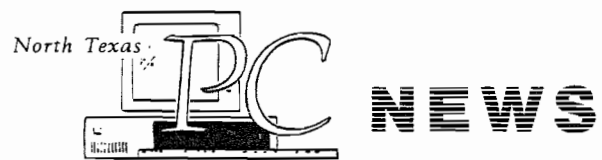


Price \$2.00



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*North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.*

*June 1993*

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 6



# North Texas PC NEWS

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### Deadline:

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

### Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2473 last month. Member distribution was 2149; 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 July  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Thursday June 10th

### Meeting Dates:

**June Meeting - 1st Saturday**  
July Meeting - 2nd Saturday  
August meeting tentatively scheduled  
on the third Saturday.

## 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

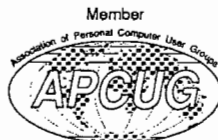
c) SneakerNet. Track down one of the editors at the monthly meeting and give them a diskette with the article on it.

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## Program for June

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

### Pervasive Computing

Hewlett-Packard Company

*Linda Jebavy, Training Specialist*

Hewlett-Packard Company, the industry leader in office printing, networking solutions and pervasive computing, invites you to attend an open forum on pre-released products focusing on HP Personal Computers, HP portable products and HP laptop computers. Linda will be able to answer most of your technical questions on these soon-to-be-released products.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### Multimedia Presentation Tools

Asymetrix Corporation

*Joe Herzog, National Account Manager*

Come hear about the current outlook on the multimedia market for presentation graphics and where it is going. See demonstrations of Compel 1.0 for Windows, the first software product which lets customers create interactive business presentations with multimedia data, including video, animation and sound, and MediaBltz! 2.0, which allows users to easily create powerful multimedia scores consisting of any combination of video, audio, animation and graphics synchronized over time. There will be a drawing for a couple free copies of Compel. \*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

### NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

### Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows Release 4.0

Lotus Corporation

*Jim Ott, Systems Engineer*

Lotus 1-2-3 Release 4, the Windows spreadsheet, database and graphics package that will help you work better and faster. It has many enhancements which make it easier to calculate, forecast, chart, present and succeed, including SmartMenus that put menu choices where you expect them to be, straightforward In-Cell editing, discontinuous range selection, one-step charting, Worksheet Tabs, and a faster new cell engine. And finally, your entire workgroup can share the same numbers with the Version Manager. There will be a drawing for 5 free copies of Lotus products. \*

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

*Prez Sez...*



### Bylaws Changes ...

As expected, NTPCUG members attending the April 24th business meeting overwhelmingly approved a slate of changes to our Bylaws, the most significant of which was an increase in "at-large" Directors from three to five. At the subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors (April 27), these additional two positions were filled for the remainder of 1993 by unanimous vote of the Board.

We are proud to announce that Timothy Carmichael and Mark Gruner have agreed to assume these positions. Both were BOD candidates in the January elec-

tions, and, after the winners, received the next greatest number of votes. Both gentlemen are long time volunteers, and I'm sure the entire membership joins me in thanking them for their contribution and support.

### Help Wanted ...

In light of Timothy's joining the BOD, there is an increased need for some of our membership to assist him in his long standing role as Program Chairman. Those of you that attend the many vendor presentations in the auditorium should realize that their success is the result of negotiation and planning, both to secure qualified vendor personnel as well as to solicit the many product giveaways that members benefit from.

Now, it's your turn. There are opportunities for several folks to lighten Timothy's load, with a minimum of effort. Some of you may be interested in contacting vendors to solicit their interest and negotiate presentation times. Others may prefer to manage auditorium sound and lighting equipment, morning or af-

ternoon, either each month or on a rotating basis. It is an excellent opportunity to meet a variety of vendors and to develop good business contacts. Please call Timothy (661- 4626) or me (464-7942) for a no- obligation explanation of what is involved.

Most of our membership is also aware of our highly successful Personal Users SIG, designed for those that are relatively new to personal computers. The series of sixteen well organized, professional classes, designed and coordinated by Bob Presley, have been a mainstay of Super Saturday for many years. Now, with much reluctance, Bob has recognized that his other commitments require him to turn over the reins of Personal Users to others, effective in October. Even then, Bob will continue to update and maintain the handouts provided to each attendee. All he asks is that others step in to coordinate the monthly meetings, maintain role, arrange for presenters from the "presenters" pool, and other miscellaneous chores. As you might expect, no ONE person could all this (although Bob did!!), so a number of folks are needed to spread the effort and avoid overloading any one person. Perhaps you would agree to maintain the roster, or to handle the two morning or two afternoon sessions each month, or on a rotating basis. Both Bob and I are available to provide more information, again without obligation. Bob can be reached at 867-1679 (H); I am at 464-7942 (W).

With a small amount of effort from just a few, ALL our volunteers can still enjoy themselves each Super Saturday while continuing to assure very informative, successful programs.

### Special Interest Groups (SIG)...

As of this writing, it appears that a Microsoft Networking SIG has begun, specializing in Microsoft's LAN Manager, Windows for Workgroups, and eventually, Windows NT. This SIG will compliment nicely with our ongoing Novell-oriented Networking SIG, run by Bernie Van Roekel.

In addition, Art English has asked to begin a Visual C++ SIG, further complimenting the two "C" SIGs, and Visual Basic SIG, already in progress.

Watch for room and time information for these SIGs in the printed schedules and overhead screens.

### Community Service...

NTPCUG support of the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP) is paying off in a variety of ways. I'm told that our joint efforts have resulted in a sig-

nificant financial award from Ziff-Davis Publishing, as part of their national REACH Award program. REACH stands for Recognizing Exceptional Achievement in Community Help, which aptly describes DCLP and NTPCUG's contribution toward inner city computer literacy. The awards were presented at Spring COMDEX in Atlanta. Watch for details in PC NEWS, and consider donating a little of your time to DCLP.

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

At the BOD meeting of April 27, our guest was Pat Henley, leader of Software Review. Pat detailed the success he is having in securing software, and in getting folks such as you to review it. Mark Gruner reported on his recent progress in placing past month's financial transactions into Quicken, and the development of a system of accounts appropriate for our non- profit, "IRS 501(C)3" organization. This same information will also be reviewed by an Audit Committee of members. In addition, Mark and his committee will use this review to update and document NTPCUG's accounting and tracking procedures. This is a significant undertaking, and one that will benefit NTPCUG for years to come.

Discussions are underway regarding what changes might be made in NTPCUG's meeting format. A lot happens each Super Saturday in a short period of time, and Infomart's resources are, regrettably, limited. Some changes may be needed to accommodate growth. Look for more on this issue in coming months.

The BOD approved the expenditure of \$2,500 for the purchase of a high powered PC, suitable for SIG use in demonstrating heavy duty Windows applications. The need for such a mobile PC has been recognized for some time, but cheaper alternatives never materialized. We feel the addition of this resource will enhance many presentations.

After much discussion, the BOD agreed to review a proposal to implement a Help, or Mentor, program. If deemed feasible, and with proper volunteer staffing, the program would provide for members to volunteer their expertise to assist others. Such a program would allow NTPCUG to utilize the expertise of our general membership, rather than concentrating on SIG leaders alone. More on this next month.

Have a great month!!

Doug Gorrie



"Ami Pro 3.0 takes the lead over Microsoft® Word as the Windows word processor to beat."  
— *InfoWorld* 9/28/93

"You can learn to use Ami Pro... in about a day. Put the manual in a drawer as a first step."  
— *Forbes* 2/93

"Lotus Ami Pro 3.0 offers an unbeatable combination of peerless usability, top-level features and fastest overall performance."  
— *Software Digest Ratings Report*, Vol. 9, #6, 9/92

"[Ami Pro] is simply the best word processor anywhere in the universe... Note to WordPerfect users: Switch to Ami Pro and join the 21st Century."  
— *Chicago Tribune* 3/26/93

"[Ami Pro] is full of clever features that make your work easier and faster."  
— *Byte* 9/92

"Ami Pro is raising the bar in the Windows™ word processing sweepstakes."  
— 100 Best Products of 1992, *Windows Magazine* 2/93

And to think the folks  
who said all this  
probably paid full price.

"No other package can match [Ami Pro's] ambition, its range of functions, or the sheer pleasure of using it."  
— *PC Magazine* 1/12/93

"Ami Pro 3.0 is the best word processor on the market... [it] goes the competition one better in every respect."  
— *PC/Computing* 12/92

We can only imagine the words they'd have for us if they knew about this deal. For a limited time, 800 Software® is offering User Group members the world's best word processor, Ami Pro 3.0,\* for just 99 bucks.

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\*Offer expires 12/31/93, valid in U.S. only. Competitive upgrade. Call for a list of eligible word processors. Education-priced Lotus products not included. Not to be combined with any other offer. Have your current word processor ready when you call. ©1993 Lotus Development Corporation. All rights reserved. Lotus and Ami Pro are registered trademarks and SmartIcons are a trademark of Lotus Development Corporation. 800 Software is a registered trademark of 800 Software Inc. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of WordPerfect Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Adobe Type Manager and the ATM logo are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems, Inc. 

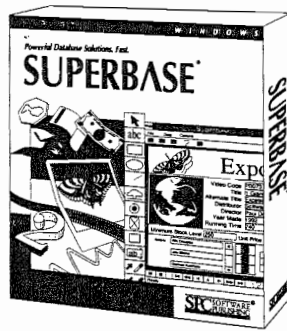
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Dallas  
Tuesday, June 8, 1993

Washington, D.C.  
Wednesday, June 9, 1993

New York City  
Thursday, June 10, 1993



San Francisco  
Thursday, June 10, 1993

Chicago  
Wednesday, June 16, 1993

Los Angeles  
Wednesday, June 16, 1993

**Space is limited, so call now 1-800-392-7039, operator # 135**

### Agenda

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Reception**

*Presentation begins at 9:00 a.m.*

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**DON'T MAKE A DATABASE DECISION UNTIL YOU'VE ATTENDED THIS EVENT!**



# The Microsoft User Group Summit Meeting

## Part 1

by Jim Hoisington

On April 21 through the 24th, Doug Gorrie, Andy Oliver, and myself were invited to attend the User Group Summit Meeting at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington. I attended the first one of these meetings eight years ago and both the number of user groups in attendance and the number of Microsoft products have grown.

The summit consists of briefings by Microsoft product managers as well as some of Microsoft's officers including Bill Gates. The briefing includes future product plans so we all have to sign an agreement that we will disclose no product features before their time. However, there are some things that I can tell you that are not future product features. I know Doug and Andy are writing their versions of the meeting, so here's mine from the DOS and Advance Programmers SIG leader's perspective.

### DOS Products

Probably the most important thing that Microsoft told us is that they *plan* to only bring out one more release of their DOS products (and that probably includes DOS itself). Unless you as software consumers confound their marketing studies, Microsoft feels that the software users wanting more features will be using Windows, so that's where they are going to put their software development dollars. However, this is only a *plan* and they will change their plan if the sales volumes of DOS products don't taper off.

### Windows

Microsoft has a Windows strategy and I'm glad they explained it to me because it had not been communicated to me through the trade press. (And too, maybe they just made it up the week we were went to Redmond.) Microsoft will sell three Windows environments or operating systems for the desktop PC. Windows as we know it today will continue to be sold for the home and individual user. For the office user, Microsoft wants Windows for Workgroups to be the operating system on your desktop. Windows for

Workgroups will continue as a separate product and will contain features not found in Windows. It will also require more powerful hardware than Windows and support more powerful applications. Finally, for the "power user" who requires applications that need lots of memory and graphics and computing power, Microsoft will provide Windows NT Client as the desktop operating environment. Windows NT Server will run as an operating system on the network servers that will allow Windows, Windows for Workgroups, Windows Clients and even DOS users to communicate on Local Area Networks. That's a pretty ambitious plan since it means that Microsoft will be supporting and enhancing four operating systems in the future.

### Programming Languages

What Microsoft said about DOS products goes double for the languages. Look for more products that are Windows hosted like Visual Basic and Visual C++ and don't look for any more upgrades to your DOS hosted language compilers. I asked the product manager for Visual C++ if it was possible to run it from the DOS command line since it replaces C++ 7.0 which is DOS hosted. He said that he knew that you could run the compiler from DOS and he thought there might be an appendix in the back of one of the manuals that explained how to do it.

### Retrospective

If it sounds like Microsoft is being mean and trying to force us all to go to Windows, they're not. (Except for the Windows operating systems groups that are trying to get us to buy their products so they'll continue to have a job.) What you, the software consumers, are buying are products with Windows like features. Now it is possible to build DOS hosted products that have a windows-like *appearance*. (Notice I didn't say 'look and feel'.) But, what's the point? If it needs to look like Windows, why not run it under Windows?

And again let me emphasize that these are plans. You, the software consumer, will ultimately determine whether these are good plans or bad plans. Finally, even though I can't tell you about the specifics, look for some really nice products to get announced by Microsoft later this year.

Jim

■

# The Microsoft User Group Summit Meeting

Part 2

by Doug Gorrie

Microsoft's fifth User Group Summit was held in Redmond, Washington on April 21-24. Representing NTPCUG were Andy Oliver, Jim Hoisington and yours truly. These events are both fun and informative, bringing in User Group representatives from 33 of the larger (and better, of course) user groups (U.G.) from across the nation, plus members of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG).

Microsoft's User Group Outreach Program was started 5 years ago. It is our primary interface into the world of Microsoft, a pipeline for bidirectional information sharing. As we start new SIGs on Microsoft products, we are assured of immediate assistance.

## DOS 6

Sessions on Wednesday, April 21 began with a discussion on DOS 6, led by Brad Chase, MS-DOS Group Product Manager. Much of what Brad presented was "old hat", but some items were more interesting. For instance, MEMMAKER has turned out to be the most used feature of DOS 6. Although a valued enhancement to DOS, even MEMMAKER's efforts can be improved by using MEMMAKER.STS ( a log file ) to fine tune what MEMMAKER has done. I recall this being documented in the manual.

Brad also discussed a way to place a SET PATH of up to 255 characters into CONFIG.SYS, rather than AUTOEXEC.BAT. Doing so prevents truncation of long PATH statements, but has some limitations. He also discussed how to change the default DBLSPACE drive letter, if desired.

In case beta testers had not noticed, the MAXCOMPRESS option was removed from the commercial DOS 6 release, in order to reduce any legal risk. This decision appears to have resulted from the STAC lawsuit. Some minor loss in compression resulted from this move. Use of DBLSPACE DEFRAG /Q (see Help) will now get the maximum compression.

The DOS Technical Reference can be purchased separately from DOS 6. Bard advised that beta testers thought this to be fair because Help is available online, in DOS, so most users do not need a large manual, nor would they read it. This reference will appear only in printed form, as an electronic version raises piracy concerns.

There is less concern about the Supplemental disks. These can be placed on a BBS, if desired, or downloaded from CompuServe, or purchased from Microsoft.

FASTOPEN was mentioned, to the extent of saying Don't Use It.

## Bill Gates

Bill is always a much appreciated speaker, largely because he can make "law" as he goes along. A topic or statement may be out of bounds for the rank and file, but Bill can say it if he desires. Lots of short blurbs, as follows: [start indent]

For the future, Bill sees "pieces" (chips, software, networks, etc.) coming together, making increased technology available at lower cost. Uses of CD-ROM will continue to grow in 1993, for such things as music, encyclopedia and similar documents, and for software releases.

In 1994, expect to see Microsoft doing some testing with cable companies. Cable provides the mechanism for getting large amounts of data to/from the home or business. Remember, "Information at your Fingertips" is Microsoft's current emphasis.

Future products will emphasize "plug and play", where users won't have problems installing and configuring Microsoft hardware/software.

Improvements in Groupware. Easier browsing and replication of mail.

Windows NT will not run initially on compressed drives. Compression comes later.

Windows for Workgroups should see an update this summer, including connectivity improvements, and other new stuff.

Computer access for the disabled is getting attention, with keyboard styles, visual versus audio issues, with



increased effort toward dealing with visual impairments.

Although pressed for dates of the next DOS and Windows releases, Bill was firm in avoiding specifics. He indicated that the trend is toward an 18 month product cycle between releases, although he could go to 12 months for an interim release, and a full release at 24 months.

Technical support costs a ton each year – MANY millions. However, there is currently no plan to move support for the "high end" applications to "pay as you go".

IBM is more interested in working with Microsoft to include Windows on their hardware. Compaq and IBM are now among the largest shippers of Windows.

Some User Group reps asked about getting DOS legally added to donated computers, given that "all computers came with DOS originally". Bill noted that the issue was not cut and dried,, given that IBM never bundled DOS with their hardware. PC DOS was sold separately. However, Bill was interested in U.G. concerns, so agreed to follow up on the issue.

Toolbars remain an issue, not always properly conveying their purpose. Improvements are in the works to allow text or pictures in toolbars, as well as other customization.

In the future (up to 5 years), expect to see wireless communication as a big issue, with government regulation having a lot to do with its growth (or lack thereof). Modem costs will continue to decrease. Growth in PDA's (Personal Digital Assistants). Late in 1993 - new ways to tie parts of the office environment together, such as copiers and fax changes integrated more into PCs.

Word Processors and Spreadsheets will continue to be primary revenue generators for Microsoft.

HDTV may be slow in coming because advertisers, not consumers, typically finance any new equipment required in broadcasting. It is unlikely that advertisers will see a big payback in giving you commercials on HDTV. Hence, consumers may have to prod this technology along.

A big move will involve cable TV providers, as they push interactive TV. The first applications will likely be Pay Per View. Microsoft is doing research in this area, hoping to provide software for interactive sys-

tems. They also want to enlist other firms, such as TCI, the largest U.S. cable company. Pilot projects may come about in mid-1994, with reasonably widespread deployment in place in 1995-96.

Al Gore's information highway was stated as a good idea, but government does NOT need to be financing it. Bill sees cable companies as making it happen.

Doug

■

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## The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

### Beginning Visual Basic SIG Starts

On April 24, we started a new SIG for Beginning Visual Basic programmers. The group met at 8:00 AM (an hour before the regular Visual Basic SIG) on Super Saturday. Despite my concerns about how many folks would get up that early on a Saturday morning, we had over 25 folks in their seats and ready to go at 8:00 AM. Seven more joined us during the hour. We had attendees from Fort Worth, Denton, and McKinney. I hope that this level of interest in Visual Basic will help our efforts to obtain a 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM meeting time.

### Microsoft Goes Extra Mile for NTPCUG.

Most of you will recall that Woody and I were invited by Microsoft last Fall to participate in a Visual Basic Summit meeting with other Visual Basic SIG leaders from around the country. A strong theme of that Visual Basic Summit meeting was "Microsoft wants to support Visual Basic user groups." They have demonstrated their commitment with presentations last November to three NTPCUG SIG's (Visual Basic, Advanced Basic, and Windows Programmers) and an auditorium presentation announcing Visual Basic 2.0. During that presentation, Microsoft held a drawing for 10 copies of VB 2.0. Well, their latest idea is to furnish FREE copies of Visual Basic 2.0 to attendees of the May 15 sessions of the two Visual Basic SIG's that are members of NTPCUG with the balance distributed at the Business Meeting.

Jim

■

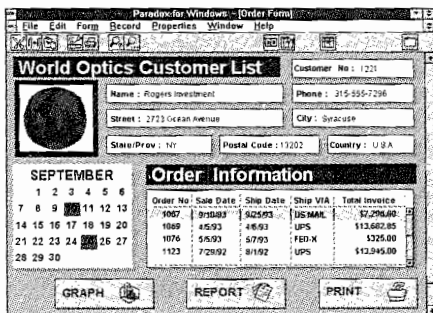
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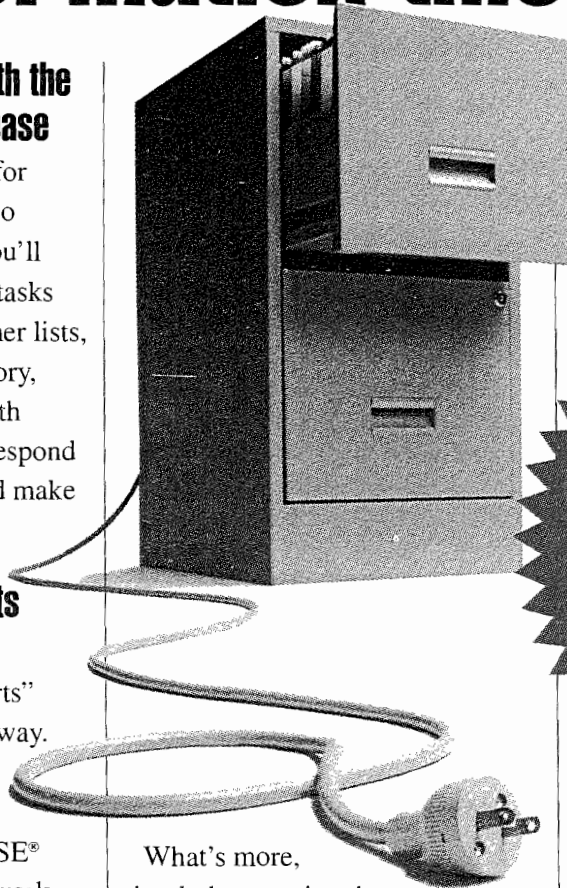
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Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

# The Variety Store

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

## May's showers bring flowers and a Flurry of confusing PC news items While PC price wars confound users

This month is a quickie. It's not that there's no "news," there's plenty. Problem is, I just don't know what it all means, and don't think the PC media does either.

### Microsoft and IBM -- together again?

First, and beginning with a giant question mark, the media is hinting that there may be willingness for talk between Microsoft's Gates and IBM's new CEO, Gerstner. According to some *WSJ* rumors, Bill Gates approached IBM for "discussion," on subject(s) not disclosed. IBM's "old" CEO certainly didn't have much to say to Bill Gates. Will the former giants remarry after their acrimonious and widely-publicized divorce?

### Microsoft vs. Apple Redux and re-redux

Second, the Microsoft vs. Apple case was supposed to be completed sometime on or about May 5th. Today is the 10th and there's still no news in *WSJ* or other "timely" media. That may mean there's been another delay. The media have agreed that most of Apple's "teeth" were hastily extracted and the out-

come was expected to be anti-climactic.

Still, I do like some tidiness.

### It's AMD and Intel Again it's AMD

Third, but not last by any means, another federal judge blew away the Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) "loss" to Intel announced earlier. AMD quickly reported they would ramp-up production of their 486 chips based on Intel microcode -- subject of the dispute -- and their own, non-Intel microcode chips would ship later this year as well. Intel, of course, countered with yet another legal foray against AMD, claiming AMD was infringing a number of Intel patents in the process.

The new AMD chips might be interesting. AMD would have a jump by their ability to incorporate "new" technology in their proprietary 486 chips. AMD might even match earlier Intel clone chips (i.e., the V20 - V30 series of 8088 clones and the

much faster Harris and Hitachi 80286 chips) in besting the performance of the "Intel standard." The media persist in airing "unsubstantiated reports" (rumors) of significant performance improvements via AMD engineering efforts.

Meanwhile, Cyrix/TI have been awfully quiet, as has IBM.

### What happened to IBM's 'Super' 486 chips?

IBM? Yes, IBM, potentially a very major producer of 486 silicon and supposedly possessor of 3x and 4x speed enhancing technology capable of challenging Intel's claims of power in the 486 sphere. Rumors have been almost universal that IBM was capable of (internal) 75 MHz and 99 MHz doubled and tripled performance from the 486.

Such power would really put a crimp in Intel's domination of the CPU market. Could it be that IBM is ruled by the same laws of physics that are plaguing Intel now?

### Cyrix still ensnared by Intel legal nets

Cyrix/TI (or just Cyrix) are equally entangled in the web of Intel legal actions which may drag on for years. In spite of this, 586 rumors are seeping out about Cyrix development chips capable of running head-to-

## Variety . . . . .

head with Intel's newest silicon. Unfortunately, all the hoopla surrounding Intel's latest announcements have smothered possible clarification from Cyrix viz the 586 chip(s).

You'll see the Cyrix Cx486DLC chips selling locally with "TI" on the cases for less than \$100. I've tried one in a standard 386DX/33MHz motherboard equipped with AMI BIOS with good results -- about a 30% boost in Landmark speed rating just from the interchange.

That's my second successful Cyrix installation. Haven't seen the 486DRu2 chips at either *First Saturday* or *Super Saturday*, though.

### Motorola/Apple/IBM Cutting Intel prices

Motorola announced their new chip -- the *Power PC* -- and prices about half that of equivalent Intel 586 chips. (No, I still won't use the "Intel-word" since I still think it sounds either stupid or slightly obscene according to which spelling checker you use.) Motorola/Apple/IBM (again?) are said to be aggressively marketing the new chip against Intel's "probable" pricing for their new chips.

I don't know if this means anything or is just serendipity. The *Wall Street Journal* article on the Motorola chips appeared on the same page as a short description (with illustration) of a new female urinal for public rest rooms.

### Intel 'rationing' CPUs Fighting 'heat barrier'

Intel, on the other hand, is said to be "dribbling-out" the new chips to even the largest customers, i.e., 10 - 12 chips per month according to *PC Week's* May 10, 1993, issue. It's heat, again and again and again that's the culprit according to technical media. Reports are that solutions may include liquid cooling for higher-speed versions with real "Buck Rogers" heat sinks, fans, etc., running a close second.

I would imagine that loosely-designed PCs may face another problem as production ramps up -- RF leakage from 66 MHz+ clock rates. Users may need lead-lined underwear (unisex) if these reports have any validity. Come to think of it, that might not be a bad idea with some other, older machines. I'm still afraid of stray RF energy.

### Latest round of PC price wars Confusing to all

The question arises -- how much are new PCs going to cost this time next year? Prices continue to slide (drop) constantly as weeks go by and some media predict that a number of second-tier vendors won't be here in 12 months. Since the microprocessor is a major cost item in PCs now, the war between Intel, AMD, and Cyrix/TI may mean a continuation of this trend to point that sales may be hurt.

Sales hurt by dropping prices? That doesn't sound reasonable.

It is. People charged with large-number purchases have become extremely anxious over the last several months and less willing than usual to "sign on the dotted line." Lots of MIS-types hate idea of acquiring 100's of new PCs only to see next-month pricing 10% below their negotiated contracts.

It's a delicate balance between dropping prices against loss of capability and/or service while the MIS waits to purchase. If you think this sounds like gambling, you're right. Maybe that's why Fall Comdex in Las Vegas is usually two or three times the size of Spring Comdex anywhere else.

### Delays and higher Demand = lower prices?

Just to make all this even more interesting/confusing, rumors are flying about late PC deliveries and delayed availability from a number of major vendors. Part of this may be a massive demand for 486 chips that exceeds production capabilities (this month). Usually, demand greater than supplies makes for *higher* prices, though.

Glad I'm in a different business.

### Software news charged As Borland makes money Microsoft keeps growing

On the software side, there's both good and bad news. The

## Variety

result is just as confusing as on the hardware side.

Borland may not go belly-up after all. They made money last quarter. Philippe Kahn, Borland's CEO, must be breathing and working again instead of playing his sax. This latter refers to Borland's CEO's hobby of jazz music, including several cassette tapes and at least one CD worth a listen.

At any rate, Borland is making money again, shipping product and making NTPCUG's Fred Williams happier. A lot of folks, besides Fred, were worried about Borland's last several quarters. News about *Quattro Pro*, *Paradox* and other Borland products have been quite optimistic -- and followed by sales.

### Evil empire (FTC) Plots another blow At Microsoft in June

Microsoft is another, better, story. Profits are at record levels, product is flowing -- and the FTC is watching.

Microsoft springs (eternally?) back in the news for several items. Most important item (my judgement call and latest candidate for a super tabloid "conspiracy theory") is that the FTC with a new, possibly less "business-friendly" attitude is about to exhume the investigation of Microsoft's operating systems (OS) operations.

The media guesses there won't be an AT&T-style "death sentence" though.

FTC staffers' desire is to "simplify" the issues involved according to *PC Week*. Last time I heard that buzz-word was in the 60's and it had something to do with "Hearts and Minds."

Any really good, tabloid-style conspiracy theorist (and UFO buff) could put this together with (Apple Computing CEO) John Scully's highly visible and much publicized campaign activities during the last election. I bet we'll see something like this in at least one media source if not more.

### Microsoft going after UNIX, Mac platforms With latest push

What's in an NT? Lots, if you listen to Microsoft, not too much if you read the IBM ads. Microsoft looks longingly at the UNIX world and wonders if there's an NT -- or *Windows* -- application in their future.

It's no secret that Microsoft has been touting (pushing) NT as the solution to everybody's software problem. Now, Microsoft is looking at both the UNIX and Macintosh worlds as vast new markets for the Windows API -- or at least some Microsoft Windows applications software.

Sun, on the other hand, sees the UNIX world as a good market for Sun's efforts to push the Windows API into the public domain. Subject is the PWI (Public Windows Interface) pushed by a Sun subsidiary, SunSelect, Inc. According to Sun publicists, the new plat-


form is designed to allow Windows applications to run natively on UNIX and other operating systems. This could be really interesting over the next several months.

### WP giants announce New DOS versions Possibly the last

Meanwhile, both Microsoft and WordPerfect have announced new versions of their DOS-based word processors. I'd heard lots of rumors about the latter over the last several months, but Microsoft may be "First to market" with a *Word 6.0 for DOS* by the time you read this blurb.

Both new word processors feature expanded graphical capabilities, according to the media, and both may be the last DOS versions of the two giants' word processors. I've seen articles based on beta versions of both WP's in the PC media with raving and not-so-raving reviews. It really makes me uncomfortable when I see "serious" reviews of beta product extolling their virtues -- without revealing their flaws.

WordPerfect still "owns" the lion's share of the DOS WP market with Microsoft running a distant "second." Windows' WP game is another story, though, with Microsoft taking an early lead and holding it tenaciously.

Reagan Andrews 

# 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)*

## Microsoft Access SIG

Not even the lure of a software giveaway competing in the time-slot could keep 36 bold souls away: the Access SIG was launched April 24! The gracious offers of Jack Atkinson, Diane DeCicco, and Frank W. McCoy to serve as Assistant SIG Leaders were most gratefully accepted. Future Plans: subject to continued concurrence of SIG members, each meeting of the Access SIG will have a program or presentation followed by a question, answer, and discussion period.

Our purpose is to enhance our understanding and improve our use of Access by the exchange of useful information, collect users' comments and recommendations to pass on to Microsoft, and assist new users in learning Access. The only prohibited topics are (1) "My DBMS is better than your DBMS" and (2) "Bashing in general: our product and vendor, competing products and vendors, or other users."

SIG members have a broad range of background, but the overall experience level was higher than we might have expected. Our roster indicates: 66% have DBMS experience, 88% have Windows experience, and 61% have both. 72% are members of NTPCUG and 86% already own Access.

From the "Get It While It's Hot Department:" The introductory price offer (\$99.95 list, a little less at some dealers) has been extended until further notice. From the "Why You Ought to Register Dep't:" Microsoft has announced that registered owners will receive the next release for the cost of materials and shipping. (With our publication lead times, that release may be in your hands when you read this.)

In the organizational meeting question and answer session, surprisingly few "problems" were reported and workarounds had been discovered for most of those. Performance suggestions included: increasing RAM above 4 megabytes, installing a Windows video accelerator, and running on a "fast" 386 or 486 processor. Performance improvements are high on Microsoft's priority list for future releases (and eagerly awaited by the attendees).

Vince Prehn, President of Network Utilities, issued a call for competent Access contract developers. For more information, call him at (214) 880-0000.

On May 15, Larry Linson briefly reviewed the Microsoft Press book, "The Windows Interface: An Application Design Guide" and led a discussion on "Windows User Interface Issues." At-

tendees were asked to provide guidance on subject areas they wanted addressed in future meetings. A lively question and answer session closed out the meeting.

Planned topic for June 5: "Windows User Interface Issues, Continued." Larry will present additional topics and moderate the discussion on application design.

Coming Soon to an Access SIG Meeting Near You: "Relational Database Design," featuring Fred Williams, fresh from a triumphal tour of the worlds of "Oracle," "Paradox," and other interesting areas. Fred is a member of the NTPCUG Board of Directors, Paradox SIG Leader, SYSOP of the NTPCUG BBS, active in Paradox Users of North Texas, and somehow still finds time to work for a living!

Larry Linson

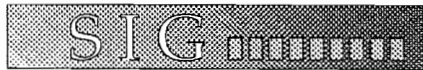
## ACT SIG

The ACT SIG will begin looking at customizing forms and reports which will give you the ability to make ACT fit your business needs. The ACT SIG is continuing to devote a part of each meeting to SIG members' discussion about the specific ways they are using ACT in their business.

Each meeting brings new ideas about using ACT and ways of configuring the options to improve its effectiveness as a business tool.

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 presentation for May was a continuation of the presentation by Randy Dryburgh on 386 and 486 Pipeline Programming, with emphasis on game programming and efficiency issues.

Our June meeting will consist of product reviews of the Spontaneous Assembly upgrades (including examples demonstrating their new TSR support. I hope to have literature handouts from BaseTwo Development available at the meeting.

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

Frank Cavallito

## Beginners BASIC SIG

The Beginners BASIC SIG features step-by-step GW-Basic & QBasic program writing using small sample programs to demonstrate topics. We pass out a six to eight page instruction sheet at each meeting. We also cover questions and answers on any subject at any time.

Subjects covered in 1993:

July	Writing a program
August	The Report program & String Variables
September	Sequential files
October	Random files
November	Math & Number Variables
December	Arrays explained

Watch the DOM in June for a disk with all the above material covered, including sample code illustrations.

Also to be covered sometime in 1993: Editing techniques, ASCII table explanation, binary/hex/dec-

mal conversion, memory and disk exploration, programmer's tools, payroll programs, general ledger programs, spread sheet program, inventory control--a database program set, sort algorithm code. (Not necessarily in that order.)

Charles Jacobus

## Beginning Visual Basic SIG

The Beginning Visual Basic SIG got off to a great start on April 24. We had 32 attendees at the 8:00 AM session and the survey shows that most are really beginners! Most of the session was spent discussing the level that everyone was with Visual Basic and I spent some time discussing resources for Visual Basic Beginners. The recommended resources included (1) membership in NTPCUG, (2) attendance at the Visual Basic SIG meetings of NTPCUG, (3) Visual Basic periodicals and books, (4) the MSBASIC forum on CompuServe, and (5) classes on Visual Basic at Microsoft University.

The attendees completed a questionnaire and the results of that questionnaire will be used to determine the topics to be discussed at future meetings of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG.

The format of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will be the same as the format of the Visual Basic SIG. I will prepare a presentation of approximately 30 minutes and we will have a 20-minute question and answer session to fill the rest of the hour. Woody Pewitt and I will attempt to coordinate our presentations in order that I can prepare the beginners for the presentation Woody will be giving

in the regular Visual Basic SIG meeting.

As an example, the May meeting of the Beginners Visual Basic included a description of the communications layers within the various levels of software in a PC. During the meeting of the regular Visual Basic SIG, Woody described a third-party tool, Spyworks by Desaware, that intercepts messages between Windows and a Windows application.

The May meeting also included distribution of FREE copies of Visual Basic 2.0 to NTPCUG members attending the SIG meeting. Thanks Microsoft!!!

The June meeting of the Beginners Visual Basic SIG will discuss the features of the latest version of Visual Basic 2.0 with recommendations for beginners to get started programming. I will present some screen shots of a very simple application in the handouts.

Don't forget to bring your Visual Basic questions to the Beginners Visual Basic SIG. See you there on June 5 at 8:00 AM.

Jim Carter

## Visual Basic SIG

The Visual Basic SIG met on April 24 with 42 members in attendance. Mike Carr and Jim Carter gave a report on the VBITS '93 conference they attended in San Francisco in late March. Both agreed that the conference was very worthwhile and hope to encourage BasicPro and Microsoft (VBITS co-sponsors) to bring VBITS '94 to Dallas.

As mentioned last month, the May meeting covered Dan Appleman's Spyworks, a utility by De-

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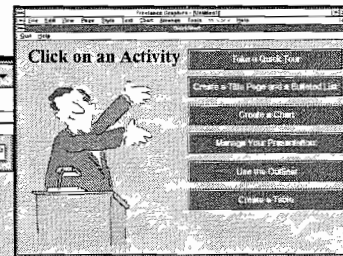
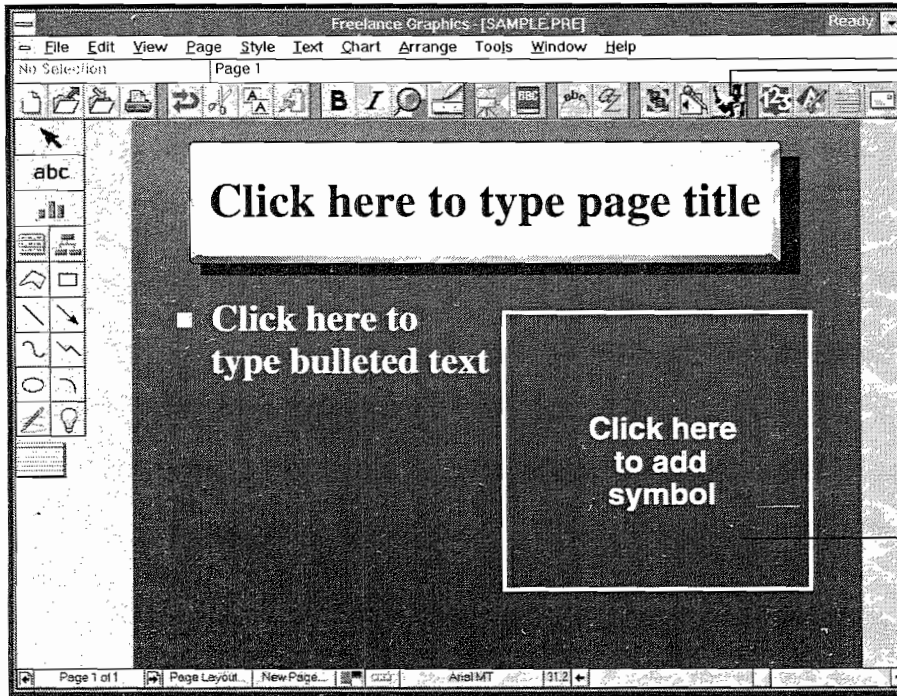
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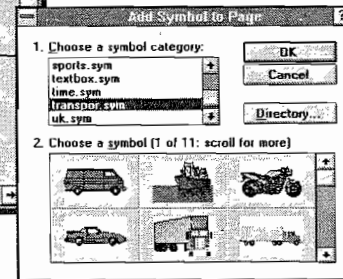
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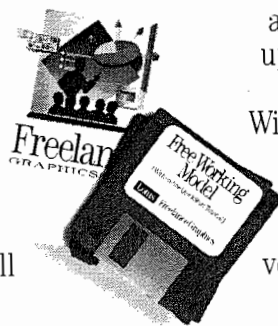
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saware that is extremely valuable in debugging software problems. Spyworks can be very educational in understanding the Windows environment.

The May meeting also featured the Microsoft gift of over 150 copies of Visual Basic 2.0. All NTPCUG members in attendance at the SIG meeting were given copies.

On June 5, Woody Pewitt will discuss a new programming language, GFA Basic. GFA Basic is being advertised as a competitive product to Visual Basic. Woody will present the pro's and con's on June 5.

Woody and I look forward to seeing you there on June 5 at 9:00 AM. Bring your Visual Basic questions.

Jim Carter

## Communications SIG

Well, it finally happened! After months of planning SIG meetings in advance, and getting them into PC NEWS, the law of averages finally caught up with me. A hoped-for presenter fell through, and my boss actually expected me to work these last weeks.

I'm sure the June Comm SIG will be interesting - I'm just not certain WHAT the topic will be. Come by anyway. Maybe Q & A is in order, or perhaps Bill Green or Fred Williams will bail me out AGAIN!!

Doug Gorrie

## DOS SIG

Maybe Jim and I will get it right this time. I'm betting that we didn't finish the planned discussion of INTERLNK and INTERSVR at the May DOS SIG Meeting -- so that's what we're planning for the June DOS SIG Meeting. Unless something else comes up first.

One thing that will be hot will be the continuing fight/discussion over the "many bugs" one media source "discovered" in DOS 6.0 -- after it was released. We'll look at this and other bug reports during the June DOS SIG Meeting since so much media attention has focused on this area for the last month.

As usual, we'll end with a Q & A session to discuss members' problems and solutions to running DOS in day-to-day operation. It will be a "fun" meeting -- plan to attend and see if the promised UNIX and CP/M uprising overthrows Hoisington and Andrews in favor of Fred Williams and the "Flat Earth Society."

Reagan Andrews

## Desktop Publishing SIG

Jim Sigle's informative presentation on the subject of "Typography: the Effective Use of Type" at the May meeting maintained the renewed high level of interest and enthusiasm in the DTP SIG. Thanks, Jim, for effectively using your presentation skills to increase our knowledge of this issue so vital to desktop publishers. We will put this knowledge to good use.

SIG Leader Frank Bede may have appeared to be "catching some

rays" on Laguna Beach on a "business" trip to California, but he assures us that he was thinking about us at noon on May 15. Sure, Frank, we understand, and we are glad to have you back with us. Frank's enthusiasm for desktop publishing, imaging, and graphics is infectious... come to the meeting and you are bound to catch it!

Please join us on June 5 for the presentation by Capstone Communications, Inc., on the differences between PageMaker and Quark Express. Release 5 of PageMaker contains some long-awaited high-end pre-press improvements and Quark Express has come to the world of Windows after years of success on the Apple MacIntosh platform. This promises to be an enlightening discussion of two top desktop publishing software packages, especially useful if you are considering purchase of high-capability DTP software anytime soon.

Looking ahead to July: Christie Kurtz will return to show and discuss samples of her work. We enjoyed Christie's previous program on managing the production of long documents. Her company, Kurtz Communications, is highly regarded in the metroplex and she is active in both the dPublisher organization and in the Society for Technical Communication. We are looking forward with great pleasure to having Christie with us again.

Whatever your level of interest and experience in desktop publishing, we think you can benefit from attending our meetings and we'll be delighted to have you join us. Several more useful and interesting programs are planned in the next few months, and our question and answer sessions



each meeting are always helpful. It's good to have colleagues who are willing to share their experience to help us over the rough spots when we run into obstacles.

Larry Linson

## General Genealogy SIG

The topics for the April program was "Paper Preservation and Conservation." The presenter was Dewayne Lener of Heritage Quest's Genealogy Resource Center. There were 52 present.

Data preservation is important now and in the future. Now we are striving to keep our old films, letters, etc. from aging into nothingness. In the future when genealogists can look at documents by modem, we will still have to worry about the preservation of disks, CD-ROMs, etc. There was not much done to try to have good paper and to preserve the paper until the 1600s. Since that time paper has been made of vellum, which is usually sheep skin. Although the paper is better, its weakness is in folding. Once folded it tends to want to stay that way. Around 1777, 100% rag paper was considered permanent. In the 1850s the latest word in paper was chemical wood pulp paper.

Enemies of paper are the paper itself, protectors, the atmosphere, oils (skin, etc.), dust, and acidic inks. The definition of acid free applies only to paper and not any of the protectors, etc. Acid free is defined as 7.0 to 8.5 on the pH scale. When an expert gets an older paper to examine, he looks for paper loss and paper brittleness (especially around the

edges). As for plastic sheet protectors, if you can smell them, then don't use them. Especially do not use magnetic albums. Do not store your treated papers in the basement or attic or in bookcases which are against an outside wall. Especially if the wall has a fireplace. Keep the item in as near 60 degree F and 45-50% humidity environment as possible. The best way to store such paper is on an inside wall, in a closet, inside furniture, and in the center of the room. Do not laminate your documents, put things in an acid-neutral box, use acid-neutral ink pen and acid-neutral labels. Use a slipcase with an album. And for your final computer document, use acid-neutral computer paper.

Dewayne runs a store called Genealogy & Preservation, 2600 N. Stemmons Frwy, Suite 131, Dallas TX 75207, 214-630-1197. The store does preservation work and also has a complete line of genealogy materials, books, etc.

The June program will be how to use a word processor to write a book on your genealogy family.

Al Sanford

## PAF SIG

The program topic was very unique. It told how to add another PAF database to your existing database without making a GEDCOM and without using Match and Merge. This is possible because of the Selection File mode of making a GEDCOM. When starting to make a GEDCOM if you choose #3, Add Part GEDCOM to Family Records Data, the screen asks for the Family Records Data file, GEDCOM file, Listing file and Selection file. The Selection file is where the

GEDCOM data is stored as a data file. It really becomes a subdirectory under your Family Records Data file. Therefore, if you leave the GEDCOM file and the Listing file blank and make the Selection file a data file that is a subdirectory of your normal data file, you can import a new PAF database into your normal data file.

The procedure of adding a new database to an existent database is as follows:

In the DOS mode make a subdirectory of your data directory. (i.e. if your data directory is c:\paf\data, make a new directory c:\paf\data\data2.)

Use copy or restore to place data from your acquired floppy into the c:\paf\data\data2 directory.

From the ACCESS MENU, start item 3 GENealogical Data COMMunication (GEDCOM).

From the GEDCOM menu select 3 add part of GEDCOM file to Family Records Data. You will get a screen that you want to make similar to: Family Records Data Disk: c:\paf\data\GEDCOM File Disk: Name of GEDCOM File: GEDCOM Listing File: Name for Selection File:data2

Verify that all but the first and last of the above are blank. Verify the first and last have correct names. Press F1. Answer Y to "work with existing selection file?"

You now have a screen similar to alpha browse but with a listing of how you can select which part of the new data you want to add to the old data. Select L if you want to add all, etc.

Al Sanford



## Investors SIG

Our SIG has been in operation for years now depending on direct word-of-mouth promotion in a world of electronic communication technology. Rather than bringing us up to date cold turkey via the BBS let's try the NTPCUG News.

Not that the old ways didn't work, we've always had good attendance, but there are always three percent who don't get the word (according to the Navy) so for the first time in my memory, which goes back four or five years before everything turns to fog, we are going to try the print media.

While its been some time since we've had vendor's reps displaying their wares at our meetings, some local products warrant an introduction to the group.

At the April meeting, Bob Huff presented his Stock-Watch program for down-loading and updating analysis program data files using Prodigy as the source, and Chuck Davidson of Wall Street Software discussed some of the technical analysis and market timing programs they offer.

Our May meeting will also be history by the time you read this, but it will feature Bob McCullough (I hope that's spelled right) of Austin's Liberty Research Corp. presenting his "Investograph Plus" program which is supposed to help "anticipate tomorrow's prices rather than just reacting to what has already happened", to quote their ad.

In June, we'll be back looking at the market and a few stocks us-

ing various technical indicators and a screen or two, and in addition a look at Equis International's market timing program "The Technician" from member Harvey Andrews who has been reviewing it for the Users Group.

Dick Richtman

## Networking SIG

The Networking SIG, formerly known as the LAN SIG, has been functioning for four years now - regardless of what might have been inferred in the "Prez Sez" column in last month's newsletter. The SIG was started in 1990 by Fred Williams. In January 1991, Bernie Van Roekel took over leadership of the SIG as Fred moved on to start the Paradox SIG. The purpose of the SIG is to discuss basic networking concepts and information and to keep up with new developments as they happen in the networking industry. We changed the SIG name from LAN SIG to Networking SIG in late 1992 to more accurately reflect the growing network communications aspects that go beyond local area networking. Why not come check out the Networking SIG this month. We've been meeting at 10am for four years now.

In April, we reviewed network access methods and topologies. In May we were privileged to have a guest speaker, Michael Masucci of the Belden Division of Cooper Industries, who discussed network cabling with us. Thanks, Mike, for a great presentation!

Saturday, June 5th, we will have an open question and answer session. Hope to see all of you there!

Bernie VanRoekel

## Spreadsheet SIG

This month at the Spreadsheet SIG, Mark will discuss creating your own menu macros in 1-2-3. Macros are always a big topic of interest and has not been discussed lately in the SIG. While some may think that macros and particularly menu macros are only for advanced users, these macro commands are easy and very accessible to all users. So come on by in June and check out how to create your own menu macros.

One other item of interest, I am looking for an assistant SIG Leader to help give presentations and lead discussions at the Spreadsheet SIG. If interested please contact Mark at his home number on the back cover.

Mark Gruner

## Spreadsheet Developers SIG

In June at the Spreadsheet Developers SIG, Mark will discuss data tables and how to use them to show the impact on different inputs. Basically a data table takes a list of inputs and calculates the models results using each input and then stores the results within the data table. Using data tables is a must if a particular variable can be any of several possibilities. The benefit of data tables is that only the critical results of the model are shown. A single print-out can be used to discuss the model and how it works, and the data table results can be used to show what happens if key variables are changed.

One other item of interest, I am looking for an assistant SIG Leader to help give presentations and lead discussions at the



Spreadsheet Developers SIG. If interested, please contact Mark at his home number on the back cover.

Mark Gruner

## Word SIG

Microsoft has announced Word 6.0 for DOS. Follows closely on a lot of media speculation that this will be Microsoft's last DOS word processor version. We may have a copy up and running for this meeting, including the much-touted graphical enhancements, grammar checker and "improved" user interface.

Perhaps we will see some answers to a lot of questions concerning Word's DOS future with the new release. Word 5.5 was edging toward 5 MB installed, and growing out of the notebook world for users with limited disk space. How big will this version be and will there be appreciable performance "hits" as a result of the new graphical features?

We'll also anticipate a report on the CD-ROM, multimedia version of Word for Windows and Microsoft Bookshelf from Charles Miller, WORD SIG co-leader, at the June MS WORD SIG Meeting. It should be a really exciting WORD SIG Meeting, and will end with the usual Q & A session for members with MS WORD problems and solutions.

Reagan Andrews

## The Adventures Of PC Tech

by Ben Thar

Chapter 18

"There are two reasons to have standards," the lecturer at Mary's network seminar stated, "Reason Number One is to reduce support costs for personnel, plus the cost of stocking supplies; Reason Number Two is that when you have to clean up the mess from the nincompoop (and former employee) who didn't listen to Reason Number One, you will bless the day you set standards." Mary Margaret knew exactly what he was talking about. She was trying to bring her printer nightmares under control.

It all began one dark and gloomy day when Fred in Sales needed a dot matrix printer; MM was on a beach soaking up the rays, and no one told him he could not just go out and buy one. Fred took off to the local U-Tote-M Office Supply Terminal, looked over the offerings and carried a printer and cable back to his office. Of course, Mary didn't find out about this one for three months, when Fred called up screaming that he had to have a printer ribbon for his printer. Mary calmed him down and asked him to read the model number off of the printer. "It's a GFQX-1175ixg from Schlossberg Printen Company, Ltd.," Fred said. "I've never heard of one of those, and I know it's not one that I purchased. So, where did it come from?," Mary countered. "Oh, I bought it out of petty cash," Fred continued, "because I had to have one for a special project and I think you were out of town." Mary wondered what lack of planning caused him to need a new printer and not be able to go through channels to get it. But, her immediate problem was to find printer ribbons for it.

The search started at the scene of the crime, U-Tote-M Office Supply Terminal. The model that Fred found as such a bargain was discontinued before Fred ever walked in the store. And sorry, a customer just bought the last printer ribbon for the GFQX-1175ixg, and they weren't getting any more since the model is no longer manufactured. "Try one of the Computer Super Stores," the UTMOST sales clerk advised. PC Tech hauled out the Rolodex and started calling. Her range of answers included "No", "No, ha ha" and "What's a Schlossberg?" Finally, Mary remembered someone at the PC Users Group meeting flea market referring to the "Ribbon Lady" and she dug out her last copy of the Newsletter. Sure enough, there was an ad for printer ribbons. The "Lady" saved the day, and Mary added her to her list of approved vendors.

## The Adventures of PC Tech *continued*

PC Tech put on her "Hi, I just checking to see if you need some help" face the next week and started a reconnaissance mission of the offices looking for printers that she had not purchased, authorized, nor recognized the brand name from the encyclopedia of obscure hardware. She found three brands and a total of eight models of dot matrix printers. One was her brand, but she did not realize that she had purchased three different model numbers. The laser acquisitions were not as bad, mainly because of the expense of laser printers. Mary only found one laser printer that she had not inventoried (and therefore purchased). Luckily, it was the same brand as the others, just a smaller 4-page-per-minute model. But of course, it took a different toner cartridge than the other laser printers.

A memorandum is needed, but I want the VP's backing to add teeth to it. So she wrote it and went to the VP's office. Learning from experience, she arrived with facts, answers, and a draft memo.

To: All Employees

From: M. Margaret - MIS

Date: May 17, 1993

Anyone purchasing computer equipment without approval of the Corporate MIS Department will be shot on sight.

No, that was the one she *wanted* to distribute. Hers actually stated:

Due to the high cost of stocking supplies for multiple printers, (the training and support costs for keeping the printers operational, including the cost of making sure that our software works with the printers), the corporation now requires that all printer purchases be handled exactly like computer purchases. Please route approved requests to my office for purchasing this equipment. My department will be in charge of installation and stocking of supplies for approved printers.

cc: VP Financial

The VP liked Mary's ideas, understood her predicament, and authorized Mary to proceed. Any printers purchased from here on out would be with MM's knowledge, and any that were not in this

category would have to wait a long time before they were attended to.

The usual litany of problems continued, but at least no new ones related to off-brands appeared. The printer problems included:

- a) The labels got stuck in the printer. "Were they laser labels?" No, just ones I found in the supply room.
- b) I copied this document from Anna and it won't print the same as it did on her computer. "What's wrong with it?" The font is different. "What font package are you two using?" Oh, she has FONTARAMA and I have FONTS-R-US. (Mary didn't buy either of these. She decided that the next system she purchased was not going to have a disk drive, period.)
- c) The printer's making a funny cricket noise. "Are there crickets in your office?" I killed one yesterday, but the printer noise didn't go away. "Okay, I'll come check it out."
- d) I send stuff to the printer and nothing comes out. (This one was easy, the printer wasn't turned on.)
- e) My 200 column spreadsheet won't fit on a legal sheet in landscape mode with 17 characters per inch and zero margins. How am I going to make this proposal? "Have you ever thought of putting it on more than one page? Have you ever thought of making the thing smaller? Have you ever considered that no one is going to look at all of that in a board meeting anyway?"
- f) The software vendor says I have to have this printer in order to use their application. "It can not be any other brand or model?" No, it HAS to be this one. "In talking to the vendor's technical support line, I found out that they are part owners of the printer company, and any printer that conforms to the APG standard will work with their software." What's the APG? : "The Association of Printer Gods."
- g) Can I print in color on my laser printer?

With that, Mary went home and decided to write a column for the User Group Newsletter titled, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT? She figured it would have to be fiction, because some of this stuff, no one would believe.

Ben

■

# CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

This month, I would like to tell you a little about a couple of new products. By the time you read this article, we should be closing on a new house we're buying in Houston and then starting in on a lot of renovation. Maybe that gives you an idea where my time has gone lately.

## Improv For Windows Release 2.0

No, you didn't miss a release, Lotus had Improv for the Next machine and they have ported it over to the Windows environment and made many improvements along the way. Hence the version number of 2.0!

This program is an entirely different approach to spreadsheets than has been used in the past. It is a dynamic spreadsheet which allows the user to change the viewpoint of the data giving business and professional users a unique set of capabilities for viewing and analyzing their data. The models built into this spreadsheet can easily be reused, modified and shared over a long lifecycle according to Jeffrey Anderholm of Lotus Development Corporation.

One of the standout features of Improv is that the formulas are built in a special area, not in each cell. The formulas are English language that are created using "categories" set up in the views. In order to view the data in a different order, all the user must do, is drag and drop the category indicators. The formulas will not need to be changed by the user, even though the calculations will be updated. The multi-dimensional structure of Improv for Windows supports 12 categories which the users can display, arrange and manipulate to any view they desire. This is especially useful to financial and marketing people who need to look at the same type of data, but in different ways.

Other features of Improv include the ability to link and save up to 100 worksheets in a single file, and create and name up to 16 different views for each worksheet. When the right mouse button is clicked, a special dialog box appears that allows quick editing, formatting and setting styles for the data in the worksheet. "SmartFill" allows quick fill of a data series for such things as quarters, months and days. The user can also create graphs and charts from data in the worksheet.

Lotus has also included a new programming/macro language, called Lotus Script, that will be used in other Lotus Window products in the future. OLE and DDE are supported. The menu structure is easy to use and learn. Improv will read and write WK1, WK3, LXS data, formulas, numeric formats and styles. Database access is available (at an extra cost) through the use of a Q&E add-in, which helps the user bring in data without having to re-type it.

This is an interesting product that you may want to look at. The list price is \$495.

## Lotus 1-2-3 Release 4 for Windows

I have had the chance to play with a pre-release version of Lotus' newest 1-2-3 for Windows product. It is just what I wish their first version had been. Anyone who is interested in Windows spreadsheets will find 1-2-3 /W version 4 to be a very competitive product that is well worth considering. Because of time restraints, I have not been able to play with this product as much as I would like before writing this, but what I have tried out and read about are very exciting.

The product runs very smoothly and seems to be faster, too. There is a new file format since the graphical spreadsheet publishing information is now a part of the regular file format. So, happy days, they have done away with the FMT files! That one little fact is enough to interest me.

Another of my frustrations with the earlier version of 1-2-3 /W is that the user was allowed to have only 8 selected fonts available per spreadsheet. With all the fonts on the market and shipping with Windows 3.1, this was frustrating since, there were several steps needed when the user wanted to change the default fonts and sizes. Lotus has finally made 1-2-3 /W open to any fonts and sizes available on the current

computer system. This will speed up formatting jobs considerably.

One of the new features that is now integrated, but introduced in SmartPak, is the speed formatting icon and function. The user can highlight an area of the spreadsheet and then click on the speed format and choose from among the selection of format types and the area will be formatted to that style.

Lotus worked hard to make this product easier to learn and use. They used their internal usability lab frequently to help the development team realize their goal of greater ease of use.

One of the other goals in Lotus is their Working Together strategy and this is evident in 1-2-3 /W version 4 with their Version Manager technology which allows several different users to do what-if scenarios on the same spreadsheet. Other new features that come to mind are the context sensitive menus which pop up when the user clicks the right mouse button, drag and drop of cells and ranges, columns and rows, in-cell editing and pull down menus for @ functions and range names.

There are also tabs at the top of each spreadsheet page which can be given a name of the user's choice. At the top of the window to the right of all the tabs, is a button to click on to add a new sheet. That's so much easier and quicker than going through several menu options to do that which is how it is in previous versions.

Just as Ami Pro 3 and Freelance Graphics 2 have a status bar at the bottom of the window, 1-2-3 /W 4 does, too. This status bar gives the user information about the current selection such as the type of format, or named style, the font typeface and point size, as well as a message when the spreadsheet needs to be recalculated. This status bar has proven to be very useful in the other products and should be in 1-2-3 also. It gives a quick way to change the formatting of a cell or range of cells.

If you click on the right mouse button while highlighting a cell or range of cells, the specialized menu which pops up will also allow the user to do formatting and enhancing things such as the line colors and adding borders.

While on the subject of borders, there are quite a few built in frames to select from. These frames can be placed around a range of cells to bring attention to

them. Some of these frames are rather unusual for a spreadsheet such as the one that makes the cells look like they are a picture mounted in an album. There is another frame which looks like a post-it note.

One interesting side note: when you move one of the cells that borders on the edge of the frame, the frame does not move with the cell. This is something that has frustrated me with some other programs. It just seems like the frame should stay where it is placed, otherwise the user has to go and redo the frame at the old location and erase the part of the frame that moved, so Lotus, I approve of your method! When you move the entire group of cells within the frame, the frame does move with the group, which is how I feel it should work.

Users who are familiar with the previous version of 1-2-3 for Windows will notice that the menu structure has been changed and streamlined. There are pull-down and cascade menus to more levels, but less top level menu choices. The dialog boxes which are used with many menu selections have been enhanced to show the user examples of the choices being made. In most of these dialog boxes there is a question mark to click on for extra help information.

Because of all the menu selection changes, the macro language has been changed in this version and the {Alt} macro commands are no longer supported. Lotus has supplied a macro translation program to help with the transition. Now there are new commands like {File-Open} to take the place of the old {Alt} commands. Consequently, there are many new macro commands in this new version and they are shorter names than those used previously for the most part.

There is a graphical button which can be added to the spreadsheet at the user's option, which can have a user defined macro program attached to it. This macro program can be more than one line long, which is not always the case in some other programs. These buttons are very useful for setting up a user friendly application for end users, since they can have a macro attached to take the user to different sections of the spreadsheet or perform any type of function needed.

Lotus has made it easy for the user to select ranges of all types: 3D using the worksheet tabs, collections of non-contiguous cells, columns, rows and worksheets, as well as the usual contiguous block of cells. There is now drag and drop features which will allow the user to highlight a block of cells, move the mouse



pointer to the edge of the block and when the mouse pointer turns into a hand icon, hold down the left mouse button and move the block to a new location. This can also be done with a row or column.

It is interesting to note that the hand turns into a fist during the actual moving operation, so the user can see feedback about what he is doing. The user can highlight a block of cells and insert or delete from that block. This means that a new block of cells can be inserted into an area of cells without disturbing the rest of the cells in that area. The same thing happens when the user wishes to delete a block of cells. This is done by using the Edit menu option.

This new version of 1-2-3 for Windows allows in-cell editing which makes it easier for many users to see what they are doing. This is handy when you use the mouse cursor to move to the part of the cell entry you want to change and then start making the changes. SmartFill which was included in SmartPak has become a permanent part of this version with it's own icon. The fill functions have been enhanced slightly from the SmartPak version. The ability to add user defined fill lists to the .ini file is still there in this version. This ability is very useful and allows the user great flexibility and the ability to customize the user's unique needs.

Charting in version 4 has been greatly enhanced with the addition of several new chart types and options. The radar chart which lets you plot each data series against its own axis radiating from the center point has been added, for example. This type of chart can be used to show the extent to which individual data points deviate from the data as a whole according to the upgrade guide. There are more flexible mixed charts and high-low-close-open chart types and pie charts with the first slice starting at 12 o'clock and stacked bar charts with connecting comparison lines.

The ability to change the position and size of the legend, title, note and plot frames has been added, too. Lotus has also made it easier to use the drawing features right on the spreadsheet. This allows easier enhancement of the charts and spreadsheet information. The user can create his own objects or work with pre-drawn objects that have been imported. By working right on the spreadsheet, the user can see the final appearance of his work without going from drawing window to normal view and back.

The previous versions of 1-2-3 which had the Data Lens technology were a little more difficult to use for

accessing external databases than with this new version. Lotus has added many new dialog boxes which help guide the user through all the steps necessary to link and query external databases. The criteria dialog box is extremely useful for users who are not familiar with the way to structure a proper query for the database, which can be quite a confusing process for many people.

OLE and DDE are supported and enhanced from the version 1.1 of 1-2-3 for Windows. It is very easy to embed objects in other Windows programs which support OLE such as Ami Pro and Freelance. You can take data into Freelance, graph it and bring it over to Ami Pro without leaving any of the programs.

Although there are many other new features added in this version, the only other new ones I plan to mention in this article are the numerous new @ functions. There are 110 new @ functions to be exact! Many of them will be of interest to those who do lots of statistical analysis, mathematics and engineering, but there are lots of others for new types of calendar functions, and database functions among other things.

The database functions allow statistics on a range where the labels and blanks are ignored, which is something users have been trying to do for a long time by using @D type functions. There are quite a few new financial functions for many types of bond calculations and interest payments, etc. The @D functions have been enhanced to allow embedded criteria in the formula rather than having to set up a criterion range. That is something I have been requesting for many years, so am very glad to see it has finally been added.

You need to see this new program demonstrated to see just how powerful and flexible it is. The new version manager is just what any workgroup needs to allow them to try different scenarios and what if situations. The new ease-of-use makes this a program which will allow a user to get productive very quickly. I am impressed with the number of new features that Lotus has added to 1-2-3 for Windows version 4. This is a program which will stay competitive in the market.

Betty



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

# NEW DISKS

## ...from the DOM Squad

**Disk 819. CD-ROM PRO 1.2, 2/93** -- Librarian/File Manager for CD-ROMs by Vince Sorensen, 6 Armstrong Bay, Regina, SK., Canada S4N 4G7. Shareware Fee = \$15.00.

CD-ROM PRO is designed to keep track of what programs/files are on what CD-ROM, and to eliminate duplicate files on floppies. With CD-ROM PRO, you can quickly find and view/run/copy any file on any CD-ROM, as well as report on duplication and/or unique files between CD's, whether in the user's collection or not. Text file format conversion is also supported, with the ability to fill-in information found on the actual CD if it was not included in the text files originally.

CD-ROM PRO is a menu driven software program that is very easy to use. Features include, but are not limited to:

- Support for single or multi-line description formats.
- Support for single or multiple (multi-) CD-ROM Players .
- Knows that #1FILE.ZIP \_1FILE.ARJ 1FILE.LZH may all be the same program, and lists them together. When reporting file duplication, user can specify Exact or Close match to ignore or take advantage of this feature.
- Reports include CD versus CD statistics, "should I buy the CD?", and "should I download this file or do I already have it?"
- Can create single or multi-line FILES.BBS/DIRx text files; useful for converting from the format of FILES.BBS on a CD-ROM to whatever your BBS uses.
- Advanced searching including wildcard usage. Find which CD-ROM has the file you're looking for without having to go thru each CD-ROM individu-

ally.

- File viewing, including GIFs, and archived files.
- File tagging for copying, unzipping, or any valid DOS command.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** IBM PC, PC-compatible or MS-DOS computer with 480k RAM and DOS 2.x or higher. A hard drive or 720k floppy is recommended.

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

*Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

**Disk 820. VGAmoire 1.8, 3/92** - Intelligent Screen Saver for DOS by Christopher Antos, 2115 Windsor Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103-5652. Shareware Fee = \$15.

VGAmoire is a VGA only screen saver for DOS that is capable of putting some very interesting and attractive moving designs on the screen. It saves the FULL display configuration and restores it when appropriate activity is detected. Unlike some other popular screen savers, this one can restore non-standard screens (e.g. 43 lines or 60 lines) as well as graphics screens, restore the proper cursor shape, save the mouse driver state, and has a lot of other features. Summary of Features:

- o can use EMS memory
- o allows options to be changed while it is resident
- o is Windows-aware
- o is mouse-aware
- o can wait up to 30 minutes, then activate
- o is telecommunications-aware
- o is disk-I/O-aware
- o can be turned on/off from the keyboard or batch files

o certain aspects of the moire design can be configured by the user

- o will not interfere with DOS
- o is DESQview compatible

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** IBM PC or clone with VGA display. If EMS memory is not available VGAmoire requires between 16K and 112K of available conventional memory, depending on selected options. If EMS memory is available it may use even less than 4K of conventional DOS memory. It can run under DOS 4.0 and 5.0 as well as earlier versions, but see the documentation about using DOSHELL.

Downloaded from RingWorld BBS by Preston Brashear.

*Review prepared by Preston Brashear, edited by Will Davis(4/93).*

**Disk 821. Computer Learning Course C.4, 1/93** -- Learn How to Use a Computer, 7-DAY COMPUTER LEARNING COURSE C.4 by Dennis Drew, PO Box 101, Joplin, MO 64802. Shareware Fee = \$25.

The 7-DAY COMPUTER LEARNING COURSE is a very basic program directed toward the novice. It is designed to be an easy-to-understand (i.e. non-technical language), plain English computer education system that will help you learn how to use your computer on a daily basis. It teaches you what you need to know to use your computer efficiently.

The 7-DAY COMPUTER LEARNING COURSE covers the things you will use on an everyday basis, including:

- \* What is DOS?
- \* DOS commands
- \* Hardware
- \* Software
- \* Computer shortcuts
- \* Computer terms and meanings
- \* Types of equipment
- \* Differences in computers
- \* Batch file programming
- \* Menuizing your computer
- \* Peripherals
- \* and much more

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible. A hard drive is suggested.

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

*Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

**Disk 822. Animated Computer Game 2.0, 2/93** -- Educational Game for Children, JOHN'S ANIMATED COMPUTER GAME 2.0, FLIX Productions, Tom Guthery IV, 601 Ranch Road, DelValle, TX 78617. Shareware Fee = NONE.

A very well done animation game for young children (ages 2 and up) to develop an acquaintance with the computer. Twenty different animated sequences appear on the screen at the touch of a key. The program was written so that the author's 2 year old son could have a game he could play himself on the computer

The author is an artist with over 15 years experience in the field of classical animation. This game is illustrative of the animated educational software produced by him for children from pre-school age through third grade. A description of eight additional games that are available (and for which individual Shareware Fees are charged) is included (see README.COM).

FLIX Productions animated educational software has won both the Shareware Industry Award for "Best Educational Software" and Shareware Magazine's "Editor's Choice" Award.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with a minimum of 640K RAM, EGA or VGA display, and a hard drive. DOS 3.x or higher. Mouse optional (but fun).

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

*Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

**Disk 823. Animated Memory Game 1.0, 1/93** -- Animated

**Educational Game, FLIX Productions, Tom Guthery IV, 601 Ranch Road, DelValle, TX 78617. Shareware Fee = \$6.**

THE ANIMATED MEMORY GAME uses animated pictures to test memory skills. By matching hidden pictures in pairs you win the game and get animated rewards.

Many options are provided: selecting from 14 different tile patterns, changing the background color, and even a mini-movie theater. Various difficulty levels provide a challenge for all ages; adults can enjoy it too. Pre school thru adult. Includes mouse support.

The ANIMATED MEMORY GAME was written by an artist with over 15 years experience in the field of classical animation. Do not let the low registration price fool you, this is an excellent program. The animation is the best I have seen in this kind of program.

FLIX Productions animated educational software has won both the Shareware Industry Award for "Best Educational Software" and Shareware Magazine's "Editor's Choice" Award.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with a minimum of 640K RAM, EGA or VGA display, and a hard drive. DOS 3.x or higher. Mouse optional (but fun).

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

*Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

**Disk 824. Starfire, 11/92 -- An Arcade Type Game, Paul Turbett, Silver Lightning Software, P.O. Box 445, S4N 4G7, Willetton W.A. 6155, Australia. Shareware Fee = AUD\$20 (Australia dollars) Plus AUD\$5 postage and handling if outside Australia. (Otherwise a U.S. \$20 bill, airmailed).**

STARFIRE is an arcade type game which is easy to set up and play. This version has 3 levels of difficulty so it will keep the interest of even the more ex-

perienced electronic game player.

The basis of the game is that Earth is under threat from an evil race. A huge "mother de-structor craft" is heading toward Earth with weapons capable of destroying entire planets. It is your job to SAVE EARTH. The program documentation will start you on your quest to protect the planet Earth.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** 286, 386, or 486 PC (12 MHz+ recommended) with VGA card and monitor. Also supported (but not required): Joystick (recommended), Mouse, Ad-lib/SoundBlaster card (only genuine SoundBlaster cards seem to work).

Downloaded by Mike Ashley.

*Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

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This disk is distributed on a 1.2M disk only

**Disk 825. Telix 3.21, 2/93 -- DOS Communication Utility, deltaComm Development, Post Office Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. (919) 460-4556 voice support / inquiries, (919) 460-4531 dedicated fax, (919) 481-9399 BBS (6 lines v.32bis/HST) (800) TLX-8000 orders only.**

Since the 3.15 version release of Telix and the current 3.21 release of Telix, Exis Inc. (the Canadian company that originally developed Telix) sold the entire product to the former Exis Technical Support Manager, Jeff Woods. Jeff Woods has established a new company, DeltaComm Development, and is continuing to provide support and upgrades. Telix 3.21 is the first release from DeltaComm and is considered a "minor" upgrade release.

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

- o 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.

- o Transfer estimates are now based on the DCE rather than DTE connect speed, making them much more reliable.

- o Telix can now Swap to EMS/XMS/disk on a DOS Shell as an option.
- o Added a fifth external protocol, and added "Auto-download" triggers for all external protocols.

- o 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.

- o Added a second, simple scripting language for non-programmers, called SIMPLE. SALT remains untouched -- SIMPLE is an English -> SALT translator.

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. There is still no Mouse support.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

*Review prepared by Fred Williams, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

**Disk 826. Label Master 5.1, 12/92 -- Mail Management Program, Robert K. Summers, RKS Software, Inc., Arlington, VA 22207-4565. SHAREWARE FEE = \$39.00.**

Label Master 5.1 is a very powerful, yet easy to use mail management program. With it, you can create a file of names and addresses, edit the file, search for specific records or browse through the file, and print labels, form letters, and reports in any of several formats.

Label Master 5.1 contains several features designed to let you save money by taking advantage of bulk business mail rates. Specifically, you can print bar codes (either ZIP+4 or Delivery Point Bar Codes) and carrier route sort numbers on your labels, produce bulk mail reports to meet U.S. Postal Service requirements, and run a utility to

let the Postal Service convert your 5 digit zip codes into 9 digit zip codes.

There is a utility which lets you merge your name and address data into form letters which Label Master 5.1 will print for you. It contains a large number of additional features to help you easily manage mailing lists.

It maintains an unlimited number of records limited only by the capacity of your hard disk.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** Label Master 5.1 is designed to work on any IBM or compatible PC with a monochrome or color monitor, and a hard disk. It requires 384K RAM, and works with any dot matrix or laser jet printer. If you want to use its automatic telephone dialing capability, you will need a Hayes or Hayes-compatible modem. Label Master 5.1 requires a hard disk system.

The source of this disk is the vendor, RKS Software, Inc.

*Review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

**Disk 827. MD86 1.0, 12/87 -- Disassembler for Intel 8086, "Masterful Disassembler", Clark A. Calkins, C.C. Software, 1907 Alvarado Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596. SHAREWARE FEE = \$17.50.**

The MD86 program is a powerful utility for examining and disassembling any executable program. MD86 was developed with one goal in mind: to produce useable source code from an executable program file. Useable means that the resulting assembler code must be understandable both to the user and to an assembler. This requires meaningful label names and comments. Normally the disassembly of a large program is time consuming and laborious. MD86 speeds up the process as much as possible.

MD86 produces source files that are compatible with the Microsoft Assembler, MASM (Version 4.0). After MD86 has produced a source file, some minor editing may have to be done be-

fore the file can be assembled without error. This will be especially true with EXE type programs which have complex segment structures.

MD86's unique video display works very much like a full screen editor, allowing movement within the disassembled source file with single key ease. Most of the operational difficulties associated with other disassemblers is gone. When executed, MD86 presents the user with a full screen of information that looks very similar to the printed output from an assembler. The display does not seem cluttered. The label field only has an entry if the address is referenced. The comments shown are automatically inserted by MD86 to help you remember the less common instructions and MSDOS function calls.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**  
MD86 is designed to run on any IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible computer with at least 128k of ram memory. Neither a graphics adaptor nor a color monitor is required. A hard disk is desirable but MD86 runs fine (actually a trifle slower) on floppy based systems.

Downloaded from RONIN by Kenneth Loafman.

*Review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

**Disk 828. VDE 1.64D, 11/92 - Text Editor and Word Processor, Eric Meyer, 3541 Smuggler Way, Boulder, CO 80303. SHAREWARE FEE = \$30.00.**

VDE is a small, fast, powerful text editor offering:

- \* easy menu bar operation or WordStar-compatible command keys

- \* multiple files, windows, cut and paste
- \* block copy, move, delete, read, write, and zoom
- \* find and replace (forward, backward, ignore case, all files, etc)
- \* multiple-level undo to recover unintended deletions
- \* keystroke macros with full programming ability
- \* utilities to browse disk directories, split files, compare files, count words, number lists automatically
- \* full DOS access: directories, DOS commands, shell
- \* programmable function keys and many other user configurable options

And, VDE is also an efficient word processor, with:

- \* left and right margins, word-wrap, automatic or manual re-format
- \* variable tabs, auto indent, centering, flush right

- \* right justification, proportional spacing modes
- \* page preview to check format and pagebreaks before printing
- \* customizable printer drivers for special effects (bold, underline, italic, super/subscript, overstrike, pitch, font, etc)
- \* printing options: headers, pagination, selective print, print to file, single sheet feed, address envelopes
- \* multiple file formats allow text exchange (including plain ASCII, WordStar, WordPerfect, XyWrite, NotaBene, Microsoft Word)

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**  
VDE requires any IBM PC or compatible running DOS 2.x or above.

Source of this disk is the Author.

*Review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Will Davis (4/93).*

To order disks described in this article use the DOM order blank on page 28.



## Membership Application

*North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.*

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

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Check Preferred No.) Home \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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) _____	Renewal _____
Credit Card _____	(full time with ID)	Address Change _____

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

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

# Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

by Claude McClure

## Special Effort

Volunteers are a special group of people who see the overall picture and understand the Users Group must be supported by its members. These members have a lot more than a pure intellectual understanding of what volunteering is. They know it's a commitment to the group and a dedication of a portion of time (usually an hour) that will be exclusively service time.

All of this brings to mind an individual who not only knows his job on Super Saturday, but brings such an air of professionalism that he is the perfect example for other committed volunteers. David Slavik anchors the CCD vendor set-up from 6 am to 8 am. and represents the

NTPCUG very well. I think he deserves applause for his service and special effort.

There are volunteer opportunities both in the Product Showcase area and Information Booth throughout the day. Many members find serving the Users Group in this way to be a rewarding experience.

You are encouraged to volunteer. It's a fun way to meet other members and exchange ideas. Check at the Information Booth for openings and a chance to sign up.

PLEASE remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

Claude...

Infomart Liaison  
David Harned

Vendor Setup/Breakdown  
Anchors:  
David Slavik  
Claude McClure  
Crew:  
Robert Hartner  
Ed Robinson  
Bill Vallance

Auditorium Presentations  
Timothy Carmichael  
Chris Jung  
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration  
Booth  
Statistician:  
Connie Testa  
Scheduler:  
Bob Wuller  
Anchors:  
Connie Andrews  
Harvey Andrews  
Al Aston  
Ralph Beaver  
Jim Bourgeois  
John Ferguson  
Paul Fredd  
Judy Griffiths  
Allan Harbaugh  
Hank Holt  
David Huckabee  
Edward (Ned) Keig

David Martin  
Claude McClure  
Raymond Reyes  
Everett Turner  
Paul Williams  
Bob Wuller (double)  
Booth Crew:  
Greg Canty  
Eteta E. Eta  
Cinda Lovil  
Richard Manual  
Ed Moreland  
Rod Rodolico  
Randy Wicks

Disk of the Month (DOM)  
DOM Desk Crew:  
Joe Allen  
Doug Athas  
Bernie Baars  
Ralph Beaver  
Rob Bender  
Norman Dang  
James Donlon  
Charles Fernandez  
Thomas "Tuc" Goodwin  
Jimmy Green  
Judy Griffiths  
M. Pat Henley  
Duane Martin  
Stacy Naftel  
Bob Post  
Bob Reynolds  
Ed Snuggs  
Elaine Stephens  
Oscar Tyler

With Special Thanks to:  
Set-Up Crew:  
Mark Gruner  
M. Pat Henley  
Kathryn Loafman  
Kenneth Loafman  
Jerry Stone  
Shift Supervisors:  
Ralph Beaver  
Gene Carleton  
Don Chick  
M. Pat Henley  
Ed Snuggs  
Claude Walston

Inventory and Take-Down  
Crew:  
Charles Carter  
Jimmy Green  
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:**

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





(See page 1 for description of programs.)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>Pervasive Computing</b>
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>Multimedia Presentation Tools</b>
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<b>NTPCUG Business Meeting</b>
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<b>Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows Release 4.0</b>

## Special Interest Groups

<b>SIG Coordinator</b>	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
ACTI	Jim Thompson	(214)487-0085 w (817)261-6159 h
Alpha Four	Ron Jackson Mac McKeethen	(214)276-3661 h (214)556-1352 h
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 (214)235-5968 h
BBS	Jim Carter Fred Williams Doug Gorrie	(214)492-1315 h (214)618-8002 n (214)464-7942 w (214)272-2869 h (214)235-2559 h (214)669-9633 w (214)690-5848 h (214)233-8353 w
Brother's Keeper Business App./DAC	Neil Sunderland Putt Shaw	(214)343-3862 h (214)296-1799
C++ / Advanced C CAD	Kent Cobb Bill Shepton	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w (817)731-1308 h (214)521-2938 h (214)521-6670 w (214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
Communications	Doug Gorrie	(214)416-3101 n
Community Svc	Bill Green Brian Mickel	(214)828-0699 h (817)640-6130 hM (214)313-0408 w (214)335-9103 h (817)481-2350 hM (214)644-7536 n (214)278-7888 n (214)462-7980 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h (214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 hM (214)437-0322 h (214)871-8177 w (817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
DOS	Jim Hoisington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
Datalflex	David King	(214)313-0408 w
Desktop Publ	Lewis Graber Larry Linson	(214)335-9103 h (817)481-2350 hM
Fox Pro	Kevin White	(214)644-7536 n
Genealogy	Al Sanford	(214)278-7888 n
Hdw Solutions	Peyton Weaver Gary Johnson	(214)462-7980 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h (214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 hM (214)437-0322 h (214)871-8177 w (817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
MS Works	Mike Firth Ralph Logan	(214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 hM
Investors	Dick Rickeluan	(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
OS/2 Dev	Francis Bright James Dunn	(214)279-5712h (214)497-8978 h (817)481-6625 h (214)444-2195 w (817)498-5856 h (214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)867-1679 n (214)422-4269 h (214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	(214)444-2195 w
PAF	Joe Waldrop	(817)498-5856 h
Paradox	Fred Williams Greg Kane	(214)492-1315 (214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)867-1679 n (214)422-4269 h (214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
Personal Users	Bob Presley Bob Russell	(214)241-3307 w (214)867-1679 n (214)422-4269 h
Programmers	Jim Hoisington Kent Kingery	(214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 hM (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
Quicken	Billy Pitts Jo Johnston	(817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
Roots III	John Wylie	(214)495-4410 h
Software Review	Pat Henley	(214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
Spreadsheet /Dev	Neil Berkowitz Mark Gruner Betty Brooks	(214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
StarText	Beverly Kurtin	(817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
TI Pro	Ed Snuggs Clifford Cade	(214)348-0664 h (214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
Windows Applc.	Rick Silverell	(817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 n (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
Windows Dev. WORD	Arthur English Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. Charles Miller Lanet Patton	(214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-8249 (214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn	(214)255-0555 w (817)461-6453 hM (214)823-9837
	Mitch Milam	(214)823-9837

## Special Interest Group Meetings

For possible time changes, check the Bulletin Board just before the meeting and the overhead display in the lobby at INFOMART.

<b>9:00 - 9:55</b>	<b>11:00 - 11:55</b>	<b>12:00 - 12:55 cont</b>
BASIC Programming-Visual DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Personal Users Quicken Software Review Windows Applications WordPerfect	BASIC Programming-Begin.. Assembler Brother's Keeper Genealogy MS Works Roots III - Genealogy Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers	Investors OS/2 for End Users Personal Users
<b>10:00 - 10:55</b>	<b>11:30 - 11:55</b>	<b>1:00 - 1:55</b>
BASIC Programming-Adv. CAD Fox Pro Database Networking PAF -Genealogy Paradox Personal Users WordPerfect/Windows Unix/Xenix	Orientation <b>11:30 - 1:00</b> TI Pro	ACTI BBS Business Apps./DAC Easy Middle C OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet Startext WORD
	<b>12:00 - 12:55</b>	<b>2:00 - 2:55</b>
	Alpha Four C++/Advanced C Communications Desktop Publishing	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. Please leave a message if you would like specific information about the Group.

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

<b>Doug Gorrie, Chair</b>	<b>Reagan Andrews</b>	
<b>Jim Hoisington</b>	<b>Andy Oliver</b>	
<b>Fred Williams</b>		
<b>Officers</b>		
President	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h (214)871-5750 w (214)561-4626 w (214)495-7071
Program Chair.	Timothy Carmichael	(214)620-8741 h (214)416-3101h (817)275-4109 h (214)462-7980 (214)596-2539
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	
Secretary	John West	
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	
Advertising Dir.	John Pribyl	
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Leafman	
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

Settings: N 8 1

(214)387-2751	
(214)387-2752	
(214)263-9036 (Metro)	
<b>SYSOP: - Fred Williams</b>	
<b>Assistant Sysop: Tom Prickett</b>	
<b>Assistant Sysop: Doug Gorrie</b>	
<b>Information Mgt: Lewis Graber</b>	
<b>User Relations: Adam Peterson</b>	
<b>DOM Index: Pete Testa</b>	
<b>Voice line for validation problems:</b>	
<b>(214)682-0725 Ask for Adam</b>	

### 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..)



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

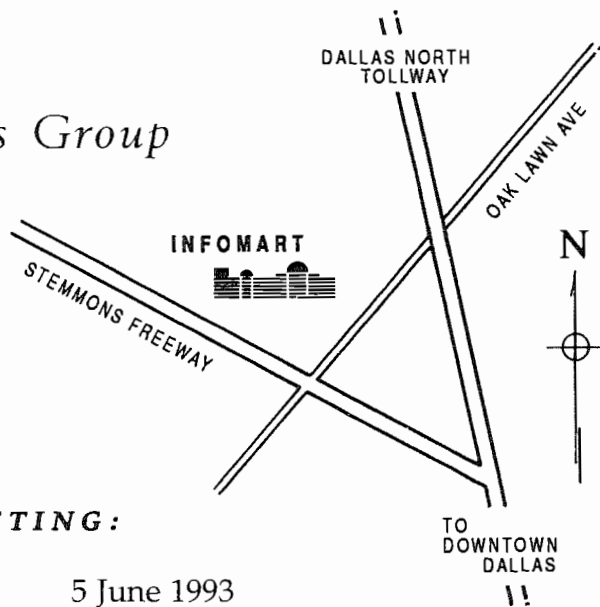
Non Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
Paid  
Arlington, TX  
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.

12.6

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

*North Texas PC Users Group*



**NEXT MEETING:**

5 June 1993