminar, but I expect they will fix them in the next one. BasicPro says they plan two more in 1993 and three in 1994. We put in a request that they select Dallas for a VBITS site real soon.

I enjoyed it and felt the trip was very worthwhile. I believe that any Visual Basic programmer would benefit from attendance at a VBITS conference.

Jim

SIG

Microsoft Access SIG

Microsoft Access, a database management system for Windows, has generated a great deal of interest. Partly due to a very attractive introductory price, originally planned to end in January, but still available at some software outlets, sales of this new product have been nothing less than astonishing.

Access is intended to be easy to use for the novice, intermediate, and power user alike and to provide a capable platform for the database application developer. A graphic user interface conforms to design standards familiar to users of Microsoft's other Windows software, point-and-click macros are available so intermediate and power users can take advantage of additional features, and Access provides the developer yet another level of detail with Access Basic. Access Basic is a Windows extension of the Basic language that is the most widely-used microcomputer programming language, similar to Microsoft's Visual Basic and Word Basic languages. Microsoft has stated that they will be implementing Basic as the underlying user language for many of their Windows application software products in the near future.

Access' logo is a key to indicate it is your key to managing your data in the Windows environment. We have formed a new SIG in anticipation that it will be our key to effective use of the Access software. The organizational meeting held on April 24, included a discussion period along with questions and answers. An informal survey of attendees' areas of interest was taken -- results of this survey will determine the direction this SIG will take. Microsoft has long been know for the support they provide to user groups for their software products, and we are confident that they will continue with Access.

Our meeting on May 15 will offer new attendees the opportunity to express their opinion on areas that should be addressed in our programs, ask questions of, and share experiences with other members of the SIG. In addition, there will be a presentation that should prove interesting... final plans were not yet confirmed at the time of this writing.

Access is such a new product that gurus are a rare commodity. None of us is likely to be overwhelming anyone with Access expertise. Come meet with us and we'll learn about it together. We think we will have something to offer whatever your interest: general database application design and implementationtechniques, choosing an appropriate Windows database manager, and using (anddeveloping with) Microsoft Access.

Larry Linson

ACT SIG

The ACT SIG will complete a review of the macro capability built into ACT. The ACT SIG is continuing to devote a part of each meeting for SIG members to discuss the specific ways they are using ACT in their businesses.

Each meeting brings new ideas about using ACT and ways of configuring the options to improve its effectiveness as a business tool. The most recent topic involves work-arounds for FAXing, when you do not have one of the supported FAX boards.

We are expecting a response from Contact International concerning our request that they help us with a demonstration of ACT for Windows. I expect getting a firm date this month. I will keep you posted on our progress.

The ACT SIG continues to solicit your input to make sure that the meetings are a productive use of your time. I will see you at the next meeting.

Jim Thompson

Assembler SIG

The Assembler SIG meeting for April featured an interesting presentation by Randy Dryburgh on 486 game programming, with special emphasis on efficiency issues. Randy suggested the topic and volunteered to do the presentation. We are constantly looking for meeting topics of interest to all members and welcome suggestions (usually without obligation) from everyone.

The Spontaneous Assembly upgrades have finally arrived and we look forward to a product review and code samples using the new features at our May meeting.

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

Frank Cavallito

Visual Basic SIG

The Visual Basic SIG met on March 20 and discussed a couple of API calls used in Woody Pewitt's CLOCK program. Mike Carr gave a review of J. D. Evans' two books on Visual Basic, VB=MC2 and VB=MC4. ►

The Visual Basic SIG met on April 24 and (hopefully) heard reports from Jim Carter and Mike Carr on the VBITS '93 seminar they attended last month. It is hoped that VBITS will be held in Dallas at some future date. Plans are being made.

The first Beginners Visual Basic SIG meeting was held (hopefully) at 8:00 AM. The "hopefully" is because this is being written on April 9! At the meeting, we discussed what Visual Basic is, some good books for learning Visual Basic, and how the members want to proceed. We will have more to report next month.

This month, May 15, the Beginners Visual Basic SIG will cover the relationship between Visual Basic and the Windows environment and discuss how Visual Basic communicates with Windows. We will also make time for your questions.

The Visual Basic SIG meeting on May 15 will be a discussion of Dan Appleman's SpyWorks which has a debugging function but also has a very important educational function: it monitors the messages exchanged between your VB program and the Windows environment. Woody Pewitt will discuss this application of SpyWorks.

Remember, we start at 8:00 AM and be sure to check the board downstairs for the meeting room.

Jim Carter

Business Applications/DAC Accounting SIG

In spite of competition from the General Meeting presentation and other new and interesting SIGs at 1:00 pm, the April demonstration of DacEasy Payroll 4.3 by Larry Carter of DAC Software was well attended by those of us who have a need for a better way to handle the time consuming and never-ending job of managing Payroll. Linked with a Time Card program offered by one of DAC's "Strategic Partners," records are created, pay checks printed and periodic deposit & reporting requirements are kept on track. The fact that some of those in attendance left with some software from our drawing added even more to their enjoyment!

May will herald a shift back to other business related software by Bruce Schubert. Always on the lookout for creative programs to make life in the world of business more productive (or at least, more fun), we will have to wait and see what Bruce has up his sleeve and on his hard disk for May 15th.

We are looking forward to seeing some new faces of those members who have recently joined. I know that they will be eager to see all that membership in the North Texas PC Users' Group has to offer. Bruce & I invite you to try out this very NON-technical but highly informative Business Apps/DAC Accounting SIG.

Putt Shaw

Communications SIG & BBS SIG

The May meeting will be something unusual, but special, and will encompass both the Communications SIG and BBS SIG time slots. With the recent addition of over 400 new members, we feel there may be a need to cover all the basics of getting on-line to our Bulletin Board System. To test this hypothesis, we have arranged to bring in some hardware and software for a "hands-on" look at what is required to configure and install a modem and associated communications software. For those not yet into "BBS-ing", this may be a good place to start.

If you miss the meeting, we anticipate repeating this topic at least once more in 1993.

Regular Communications SIG and BBS SIG schedules should resume in June.

Doug Gorrie, Bill Green,
and technical advisor
Fred Williams

Community Service SIG (Dallas Computer Literacy Program)

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the people who made a contribution at the DOS 6 announcement on March 30th. We raised $1100.00 that night because of your contributions and Microsoft will match that bringing it up to $2200.00 for the night. You are probably wondering, "What will they do with all that

SIG

money?" Well a Board of Directors meeting in the Caribbean is always enjoyable; however, we have better uses for your donations. (I travel all the time anyway, and as many of you know, it loses its excitement quickly.)

Specifically, the Park South YMCA has recently been wired for a 20 computer lab. We are waiting on donations to come in and fill that lab. Additionally, we received a 386 computer that we are considering using as a file server for one of our computer labs that has XT equipment. We'll have some initial expenses for the Computer Baron's Ball (see below) this summer and general operating expenses, brochures, postage, etc. take more than one would expect. The net of it is that my personal checking account has been granted a reprieve from covering the DCLP expenses.

This month, I am presenting the Computer Literacy Program to four churches in the East Garrett Park neighborhood of Dallas. Habitat for Humanity and the Dallas Computer Literacy Program are teaming up to bring the Computer Literacy Program to East Dallas. Additionally I have received numerous calls from NTPCUG members interested in what we are doing and who are interested in volunteering time.

The additional BIG news is the COMPUTER BARON'S BALL. Yes you saw it correctly, the Computer Baron's Ball. The Dallas Computer Literacy Program will be hosting a charity ball this August 21st with the funds going to support the Dallas Computer Literacy Program's efforts to set up inner city neighborhood computer labs. We will have this ball in the atrium of the Infomart with a small buffet and a great dance band. More will come on that later, but keep your calendar open on August 21st for the 1st annual Computer Baron's Ball. This will be the first really large party for those of us in the computer world here in Dallas, so plan on getting your tickets early.

That's the highlights for this month with the Community Services SIG. Next month I'll cover the CD-ROM we will be publishing on the Computer Literacy Program and we'll know whether or not the NTPCUG has won a REACH (Recognizing Exceptional Achievement in Community Help) award from Ziff- Davis Publishing for the Computer Literacy Program.

For more information or to donate a computer call Brian Mickel at 521-6670 or Alex Lilley at 953-4970.

Brian Mickel

DOS SIG

"Hidden" gems in the new DOS 6.0 package will be topic for the May DOS SIG Meeting. There are more than a few.

You've probably haven't noticed a couple in your shiny, new, much-advertised MS DOS 6.0 upgrade. INTERLNK and INTERSVR -- both .EXE files and only given a few paragraphs in the documentation. Microsoft seems to think they are only useful for laptop PC owners.

Anyone with two PCs will find them invaluable. I use both quite a bit for tape backup as a result of working on the INTERLNK beta last year. The only catch is speed. If the user really wants speed with INTERLNK, use of the parallel ports via a parallel, null-modem cable is a must. If you've never heard of a null-modem parallel hookup, you aren't alone. Pin-outs for both serial and parallel cables are in the DOS 6.0 HELP utility.

Will these DOS utilities replace the dedicated link programs? Probably not if you already have one you like. But, if you've just purchased a notebook or laptop PC, or just want to transfer files between two PCs very quickly, they are quite handy -- and free.

I'll bring transparencies with the pin-outs and sample CONFIG.SYS command lines to the May DOS SIG Meeting. The remainder of the session will be devoted to the usual Q&A focus on SIG member's questions and problems with DOS operation.

Reagan Andrews

Desktop Publishing SIG

April marked the first meeting "under new management" for the Desktop Publishing SIG -- Frank Bede assumed the duties of SIG Leader at the March meeting. Frank is a photographer by trade and very enthusiastic about DTP. We will understand, Frank, if you are just a little biased toward the graphics subjects.

On behalf of all members of the SIG, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to D. Lewis Graber. Dee took the lead in re-forming this SIG and acted as interim Leader. The time and effort he expended paid off with a series of interesting and informative presentations. We will miss ►

you, Dee, and hope to see you in attendance from time to time.

Kim Pratt, a long-time member of the DTP SIG, presented our April program: "Using the Logitech ScanMan in Desktop Publishing" in response to a groundswell of interest in scanners. Thanks, Kim, for sharing your experience and knowledge of this fascinating topic with us.

Jim Sigle, another long-time member of the SIG, will present the program in May on the subject of "Typography, the Effective Use of Type." Jim has extensive experience in writing and publishing and we are very much looking forward to his presentation.

The DTP SIG covers all levels of interest and experience in desktop publishing, from the novice who uses a word processor to the professional using high-end desktop publishing software. Many of our topics, like Kim's and Jim's, are not restricted to PC-compatible hardware and aren't software-specific. Some members of the SIG are users of mainframes and Macs... we will welcome you no matter what your area of interest may be. Come see us on May 15, learn more about typography, and participate in the following free-for-all question and answer session.

Larry Linson

Personal Users SIG

The four Personal Users classes for May 1993 will be:

9:00 am	Class 1	Start Up
10:00 am	Class 2	Diskette Sizes & Formatting Each
12:00 am	Class 3	Copying & Backing Up Files
1:00 pm	Class 4	Personal Computer Hardware

Please be sure to attend any and all of the classes when they start over in May, whether or not you own a computer, just beginning to use a computer at home or at work, or consider yourself an intermediate user .

Bob Presley

Quicken SIG

Thanks to everyone for taking the time to fill out the questionnaires. Now programs for meetings can reflect the level of your experience and what you use Quicken for (personal/business/investment). And the phone number of a Quicken user may help you find advice in your hour of need.

In May we hope to learn more about revising our categories so that when next April rolls around, we will have meaningful data to input into our income tax returns. Next in importance is the report generating capability of Quicken. What good is keeping track of all those figures if one can't arrange them to reflect one's financial position?

And then in June the topic will be tracking and updating loans and amortization. And who doesn't have a mortgage or a car loan?

The July meeting will deal with bank reconciliations. How I hate them, but with Quicken, when I see that zero for no discrepancies between me and the bank the sense of relief makes it worthwhile.

When August rolls around, look for information about memorizing frequently used transactions. And don't forget Bill Minder for those intimidating and recurring expenses like insurance.

At the September meeting, you can find out from Jim Hall why investments are more difficult to keep track of than cash. And I know that there is someone out there who wants desperately to understand how to download stock prices from Prodigy into Quicken.

Jo Johnston

TI Pro SIG

We had a changing of the guard in the group. Ed Suggs, our long suffering leader, and his stand-in, Clifford Cade, have gone on to bigger and better things. Jack McCurley and Walt Rice either volunteered or were "volunteered" to take over the SIG leadership for the next year.

Topics of discussion during the March meeting were hard drives, politics, and the Bulletin Board System. Walt gave us a report on his $15 hard-drive. Things went well, it spun up like a champ, and during format was just zinging along. In fact, everything was perfect until....after the format a message appeared that stated something like "This doesn't appear to be a hard drive".

After that downer, the consensus was that we needed cheering up, so.... we had a round of politics. I'm glad to say it didn't spill over into religion or philosophy.

Tom Blackwell, our new SysOp, gave us a report on the TI-Pro BBS. It's all up and running, but after being down so long the traffic is light. Hopefully, as more and more people find out we're back on line, we'll see an increase in activity. Tom stated that we had lost a Winchester and were actively looking for a replacement. (Walt, does this give you any ideas?) Seriously, we're now

SIG

operating on one drive, so if anyone knows of a Miniscribe 3465 that's available please leave the SysOp a message (BBS 214/361-5275), or give me a call at 214/241-1993.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for Ed's effort in providing support for the group, both in leading the TI-Pro SIG as well as the dBase SIG. Thanks Ed for a job well done!!

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

J. McCurley

Unix SIG

At the March meeting Jim was unable to attend and continue his discussion of shell scripts due to commitments at work. However we were able to avail ourselves of the services of Pat Hykkonen, system administrator at Texas State Technical College in Waco. From his vantage point, Pat has had some interesting experiences of late which he shared with us. These include watching the FBI do their thing with a ring side seat on the stand-off down there. It seems the FBI took over a few buildings on campus when the siege began during spring break to serve as a command post. At the time of writing, it looks like the agents may get to graduate.

But while Pat did bring a lot of cult jokes with him to Dallas, this isn't the interesting experience I was talking about. In his capacity of system administrator, he has also installed 386BSD on several systems at the school. This public domain version of the UNIX operating system has generated a lot of interest within the group of late, so we were all eager to hear what he had to say.

Pat reported that for a basic system, you're going to need at least 40 MB of disk space. However, 50 or 60 MB will keep the system much happier. The binary distribution itself is about 14 MB. If you want the source, that's another 15 MB. You can fit the entire distribution on a 60 MB tape. Or, if you insist, you could put it on about 35 high density 3.5- inch floppies. As for minimum memory requirements, Pat has it running on at least one system with 4 MB of RAM.

As for where you can get a copy, several sites have it available. However, the base distribution site is agate.berkeley.edu. You can download it with ftp but you had better do it overnight as it will take awhile.

Doug Scott

Windows Developers SIG

At the April meeting, we discussed how to debug a Windows application. The discussion covered general C and Windows debugging techniques, as well as how to use an interactive Windows debugger. The debuggers covered were: the Visual C++ debugger, CodeView for Windows, Turbo Debugger for Windows, and MultiScope for Windows. Other topics included tracing techniques, using ASSERT, DBWIN, and the debugging version of Windows.

The May meeting covers how to build a C++ Windows application using Visual C++. To show how the process works, I will take one of the applications I have built using Visual C++ and go through the source code so you can see how it's constructed. I will also bring along some screen shots, so you can see how you use the Visual C++ programming tools such as: The Visual Workbench, Class Wizard, AppWizard, and AppStudio to construct Visual C++ applications.

Arthur English

Word SIG

May's WORD SIG Meeting will continue looking at add-on products for MS Word versions. The focus for the May meeting will be document conversion products capable of handling files from lesser-known word processors.

Yes, Word does a good job of importing documents from the major word processing packages. Still, there are a lot of older word processors not recognized by the Microsoft product and users may need one (or more) additional conversion programs in their day-to-day work.

Time permitting, we'll also look at Word's entry into multimedia -- Microsoft Word for Windows and Bookshelf on CD/ROM. This is kind of exciting -- a complete reference library and a great word processor combined into one package. How this package will interface with Word for Windows 2.0C is an interesting question and one we hope we'll be able to answer at the May SIG Meeting.

As usual, we'll close the SIG meeting with a Q&A free-for- all where members will ply the leaders and other members for answers to their problems with MS Word products.

Reagan Andrews

NEW DISKS ...from the D O M Squad

This disk is distributed on a 1.2M disk only

Disk 805. PC-Proof 1.5, 11/92 -- Grammar Checker, Franklin Hu, Copyright 1992 Intellect Systems, P.O. Box 58213, Renton, WA 98058. SHAREWARE FEE = $30.

PC-Proof is a grammar checker, not a style or readability checker. It detects errors in subject/verb agreement, missing articles, commonly confused words, double negatives, passive voice, dropped words, and extra words. It will also spot an insidious error that the spell checker can't find: the typo that is the correct spelling of an unintended word.

Once installed (see below), this is a very easy program to use. Documentation is provided, but the reviewer was able to run the program without bothering to read any of it. The program imports the file you want to work on, flags problems for review, accepts the reviewers input (ignore, edit, flag), and builds a report file. The grammar rules that the program is using can be reviewed (there is a help facility available to explain each rule), and the user can select which rules will be used.

The author wrote PC-Proof to run under a program manager like Microsoft Windows or Software Carousel, so you can run your word processor in one window, and PC-Proof in another.

The author's chief claim for PC-Proof's superiority over the competitors is that it will find grammar errors without overflagging correct sentences. Intellect Systems ran a test using their documentation file PCPROOF.DOC. This file contains 21 errors (placed there for demonstration purposes) and approximately 279 sentences. Using each programs default settings, they obtained the following results:

	Problems Flagged	Planted Errors Detected
Grammatik 5	173	15
Correct Grammar 4.0	124	10
RightWriter for Windows	204	9
PC-Proof	21	21

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 275K of memory, 850k of disk space, Dos 3.1 or higher. PC-Proof is compatible with WordPerfect, Word, Works, WinWord, ProWrite, PC-Write, WordStar and other word processors. Full mouse support is provided.

Recommended by Lewis Graber, Downloaded from Collector's Edition.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis (3/93).

Disk 806. WStyle 1.00, 2/92 -- Writing Style Analyzer, Wintertree Software, Inc., 43 Rueter St., Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2J 3Z9. License fee $25.00 plus $4.00 shipping and handling.

The capabilities of this writing style analyzer are similar to those found in many commercial software products. Word patterns are flagged for grammatical errors, awkward construction, punctuation irregularities, inconsistencies of tense or number, etc. -- anything that can be identified mechanically. The questionable words are highlighted and a description of the potential problem displayed at the bottom of the screen, along with suggested remedy. The program can be used on any text file on any disk. When you start it up, the directory of the default disk is displayed and cursor keys can be used.

Once the program is running, function keys are used to control actions to be taken. A bar at the bottom of the screen shows the relative position within the document.

The program can be run immediately using default values by typing WSTYLE, or the user can control several options. Error levels are given values of 0 - 9, based on estimated severity. You can set program (report level) to ignore errors below a selected level. Can be set separately for different error types, such as word usage, punctuation, spelling. Reading level of target audience can also be set and measured. The distribution copy does everything, but does not give statistical report -- only registered users get that.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Ken Loafman.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Will Davis (3/93).

Disk 807. The Garden Guide 1.0, 2/92 -- An Introduction to Gardening, Version 1.0 February 1992, Donna M. George, ASCEND SOFTWARE, Rt. 3, Box 607, Altoona PA 16601-9413. Shareware registration $10.00.

This simple to use menu driven program is the software equivalent of an introductory book on gardening. It is composed of text screens accessed from a hierarchical menu. First come the fundamentals - choosing a site, planning the size and shape, preparing the soil, and so on. While it is far from an in depth treatment, it can serve as a guide for the beginning gardener. A "garden worksheet" can be sent to your printer.

Much of the information pertains to vegetables, and the program provides a chart which can be printed, giving the depth and spacing needs for each vegetable as well as number of days from planting to maturity. A timely topic, an introduction to composting, can be useful to any homeowner.

Other submenus include one pertaining to herbs - how to dry them, how to store them, and a good list of herbs describing the size, growing needs, and uses of each. Another submenu contains some recipes for using herbs and other garden specialties. (Presumably the registered version has a more extensive set of recipes).

The last menu option brings up a list of some 20 addresses for sending for seed catalogs.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Ken Loafman.

This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Will Davis(3/93).

Disk 808. Computer Book on Self-Esteem, The Official Human Being License by Robert F. Sarmiento, Ph.D., Psychologist, 9525 Katy Frwy., Suite 210, Houston, TX 77024, 713/465-2456. Registration fee: $6.95.

Whether or not you are having problems with self-esteem (your own or others), you will enjoy this presentation of human foibles.

The Author's Statement: - This computer book explores the issue of self-esteem from a humorous point of view. It encourages you to give yourself permission to be what you actually are -- a fallible, imperfect human being. In granting yourself an Official Human Being License, you will have the right to make mistakes, fail miserably, get needlessly upset and act in foolish, self- defeating ways. Not putting yourself down for being human will empower you to make positive changes in yourself and your life.

To bring up the book, at the DOS prompt type BEGIN. It is very easy to use. After you bring up the menu, you are presented with such topics as:

- Making a fool of yourself - How to get a swelled head - Inferiority apartment complex - Bad habits I have known

After you select a topic, you are presented with a list of ways to manifest this particular behavior in order to derive the maximum amount of amusement from indulging in it, and then with list of ways for coping with the behavior.

If you register, you will receive a printed, illustrated copy of this book; a license with your name on it, suitable for framing, that certifies you as an Official Human Being; a wallet sized version of your Official Human Being license (gosh, that could be really useful); and a bibliography.

The source for this software was the author, R.F. Sarmiento.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis(3/93).

Disk 809AB. Object Oriented Programming, JORF Version 2.0, Wayland Bruns, The JORF Company, 25858 Elwood Road, Colton, OR 97017. (503) 824-5673 SHAREWARE FEE = $85.00.

JORF is an innovative new programming language that runs identical programs in DOS text mode and under Microsoft Windows. Fully object oriented, the language features a data base manager, virtual memory for variables, a window and button manager, and a multi-level report writing system.

The package includes interpreters for DOS and MS-Windows, editor, source level debugger, tutorial, context help, full manual on disk, and sample programs. The language supports arrays, pointers, variable length records, text elements in records, multiple indexes, and network access to files. A compiling system is available.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Requires MS-DOS 3.1 or above. Requires hard disk. Windows version runs under Windows 3.0 or 3.1.

The best way to get started is to run the JORF Tutorial. From the DOS command line, type JORF TUTORIAL. From Windows, select the educated goat icon.

The Tutorial is a hypertext application that features self writing programs. Press 'Q' to run the Quick Demo that writes the program code for a new window as you watch. To exit the current program press Alt-X.

If you type JORF, or if you click the JORF icon, you will be started in the JORF Editor and Debugger. Select File, Open to see a list of programs. Many of the programs are very small and are examples for various commands.

The source of this disk is the Vendor.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Will Davis (3/93).

Disk 810. fastword GOLD 2.0, 12/91 – Editor for Small Text Files, Text/Batch File Editor, Copyright (C) 1991- 92 by: Jack W Hildenbrand, jwh: SoftWare, PO Box 410 9500 St.Rt.61, Berlin Heights, Ohio 44814. Phone: 1(419)588-3608.

fastword GOLD is a DOS text editor that is capable of working with text files with up to 666 lines and with text lines up to 255 characters long. Although primarily designed for working with system files(AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS), it makes a great editor for editing or creating batch files or small document or readme files.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENT: You must have a VGA color card and monitor installed to operate the fastword GOLD Text/Batch File Editor. fastword GOLD operates in VGA graphics mode with full point and click mouse support. It allows cut and paste between files or within a file.

The source of this disk is the Vendor.

This review prepared and edited by John Puckette (3/93).

Disk 811. $ell Your Know-How 2.1, 11/92 – Shareware Tutorial, Intelligent Educational Software, P.O. Box 11282, Spring, TX 77391-1282. Phone/Fax: (713) 251-7517 SHAREWARE FEE = $15.00.

This diskette includes two products: a Shareware Tutorial, which tells how you can sell your know-how as Shareware, and a Shareware Distributor database.

When it was issued in November 1992, this Freeware extract from the I.E.S. Distributor Database contained the names and addresses of 342 Disk Vendors approved by the Association of Shareware Professionals and distributed as follows:

United States (USA) : 211 Canada (CAN) : 35 World Wide (WW) : 96

The I.E.S. Distributor Database 2.1 is an active one, used by I.E.S. to market their Shareware programs. Unlike many distributor lists, it does not contain out-of-date addresses or distributors who have gone out of business. The database is updated monthly, the information coming from ASP official lists and from the results of I.E.S. mailings.

The source of this disk is the Vendor.

This review prepared and edited by John Puckette (3/93).

This Disk Distributed on 1.44M Disk Only

812. Buick Dimensions 1993 – Demo of Buick 1993 Cars, Created by The Inmar Group for the Buick Motor Division of General Motors.

The Buick Dimensions 1993 is primarily designed for those interested in Buick cars for the 1993 model year. The program enables the user to look at options of features of any vehicle in the Buick 1993 product line. The program has outstanding graphics for a VGA monitor. The program is so easy to use, there is no need for documentation. If interested in buying a 1993 vehicle, this disk will let you examine the 1993 Buick cars in the privacy of your own home on your PC. All this and mouse support too.

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

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(3/93).

Disk 813. PKZIP 2.04g, 2/93 – Revised PKZIP Compression Utility, PKWARE, Inc., 9025 N. Deerwood Dr., Brown Deer, WI 53223-2437. 414-354-8699 Voice – 414-354-8559 FAX – 414-354-8670 BBS Shareware fee = $47.00.

A newer version of PKZIP 2.04. Eliminates the false "virus" indication that some scanning programs found on Version 2.04c (NTPCUG disk 791).

PKZIP 2.0 incorporates new and improved features.

- Highlights include: - Improved Compression - Multi-Volume Archive Support with diskette formatting. Now you can use PKZIP to backup your hard drive as well as ZIPping your files, and formatting on the fly doesn't mean you have to preformat your disks. - Improved Memory Use. If present, PKZIP will use EMS, UMB, and HMA memory to reduce the run size to as little as 85k of conventional memory. - DPMI Support. PKZIP will run in 32-bit protected mode if DPMI is available, yielding much faster run times on DPMI hosts.

Downloaded from Collectors Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Will Davis (3/93).

This disk is distributed on a 1.2M disk only

Disk 814. LaserJet Printer Drivers, 11/92 – HP 4/4M Drivers for Windows 3.1, Hewlett-Packard Company, Boise Divsion, PO Box 15, Boise ID 83707-0015 FREEWARE.

Hewlett-Packard has released drivers for their new HP Laser-

►

Jet 4 and 4M printers. This disk contains the HPPCL5E Printer Driver Version 31.1.03 for use with Microsoft Windows 3.1.

The source of this disk is the Hewlett-Packard Company.

This review prepared by Will Davis, edited by Kathryn Loafman (3/93).

This disk is distributed as a 1.2M disk only

Disk 815. Corporate Directories, 10/92 -- Industry Database with CEOs, Demand Research Corporation, Publications Division, 625 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago IL 60611, Subscription price - $59.95 per month for full database; $100 annual with quarterly updates; $249 annual with monthly updates.

This software contains useful information for salesmen, entrepreneurs, job seekers and others. The full database available from the publisher consists of name, address, phone, FAX, Ticker symbol, CEO, CFO and industry classification of 5,000 publicly held corporations. Specifically it includes those listed on the NYSE, ASE, and NASDAQ exchanges.

It is available in various formats: Standard ASCII, Comma delimited ASCII, dBaseIII+ and LOTUS 1-2-3, and is updated monthly by the publisher.

The sample files on this disk contains the following:

- 500 Corporate MIS officers with addresses, etc. - 900 Corporate officers responsible for personnel, etc. - 800 Marketing and Sales executives, etc. - 200 Manufacturing executives, etc. - 500 Corporate Controllers of NYSE companies, etc. - 500 Corporate Treasurers of NYSE companies, etc. - 250 Publicly held computer industry corporations, etc. - 100+ Telecommunication industry corporations, etc. - 1100+ FAX numbers of listed corporations

In all cases, the industry and/or category of the corporation is included.

The source of this disk is Demand Research Corporation.

Review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Will Davis (3/93).

Disk 816. Grandma's Recipes, 10/92 -- Favorite Recipes and Hints, Longlastings, PO Box 519, Coupeville, WA 98239-0519. (206) 678-6381 Shareware Fee = $14.95.

This is a sample of software for the decidedly non-technical user. A series of menu driven text files called "chapters" by the author, are easily accessed from an executable file (GRANDMA.EXE). The distribution disk contains several subdirectories, one of which is GRAM. More about the others later. GRANDMA is the only .EXE file in the GRAM subdirectory.

The menu, or table of contents, lists food categories such as jams and jellies, salads, main dishes, soups, & desserts. These are the chapters, each of which begins with some historical background. Two or three representative recipes from the category are given, along with a list of a few recipes which are included only on the registered disk.

Some interesting samples on the disk: Rose Hip Jam, Cranberry Conserve, Frozen Slaw, Pickled Beets, Clam Chowder, Cherry Crisp, Grandma's Gravy. Some tempting ones you'll have to pay to get: Canteloupe Preserves, Zucchini Jam, Great Grandma's Scalloped Corn, Fresh Apple Cake.

The menu also has options for printing and for ordering other recipe books.

In addition to Grandma's Recipes, samples of several other products from Longlasting are on the diskette. Each has it's own subdirectory and follows the same format. Each represents a separate shareware product, priced individually (under $20.00).

The other products and their subdirectory names are:

- How to Have Good Health Naturally with Herbs - HERBS - The User Friendly Advertiser - ADVERTIS - 300+ Wholesale Sources - SOURCES - Greenhouse Gardening - GREEN - Ginseng $ From Your Backyard - GINSENG - 200+ Computer User Sources - COMPUTER - Organic Intensive Gardening in a Small Space - GARDEN

It's something like a Good Housekeeping Magazine on disk.

Source of this disk is Kathy Long, the author.

Review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Will Davis (3/93).

Disk 817. Grandma's Greatest Recipes, 4/92 -- Old Recipes, Tips and Hints, Allen D. Boger, Box 672, Antwerp OH 45813 Freeware.

This is an interesting collection of old time recipes, tips and hints. The recipes were written for an old wood burning stove and give a glimpse into the past and the work it took to put a meal on the table. Time and temperature settings are absent but the author states he has tried many of them with success using the settings from similar more modern recipes.

Start the program by typing BEGIN. A bar menu is presented from which the various "chapters" may be selected. These include an Introduction, Cakes, Cookies, Pies, Eggs and Cheese, Pickles and Such, Salads, Odds and Ends, Health and Beauty Tips, and Household Hints.

Among the recipes are those for Applesauce Cake, Molasses Cookies, Buttermilk Pie, Welsh Rarebit, Spiced Beets, Bean Raisin Salad, and Rolled Oats Griddle Cakes. Worried about warts or dandruff? Consult the Health and Beauty Hints. Need to quiet a pair of squeaky shoes? Look in Household Hints.

DOM Mail Order Form

Mail to: NTPCUG, DOM Mail Order
P.O. Box 780066,
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Specify disk size: 5.25" ❑ 3.5" ❑

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 _____

A Volume 2 of Grandma's Greatest Recipes containing over 200 recipes and more are available from the author for $9.95, including postage and any tax.

The source of this disk is Allen D. Boger, the author.

Review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by Will Davis (3/93).

Disk 818. Sleek 2.3, 5/92 -- File Re-formatting Utility, May 3, 1992, SLEEK is Copyright 1991, 1992 by Lambert Klein, P.O. Box 611, Wayne MI 48184. Voice telephone: (313) 326-1583 SHAREWARE FEE = $10.00.

SLEEK is a high-speed text reformatter. Its purpose is to alter the lengths of lines in plain-text files, such as those created by text editors or files saved "unformatted" -- but with "hard" line endings within paragraphs -- by word processing programs.

SLEEK is useful for reformatting text files with relatively short line lengths. If you're using compressed mode for printing, you might prefer that the lines be longer (thereby saving some paper). SLEEK can help by increasing the line lengths to your specifications.

You can tell SLEEK to format the line lengths out to a specified column, from 10 to 60,000. If you do not specify any column width, SLEEK changes all paragraphs in a text file to a single long line. This function is useful to people who must take text files containing many "hard" line breaks and import them into a desktop publishing program or open them with a word processing program. It is almost always desirable to allow such programs to make their own decisions about line breaks. "Hard" returns inside paragraphs in typical plain-text files block automatic line-wrapping. The solution is often either tedious manual reformatting or multiple passes through the file with a search/replace program.

SLEEK first trims extra spaces from the ends of lines. Then, on any line to be merged with the one below it, the "newline character" at the end of the line (actually, a carriage return followed by a line feed) is removed and replaced by a single space. Reformatting stops at the end of a paragraph (which, from SLEEK's point of view, occurs when there are two or more new lines in a row) and begins again at the top of the next paragraph. (SLEEK does not do anything to blank lines.) Reformatting does NOT occur on any lines that begin with one or more spaces OR tab characters. Thus, you can use leading spaces or tabs to help control how the output file will look.

SLEEK never over-writes your original file. It creates an output file having the same "base" name as the input file, but with the extension ".SLK." Thus: INPUT.DOC --> INPUT.SLK.

SLEEK is an unusual utility, well worth the $10 registration fee.

The source of this disk is the Vendor.

This review prepared and edited by John Puckette (3/93).

Dachshund

A review by Neal Berkowitz

Dachshund is a unique package distributed by the SPCA. The SPCA (not to be confused with SPA the makers of Harvard Graphics) is a large, yet relatively unknown organization to most software reviewers. Many packages fall into disregard when abandoned by their producers. Framework and Top View are two that come to mind. SPCA specializes in the placement of orphaned packages to interested parties. While it cannot be definitely proven, Dachshund was originally produced by Beagle Brothers Software, noted for their Apple products.

Dachshund is different from most software. Unlike most packages, Dachshund will run under a variety of platforms. Dachshund will run under Windows, it will run under Macintoshes, it will run under eunuchs, and will even go under larger amigos. From its layout, it was definitely made from low level building blocks and was designed to have a small footprint. In fact, with its low overhead, it will even run under some taller couches.

For my testing, I limited Dachshund to running under windows and running under my computer. In both cases it performed admirably although it had a tendency to stop under windows when unexpected events took place.

The first problem with Dachshund was to figure out exactly what it could do. There was no instruction manual provided so I had to guess about its operation. To compound the problem, the SPCA is a firm believer in bankers' hours. While they have a local number, no one was present after 5 PM.

Dachshund's capabilities were revealed while it was initially running under windows. Some external event triggered Dachshund's built in speaker module. For a while it appeared that I would have to kill Dachshund to stop the playback but there appears to be a time delay associated with the sound. After 10 minutes it terminated normally.

After this discovery I was a bit more cautious about it running rampant, so I chained it to a stack of other programs I was working on. That was when I discovered that Dachshund could be used to fetch other programs. Several applications were launched (across the room) when "dragged and dropped" by Dachshund. This drag and drop is an interesting capability but it would have been better if SPCA had made it a little less robust.

Another proven function of Dachshund is its ability to shred documents. When Dachshund gets hold of a document, it becomes totally unusable after a few minutes. This shred feature can also be used with boot and mail functions.

BeckerTools

A review by Neal Berkowitz

BeckerTools 3.0 by Abacus is a collection of utilities designed to increase productivity within Windows. Just like a Swiss army knife, BeckerTools has a feature for almost every purpose. Also like the army knife, there are features that are almost never used as well as features that are almost impossible to live without. In many respects, BeckerTools is similar to PC Tools. While some of the specifics differ, the major difference between the two programs is that Abacus designed BeckerTools to work within Windows. PC Tools still has the feel that Windows was an afterthought.

With such a large grab bag of features it is easy to miss some of them. Abacus strongly recommends that the user first read the manual to get a feel toward all the programs within BeckerTools. It is a suggestion I fully agree with. Even after working with the program for several days, I discovered several overlooked features when I reread the manual.

The components within BeckerTools fall into seven major areas. File management ranges from directory viewing, to file finding, to undeleting files. Disk management functions are responsible for formatting, copying, defragmenting, and refreshing disks. File archiving includes both an archiving compression and a disk backup feature. File viewers are present to examine both graphic and text based files. Then there are several editors with functions ranging from viewing text files in both ASCII and hex formats to editing disk files. There is also a special "INI" editor to edit Windows INI files. A printer function permits printing files in either an ASCII or hexadecimal format. Finally, there is a screen saver.

The key to BeckerTools is the central shell program which functions as both a file manager and as a launcher for the other Becker programs. Using pull down menus and a user customizable tool bar, the user can duplicate all of the features of Windows file manager. Additional file functionality is provided to the Becker file manager by the use of color and sym- ►

Dachshund continued

It has been suggested by some that one of the uses of Dachshund might be that of a pointer in the same way that optical pens or mice are used. While that functionality is suggested, Dachshund does not do well at this task. Upon contacting user support at SPCA, they suggested that Setters (also available from SPCA) are better suited for this purpose. Unfortunately, Setters require far more overhead than does Dachshund.

One of the least appealing features about Dachshund is that the designer must have taken some of the features of mice and adapted it to his efforts. A user can set mice to leave mouse trails across the screen. That is nothing when compared to what Dachshund leaves behind. Droppings were noted on the computer after Dachshund was run on it. I could not locate a mechanism to turn this feature off.

Another problem noted about Dachshund was that it is extremely susceptible to virus infection. It is strongly suggested that the owner of Dachshund protect the program with periodic anti-virus protection to prevent infection. Failure to do this could result in a dead system.

The final major problem with Dachshund is the amount of space it requires. While some will say that all that is required is a single byte from Dachshund to determine its limits, it appears that Dachshund will use whatever real estate is provided for its operation. It is compatible with most software and hardware although users should be aware that the Unix CAT command will give it fits.

Windows supports user selection of color. Unfortunately, changing the colors of Windows does not affect Dachshund. The only way to change the colors is by using Paint, which is thoughtfully supplied with Windows. Care should be taken, however, since this could severely affect the look and feel (especially until the paint dries) of Dachshund.

The popularity of Dachshund among most users is at best lackluster. On the other hand, kids love Dachshund. Three kids were introduced to Dachshund as a test. All fell in love with it and had to be forcibly dragged away upon concluding the test. It is thought like all software, that as it matures its "like-ability" will be diminished.

The bottom line is "how good is Dachshund?" According to several reviews it is rated as a dog. However, personal experience shows otherwise. With appropriate training Dachshund can easily be considered "Man's Best Friend."

Details:

Dachshund version unknown, release date April 1, 1993
Released by: SPCA
Price: freeware (high upkeep, however)

Neal

bol coding of file icons. Executable files are one color, files associated with a specific application are a second color, non-associated files are a third color, and directories are a fourth. This eliminates the surprise of trying to start a file from file manager only to have Windows inform you that there is no associated application. Unassociated files have an implicit association of the Becker text editors. When the user selects one of these files a menu appears asking the user to select either the ASCII or hex editor to view the file.

Two additional features of the shell program deserve mention. The super search feature gives the user the ability to search an entire disk for a specified file name. Wild card characters are permitted in the file name. The second feature is file association. Without having to go into the WIN.INI file, the user can associate a file extension with an executable file. The user only needs to answers a few questions in dialog boxes; BeckerTools then makes the WIN.INI modifications. The only problem with this feature is the lack of a browse operation. The user has to know where the associated application is and must enter the file name and path manually.

While overall far better than file manager, there are two other problems with the shell. First, the user can only view two file windows at a time. Second, if a specific BeckerTools operation is already running, trying to start it from the shell produces an error message. The program cannot switch to the already running application nor can it start a new copy of the program..

The strongest features of BeckerTools are in the area of disk management, in particular disk copy and disk format. Using File Manager, these functions move at a crawl. By moving most of the operation to a background mode, BeckerTools keeps the functionality of these operations while allowing the operator to do other things. Other options within BeckerTools give the operator additional functionality. A multiple copy feature gives the user the ability to make more than one copy of a disk at a time. The source disk does not have to be reloaded for each copy operation. Swapping disks is now a thing of the past.

The final two disk management functions , disk refreshing and disk defragmenting, are relatively standard programs. Both do their jobs as described. While defragmenting a disk is a necessary operation, it can be very dangerous to do it under Windows. Abacus is aware of this and strongly recommends that no other program be running when disk defragmenting is taking place.

In the area of archiving, BeckerTools provides two utility programs. The first of these is a disk backup program. All the basic features are present including incremental as well as full backup, backup based on user determined parameters, user point and shoot file selection to determine files to be backed up, and disk compression. Interesting features include a very good file compare feature to compare the backup to the present files on the hard disk and the ability to skip missing disks or bad tracks on a specific disk during the restore operation. On the negative side, this program does not support tape backup. A second weak area is that of possible confusion regarding what files are being backed up. The only indication the user has of what files are to be in a backup set is by the highlighting of the files to be backed up in the file list. What is also needed is some indicator in the directory tree listing. This would provide a quick method for the user to determine the scope of the backup operation.

The other archiving program is very similar to backup. The major difference is that the resulting compressed file is saved on disk instead of on floppy. Abacus blurs the difference between the two functions, however, when they state that the user can then copy the archived files to floppy diskettes.

One of the most useful sets of features within BeckerTools are the file viewers. The viewers support graphics and can display files in GIF, PCX, TIFF, IFF, LBM, PIC and BMP formats. Text viewing is also supported as is viewing of files in hexadecimal format.

BeckerTools also has several editors beginning with an ASCII text editor. The editor is superior to both the Notepad and to Write. While not a full function word processor, it has the features needed for a quick-and-dirty editor. First, it is fast loading. Second, it provides all the basic functions needed in an editor (cutting, pasting, marking, etc.) . Finally it displays the file in a user selected font. There are also a few nice features like automatic indentation. The only real complaint to an otherwise superior editor is that the program can only display one file at a time. To visually compare two files, each file has to opened up in a separate running copy of the program. It would have been nice if two files could be tiled so they could be compared.

The second group of editors, the hexadecimal disk and file editors, come with a warning stating that they are not to be used by someone who does not know what he is doing. The point is further emphasized by the presence of a user selectable password protect option with these editors. Other than this, the editors are typical and have all the usual features of hex editors. Naturally the disk areas are viewed in the most obvious format. For example the root directory is shown as file entries.

The most interesting editor is the "INI" editor. While INI files are text based, their format could be very confusing or daunting to the novice user. By presenting the files as scrollable menus with associated options, the idea of editing one of these files becomes

►

far less menacing to a novice. It can also lead to fewer mistakes being made by the advanced user. While it is possible for the user to call up the appropriate .INI file and edit the appropriate lines, it is so much easier to have a program to lead one through the process.

The printer features provide the same functionality for obtaining a hard copy as the text viewers do to display text on the monitor. While not fancy, it can be very practical when the user needs a hexadecimal dump of a binary file.

The final feature of BeckerTools is the screen saver. It is comparable to all the other screen savers on the market. Of course, there is the customary aquarium screen saver but this one is nonviolent. The fish swim around instead of eating each other .

Overall, BeckerTools is a mixed bag. Some of the features are extremely useful and are becoming an integral part of my operations with Windows. Others are not critical but, when needed, are very nice to have at hand. Finally, others fall into the "I don't think I really need this" category. The real key to this program is the number of tools. For the money, there is enough that even the most finicky of people will find something to their liking.

Details:
BeckerTools Version 3
Abacus
5370 52nd Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Neal

Telix 3.21 Review

By: Fred Williams

Since the 3.15 version release of Telix and the current 3.21 release of Telix, much has happened. Exis Inc., the Canadian company that originally developed Telix, sold the entire product to the former Exis Technical Support Manager, Jeff Woods. The chief programmer of the prior Telix releases, Colin Sampaleanu, has remained at Exis.

Jeff Woods has established a new company, DeltaComm Development, located in Cary, North Carolina. DeltaComm is continuing to provide support and upgrades. Telix, 3.21 is the first release from DeltaComm.

Telix 3.21 is considered a "minor" upgrade release and is available to all registered Telix users for $8.00 plus $2.00 shipping and handling. There is also a full shareware release of Telix 3.21 available from the North Texas PC User's Group, Disk Of the Month.

I have extracted portions of the text from the Telix 3.21 release announcement which highlights some of the more notable enhancements included in the release:

- File transfer graphic representation bars have been added to all protocols. They now display a running presentation of exactly how much a file transfer has left to go.
- Transfer estimates are now based on the DCE rather than DTE connect speed, making them much more reliable. Your modem must return the DCE speed as the first number after the connect string to take advantage of this feature.
- Added a "script learning" feature to the registered version.
- Telix can now Swap to EMS/XMS/disk on a DOS Shell as an option.
- Added a fifth external protocol, and added "Auto-download" triggers for all external protocols. If your external protocols have strings that uniquely identify an incoming file, such as HS/Link, you may now enjoy the automation of Zmodem on these externals as well.
- The SALT dial function now returns the proper value when the dialing is aborted by the user.
- Corrected Zmodem cps rates to reflect more accurate (faster) rates.
- Added /D command line parameter which lowers RTS on disk writes. If you are getting a CRC error when

your system writes to disk, try using this option.

- Added a second, simple scripting language for non-programmers, called SIMPLE. SALT remains untouched -- SIMPLE is an English - SALT translator. Complete docs on SIMPLE are enclosed.
- Added a BBS-calibre Host mode (doors, multiple message areas, etc) formerly known as HOST 5.0 from Host Software Products. It is now an integral part of Telix.
- File tagging for uploading files -- up to 100 files per transfer -- has been added and extended to external protocols as well.

Many of these enhancements shore up the areas where Telix has been historically weak. These areas include the "script learning" and "host" mode, both of which were supplied by third party add in utilities in previous Telix releases.

One enhancement that made my day was the addition of the /D parameter to the command line. The /D parameter allows me to run Telix from Windows 3.1 without having a data block "Naked" (rejected) every time Windows writes data to the system disk. This was caused by the UART buffer overflowing while Windows had the system interrupts disabled for the disk write.

The improved file transfer time calculations brings some sanity back to the time estimates when using the new high speed modems. Previously I got some really optimistic time projections as I have my baud rate locked to 57.8 kb for communication with the modem. Previously this threw the time estimates out the window. Now, with the calculation based on the actual DCE connect speed, things are back in the real world.

I have not looked at the new SIMPLE script language or the "BBS-caliber" host mode yet, but suspect that they are well implemented. Telix can still be run from a diskette only system. There is still no Mouse support (Real communicators don't use mice, they are too busy waving their arms around!)

DeltaComm has announced that there will be a future release of Telix for Windows. No exact date has been given. Telix 3.21 does include an example TELIX.PIF file for Windows.

I have configured Telix to run as a "Non Windows" application under Windows 3.1 since installing the new Telix release. I am now happy to report that I can do all of my communication tasks without having to exit Windows first.

If you are interested in ordering Telix or wish more information you can contact DeltaComm at:

deltaComm Development
Post Office Box 1185
Cary, NC 27512-1185
USA

(919) 460-4556 voice support / iEnquiries
(919) 460-4531 dedicated fax
(919) 481-9399 BBS (6 lines v.32bis/HST)
(800) TLX-8000 orders only

Fred

You are invited
to submit your articles for
next month's newsletter

a little earlier
than usual.

The reason is
that we have a very short turnaround
for the next issue.

Please
help out...

... your Editor and Publisher

Inside North Texas PC Users Group

Claude McClure

THE TIDES OF MARCH..NTPCUG will long remember the tides of March when the ground swell of MS-Dos 6 Rollout and the $14.00 initiation fee marched club membership past the 2001 mark. (What an Odyssey that was.)

Special thanks to those who served on March 05, 1993 Business Solutions Conference; March 09, 1993 Southwestern Bell Seminar; March 30, 1993 MS-Dos 6 Rollout Night; And the regular March 20, 1993 Super Saturday, which was anything but normal. If I somehow failed to mention your volunteering for one of these meetings, please let me shake your hand in person. Again, thanks.

PLEASE remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

INFOMART Liaison
David Harned

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
Mike Griffin

David Slavik
Phillip Goodrich
Crew:
Jim Aragon
Claude McClure
Michael Domenko Jr.

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth
Statistician:
Connie Testa
Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors: March 20, 1993
Harvey Andrews
Connie Andrews
Mike Ashley
Al Aston
Ralph Beaver
John Ferguson
Paul Fredd
Judy Griffiths (double)
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt
David Huckabee
Edward (Ned) Keig
David Martin
Wade Mayfield
Claude McClure
Everett Turner
Paul Williams

Booth Crew:
Glynn Brooks
Greg Canty
Walter Carroll
Albert Champon
Eteta E. Eta
Phillip Goodrich
Neil Jochelson (double)
Shirley London
Cinda Lovil
Ed Moreland
Bill Roberts
Bhagwan Shah
William Sullivan
Jean Waldrep
Fulton J. Welsh Jr.
Randy Wicks
Jennifer Wilkins
Doug Williams

Anchors: March 30, 1993 MS-Dos 6 Rollout
Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver
Greg Canty
Eteta E. Eta
Mark Gruner
Hank Holt
Ross E. Jones
Edward Keig
Pehl. Lee
Pat Oliver
Raymon Reyes
Bob Wuller

Disk of the Month (DOM)
DOM Desk Crew:
Joe Allen
Doug Athas
Berny Baars
Roy Bales
Ralph Beaver
Rob Bender
Charles Carter
Norman Dang
James Donlon
William Farris
Judy Griffiths
Duane Martin
LLoyd "Mac" McKeethen
Harold Menzel
Craig Ringener
Warren Smith
Oscar Tyler
Robert Walton
John Watington

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
Andrew Stevko
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)

Meetings & Times

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	**Removable Storage Solutions From IOMEGA**
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	**Quicken for DOS and Windows**
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	**NTPCUG Business Meeting**
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	**FileMaker Pro 2.0 - Database Power Without Programming**

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

BASIC Programming-Visual
DOS
General Genealogy
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users
Quicken
Software Review
Windows Applications
WordPerfect

10:00 - 10:55

BASIC Programming-Adv.
CAD
Fox Pro Database
Networking
PAF -Genealogy
Paradox
Personal Users
WordPerfect/Windows
Unix/Xenix

11:00 - 11:55

BASIC Programming-Begin..
Assembler
Brother' Keeper Genealogy
MS Works
Roots III - Genealogy
Spreadsheet Developers
Windows Developers

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

11:30 - 1:00

TI Pro

12:00 - 12:55

Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Desktop Publishing

12:00 - 12:55 cont

Investors
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users

1:00 - 1:55

ACTI
BBS
Business Apps./DAC Easy
Middle C
OS/2 Developers
Personal Users
Spreadsheet
Startext
WORD

2:00 - 2:55

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.

Board of Directors

Doug Gorrie, Chair — **Reagan Andrews**
Jim Hoisington — **Andy Oliver**
Fred Williams

Officers

President	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h (214)871-5750 w
Program Chair.	Timothy Carmichael	(214)661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(214)495-7071
Secretary	John West	(214)620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101h
Advertising Dir.	John Pribyl	(817)275-4109 h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214)462-7980
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loafman	(214)596-2539
Group Statistician	Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(214)867-0978 h
BBS	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain — Jim Hoisington
John Pribyl — Stuart Yarus

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from outside Area Code 214, use Area Code 214. (This is NOT a toll call from Fort Worth and the Mid-Cities area.)

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

SYSOP: –	**Fred Williams**
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)682-0725 Ask for Adam

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

Address Changes, etc...

Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to

NTPCUG Membership Director
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

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

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	(214)276-3661 h
	Mac McKeethen	(214)556-1352 h
Assembler	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221 h
BASIC Prog-Adv.	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734 h
BASIC Prog-Begin.	Charles Jacobus	(817)379-6840 h
BASIC Prog-Visual	Woody Pewitt	(214)230-3485 w (214)283-2292 h
	Jim Carter	(214)235-5968 h
BBS	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315 h
	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869 h
Business App./DAC	Putt Shaw	(214)235-2559 h (214)669-9633 w
	Bruce Schubert	(214)690-5848 h (214)233-8353 w
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	(214)343-3862 h
CAD	Bill Shepton	(214)296-1799
Communications	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
	Bill Green	(817)731-1308 h
Community Svc	Brian Mickel	(214)521-2938 h (214)521-6670 w
	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
DOS	Jim Hoisington	(214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
Dataflex	David King	(817)640-6130 hM (214)313-0408 w
Desktop Publ	Lewis Graber	(214)335-9103 h
	Larry Linson	(817)481-2350 hM
Fox Pro	Kevin White	(214)644-7536 h
Genealogy	Al Sanford	(214)278-7888 h
Hdw Solutions	Peyton Weaver	((214)462-7980 h
	Gary Johnson	(214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h
MS Works	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734 h
	Ralph Logan	(817)498-9746 hM
Investors	Dick Ricktulan	(214)437-0322 h
Middle C	Tom Cook	(214)871-8177 w
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekel	(817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
	Francis Bright	
OS/2 Dev	James Dunn	(214)279-5712h (214)497-8978 w
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	((817)481-6625 h (214)444-2195 w
PAF	Joe Waldrop	(817)498-5856 h
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315
	Greg Kane	(214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)867-1679 h
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
Programmers	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101 h
	Kent Kingery	(214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w
Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148 hM
	Jo Johnston	(214)699-9620 h
Roots III	John Wylie	(214)495-4410 h
Software Review	Pat Henley	(214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w
	Neil Berkowitz	(214)475-7463 h
Spreadsheet /Dev	Mark Gruner	(214)964-8174 h
	Betty Brooks	(214)618-1608 h
StarText	Beverly Kurtin	(817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w
	Jim Boughton	(817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w
TI Pro	Ed Snuggs	(214)348-0664 h
	Clifford Cade	(214)357-5522 h
Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w
	Jim Stallworth	(214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w
Windows Applic.	Rick Silvernell	(214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w
Windows Dev.	Arthur English	(214)618-1266 h
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220
	Lanet Patton	(903)886-6249
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn	(214)255-0555 w (817)481-6453 hM
	Mitch Milam	(214)823-9837

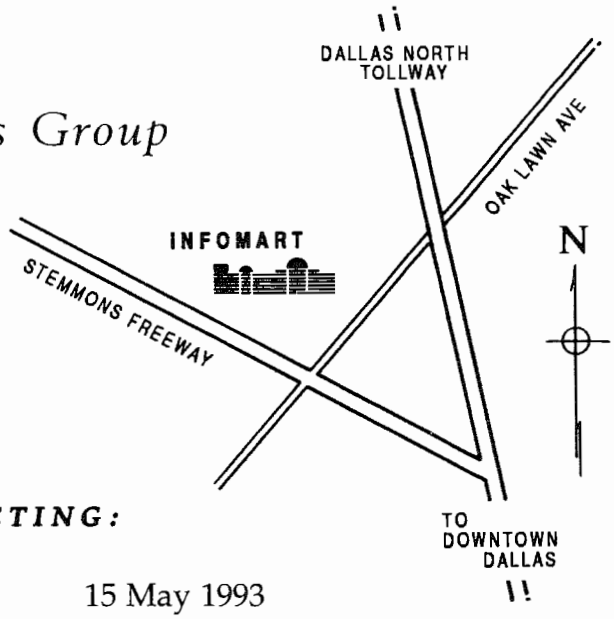
North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Arlington, TX
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.

12.5

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

15 May 1993