North Texas PC NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet IIP Printer with Pacific Data PacificPage PE/XL PostScript cartridge. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica, Brush Script and Mistral.

DEADLINE
**Copy deadline for August
North Texas PC NEWS:
Sunday July 10th**

Meeting Dates:

July Meeting - 2nd Saturday
August Meeting - 3rd Saturday

Member

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

b) **Snail Mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service).** Put the article on a floppy diskette and mail it to: 3851 Double Oak Lane, Irving, TX 75061

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

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John Pribyl, *PC News* Publisher since 1982, Passes away in Arlington, Texas, May 21

John P. Pribyl, publisher of the North Texas PC News and long time-friend died Friday, May 21, in Arlington.

John was 68. John is survived by his wife Virginia; his three sons, Steven, Patrick, and William, and his daughter, Anne Marie.

John was one of the earliest members of the NTPCUG and when someone suggested that the Club publish a newsletter, he volunteered. He has been the publisher ever since.

He was also an artist and had received several awards for his ink artwork. In addition, John held a patent for a water fountain synchronized to music. John was a member emeritus of the North Texas PC Users Group, a member of the Arlington Visual Arts Association, and a member of the Sons of Italy.

John P. Pribyl

This week a letter arrived from Dr. Neil Bennett containing some user group papers he found while cleaning out his filing cabinet. Among the papers was a copy of the original corporate charter from the State of Texas for the NTPCUG dated August 12, 1983. John Pribyl is listed as one of the original officers.

All of us who knew John were enriched by the experience. I have many memories of working with John to get equipment to publish the newsletter, articles to fill empty pages, and mailing labels in time to meet the crazy deadlines imposed by our changing meeting schedules. John, we'll miss you.

Jim Hoisington

An editor and friend remembers John

This organization has lost one of those quiet forces that is felt by everyone, but is noticed by few. John Pribyl is gone. I didn't really know John that well -- and I regret that. He was just the guy that published the newsletter. I helped with editing the articles. I sometimes ran interference with writers for him. But, beyond the scope of this newsletter we didn't talk much.

John had a calm demeanor. I never once saw him get angry or cross. When he was disappointed with something, he would offer constructive criticism rather than deride. His manner motivated me to try harder and work better.

John gave this newsletter a look and style that I feel is unparalleled in any other users group publication. He set a standard that will be hard to sustain without him.

Please take a moment to reflect on this man who many of you never knew, but who gave so much of himself to this users group (and ultimately to you). Thanks John.

Doug McQuaid

North Texas PC Users Group Names Publishing Board in June

Following the death of the *North Texas PC News* Publisher, John Pribyl, Doug Gorrie, NTPCUG President, appointed three members to a new, interim PC Newsletter Publishing Board. Douglas McQuaid will become Acting Publisher and Executive Editor.

McQuaid will be assisted by Andy Oliver, NTPCUG President-Elect, and Reagan Andrews, member of the BOD, in continued publication of the users group newsletter.

"Initial priority will be getting out the July and August, 1993 issues," Mc Quaid stated. "We'd prefer to continue un-interrupted while maintaining John's standards for the *PC News*."

Program for July   *Timothy Carmichael*

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM   **Graphics Works for Windows**

Micrografx

Craig Simmons, Imaging Products Planner

The all-new Graphics Works gives you a complete graphics combination in one package. It includes Windows Draw; PhotoMagic, the new image editor; Slideshow; WinChart for making charts and graphs; and Windows OrgChart for creating organizational charts. It also comes with 10,000 clip art images and 1,000 stock quality photos (500 images and 50 photos on diskette, the rest on CD-ROM). The package will be offered at an incredibly low price to attendees on this day only, and there will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM   **Norton Utilities 7.0**

Symantec Corporation

Pat Bowler, Regional Sales Representative

Norton Utilities is the award-winning standard for data recovery, protection and system diagnostics. It includes a host of new and improved features, including exclusive data recovery and disk optimization of DOS 6.0 DoubleSpace, Stacker and SuperStor compressed drives, complete hardware diagnostics, and support for hard disks of virtually any size. Other enhancements are: additional File Fix data formats, Advanced Recovery Mode, enhanced rescue and emergency disks, and compatibility with Windows 3.x, networks and DOS 6.0. There will be a drawing for free software. *

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

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM   **DacEasy Accounting 4.3 Series**

DacEasy, Incorporated

Julie Stratman, Education Program Manager

DacEasy Accounting software is well-known for being easy to start with and easy to grow with. It is an integrated solution with a core package consisting of General Ledger, Cash, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Billing, Purchasing and Inventory modules. Other modules can be added, including Payroll, Point of Sale and Order Entry. It runs on virtually any IBM PC or compatible with 640Kb of RAM, and extensive training and support is available. There will be a drawing for free t-shirts and software. *

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

Prez Sez...

GOOD-BYE TO A FRIEND...

By now, many of you are aware that John Pribyl, long-time friend of NTPCUG and Publisher of PC NEWS, passed away on Friday, May 21. John's willingness to volunteer goes back well before my meager four years. His contributions have been many, and his devotion to the success of NTPCUG was unwavering. He will be sorely missed.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...

NTPCUG is an all-volunteer organization. Without your contribution of time and energy, NTPCUG would have folded years ago. As we grow, and as time passes, there is an ongoing need for new volunteers to take the place of old, and to help staff the new positions that are the result of "change".

Our SIG leaders and assistants are probably our most visible volunteers, managing our 40+ SIGs each month. Also conspicuous are the many Information Booth and Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) volunteers. These and many others appear in the Volunteer Guide section, and all deserve special mention.

We are in the process of reviewing our membership's man-hour contribution at each Saturday meeting. Each participating User Group is responsible for providing personnel for setup and teardown functions in the basement Vendor Showcase, and to place and remove whiteboards in meeting rooms. These activities occur early (7 am) and late (2 pm) in the day, so can be done without losing access to any presentations. If enough of our members will volunteer for occasional duty, we can spread the load without creating any hardship. I urge you to give SERIOUS consideration to volunteering, by giving your name to

Prez Sez... ctd.

Claude McClure at the Information Booth. "SERI-OUS" means to pause now, reflect on what you gain as a NTPCUG member, and commit to helping out on a regular or periodic basis.

In June, I made mention that the Personal Users (Beginners) SIG is reorganizing its activities in light of Bob Presley's departure as SIG Leader. In addition to the 16 unique, separate topics presented over a four month period, there are a number of behind-the-scenes support roles to be staffed. Tasks are available throughout the month or at the Saturday extravaganza.

Mr. Presley has made this upcoming transition as painless as possible by agreeing to tutor prospective volunteers on the subject they chose to present, and/or on the background activities they agree to perform. It's a great opportunity to expand your knowledge of a topic and present it to others newer than yourself. Please call Bob Presley, Alex Lilley or myself so we might explain this opportunity (no obligation, of course).

With the unexpected loss of John Pribyl, we are also searching out persons experienced in desktop publishing (DTP) to assume the role of NTPCUG Publisher. Doug McQuaid and Reagan Andrews have agreed to assume this role during the interim, but cannot continue this additional volunteer load beyond the August issue. I ask that you consider talking with Doug, Reagan or myself about contributing some time to this endeavor, and please do so promptly. Doug, Reagan and the entire Board of Directors will be very appreciative of your assistance.

Mark Gruner advises that he is continuing to accept applications for "Ass't SIG Leader - Spreadsheet SIG". Mark finds that his efforts center more on EXCEL, so is soliciting Lotus 1-2-3 assistance. Please contact Mark to learn more.

DCLP, and REACH AWARDS...

At the June 5th Super Saturday meeting, Brian Mickel, President of the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP) and NTPCUG member, described the awards bestowed on both our organizations at Spring Comdex. DCLP was declared a winner of the REACH Award program, sponsored by Ziff-Davis Publishing and the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG). REACH, Recognizing Exceptional Achievement in Community Help, aptly describes what DCLP has been accomplishing. In their few short months, DCLP has placed donated computer equipment into a number of schools and churches located within the less affluent areas of Dallas. These learning centers are providing inner city youths and adults with an opportunity to join mainstream America in the computer revolution.

For their vision and success in this endeavor, DCLP was awarded $15,000. And, for NTPCUG's support of DCLP through monetary, labor and equipment contributions, as well as for establishing a corresponding forum on our BBS, we received an engraved crystal that aptly recognizes our efforts.

As we go to press, PC Magazine (June 29, page 32) is the first of many publications celebrating the event. But this is just the start. Look for even greater achievements from DCLP in the months ahead.

MAGAZINE EXCHANGE...

Some months ago, Dr. Sydney Kay approached me to suggest that NTPCUG members "recycle" computer magazines through our organization, rather than having them thrown away. Such a program will start in earnest this month, but with a dual objective. Your previously read computer oriented mags can now be "discarded" at a table to be located near the ground floor Information Booth at Infomart. NTPCUG members will be free to select a magazine from the stack when contributing one of their own. Those removed one month may be freely returned the following month.

Magazines remaining at the end of the day will NOT be pitched. Instead, we will donate them to the many folks attending DCLP learning centers, thereby further distributing this wealth of knowledge.

Please, no *Good Housekeeping* or *Playboy*, but any of the technology-oriented publications will be appreciated. When providing yours, we suggest that you remove or mark over the mailing label, just in case some unscrupulous soul decides he/she prefers direct home delivery of YOUR subscription!! Thanks for your help.

BOD MEETING - MAY...

At the May meeting of the Board, Mr. Bill Drissel presented his vision of what is tentatively being referred to as the "User To User" Help program. As suggested, it would solicit NTPCUG members knowledgeable in various disciplines, and identify those days and times during which they agree to receive calls for assistance. Topics would extend well beyond those covered in SIG meetings, to virtually any item of PC hardware, software or technique. While

Prez Sez... ctd.

wanting to further refine the wording, the Board has approved the overall concept. Be looking for Bill's formal announcement in August.

NEW MEMBERS EMERITUS

The BOD bestowed Member Emeritus status upon four long-term NTPCUG volunteers. This brings to eight the number of members receiving this honor over the nearly 11 year span that NTPCUG has served the D/FW area. As an Emeritus, they will be granted lifetime membership in NTPCUG, with all associated rights and privileges.

Please join me in congratulating the following:

> **Connie Andrews** - for developing the Information Booth into a smooth running volunteer operation, month after month.

> **Kathryn Loafman** - for her many hours in coordinating all aspects of the DOM desk.

> **David McGehee** - for his multi-year role as NTPCUG Secretary, filer of the IRS reports, and organizerof NTPCUG's official records.

> **Tom Prickett** - for devoting years to implementing and maintaining three different BBS systems over the life of NTPCUG.

MEMBERSHIP NOW 2,165

Separately, Jim Hoisington reported our membership to be 2,165 as of May 1st.

In other board news, SIG leaders now have a "power" machine at their disposal. The board recently approved the purchase of a system for SIG use. The new SIG computer has a 486DX-33 processor with 16 Meg RAM and a 245 Meg hard drive. SIG Leaders should contact Alex Lilley for scheduling information.

Your President caught some grief for dragging this meeting out nearly 3.5 hours. I still had more to say, but few remained to talk to. Had something to do with "miles to go before I sleep...".

ITEMS OF POLICY...

It has been suggested that I remind members of two items of policy.

First, be advised that members can have their membership extended for a year without charge. You do so by submitting four articles within your current year for publication in PC NEWS. Each article must

be at least 400 words, and must be acceptable to the editor. Professional quality is NOT required, but the article must be understandable, and relate to PC hardware, software, etc. To receive your free membership, you must summarize the articles contributed (Date, Title) in a note to the Editor. This should be done early in the month of expiration, or the month prior, to assure continuity.

Second, NTPCUG no longer gives a month's membership extension for early renewals. (In the past, members could renew in the 11th month, thereby eliminating the mailing of a renewal letter in the 12th month.) This policy was discontinued in the last year or so, at the request of the membership chairman. Turns out that his workload actually INCREASED under the policy, rather than being reduced. If you want a free month, consider sharing your expertise by writing articles.

DOS 6 T-SHIRTS...

As many of you know, our participation in the March 30 release of DOS 6 was a huge success, so much so that we underestimated how many T-Shirts to request. Microsoft has graciously provided us with an additional supply to dispense to those that got "shorted" in March. I have taken some heat for requesting more T-Shirts because of the difficulty of getting them to the right people. Some folks were given coupons, so are easy to identify; others left before receiving theirs.

At the risk of being strung up, I am planning to dispense these T-Shirts at the July meeting to those meeting the following conditions:

a) Must have PERSONALLY attended the March 30 DOS 6 release. b) Must NOT have received a T-Shirt already. c) Must currently be an NTPCUG Member.

To help keep the few unscrupulous individuals honest, a survey will reluctantly be required of those meeting the above conditions. The survey will not only help us do a better job in the future, but will help determine whether you were actually present for the DOS 6 rollout.

Please work with me on this. The "honor system" will be in effect. A successful effort (or lack of it) will determine whether or not we will offer such follow-up programs in the future.

Have a glorious Independence Day, and a great month!!

Doug Gorrie

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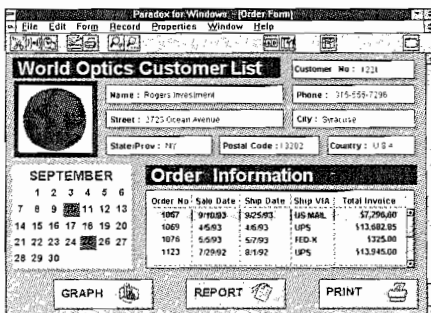
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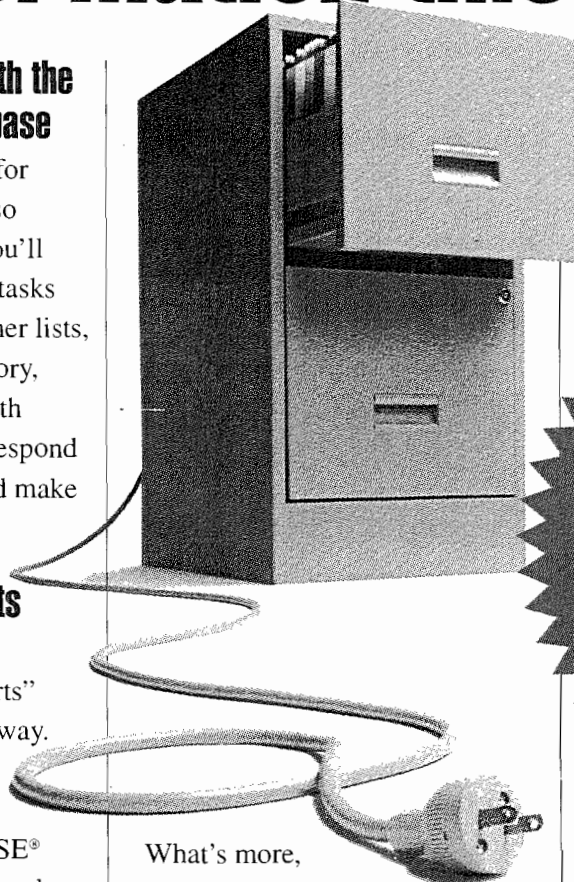
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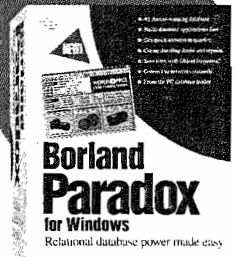
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The Variety Store

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

AMD Takes Another Intel 'Hit' while IBM & Phoenix cozy-up and Tandy goes AST as Apple nixes jury on Microsoft

Dinosaurs may grab us all ...

Sorry if there's not much "zing" in this month's column. It's going to take some time to get over the loss of John Pribyl, *North Texas PC News* Publisher, in May.

AMD may be feeling a substantial loss as well, but for different reasons. After a stunning win over Intel in the fabled 486 Wars, AMD heard that they had lost after all the smoke and dust cleared — for this round. Apple may have similar feelings. They just haven't had much luck with federal judges of late and shunned an opportunity to air their grievances against Microsoft in front of a jury in June.

Looks like we may have to name this column *Legal Briefs* or something similarly hoky at this rate.

Ain't the old IBM I know!

Talk about the past eating itself, IBM and Phoenix Technologies inked a pact allowing Phoenix to sell IBM's PC BIOS to clone makers. At the same time, IBM (remember *OS/2 2.1?*) is said to be porting *CICS* to *Windows NT.* All this as Microsoft announces a "universal" programming interface/language for office machines. Wow!

On the local scene
Hard disk prices fall ...
While DRAM prices rise

Hard disk prices continue to drop. Quoted prices on "medium" size disks seem to slip on a daily basis. I've been quoted $335 for a new Maxtor IDE 340MB drive. I've seen similarly-low pricing on Western Digital IDE 300MB drives as well.

SCSI prices are not falling as rapidly as **IDE** prices, even though cost of production can't be that much higher. Prices on 500MB+, 1GB+ drives are falling as well with a $0.70/MB ratio seen on some of the larger IDE drives.

At these prices, a second hard disk may be a cheaper backup option than a tape drive.

DRAM different story

DRAM prices are edging back up in opposition to the trends seen in drives and other hardware. Prices seem to have risen about 10% – 15% over the past month at both Super Saturday and First Saturday vendors.

Some media are predicting a DRAM shortage ahead. Nobody's saying we'll see the overheated prices of 1988 again, but some vendors are now complaining they may not be able to ship PCs with as much memory as customers want.

I think the combination of PC price wars and demand for *Windows* capability is driving DRAM demands now. PCs have become so inexpensive that there are lots of first-time buyers grabbing hardware while *Windows* use has escalated DRAM needs across the board.

Cyrix readies IPO - Tandy Sells PC Division to AST

Local Intel challenger, Cyrix, announced plans to go public with an IPO. That's been expected and really not news. The news is that the profit margins being reported by the Richardson, TX-based CPU designer/maker are said to be close to those of Intel. Cyrix has been one of the major 386/486 clone producers and originated 486 plug-in CPU replacements for older 386 chips.

Most interesting in the *Dallas Morning News* and *Wall Street Journal* articles detailing the IPO are hints at acrimony between

Variety . . . .

Cyrix and TI (Texas Instruments), maker of the actual silicon, and Cyrix's plans to purchase a portion of SGS-Thompson for increased production to meet demand for the CPUs.

Cyrix is a designer, not a producer, at this stage. Evidently, there are rifts in the Cyrix/TI marriage with Cyrix yelling "foul" that TI isn't supplying them with sufficient silicon. That's the reason for rumors that Cyrix will buy a substantial portion of SGS-Thompson. Cyrix seems to be able to sell lots of silicon — if they can get it.

Rumors mount that TI is selling lots of Cyrix-designed silicon, but not supplying much to Cyrix to sell. This makes Cyrix unhappy and supposedly TI quite happy since they may (à la AMD/Intel-style agreements) be entitled to Cyrix designs until 1996 or so.

Cyrix has been shielded from too much Intel wrath via agreements between Intel and TI, and via Intel and Mostek — now an SGS-Thompson affiliate/division. This promises to be fun.

PC pioneer Tandy sells Manufacturing to AST — Dell slips to #5 size

PC pioneer Tandy Corp. announced in late May that it would sell its PC manufacturing business to AST Research for approximately $175 million. The Fort Worth, TX, based concern was one of the earliest

makers of PCs for individual use which were sold through Tandy's Radio Shack stores in the 1970's.

Acquisition of Tandy's PC operations will boost AST Research into the fourth-largest U.S. PC manufacturer slot formerly held by Austin, TX, Dell Computer Corporation. AST CEO Safi Qureshy stated at the time of the announcement that he saw this as a "natural occurrence" since AST and GRiD (a Tandy subsidiary) had been involved in a previous business alliance.

PCs have been somewhat problematic for Tandy. Although a pioneer in development of the PC, Tandy has essentially focused on retailing, its primary business, and has had problems positioning the PC manufacturing operations in its corporate milieu over the past five years.

AST gains too

AST is also an early player in the PC game. I've still got an AST Combo card, circa 1982, that eclipsed anything IBM had to offer at the time. AST was great at design, development, integration and manufacturing at reasonable cost.

Tandy's PC manufacturing operation acquisition makes a lot of sense for AST. In spite of AST's early role as a major vendor of add-on cards for the IBM PC and clones, it's never had access to direct retailing and a sales force (GRiD) at a level this purchase will provide, in addi-

tion to significant manufacturing capabilities.

Court news this month ...

AMD – Intel 486 suit
Flip-flops again ...

AMD has got to feel snake bit. After winning (they thought) an arbitration award in February, 1992, AMD saw the California Court of Appeals ravage the earlier decision in June.

According to the *Wall Street Journal's* June 7, 1993, story, this decision reopens the door to further Intel litigation against AMD. Intel has had a federal case pending since 1991 charging AMD with copyright infringements.

AMD will continue the fight. First, according to *WSJ*, AMD will ask for reconsideration by the appellate court, and appeal to the state supreme court if the decision isn't reversed.

Really BIG $$$

If AMD fails, Intel's federal copyright case means big $$$ are at stake. Legal and corporate sources quoted in the *WSJ* story cite amounts ranging from Intel's estimate of $600 million – $1 billion in lost profits by end of 1992, to almost $3 billion including punitive damages. That's more than the original *Apple vs. Microsoft, et al* damage estimates.

This June's decision is only the latest chapter. It's one of the more acrimonious legal struggles in the PC world and a fight

⚡️ *Variety* . . . . °

that's been boiling (and simmering) since 1987. AMD has consistently claimed rights to produce the 386 and 486 chips as the result of an agreement to share technology with Intel — signed in 1982. Intel has/had similar agreements with a number of other silicon houses.

I imagine that Cyrix, TI and SGS-Thompson are watching these events very closely.

Apple vs. Microsoft Round ? goes to MS Apple shuns jury

I'm getting tired of *Apple vs. Microsoft* — Almost as tired as I've become of *Intel vs. AMD*. It's becoming pretty boring as Apple loses, Microsoft gloats, and only the lawyers involved really benefit.

The latest round (Round #? — I've lost count) saw Judge Vaughn Walker throw out most of the remaining issues in Apple's suit against Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard for copyright infringements involving *Windows* and HP's *New Wave*.

Apple moves to appeal Shuns jury trial

Apple responded by abandoning its efforts to get a jury trial and will move the case to appeal after Judge Walker dismissed all charges against Microsoft and HP in the June decision. According to *Computerworld's* June 7 article, Apple's attorneys took this turn after deciding that Judge Walker

"missed the point of their arguments."

What really happened

Judges in this type of case exert significant influence by setting pre-trial guidelines over what evidence either side can present, questions of fact, and rules juries will follow in making their decisions. As a result, the judges' rulings on these matters are crucial to the outcome of the trial for both parties involved.

Judge Walker has consistently "narrowed the scope" of arguments available to Apple. A major Apple loss was his decision that Apple would have to prove that the "visual displays on the Macintosh were *virtually identical* to the Microsoft and HP software." Apple had wanted use of *substantially similar* which would be much easier for them to argue before a jury.

So, Apple will appeal in hopes that an appeals judge may be "friendlier" and would allow the broader (and easier to win) *substantially similar* standard. Experts quoted in the articles estimated this would go on for another two – three years — at least.

Times have changed! IBM – Phoenix BIOS & CICS now on *Windows NT*

I never thought I'd be writing about an agreement between IBM and Phoenix Technologies to sell PC BIOS sets to PC mak-

ers. The PC world really does go in circles.

IBM and Phoenix announced that they would offer PC makers a version of the authentic IBM BIOS called the SurePath BIOS. Reverse engineering is no longer required.

It wasn't always this easy. The heart of any PC is the BIOS that controls the machine's operation between the CPU and the external world. IBM's original BIOS ROM's for PC were heavily copyrighted. Early "clone" BIOS sets were produced (legally) by "clean-room programmers" who had never seen the original IBM code but duplicated the services IBM provided in the BIOS chips.

Compaq and Phoenix were among the earliest IBM clone BIOS developers who were able to produce truly compatible sets. We tested for "real" compatibility via *Lotus 1-2-3* and Microsoft's *Flight Simulator*. If a prospective PC would run these, it was worth considering in the early days.

IBM recognizes *NT* — CICS on *Windows* soon

IBM's *CICS* (Customer Information and Control Systems), the almost universal transaction monitor for mainframe computers, will be available for *Windows 3.1 NT*.

According to a *PC Week* June 7 article, *CICS* "will be available from IBM and members of the Microsoft solutions providers program in the first half of next

🌿 Variety . . . .

year." The article indicates that this will be a recognition by IBM of *NT's* importance to their customer base. The *NT* version will be the "functional equivalent" of the *OS/2* client/server version of CICS scheduled for release in September.

PC Week reported that there are approximately 300,000 *CICS* programmers worldwide and estimated an existing base of 1 billion lines of *CICS* applications code.

4.0 does 3–D as Micrografx unveils New *Designer* release

Micrografx charged back into the illustration fray at Spring Comdex showing *Designer 4.0* with 3–D drawing tools and a new iconic user interface. According to Micrografx, the new *Designer 4.0* is based on a 32-bit graphics engine and has been significantly streamlined.

Comdex attendees who saw the new Micrografx release were enthusiastic about the new tools and interface. Although *Designer* has always had a following (me included), it has also had a well-deserved reputation for a very steep learning curve and somewhat idiosyncratic interface. Viewers at Comdex quoted by *PC Week* described the new interface as "non-intimidating and extremely well-thought-out."

According to Micrografx, the new release of their technical illustration package incorporates improved text-handling controls and a color-separation utility in addition to 3–D tools and

an improved interface. The new upgrade should be available by time of this publication.

Microsoft pitches New *At Work* for Office Domination

Microsoft *At Work*. If you don't like *Windows*, the next item should really raise your hackles. Microsoft has formed an alliance with Xerox Corp., Northern Telecom Ltd., McCaw Cellular Communications, Inc., Ricoh Corp., Murata Machinery Ltd., Hewlett-Packard Co., and "dozens of other office equipment makers" according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

. At Work is at the center of the new alliance which was formed to impose a common language for control of office equipment. Microsoft says implementation of *At Work* as a standard will facilitate communications between copiers, faxes, telephones and other office machines and enhance the flow of information and data within the office environment. *AT Work* is also compatible with *Windows*.

Most office machines contain microprocessors and Microsoft sees this as an opportunity to establish an agreement on a common control standard and make such equipment more network friendly. Non-admirers of Microsoft see the move in a much less friendly light and describe this as Microsoft's first step at achieving dominion over the office as well as the PC.

We'll be hearing a lot about this in the future.

Stac, HP and Intel Ads ring in Summer

If you haven't seen the **Stac** "Open letter to Microsoft" ads in your favorite PC magazine, it may be because somebody's legal department intervened. Although I thought the ad was fun, I can imagine legal staff wrestling with the content and sweating the issues involved.

Hewlett-Packard takes this month's prize for a stunningly-accomplished advertising showpiece that has absolutely nothing to do with printers. At least not as most of us use printers, that is. Ranks right up there with a car parked on top of some western butte and the "I can't believe it's not butter" series.

Intel rubbed a little salt in the wounds of those PC makers who discovered they're in competition with their CPU vendors in the same markets. The subject is the Intel 82430 PCIset and the Intel Classic R Series platforms. I saw a really nice layout in the latest issue of *Intel Solutions'* featuring Intel-produced motherboards for the P5 and 486 processors.

Some Intel customers have got to ask what this all means when they can't get delivery of CPU chips?

And, finally Jurassic Dinosaurs Grab us all ...

If I see one more commercial for *Jurassic Park*, I may do something that I'll regret later.

Top 10 (and More) Reasons to Buy DOS 6

by Larry Graf, Dan Kehew, Larry Clark

10. New CONFIG.SYS file contains a surprize limerick.
9. With 6 you get eggroll.
8. Registration includes free access to Bill Gates' Gold Card.
7. Opens up a whole new world of General Protection Faults in Windows.
6. It's a better CP/M than CP/M.
5. Wastes only 8M on Microsoft's hidden inside jokes.
4. The documentation now includes English subtitles.
3. Helps Bill buy the kind of rock Melinda *really* wants.
2. Subliminal erotic thrill when you see that "Six" is "booting up."
1. Your system is running too smoothly.

Oh, what the heck. As long as we're on a roll, we'll throw in a few more at no extra charge:

0. Documentation sets a new minimalist standard.
-1. "Hey, babe, I've got DOS 6 on nine machines." (Milt Hull only.)
-2. Completely intuitive -- crashes only when you most wish it wouldn't.
-3. Those fun-loving Microsoft programmers set up the Backspace key to randomly act like Ctrl-Alt-Del.
-4. Microsoft knows where you live.
-5. Beta-test group included several clever monkeys.
-6. Frequent crashes provide never-ending challenges.
-7. Lovingly crafted by a band of happy elves.
-8. Comes bundled with nifty "Honk If You Love 8-Dot-3" bumper sticker.
-9. Free bundled copy of the new book, *The Making of Stephen Manes*, by William Gates III.
-10.Forces Rick Hellewell to think up a new answer.
-11.Encourages Redmond's second biggest software company.
-12.Dr. Ruth says everyone can have good 6.
-13.Sweetens the pot for Stac Electronics.
-14.Gives better traction on SmartDrive.
-15.The pages of your DOS 5 manual were getting yellowed.
-16.Helps book publishers recover from the recession.
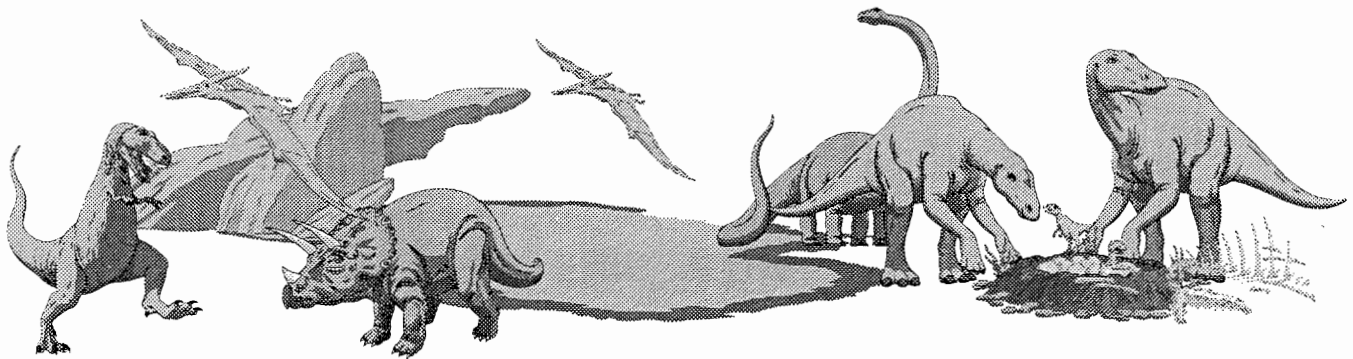
Variety Store ...Ctd.

I did receive the *Arts & Letters Jurassic Art* package (the program, not another stuffed dinosaur) and have enjoyed playing with Flex-Art immensely. This is one thing beginning with "Jurassic" that I don't find objectionable (pardon the pun). Lots of fun.

We'll work on a review of this package in the near future. If you have children of any age on your gift list, this may be a winner and a super way to introduce them to "objects" on the PC.

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)

From the SIG Coordinator:

As technology changes, so do our needs and therefore our SIGs. The following are changes/additions/needs/proposals that the NTPCUG has made to the SIG's.

Changes to SIG Meeting Times:

Microsoft Networking @ 8:00 (Contact Debbie Meaney @ (214) 714-6000) Previously meeting at 2:00 See Super Saturday's room schedule for location.

New Groups Recently Formed:

Access meeting at 1:00 (Contact Larry Linson @ (817) 481-2350)

WordPerfect for Windows @ 10:00 a.m. (Mitch Milam - Leader) See Super Saturdays room schedule for location.

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

Spreadsheet & Spreadsheet Developers (contact Mark Gruner @ (214) 964-8174)

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

Leadership - at least one individual willing to lead the SIG and hopefully an assistant.

Membership - at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

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

NOTE: Please be sure to try other SIGs that you might have an interest in and DON'T EVER FEEL YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A BEGINNER and wouldn't fit in. Remember, we all started out as beginners.

Alex Lilley

Access SIG

Despite the summer season and competition from First Saturday computer market, attendance was good for the July meeting. A full agenda included introduction of Assistant SIG Leaders Jack Atkinson and Frank McCoy (Dianna DeCicco was unavoidably absent... you will meet her in the near future), discussion of using the NTPCUG BBS Databases message conference area for questions and answers, a recap of performance suggestions (both equipment enhancements and working with what you have), calculated fields (using Access expressions) in forms, reports, and queries in the Beginner's Corner, availability update and SIG plans for the Access 1.1 upgrade, results of the survey taken by SIG members in May, some speculation about the details of Access 1.1 based on the recent release of Visual Basic 3.0, which includes the Access 1.1 database engine, and Part I of Jack Atkinson's presentation on designing and building your first Access application.

A newsletter-like handout was provided covering the business topics discussed... we hope to keep this up. Jack Atkinson will conduct the July meeting and continue with Part II of his presentation on designing and building your first Access application. We promised that we would learn together, and we are. If you missed the June meeting, don't worry -- Jack will begin with a brief review of Part I.

If you were thinking about taking it easy this summer because nothing much happens at Super Saturday in the summertime, think again. You shouldn't miss this: NTPCUG's own Fred Williams, known for his heavy experience with Oracle and Paradox, Board Member of NTPCUG, Leader of the Paradox SIG, and man of many talents will present Relational Database Design in two parts at our August and September meetings.

Another don't miss presentation is coming up in October: Mike Carr will speak on using Access to design and build databases for use with Visual Basic and the Access database engine. His significant experience in this subject area began when he was a Beta tester of Visual Basic 3.0 and he knows whereof he speaks. We're looking forward to seeing you... join us at the next meeting... you'll be welcome.

Larry Linson

ACT SIG

The ACT SIG has received word that Contact International has merged with Symantec. I will be gathering information on the effect that is going to have on users. ACT has also just issued a free upgrade which should resolve some of the problems Windows users have been experiencing. All of the users will be looking for your experiences and problems with the upgrade.

The ACT SIG is continuing to devote a part of each meeting for a SIG member to discuss the spe-

cific way they are using ACT in their business. Customizing ACT for Windows forms will be the topic for the next meeting of the SIG. I know that you will find this information very helpful and easy to do. 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

Alpha Four SIG

We have been particularly fortunate to have Ken Brooks join this SIG early in 1993. If you have noticed, he has presented the program for the meetings in April, May and June. All of his programs have been well prepared and well received by the membership. Ron Jackson and I have congratulated Ken on his professional approach to his presentations, and many of you have had good things to say to him after the meetings. I only hope that Ken can find the time to continue presenting interesting programs.

Our SIG membership has been increasing steadily over the last six months. We now have 46 names on our roster. This time last year there were about 28 members. At our July meeting, we will continue with a general question and answer period as well as attempt to cover any of those subjects that you indicated you were interested in by listing them on the sheet that was passed around at the June 5th meeting.

By now, you should all know that ALPHA FOUR Version 3.0 is now being sold by ALPHA FOUR. The special price being offered is $69.00 until some date this sum-

mer. We will have more information at the next meeting.

Mac McKeethen

Assembler SIG

The Assembler SIG presentation for June was a presentation by Frank Cavallito on the Spontaneous Assembly upgrade with emphasis on the use of the package's support for TSRs.

Our July meeting will consist of examples on how to make changes to your favorite utilities to allow them to run under newer versions of DOS, without the use of SETVER. The use of tools such as Dissemblers, Debuggers and Hex Editors will be discussed. 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 GW-Basic & QBasic step-by-step program writing with small sample programs. Six to eight page instruction sheet each meeting. Questions and answers on any Basic Code subject at any time. This group may rename itself the No Windows Basic SIG (NOW Basic for short).

Watch DOM for a disk with all the above material covered, including sample code illustrations and extremely useful shareware utilities. This DOM disk will be added to each six months. In June, we covered Screen design & data input code and the July meeting will cover CRT & printer code. Also to be covered sometime this year: Editing techniques, ASCII table explanation, Bit/hex/decimal conversion, memory and disk exploration, programmer's tools, payroll programs, general ledger programs, your own spread sheet program,

inventory control--your own database program code, sort algorithm code. (Not necessarily in that order)

Charles Jacobus

Beginners Visual Basic SIG

The Beginners Visual Basic SIG met on June 5 at 8:00 AM and had 80 attendees. I could hardly believe it. I have my work cut out for me. I suppose the main reason could be that Microsoft donated so many copies of Visual Basic 2.0 to the North Texas PC User Group and the Visual Basic SIG during the last two months that we have invigorated interest in the ONLY way to program in Windows today.

If you haven't been to one of our 8:00 AM sessions, give it a try! Speaking of 8:00 AM, I am getting used to it and a number of members have indicated to me that they prefer the early start. There continues to be considerable pressure for rooms at Infomart so I plan to stay at the 8:00 AM start time for now. Other SIGs are now scheduling rooms at 8:00 AM.

Last month, we covered the two tutorials included with Visual Basic 2.0. They are excellent tools for learning the vocabulary of Visual Basic and understanding the nature of event-driven programs. We also discussed the basics of Debugging to introduce the topic that was to be discussed in the Advanced Visual Basic SIG during the second hour. The assignment for the July 10th meeting was to read the first three chapters of John Socha's book. I recommend that you follow John Socha's instructions with Visual Basic running on your computer just as he requests. It will make the Saturday morning session more meaningful.

The first rule of any presentation is keep it simple.

And it doesn't get any simpler than this.

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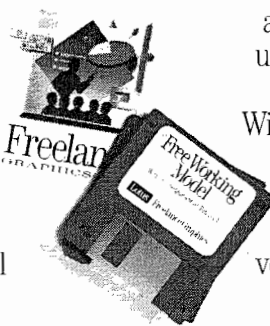
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And for those just getting into Windows, keep in mind that Freelance Graphics is also included in Lotus SmartSuite: four award-winning Lotus Windows applications at a very attractive price.

Lotus Freelance Graphics 2.0
Presentation Graphics for Windows

SIG

Bring your Visual Basic questions and any questions you have about the first three chapters of John Socha's book and we will try to answer them for you before the lecture on the topic of the day. We will actually be writing code for an application during the lecture phase of our next meeting. Well, let's say I will be showing you the coding process with screen shots on overhead cells. Let's hope someday we get a portable computer and an overhead panel projection system.

If you want to prepare some more, I will be showing the coding for the Sketch application in Chapter 4 of John Socha's book. See you at 8:00 AM on Saturday, July 10, 1993 at Infomart.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

The June meeting of the Visual Basic SIG was attended by over 50 members and featured a presentation by Woody Pewitt on debugging procedures and practices. Woody discussed preventive strategies that will minimize debugging time.

The previously announced topic was a discussion of GFA Basic, but the authors would not provide a copy of their software for review. Maybe they will reconsider at some future date. Woody then asked for suggestions from the attendees on topics for future Visual Basic SIG meetings.

Topping the list were (1) coding standards, (2) multiple programmer environments, and (3) user interface. These topics will be considered for future SIG meetings.

Next month, Woody will make a presentation on the programming considerations of the Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI) which is associated with Microsoft Mail and Schedule+. The MAPI controls in the Professional Edition of Visual Basic allow you to create a mail-enabled Visual Basic MAPI application. There are two MAPI custom controls: MAPI session and MAPI messages. The MAPI session control establishes a MAPI session and the MAPI messages control allows the user to perform a variety of messaging system functions. As time permits, Woody will introduce the topic of code standards and attempt to gain consensus on a path to follow in documenting code standards.

Finally, the Beginning Visual Basic SIG is growing substantially. I (Jim Carter) could use some assistance in helping beginners get started in Visual Basic. I am looking for three or four individuals who have time to attend the Super Saturday 8:00 AM classes to help out with Q&A sessions and some telephone tutoring between meetings. I am still trying to develop an effective strategy for handling as many as 80 beginners.

Anyone interested in helping with the Beginners Visual Basic SIG give me a call at (214) 235-5968. Don't forget your Visual Basic questions for our Q&A session. If you are having trouble with some coding, print out a small section, have an overhead cell made at Office Depot or Bizmart (usually less than a dollar per sheet), and we can display it for all to help analyze. See you on July 10 at 9:00 AM. Come at 8:00 AM if you want to attend the Beginners Visual Basic SIG.

Jim Carter

BBS SIG

The BBS SIG meets monthly to help our membership become familiar with and enjoy the Bulletin Board System (BBS). Anyone unfamiliar with our BBS, or wanting to know more about its use, should drop by. Over time, topics range from the absolute basics of installing a modem and software, to the use of off-line mail readers.

Questions are encouraged at each meeting. We normally meet at 1:00 PM, but our July meeting will instead occur at 2:00 PM, immediately following, and in the same room as, the Personal Users (Beginners) session on Fundamentals of PC Telecommunications. In essence, once they explain the overall basics, the BBS session will give you a practical opportunity to use this newfound knowledge.

As always, questions regarding the BBS can be directed to the SYSOP throughout the month, or placed into the conference named BBS Directions. We look forward to seeing you.

Doug Gorrie

Business Applications/ DAC Accounting SIG

May's very thorough presentation of DacEasy Payroll 4.3 was so poorly attended that the SIG leaders needed a month off to recover! Having never seen the Payroll program, even after using DAC's accounting program for over five years, I was surprised at the scope of this software. It's more than I had imagined, providing a database of information on each employee.

In addition to storing complete payroll and related tax information for each employee (in multi-state jurisdictions), a very complete employee record may be maintained. There are fields for employment date, promotion dates, birth date and other useful information in a multiple page format. Obviously, password protection is provided at several lev-

els, to insure confidentiality of this data.

We have just received an announcement from DAC Software of the release of DacEasy Accounting version 4.4, along with a corresponding version of Payroll, Point-of-Sale and Order Entry. As a result, we have contacted DAC Software about a demonstration of the Accounting upgrade and they have agreed to be with us for the July 10th meeting at 1:00 PM. There is a possibility that the presentation may be made at the 1:00 PM General Meeting, in the auditorium, but this will be a last-minute decision.

You should be sure to check the overhead in the Infomart lobby. Either way, we will have a very timely meeting on this new version; which includes Fixed Asset management, a Custom Forms Designer, a keystroke activated notepad and many On-line conveniences, not available in prior versions. It looks as if the Gestation Period of software is moving from that of an elephant toward that of a gerbil, but those of us who use DacEasy Accounting may not be able to resist the urge to move up to this latest version! Be with us on Saturday, July 10th and see if you agree

Putt Shaw

Communications SIG

This month, we are most fortunate to have a guest speaker from a company in Farmers Branch that I happened upon recently. Bob Payne is founder of EDI SPREAD THE WORD, which is NOT a religious cult but a consulting business involved in EDI or Electronic Data Interchange.

Bob will explain the basics of EDI, which is a relatively new, emerging technology allowing

businesses and their suppliers to conduct business electronically. Many of the Fortune 500 companies are already using this technology to reduce the cost of doing business with their supplier base.

As usual, we welcome any questions you may have on this or any other communications topic. Our meeting time is 12:00 noon on the seventh floor. Check the overhead in the lobby for exact location.

Bill Green

Desktop Publishing SIG

There's no "Summer Slump" here at the DTP SIG: attendance at the June meeting was high and Dan Sturdivant, representing Capstone Communications, gave a useful and informative presentation covering a variety of subjects of interest to the desktop publishing community. He shared his well-informed view of companies providing services in the Dallas Area, ways of handling problems that can arise in data exchange between PC DTP and the Macintosh equipment used by many services, and a great many other topics.

Larry Linson encouraged NTPCUG members of the SIG to use the Desktop Publishing conference area of the NTPCUG Bulletin Board System to share experience, ask questions, and provide answers. He briefly discussed the basic equipment, software, and requirements to call, log on, and use the board. The purpose of the DTP SIG, and the NTPCUG, is for us to help each other. The BBS is an effective tool and a resource we should use.

Exciting programs are in the works for the rest of the summer. Don't let vacation plans cause you to miss these. The July meet-

ing will feature Sharon Sullivan of Aldus Corporation Introducing PageMaker 5. Recognized as one of the leading desktop publishing packages at the high end of the capability range and available for both PCs and Macs, the new release has enhanced capabilities for the serious desktop publishing enthusiast.

In August, Tim Weinheimer of Computer Support Corporation will present Arts and Letters. CSC is a local firm and Arts and Letters is a leading graphics package, very highly regarded in the DTP field. We know this will be an enlightening presentation.

Larry Linson

DOS SIG

Should every user upgrade to DOS 6.0? Probably not and we'll explain when and why upgrading to the latest DOS may not be appropriate for all PC users.

When must we upgrade DOS? One obvious answer is when some application software refuses to run under the current (old) version of DOS. But, that doesn't happen all that often. We'll address this issue again in the July DOS SIG meeting.

Some answers are obvious. A PC-XT successfully running a DOS-based word processor probably doesn't need the very latest version. DOS 3.x will do fine in most cases. A full-bore 486 with 20M DRAM, running large Windows 3.1 applications, and networking with other PCs in a group will need all the help available in the latest version of DOS.

As usual, the July DOS SIG meeting will terminate with the customary Q & A session to discuss members' problems/solutions while running DOS in day-to-day operation.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG

The General Genealogy SIG is independent of genealogy software or computer types. There were approximately 70 present for the May meeting.

"How to Write Your Family History with Word Perfect" was the program. It was brought by Reta M. Evans (author of "A Martin Family Saga"). She had finished writing and publishing (hard cover) the book earlier this year.

Those who saw her work were impressed with the pre-planning and day-to-day attention she gave to this effort.

This was her first experience in using a computer and the word processor software program Word Perfect. She says that even if you have never touched a computer in your life you can master Word Perfect and turn out a professional family history. Before you begin, make these decisions:

Size of Book and Size of Font Headers, Paragraph Style, Page Numbering and Family Numbering System.

She found that if you have more than 100 pages, you will probably want to consider a 6 x 9 inch format instead of the normal 8-1/2 by 11 inches. The title of the book should appear on the left hand side of the page and title of the chapters on the right hand page. There are called Headers.

Before writing the text, become aware of the various parts of your book. The Title should be carefully chosen, then the Introductory section which includes the Title Page, Copyright Page, Dedication, Introduction, Table of Contents, and a list of Illustrations. A completed book should include an order form so people

will know how to purchase the book. These book types are not generally on the bookshelf of every bookstore.

Her outline for writing a family history is Prior Preparation (State Archives, Libraries, County Courthouses, Cemeteries, etc.), Organize Material (Develop outline, title page, etc.), Decisions prior to final draft (Size of book, font, paragraph style, page numbering, etc), Final Draft (Edit, photos, index).

The June program will be on CDROMS. The August program will be on Family Connections (a genealogy database software program), the September program will be on Imaging.

Al Sanford

PAF SIG

PAF stands for Personal Ancestral File and is the software program for genealogy put out by the Church of the Latter Day Saints. It is probably the most popular genealogy software program in use today. There were approximately 40 present at the June meeting.

Joe Waldrop, the SIG leader brought the June program. It primarily covered two of PAF's features. One was how to make more use of the pedigree search screen and the other covered how to switch between two databases with just one function (F3) key.

Most genealogists who use PAF bring it up on their computer in one of two ways. Each way starts when in the PAF directory (c:\paf in most cases). If you type PAF then you get the ACCESS MENU as the first screen.

This screen has the GEDCOM, the RDF, and the Config functions. If you want to bypass these, then bring up the PAF program by typing fr and pressing

enter. (fr stands for family records.) This brings up as the first screen the MAIN MENU (which is the second screen if you choose #1, or Family Records, from starting with PAF command).

From the MAIN MENU, most people like to use #4, Pedigree Search, as their working environment. This will display a two generation pedigree chart which can be expanded to a five generation pedigree chart by using the Large (type the letter L) from the select commands at the bottom of the screen.

Joe pointed out that there is an advantage of knowing how to use the 2-rin select command at the bottom of the screen. Pressing 2 will give and INDIVIDUAL DATA screen which has a list of commands which allows further editing and manipulating of the data that appears on the normal pedigree chart.

Of particular use is the Info-marriage select command which gives even another screen and allows editing of the marriage data.

Art Rubeck, a PAF SIG member pointed out it was also nice that 4 lines of Notes data appears on this screen. He uses this for listing info to look up on his next trip to the library, etc.

If you want to switch between your default directory and another directory (say c:\paf\data2) then the -d command is used along with the fr command to load the PAF program. For example, starting PAF with c:\paf\fr -dc\paf\data2 will allow using the f3 key to switch between your default and the data2 database.

Please note though that data or notes cannot be transferred between the two databases.

Al Stanford
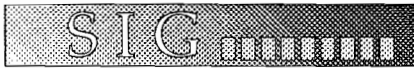
Hardware SIG

The July 10th Hardware SIG meeting will feature a special presentation by NTPCUG member Roy Bales. Roy will review an interesting new piece of software called 3_Drives version 1.5 by Dustbowl Designs, Inc. of Midwest City, Oklahoma. 3_Drives is a shareware device driver which lets you add an additional 16-bit hard disk interface to your system.

This product is intended to allow the concurrent use of MFM, RLL, SCSI, ESDI or AT/IDE hard disk drives on the same system. This product claims to permit two or more otherwise incompatible controllers and/or host adapters to coexist in the same system. This promises to be the solution to a number of hardware obstacles such as manufacturer's Master/Slave incompatibility and BIOS incompatibility. Plan to start your Super Saturday with Hardware Solutions at 9 AM. See you there!

Charles Miller

Paradox SIG

It's kinda belated news to many of the regular SIG members, but, I'm happy that Tom Browning stepped forward and volunteered to be the Assistant SIG Leader. Thanks Tom, and I'm certain the SIG members have seen an immediate improvement in the SIG.

At the June meeting Tom presented a continuation of his May topic. The title of June's presentation was, Paradox Queries, Part Deux. Just to test Tom's mettle, I managed to slip out of both of the last meetings with other pressing business. Reports are that Tom's two presentations were well received. I can attest to that because I managed to return

prior to the end of the June meeting, and saw no one was asleep.

Saving the good news for last! We now have a new 486 machine for use by the SIGs for program presentation. I spent the better part of the June meeting time loading both Pdox 4.0 for DOS and PdoxWin for Windows on the new machine. We are now ready to go back to hands-on presentations. It has been a long dry spell. Because of a new planned effort to bring the SIGs to the machine, rather than dragging the machine all over Infomart, look for a possible room assignment change starting with the July meeting. The time slot will remain, but the room assignment may not. Please check the overheads in the lobby before the meeting. I would suspect, though the plans are not finalized, that Tom might start his series of presentations on basic Paradox database system design at the July meeting.

With this series, Tom steps through each design and development phase for a small database application. The series has been well received at the PUNT meetings, very well done, and most informative.

Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

This Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you!... if you consider yourself any of the following: ... a novice... a new PC owner... a beginner with PC's... a person curious about PC's... a soon-to-be PC owner... a personal (versus professional) PC user... or... a PC user needing to review some fundamentals. We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the fundamentals of personal computers.

Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North

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

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

This 16-class curriculum of PC fundamentals is specifically designed to be the kind of learning experience you always wished existed... where you are accepted just as you are, and where you can gain knowledge without the hassles... and best of all... the classes are FREE! Join us as we learn and review THE FUNDAMENTALS. The four classes for July 1993 will be:

Time	Class	Topic
09:00 AM	Class 1	Genesis & Overview of Computer Languages
10:00 AM	Class 2	NTPCUG Disk of the Month (DOM)
12:00 noon	Class 3	Fundamentals of PC Graphics
1:00 PM	Class 4	Fundamentals of PC Telecommunications

Bob Presley

Quicken SIG

In June, we held a Question and Answer session by virtue of the portable computer being unavailable. But, judging by the participation of the group, there are a lot of questions out there and it's good to devote a meeting to this.

Jim and Billy continue to explore the inner workings of Quicken and again will address the setting up of categories, which gets more complex with each new version of Quicken. Choices of Categories, subcategories, classes and accounts. I'm afraid I'm of the keep it simple, stupid persuasion, but many of these listings are important to differentiate between members of the families or personal/business affairs.

Many of you have investments which you are tracking and maybe interested in downloading statistics from Prodigy. Not only does Quicken rate an auditorium demonstration, but is being reviewed in the American Association of Individual Investors publication as a useful software program for managing finances. Stay tuned, we expect a session on investments in the near future. There maybe some confusion about the scheduling of topics for presentation to the monthly meeting.

I have tried to impress on Billy the importance of reading this newsletter article before he comes to each meeting. However, due to events beyond our control such as equipment failure, disappearance, and the human factor in the same respect, we respectfully decline to take any responsibility for the scheduling and content of the above meetings.

Jo Johnston

Spreadsheet SIG

Tom Garland will be handling the Spreadsheet SIG in July, Mark will be away on vacation. After some discussion with Mark, Tom agreed to present Creating Menu Macros in 1-2-3. This topic was originally going to be discussed in June, but Lotus came down to present 1-2-3 version 4 for Windows which was well received.

Tom will be using a handout that Mark prepared on menu macro commands, but will also be presenting some of the models that he has developed over the past several few years that make extensive use of menu macro commands. So come on by and learn how to create your own macros in 1-2-3.

Mark is still looking for an Assistant SIG Leader for the Spreadsheet and Spreadsheet Developers SIGs. If you are interested, please call Mark Gruner at the phone number on the back cover of the newsletter.

Mark Gruner

Spreadsheet Developers SIG

Tom Garland will be handling the Spreadsheet Developers SIG in July. Mark will be away on a much needed vacation. Tom was kind enough to agree to lead a discussion concerning problems and tricks that developers are coming across when building models. Tom may also have a formal presentation and show off some of his techniques for others to benefit. Tom has no real definite plans for his presentation, but a general free-for-all is definitely in the plan for July.

Mark is still looking for an Assistant SIG Leader for the Spreadsheet Developers and Spreadsheet SIGs. If you are interested, please call Mark Gruner at the phone number on the back cover of the newsletter.

Mark Gruner

TI-Pro SIG

Happy days! At the June meeting of the group, Walt reported that he now has the infamous Winchester zinging along. Hasn't been able to boot from it yet, but other than that everything is ginning. Tom Blackwell, our SYSOP, reported that he had put a new motherboard in the BBS machine. Apparently, as reported by Tom, when the PS departed it left some gruesome messages on various components of ole madre plank. The system is up and running fine even though, as I understand it, it is operating on one Winchester.

In addition to the discussions of the bulletin board and the good news from Walt, the gang spent some time trying to help a new member with various start-up problems. Hopefully the contributions were of some assistance. As I stated in my last report, although I don't believe it or the one before was published, one of our members stood guard at the room to catch any new attendees that might come before we got up from the main business meeting.

We continued the discussion concerning our meeting time and place. The consensus was that the 11:30 to 12:00 time slot was really a waste since the meeting didn't usually start until 1145 or after, and that probably we should delay our meeting until 12:00. We're now scheduled from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, but since we don't get started until 11:45 or 11:50 anyway starting at 12:00 wouldn't be much different than what's happening in actual practice. Hope to see you at the next meeting... at 11:45..11:50..12:00???

Jack McCurley

SIG

Word SIG

July's Word SIG meeting will be led by Charles Miller, SIG Co-leader, in Reagan's absence. Reagan will be assisting Douglas McQuaid in getting out the PC News for the next month or two and won't (usually) be able to attend the Word SIG Meeting.

Should Microsoft come through on it's promise to get copies of Word for DOS 6.0 to the Word SIG, this will be focus of the July SIG Meeting. There's been a lot of advertising for the new DOS product lately promising wonderful things in the new version. Hopefully, Word SIG members will have an opportunity to see what it really does and doesn't do.

One area we'll all be looking at closely is the new graphical interface and TrueType support promised by media reports. If it works as well as advertised, it may well forestall a need to upgrade to the Windows product for DOS version users for another year or so.

The main question will remain is this version a necessary upgrade?

Come to the July Word SIG meeting and see for yourself. Feel free to join in the Q & A session focused on Word problems and solutions terminating the SIG meeting.

Reagan Andrews

Editor's Note:

Some SIG Notes may not be presented in this month's column. Due to the press of putting out the PC News following Publisher John Pribyl's death, some submissions may have been missed. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The Adventures Of PC Tech

by Ben Thar

CHAPTER 19

Mary became tired of always dealing with the negative. Of course, in a personal computer support position, the people with problems were the ones she heard from the most. Not that she did not like her job, she just wanted to focus on positive events to help motivate herself. "Well," she thought, "there was the time when the end user actually got out the manual before calling Technical Support."

.....It began with a phone call, like it does most often. "Technical Support, Mary Margaret speaking." "Hi Mary, this is Kimberley. I can't get my IAMPERFECT word processor to format tables left justified with centered column headers." Mary replied, "I believe there is an entire chapter on tables in the manual." "I know, I know," said Kim. "I've read and reread that chapter and it just doesn't go into detail about how to do this." MM did not know the answer and told Kim so, but she said she would find out.

MM's placed a call to IAMPERFECT 's support line where she was greeted with: "You have reached the IAMPERFECT customer support. Please enter your choice from a touch-tone phone. Press 1 for our word processing department. Press 2 for our graphics department. Press 3 to inquire about an order. Press 4 if you know the extension of the person that you are calling. Press 5 to request a return authorization number. Press 6 if you just like the music that we are playing, and we'll let you listen for 30 minutes. Press 7 to listen to these choices again. Press 8 not to listen to these choices again."

PC Tech pressed 1. Then the phone-arama said, "Press 1 for general help. Press 2 for Tabs, Columns, and Indenting. Press 3 for font help. Press 4 for help with Styles. Press 5 for help with the Dictionary or Thesaurus...." Mary pressed 2 because she knew this could go on forever. Then an ominous voice said, "This call may be monitored for quality and responsiveness." (In other words, we don't think our people would intentionally give the wrong answer, kinda like the IRS, but for a chuckle, we like to hear some of the dumb questions that end users ask.)

Finally, a human came on the phone. "Hi, my name is Jill. What is your user registration number please." "Hi Jill, my name is Mary and where do I find this number." "Oh, it came on a card with your software. You remember, you had to tear the card on the perforations and leave a little stub in the manual and mail in the registration. Well, on that little stub somewhere in your manual is the number." Mary ran and grabbed the manual, thumbed through it and found the number. Kim went on, "Now write this down. Your problem call number in case you need to call back is XGQ332PVS33490. Now how may I help you."

Mary did get an answer to her question. "The experience is a positive one," she thought, "since the end user did try to find the answer in the

The Adventures of PC Tech ... Ctd.

manual first." Some end users call the support line for the least little thing, or call on something that Mary explained to them last week. MM started looking up the answer, and then referring them to a page number in the manual.

A call came in from Building Maintenance. Since Mary's company owned the building, the operations personnel were employed by her company. "My system has smoke coming out of it." "TURN IT OFF! UNPLUG IT!" Mary yelled into the phone. "Let me get my tools. I'm on my way down." When she got there, the CPU was still hot. Mary took off the cover and noted that several of the plastic components were melted inside the computer. "So tell me, what happened," PC Tech inquired. "Well the hard drive had been acting funny for the past two weeks, so we didn't turn it off, in case it wouldn't start again," said Bud. Mary told him that they should have called at the first sign of trouble.

She went ahead and plugged it in, turned it on, and nothing happened. The power supply sat silently. MM looked inside the power supply and noted that one of the fan blades was bent. "How did that happen?" she said quizzically, almost to herself. Bud stated, "Oh that, well you remember me telling you that the hard drive was makin' this noise..." "Wait, wait, how did you know it was the hard drive?" Mary asked. "You know, that thing that you got open there." PC Tech told him that that was the computer. The hard drive was the little black box with the melted plastic on it. She also told him about cards, power supplies, and floppy drives. "So," Bud continues, "this here computer was making a racket and we couldn't figure out where it was comin' from, so's we opened 'er up. And this fan gizmo, oh yeah the power supply, was so loud we couldn't isolate the other noise. I stuck a screwdriver in there to hold the fan still and we found a loose screw that was rattlin' around inside."

Mary Margaret knew this was going to be an Excedrin department. She explained to Bud that the fan keeps the computer from overheating, and when he stopped the fan, the machine overheated and melted the components inside. "I'll try to save it, but you may have to buy a new PC." In retrospect, Mary wondered how the maintenance people fixed the building's air conditioners -- with a really big screwdriver?

UNLIKE MOST SYMPHONIES, THIS ONE HAS TO BE SEEN TO BE APPRECIATED.
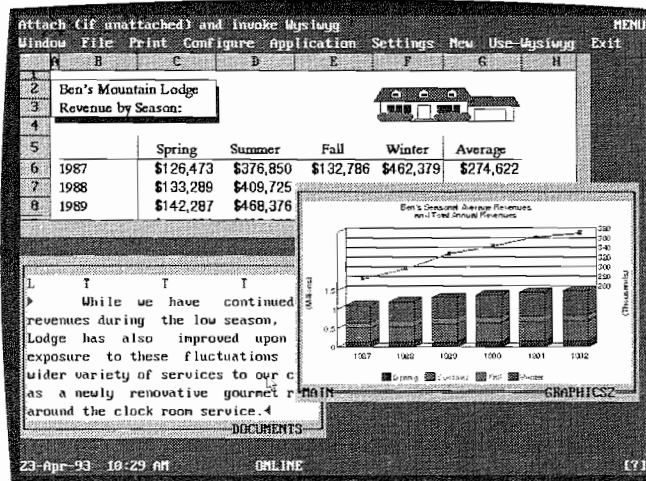
◀ With our WYSIWYG interface, you can easily create graphs, draw lines and add arrows, shading and color to your letters and reports.
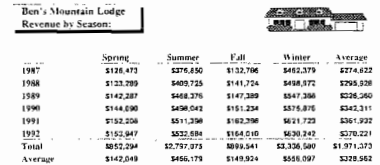
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Kicked Upstairs - Tactician to Strategic Planning

by Tom A. Prickett A.K.A. tap...

"Tactics is knowing what to do when there is something to do. Strategy is knowing what to do when there is nothing to do." This little gem of a quote is attributed to Savielly Tartakover. Never heard of him? Neither had I, but I think he was talking about chess since he is a Polish chess grand master. However, this quote is as good an intro as you're going to get from me.
The NTPCUG has recently elected me to "member emeritus" status. This was presented to me by two people, each with their own personal spin.

The first was Fred Williams, our BBS Sysop who I saw at the Gorrie/Green Communications SIG (a real blockbuster). "Well, you don't have to pay dues any more," he said in his usual cryptic way. "You mean I have become a saint?" I replied in my own cynical way. (Member emeritus status is the NTPCUG equivalent of sainthood.)
The second was through the snail mail. I got a new membership card from Jim Hoisington, our membership director, who has a cryptic way of doing things too. Its expiration date was 12/31/2020. I'll be over seventy "then." (Perhaps I'll be ready to pay dues "then.")
I will now say a big THANKS, although emeritus status was never among my personal strategies. A personal strategy of mine is to look at each event from both sides - after all, even a glass of water can simultaneously be viewed as part full and part empty.

Taking a cynical approach first, one could say I deserved this. After all, I am a long term member (Member No. 100) and I have been involved with several user group efforts that may go on forever. I was an early contributor to the PC News, I helped to kick off the newsletter exchange, and I was the first Sysop of the NTPCUG BBS. What better honor than for an organization to say - You've given us enough dues $'s for now. But we will remember you until "then'" so keep doing whatever you have been doing so far until "then."

When one takes a more humble of point of view, my contributions are paltry in comparison to prior members emeritus. Phil Chamberlain (Mr. PC) was on the BOD and was a SIG leader several times. Jim Hoisington is on the BOD, is a SIG leader, was the President, and is the Membership Director. Stuart Yarus was on the BOD, was a founder of the Computer Council, and admits to programming in APL.

Finally there is John Pribyl (a true saint in my eyes) who was on the BOD, was the editor of the PC News, and was also its publisher until his untimely death in May.

I have never done any of these things. I'll have to work hard to match these contributions. There is always room for another volunteer because there always seems to be something that is not being done, or done right.

I have developed a reputation of getting involved in something in the early stages and passing it on before it's completed. The NTPCUG must have sensed this and made it so that I can't quit (I'm being cynical again). Perhaps it is time to form a strategy since a member emeritus has nothing to do (the beauty of a volunteer organization). My previous accomplishments were just tactics based on things that really needed to be done (another beauty of a volunteer organization).

One useful way to earn your keep as a member is to write an article in the PC News. In the past, dues were waived for certain number of articles containing a certain number of words. However, there are many other ways to contribute too, the BBS, the newsletter exchange, the SIG's, the BOD, the DOM, and perhaps in defining something to do if you have emeritus status without a well defined task.

Thanks again to the NTPCUG for my new status as member emeritus and I'm not being cynical here, honest.

tap...

NEW DISKS
...from the D O M Squad

Disk 829.   Shez 9.0A, 5/93 -- Archive shell with many features, California Software Design, James Derr, P.O. Box 15248, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402. (707) 575-9868 SHAREWARE FEE = $40.

Shez is a great utility for anyone with compressed files. Shez supports the ZIP, LHA, ZOO, ARC, ARJ, SQZ, and PAK formats if the accompanying compression / decompression programs are available. Shez lets you open the compressed file and view its contents right in front of you, instead of you having to unzip and delete. Shez even has support for self-extracting archives, allowing you to see inside them like never before.

Shez is easy to use and has a nice, convenient menu and controls accessible by a mouse. It lets you extract, delete, add and even edit files in the compressed file and convert the file into other formats for better storage. For ease of use, Shez will even allow you to record and playback keystrokes for your favorite uses. A convenient configuration program lets you change file viewers, editors, compression and decompression programs, virus scanners, colors, memory usage and many other options.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM or compatible using DOS. Hard disk required.

Downloaded from RingWorld BBS by Zachary Loafman.
Review prepared by Zachary Loafman, edited by Will Davis (6/93).

Disk 830. MicroLathe 1.5, 5/92 - - 3-D Lathe program for Windows by Daniel S. Baker, 5993 Slippery Rock Drive. Columbus, Ohio, USA 43229. SHAREWARE FEE = $15.

If you like to sculpt, have trouble visualizing certain objects, or just want to have fun, MicroLathe is the program for you. MicroLathe is a Windows program that acts just like a normal lathe would: you draw a shape and, like a lathe, it turns on its axis while you view it 3-D. The controls are simple and easy to use but offer numerous options. You can create figures like bottles, lamps, cones, plates; just about anything. The program comes with samples which you can look at and enjoy. Options to rotate the figure, shade the figure or even change the lighting on the figure are available. A fun and useful tool that everyone can enjoy. MicroLathe even comes with a small utility called MiniMovie, which lets you create your own animation from your lathed images.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM or compatible running Windows.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Zachary Loafman.
Review prepared by Zachary Loafman, edited by Will Davis (6/93).

Disk 831. CATDISK 7.01, 05/93 -- Helps manage large libraries of disks, Rick Hillier, 98 Toynbee Crescent, Kitchener, ONTARIO, Canada N2N 1R9. SHAREWARE FEE = $29 ($40 with disk).

CATDISK is a useful utility for anyone with a large library of disks. If you've ever put a file on a disk and then forgotten which disk it was on, CATDISK is the program for you. CATDISK let's you manage all your files on your floppies with an easy to use menu driven interface. CAT-DISK catalogs your files on disk with little or no hassle. It will let you add descriptions to your files and even import descriptions from BBS file listings. CATDISK will also let you search for particular files or for particular descriptions so you can find the file you're looking for. CAT-DISK will also determine a best fit for files, thus maximizing your disk space. CAT-DISK comes with several utilities to help you, like DUP-CLEAN, a program that searches for duplicate files in your CATDISK database and lets you delete them. CAT-DISK is an all round great utility for anyone with a large library of disks.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM or compatible with 640k of ram memory. Hard disk recommended.

Downloaded from RingWorld by Zachary Loafman.
Review prepared by Zachary Loafman, edited by Will Davis (6/93).

Disk 832. The ShareWare Book 1.0, 5/92 -- How-To for ShareWare Authors by Bob Schenot, ASP, Compass / New England, Post Office Box 117, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03802-0117. (603) 431 8030, CIS: 70511,720 GEnie: R.Schenot. SHAREWARE FEE = $19.95.

This is a "Whole Earth Catalog" for software developers. A 190-page how-to manual for making money with shareware. It is packed with hard to find tips, tools, and techniques for successful shareware marketing & development. It includes market research, publicity, getting paid, distribution, resources, product protection, registration encouragement, trademarks, copyrights, licensing, channel management, business issues, support, taxes, manuals, packaging, shipping, and international trade.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compatible, DOS 3.0 or later, 200k memory, 800Kb disk, any monitor.

Source of this disk is the author.

Review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Will Davis (6/93).

Disk 833. PC Magazine Benchmarks 7.0, 11/92 -- Benchmark Tests for PCs by PC Magazine, Ziff-Davis Publishing. FREEWARE.

PC Magazine Benchmarks Version 7.0 provides a standard comparison between PC systems. Speed benchmarks are provided for Processor, Co-processor, Disk, Printer, BIOS, and Memory. A Compatibility benchmark is provided for VGA, and Quality benchmarks are provided for CGA/EGA hardware. This series of benchmark tests is remarkably easy to use, follow, and understand.

One of the new aspect of this version is the program is object oriented. The program also adapts to the type of monitor instead of defaulting to text mode. A database is now an integral part of the engine. The tests are now modular so that test are loaded and unloaded from memory as needed. In this version, results are measured as throughput such as bytes per second instead of seconds.

PC Magazine uses these benchmark tests in their review of PC systems and related hardware. By using these tests, PC Magazine presents a consistent and comparable review and analysis of hardware. This feature is particularly useful since hardware is constantly being reviewed throughout the year

in the magazine. You can use the results of the tests to see how your PC at work or home stack up. You can also use them when evaluating future purchases.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with a hard disk. At least 500K of available memory, and DOS 3.0 or higher.

Software downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.
Review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/93).

Disk 834.   Morton Utilities 1.0, 10/92 -- and other Morton products by Robert L. Morton, 81-887 Tournament Way, Indio, California 92201.

This file contains 4 separate groups of utilities. Each group includes a number of programs and a brief description. A manual can be printed out from the Morton Utilies group. The different groups are:

1. MORTON - Over 40 of the most popular memory resident utilities packed into one professional easy to use package. Includes: 8 video utilities, 7 disk utilities, 6 printer utilities, 7 keyboard utilities, 5 clock utilities, 11 miscellaneous utilities. SHAREWARE FEE = $32.95.

2. BOOT - Allows you to select between 100 different boot configurations either during boot time or afterwards. A configuration is defined here as being a CONFIG.SYS/AUTOEXEC.BAT file group. **Be sure to read docs before running this program as it can change your Autoexec.bat & Config.sys files**. SHAREWARE FEE = $22.95.

3. JETPILOT - Use pull-down menus to control virtually every feature of your LaserJet II, IID, IIP, III, IIIP or compatible printer. Change page settings such as paper source, paper destination, paper size, orientation, margins and

more. SHAREWARE FEE = $42.95.

4. ZAPCODE - Use ZapCode to select fonts, reset printer, change margins, advance the page, and anything else your printer is capable of doing. Install in memory as a TSR (Terminate Stay Resident) program or run from DOS as a stand-alone program. SHAREWARE FEE = $22.95.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible with a hard disk.

Downloaded from SDN, SHAREWARE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, by Mike Ashley.
Review prepared by Mike Ashley, edited by John Puckette (6/93).

Disk 835.   Dallas Computer Literacy Program -- Introduction to DCLP, A Computer-Based Introduction Produced by CyberProductions. FREEWARE - This disk distributed on 1.2 M diskette only.

The Dallas Computer Literacy Program or DCLP for short, teaches free computer classes, provides technical assistance to educational non-profit organizations, sponsors high school computer clubs, and establishes neighborhood computer labs. This disk is a computer-based introduction to the organization.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: An IBM or compatible computer running Microsoft Windows version 3.0 or higher is required.

This software was donated by Brian Mickel - DCLP President.
Review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/93).

Disk 836. Windows Benchmark 3.1, 11/92 -- PC Magazine Benchmark Program By PC Magazine, Ziff-Davis Publishing. FREEWARE.

PC Magazine's Windows Benchmark program will work with any version of Windows and is designed to test

the performance of Windows on a particular hardware platform. You can run the tests individually or all at once. The tests performed include Blocks, Curves, Lines, Polygons, Rectangles, Text, Clipping, and others. Test results may be sent to the screen, text file or both.

Some of the features of the program include:

System Information adds the processor type and clock speed, presence of math coprocessor, Windows version number and operating mode, video driver file name and description, video driver file date, video driver version, X-Width Aspect Ratio, Y-Width Aspect Ratio, height of the system font, and average character width of the system font.

Tests now run for a minimum of five seconds, and report throughput, rather than elapsed time.

All tests display text centered in the benchmark window to

identify the current test being run in a series of tests. Identifying the test when it is running improves human factors and helps to debug WINBENCH and Windows should WINBENCH terminate with an UAE.

Many tests change the color being displayed to give a better visual indication that something is actually being done while the test runs.

Where possible, throughput is either calculated or estimated as "pixels/sec". Results of text handling benchmarks are reported in "characters/sec". Results for some other tests are reported in "operations/sec".

The Help dialogue box provides a complete description of all tests.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.
Review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/93).

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Claude McClure

Thanks to the volunteers, who month after month fill the job positions made necessary by the wide range of activities on Super Saturday. An effort is made to list the volunteers who are most visible by their places at the information desk and the disk of the month area.

We also want to remember our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter staff and writers, newsletter exchange, bulletin board sysop and technical staff. They are all volunteers, whose names are listed in other sections of this newsletter.

A volunteer gave each of us our first greeting, helped us enroll and gave us a new member kit with the sheet of instructions on how to benefit from membership. Volunteers study the programs and systems we use in our computers and lead us through Special Interest Groups. The auditorium special events and the range of vendors come to us through volunteers. The vendors in the Product Showcase Area depend on volunteers. The many software programs available through the Disk of the Month are reviewed and duplicated by a corps of volunteers who work throughout the month for us. Dial up the bulletin board and let a volunteer connect you to the outside world, or read about your computer interest in the newsletter sent to your doorstep by a volunteer.

The amazing thing is how much fun this group volunteer thing can be. But, most of all, please remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

Claude...

Infomart Liaison
   David Harned

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

   Anchors:
      Jim Bourgeos
      Mike Griffin
      David Slavik
   Crew:
      Michael Dumenko
      Robert Hartner
      Rod Rodilico

Auditorium Presentations

   Timothy Carmichael
   Chris Jung
   Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration
Booth

   Statistician:
      Connie Testa
   Scheduler:
      Bob Wuller
   Anchors:
      Connie Andrews
      Harvey Andrews
      Ralph Beaver
      Gregg Canty
      John Ferguson
      Allan Harbaugh
      Hank Holt
      David Huckabee,

Edward (Ned) Keig
David Martin
Claude McClure
Raymond Reyes,
Bob Wuller
Booth Crew:
   Glynn Brooks
   Greg Canty
   Eteta E. Eta
   John Ivers,
   Neil Jochelson
   Cinda Lovil
   Ed Moreland
   Rod Rodolico
   Randy Wicks

Disk of the Month (DOM)

   DOM Desk Crew:
      Joe Allen
      Doug Athas
      Bernie Baars
      Roy Bales
      Ralph Beaver
      Rob Bender
      Gene Brown,
      Gene Carleton
      Don Chick
      Norman Dang
      James Donlon
      William Farris
      Daramana Gata
      Thomas "Tuc" Goodwin
      Lloyd "Mac" McKeethen
      Duane Martin
      Jan Parkhill

George Ponsford
George Read
Craig Ringener
Ed Snuggs

With Special Thanks to:
   Set-Up Crew:
      Bill Chambliss
      Jay Chambliss
      Mark Gruner
      M. Pat Henley
      Jerry Stone
Inventory and Clean Up
Crew:

Gil Brand,
Jimmy Green
Harold Menzel
DOM Desk Scheduler:
   Charles Cashion
Disks-for-Review Manager:
   Howard Hamilton
Disk Production: Will Davis
   Kathryn Loafman
   Kenneth Loafman

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

   Auditorium Presentations
   Timothy Carmichael   (214)661-4626 (w)

   DOM Booth Scheduler
   Charles Cashion   (214)881-0952 (h)
                                   (214)519-2583 (w)

   DOM Software Review
   Howard Hamilton   (214)644-5721 (h)

   Information Booth and
   **   General Information**
   Claude McClure   (214)867-0978 (h)

NTPCUG On-Line

By Fred Williams
Sysop, NTPCUG BBS

For those who missed the June business meeting, I'm very happy to say the NTPCUG Board of Directors has voted the illustrious former Sysop, and all-around nice guy, Tom Prickett, to the exalted level of NTPCUG Member Emeritus! Congratulations Tom, and thanks again for all of those trying years as the NTPCUG's Sysop.

I have had a talk or two recently with Tom, and we are both hopeful that Tom will be able to get back a little more active with the BBS. There are some promising things on the horizon, and I for one, am keeping all my fingers crossed.

Ah, that never-ending subject, Modems. Seems as soon as I get the time, I'll be ordering yet another 14.4k baud modem for the third line of the BBS. This will once again bring us back to a full complement of high-speed modems.

Many of the BBS users have made mention (some of them in $@#@ &#$&@ terms) of continuing problems with the BBS when attempting a high speed connection. I'm really not attempting to pass the buck, but I have found that the old practice of expecting a rock-solid connection each time the carriers start screaming at each other no longer applies.

I have found that most of my regular on-line services I connect with, will on occasion, exhibit various levels of contrariness which can cause multiple attempts before a connection can be established. My worst luck locally seems to be with BBS's which have "Metro" numbers. That is the main reason that I have the NTPCUG BBS's Metro number as my "fourth down and long yardage" choice.

The most frustrating calls can be the ones I place to the eSoft (TBBS Support BBS) in Colorado. MCI doesn't consider a failed modem connection a "no answer" long distance call. After a good rain between here and Colorado, I can just about count on a string of one minute long calls to Colorado, before I finally get a connection to lock in.

I think that the modem manufactures are pushing just a bit too hard on the telephone systems' switched voice grade lines. Things just don't work as smoothly and consistently as they did back there at 2400 baud. I'm really going to take a hands-off approach when the modem manufactures ratchet up to that next (28.8kb) speed notch.

With two one-minute calls costing more than one two-minute call, one really has to wonder if twice the speed with half the reliability is really a savings. But, I have seen those far-out TV ads AT&T has been sound-biting us with recently, showing full motion video on the "picture phone". Looks like a network connection in every home is just around the corner.

Trouble is, I still remember how long Xerox drew crayon pictures on the wall before they finally delivered the first Ethernet. And, the first Ethernet didn't reach all the way to Colorado.

Even with all of the struggling with new modems and those confounded off-line mail readers, seems BBS message traffic has been on a gradual and steady increase in recent months. The Board of Directors is even beginning to get some initial discussion of the ever-growing, never-ending, NTPCUG "opportunities" done on the BBS between the recent marathon BOD meetings.

The Community Service group is getting quite active on the BBS. They are doing very well considering all of the formal training they were given, NOT! All you members who have not signed on, come on in, the water's fine! Some BBS users have recently received some excellent advise that actually solved some problems.

After paying a recent visit to our own Coppell City Council member's garage, I can assure you that there will be a regular flood of messages in the "Swap Shop". Right Payton? Ask him for a price on one of his "Thumpers".

Fred

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

9:00 - 9:55

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

10:00 - 10:55

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

11:00 - 11:55

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

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

11:30 - 1:00

TI Pro

12:00 - 12:55

Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Desktop Publishing

12:00 - 12:55 cont

Investors
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users

1:00 - 1:55

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

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
Community Services

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

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

Doug Gorrie, Chair	Reagan Andrews
Jim Hoisington	Andy Oliver
Timothy Carmichael	Mark Gruner
Fred Williams	

Officers

President	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h
		(214)464-7942 w
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h
		(214)871-5750 w
Program Chair.	Timothy Carmichael	(214)661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(214)495-7071
Secretary	John West	(214)620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101h
Advertising Dir.	Douglas McQuaid	(214)313-0086h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214)462-7980
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loafman	(214)596-2539
Group Statistician	Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(214)867-0978 h
BBS	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315

Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)

Phil Chamberlain	Jim Hoisington
David McGehee	Stuart Yarus
Tom Prickett	Connie Andrews
Kathryn Loafman	

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)
SYSOP: –	Fred Williams
Assistant Sysop:	Tom Prickett
Assistant Sysop:	Doug Gorrie
Information Mgt:	Lewis Graber
User Relations:	Adam Peterson
DOM Index:	Pete Testa

Voice line for validation problems:
(214)682-0725 Ask for Adam

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

Address Changes, etc...
Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to

NTPCUG Membership Director
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, Texas 75378-0066
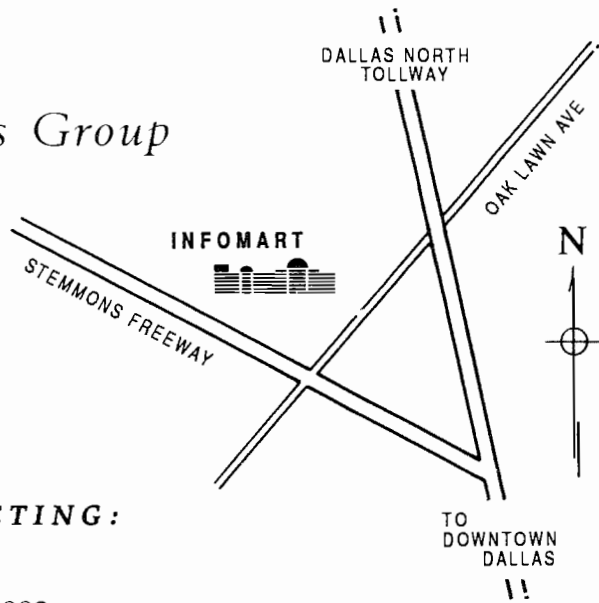*(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)*

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4970 w
		(214)517-7430 h
ACT!	Jim Thompson	(214)487-0085 w
		(817)261-6159 h
Alpha Four	Ron Jackson	(214)276-3661 h
	Mac McKeethen	(214)556-1352 h
Assembler	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221 h
BASIC Prog-Adv.	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734 h
BASIC Prog-Begin.	Charles Jacobus	(817)379-6840 h
BASIC Prog-Visual	Woody Pewitt	(214)230-3485 w
		(214)283-2292 h
	Jim Carter	(214)235-5968 h
BBS	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315 h
	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h
		(214)464-7942 w
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869 h
Business App./DAC	Putt Shaw	(214)235-2559 h
		(214)669-9633 w
	Bruce Schubert	(214)690-5848 h
		(214)233-8353 w
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	(214)343-3862 h
CAD	Bill Shepton	(214)296-1799
Communications	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h
		(214)464-7942 w
	Bill Green	(817)731-1308 h
Community Svc	Brian Mickel	(214)521-2938 h
		(214)521-6670 w
	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4970 w
		(214)517-7430 h
DOS	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101 h
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
Dataflex	David King	(817)640-6130 hM
		(214)313-0408 w
Desktop Publ	Lewis Graber	(214)335-9103 h
	Larry Linson	(817)481-2350 hM
Fox Pro	Kevin White	(214)644-7536 h
Genealogy	Al Sanford	(214)278-7888 h
Hdw Solutions	Peyton Weaver	((214)462-7980 h
	Gary Johnson	(214)937-9676 w
		(214)937-5851 h
MS Works	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734 h
	Ralph Logan	(817)498-9746 hM
Investors	Dick Ricktuian	(214)437-0322 h
Middle C	Tom Cook	(214)871-8177 w
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekel	(817)461-4120 w
		(817)451-4540 h
	Francis Bright	
OS/2 Dev	James Dunn	(214)279-5712h
		(214)497-8978 w
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	((817)481-6625 h
		(214)444-2195 w
PAF	Joe Waldrop	(817)498-5856 h
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315
	Greg Kane	(214)299-9318 h
		(214)241-3307 w
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)867-1679 h
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
Programmers	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101 h
	Kent Kingery	(214)317-0125 h
		(214)458-9711 w
Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148 hM
	Jo Johnston	(214)699-9620 h
Roots III	John Wylie	(214)495-4410 h
Software Review	Pat Henley	(214)271-4911 h
		(214)326-2526 w
	Neil Berkowitz	(214)475-7463 h
Spreadsheet /Dev	Mark Gruner	(214)964-8174 h
	Betty Brooks	(214)618-1608 h
StarText	Beverly Kurtin	(817)355-9594 h
		(214)314-6304 w
	Jim Boughton	(817)478-6665 h
		(817)265-8044 w
TI Pro	Ed Snuggs	(214)348-0664 h
	Clifford Cade	(214)357-5522 h
Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott	(817)267-0758 h
		(817)878-0367 w
	Jim Stallworth	(214)596-7807 h
		(214)604-2226 w
Windows Applic.	Rick Silvernell	(214)306-5422 h
		(214)250-8146 w
Windows Dev.	Arthur English	(214)618-1266 h
MS WORD	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220
	Janet Patton	(903)886-6249
WordPerfect	Lori Quinn	(214)255-0555 w
		(817)481-6453 hM
	Mitch Milam	(214)823-9837

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

Address Correction Requested.

12.7

North Texas PC Users Group

NEXT MEETING:

10 July 1993