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*September 1993*

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 9



# North Texas PC NEWS

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### Deadline:

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

### Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2473 last month. Member distribution was 2149; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Aldus Pagemaker. Repro was printed on a QMS 860 Print System. Principal typefaces include: Caslon 540, Caslon 3, Helvetica, Palatino, Brush Script and Lihos.

**DEADLINE**  
**Copy Deadline for October**  
**North Texas PC News:**  
**Friday, September 10th**

**Meeting Dates:**  
**18 September 1993—3rd Saturday**  
9 October 1993—2nd Saturday  
20 November 1993—3rd Saturday

## Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Program for September

*Timothy Carmichael*

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

### MapInfo for Windows MapInfo Corporation

*Kevin Mahoney, Systems Engineer, and Chris Kopf, South Central Sales Manager*

Kevin and Chris will be demonstrating two products, MapInfo and MapBasic. MapInfo is desktop mapping software that includes geographic-processing capabilities, a relational database engine, an SQL command set, and GUI. MapInfo offers an array of data and map features, such as a map of the world by country, US state boundaries, top 125 US cities, Canadian provincial boundaries, 5-digit ZIP Code centroids, sample data of street and customers, and more. MapBasic starts with a robust, structured BASIC-like language that allows a programmer to perform complex SQL queries with just one line of code, and includes custom menus and dialog boxes. There will be a drawing for one copy of MapInfo (\$1,295 retail value) as well as other product discounts. \*

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### FrameMaker 4.0 for Windows Frame Technology Corporation

*Darja Adams, Applications Engineer, and Sara Clayton, Territory Manager*

Darja and Sara will be presenting FrameMaker 4.0 for Windows. FrameMaker brings a new class of document publishing to Windows: full-featured WYSIWYG word processing, page-layout, graphics, tables, equations, and structured-document tools in one easy-to-use application. FrameMaker 4.0 is a major upgrade including new features, a full API, new hypertext functionality, document compare, and much more. There will be a drawing for two copies of FrameMaker, coffee mugs; and members can receive a \$50 rebate on FrameMaker 4.0. \*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

### NTPCUG Business Meeting

\* 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...*



Receipt of this PC NEWS denotes the official end of Summer. I hope you somehow managed to stay cool, and had a really good time. Now, it's back to Business-As-Usual (whatever that is...).

### OS/2 2.1 User Group Special ...

As most of you recall, our August 21st meeting included a demonstration by IBM Corporation on its newest OS/2 release, version 2.1. A few weeks prior to that meeting, Region 10 of IBM stepped forward to offer NTPCUG memberships, a \$24 value, to the first 100 who both purchased OS/2 at our meeting and attended the 1:00 PM presentation. Announcements of the offer were mailed to all NTPCUG membership, and flyers were prepared for show day distribution.

This is a very gracious offer by IBM and one that NTPCUG appreciates. IBM has been making obvious

efforts to revise their business methodology, and more direct involvement with user groups should prove beneficial to both organizations.

Thanks also go to Irwin Gold, an IBM employee and NTPCUG member who attended the March DOS 6 announcement. There, he asked me about IBM doing such presentations, and the August OS/2 presentation resulted.

Kudos also go to Maureen Gilligan, a recent addition to One Up Corporation, and new NTPCUG member. One Up is an IBM business partner, and Maureen and her management approached IBM initially to suggest the special membership offer. Many thanks to Maureen and One Up for taking time from their busy schedules to arrange and coordinate this special offer, and to IBM for being nimble and quick in approving such an unusual request.

### NETWORLD '93 Coming ...

October 5-7 marks the return of NETWORLD to Dallas, but for the last time. In 1994, it becomes NETWORKS EXPO, appearing in Boston February 15-17, San Francisco April 19-21, and Dallas September 20-22.

Why the name change? Simply, Novell licensed the NETWORLD name to the show's producers, Bruno



Blenheim, Inc. (BBI), through October 14, 1993. Thereafter, the NETWORLD logo will be re-licensed to the Interop Company for use with separate networking events. Hence, BBI renamed NETWORLD to coincide with its European networking shows, NETWORKS EXPO. Expect some confusion as exhibitors and attendees try to figure all this out.

As a User Group, we've been told to expect *lots* of Complimentary Advance Registration Forms for entry to the show floor. Plan on picking yours up at the September 18th meeting.

### Opportunity To Volunteer ...

NTPCUG is making its presence at October's NETWORLD known. We expect to be an exhibitor, routing the benefits of User Group membership to the populous. We'll have tri-fold flyers and newsletters to distribute to interested parties. Since you will probably be there anyway, I am requesting that YOU volunteer a very few hours of your time to man (or woman) the booth.

If you can volunteer, please call (or "BBS") me. We'll work out a time that's good for you.

Separately, we need a few additional volunteers at our Infomart meetings, especially at the 2:00 PM time. After a successful day talking bits and bytes, what better way to celebrate than to help close the operation down! And, it's a good way to help your User Group without missing any important SIG meetings. See Claude McClure at the Information Booth to volunteer.

Yes, I know the "PRO" SIG meets at 2:00, but I hear they just "shoot the bull." If you want some REAL excitement, volunteer to pick the white-board from their room. I hear that Jim Hoisington will be glad to help you carry it out ...

### Infomart Parking ...

Rumor has it that Infomart's parking lot occasionally fills to capacity. If things get tight, you might check out the covered garage on the South side of Infomart (North side of Oak Lawn). Its western-most entry/exit to the ground level is off-limits, but you are allowed use of the two upper floors.

To gain access, drive BETWEEN the garage and main building, eastbound, to the back of the garage. Make a tight right turn onto the ramp to the second floor. Access should be available by 9 AM, possibly earlier. Tell them "Doug" sent you!

### BOD Meeting — July...

At the JULY meeting of the Board, the interim PC Newsletter Publishing Board, consisting of Douglas McQuaid, Reagan Andrews and Andy Oliver, was congratulated for successfully producing the July newsletter on short notice. After John Pribyl's untimely passing, some quick footwork was needed to pick up where John left off. Great job!!

I'm proud to announce that Douglas McQuaid, long time editor of PC NEWS, had so much fun publishing the July newsletter that he decided to make it a permanent role. Doug has turned the role of Editor over to Gerry Heine. Doug speaks highly of Gerry, and we know that he will do an excellent job for NTPCUG.

Membership was reported at 2,114 as of July 1st.

### Resource Center ...

At the BoD meeting, Doug Gorrie announced the first gathering of the Resource Center Research Committee, consisting of Doug Gorrie, Alex Lilley, Woody Pewitt, Andy Reese, and Stuart Yarus. The committee is charged with investigating the availability and cost of a Resource Center, where NTPCUG and Apple Corp membership can gather year-round for User Group activities. Minimum facilities would likely include a reception and gathering area, a large meeting room with permanent projection facilities, a library/reading area, and perhaps space for NTPCUG's BBS. A series of tasks were assigned to initiate the process.

The Resource Center concept is the result of NTPCUG's continued growth, the growing scarcity of additional meeting space at Infomart, and the need to expand our meeting schedule beyond the current monthly Saturday meeting. "Super Saturday" will continue in its current format, but a Resource Center would give our membership and SIG Leaders greater flexibility.

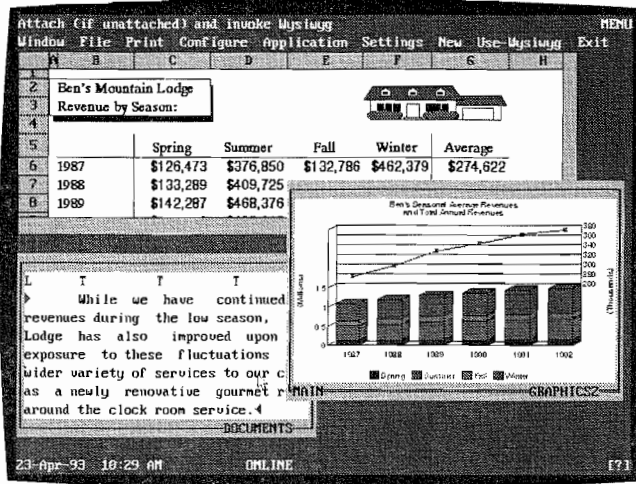
### Final Thoughts ...

My wife tells me that there are things in life other than computers. If you have a similarly thinking spouse, and/or just want to try something different, consider the Plano Balloon Festival — September 24-26 at Bob Woodruff Park in (where else) Plano. You might want to volunteer as ground crew for some of the visiting balloonists. I have, and its fun! I even got a free ride as a result.

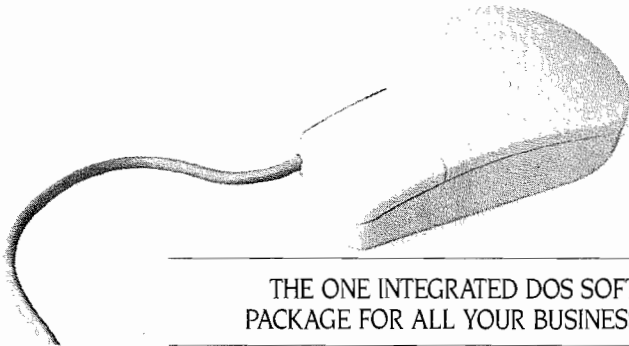
Have a great Labor Day! See you September 18.

—Doug Gorrie

# UNLIKE MOST SYMPHONIES, THIS ONE HAS TO BE SEEN TO BE APPRECIATED.

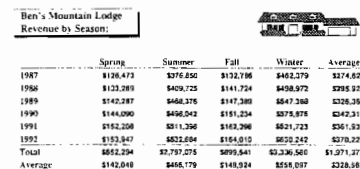


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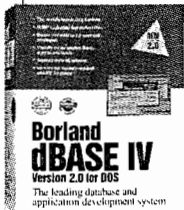
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<b>No retraining</b> required to take advantage of new features	Yes	No
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<b>No recoding</b> required to use dBASE forms and reports	Yes	No
<b>No risk</b> of data corruption from incompatible file and record locking	Yes	No
<b>No 79-page "migration guide"</b> required to identify programming incompatibilities	Yes	No
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## "The new speed demon"

—PC Magazine, May 11, 1993



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## On Complexity

### Number 70 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

As the year 2000 approaches, I've been giving more and more thought into how I handle dates in my programs. After all, the computer should know about the change in the millennium and it should make some assumptions that make the human's task easier.

The first series of assumptions I got from the Microsoft Advisor that comes with Microsoft C. The rules that I am now following are these:

- 1) The human can always enter a four digit year in which case there are no assumptions to make.

Example: 08/14/1965 is assumed to be 08/14/1965.

- 2) If the human enters a two digit year and the year has a value of 80 or greater, the millennium is assumed to be 1900.

Example: 08/14/93 is assumed to be 08/14/1993.

- 3) If the human enters a two digit year and the year has a value of less than 80, the millennium is assumed to be 2000.

Example: 08/14/65 is assumed to be 08/14/2065.

As long as this is well documented and the computer updates the display with it's assumptions, the human can continue typing two digit years for most dates and the computer can add the extra two digits.

Another problem is that some software development environments make their own, undocumented, assumptions about two digit years. I have been using one database product for about six years now and only recently discovered that it assumed that all two digit years with a value of less than 40 are in the next millennium. I don't mean to pick on this database but this quirk isn't documented anywhere. I'm sure there are other programmers who don't know this.

Still another problem is leap years. I know that I have a lot of programs out there that I wrote in the 60's (that's 1960s), 70's (1970s) and 80's (1980s) that will not calculate leap year in the year 2000 if the programs are still being run. (I wonder if computers will be able to run FORTRAN in the year 2000?)

Like many programmers, I used a commonly available algorithm to calculate the occurrence of leap year. The algorithm was developed by a German mathematician

in the 1700's. It works fine through 1999, but then it gives false answers. Oops!

Finally, there are those legacy programs from the old days when disk and core memory was dear. The programmers dutifully chopped off the first two digits of each year and only stored the last two digits to save a byte or two. The two digits can be added back programmatically with a fair amount of certainty but what is going to happen to a data file that is subjected to a sort routine that sorts the data by year. I sure hope the source code is available because a lot of files are going to have to be reorganized in 1999 and the programs that use them are going to have to be changed.

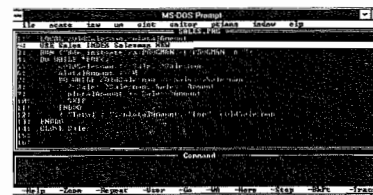
Do you know how the program that computes your paycheck and benefits handles dates?

Caveat Dictus!

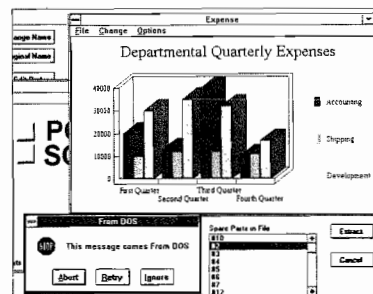
—Jim

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Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

# The Variety Store

A personal view on the state of the microcomputer industry featuring new or unusual hardware, software, and applications.

## Ohhhh! What tangled webs we weave — IBM-Apple-Motorola vs Intel & Microsoft & each other?

If you can figure the next several pages out, please tell me what's happening. A couple of years back, Apple (riding very high), IBM, (riding somewhat lower), and Motorola (riding off into the sunset) formed a series of cooperative partnerships. The target of all these unlikely bed-sharings was the Intel-Microsoft hegemony over the PC world (and all its profits).

### So what do we see now?

**Apple**, with a new CEO, announces its first losses and layoffs (substantial, according to some pundits, and including some software design teams deeply involved in the holy struggle against the unholy alliance, above).

**IBM** announces a new "killer chip" to compete with the Intel "standard" (but lacking math coprocessor capabilities in spite of a 16K cache) and in the same breath it announces a new PowerPC line with new Motorola CPU chips.

**Motorola**, touting its new PowerPC CPU line in a massive advertising blitz, also announces an agreement with Microsoft to port *Windows NT* to the PowerPC chips. (Oops! That might have been a Microsoft announcement rather than a Motorola PR release.)

### Mighty triumvirate unleashes PowerPC chip from Motorola Next Motorola move — load *NT*?

IBM, Apple, and Motorola have (sort of) combined in a titanic struggle against Microsoft — no

news here, but I do love the purple prose.

Apple fired the first (or, whatever) shot with their announcement that some future Macintoshes would have Intel 486 chips as well as the Motorola 68xxx's built-in so they could run DOS (*Windows?*) applications as seamlessly as *DOS/Windows*.

Couple this with Apple-announced layoffs, massive price-cutting, and rumors that some of the layoff targets are programming teams working on new Apple "ports" to the "new" portable OS touted several months back.

Motorola has really cranked-out the advertising blitz to announce the new PowerPC chips. The media have "bitten" big-time and have really hyped the new chips and (coming real soon now) machines based on the PowerPC CPU.

### IBM plays both sides ...

IBM (very quietly) began releasing its 486 SLC CPU chips (on boards) to non-IBM makers (See *Destiny*, below) in variations carefully

selected to turn Intel's (and Apple's) hair somewhat grey as result of 2x and 3x speed enhancements as well as a somewhat larger built-in cache (16K SRAM). Since IBM can only sell the CPUs as part of a motherboard/CPU combination, at least one vendor, *Destiny*, is offering IBM motherboards to vendors.

The price on these board/CPU combinations is much lower than most equivalent Intel-based products. Maybe.

IBM double-whammy'd everyone with a parallel announcement of their new PowerPC PC line. The positioning of this group is still somewhat up in the air, with parallels to the RS6000 series, etc. At the same time, IBM released a flood of "Ambra" (Abracadabra?) PCs including a P5/586 (Intel) line with scalable architecture.

The advertising for Ambra is really neat — and really very un-IBM-like. IBM's position vs. Compaq and Dell is hard to determine and I think consumers are going to have a really hard, hard time making comparisons (and purchases) on the basis of power vs. value.

Maybe five years too late, but IBM did make a decision to market *OS/2 2.1* like it was a real contender. Where this fits in with the above is unknown, but it's nice to see some commitment to this OS after all the posturing, etc. It could make Microsoft a tad more responsive over the next year — or so.

Motorola announced (or Microsoft — depending on whose PR



## Variety

releases you read) that the new PowerPC CPU chips would sport Microsoft's *Windows NT* as an OS in some versions. What happened to *Pink*?

These folks all got together to fight the mighty Microsoft-Intel "strangle-hold?"

### Legal news this month Kinda slow — except For Cyrix, Lotus, & IBM

In order to understand the following, you have to really believe in the Tooth Fairy, et al.

First, Lotus won a round of their suit against Borland over something I've forgotten, but supposedly important to both players. (Not really, it's over the "Look & Feel" of an earlier version of *Quattro*.) Borland is tired of the litigation (they're losing), and we're all tired of the costs we'll pay (to pay for the attorneys and other legal fees) each time we buy software.

This is despite the fact that Borland changed *Quattro Pro* a year ago to remove the "offending" programming. Lotus wants it all — including modules added after the case went to the courts for resolution.

### Lotus' style shows ...

In a show of real style (and grace), Lotus officials (including Lotus President Jim Manzi) were quoted in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article. According to *WSJ*, Lotus is sniffing after "North of \$100 Million." (What does "North" of anything mean?)

Manzi (the more articulate Lotus official quoted) was said to have quipped, "Lotus lawyers are preparing to do a real 'cashectomy' to collect damages from Borland."

### Fun starts in the West ...

In kind of a strange twist, there's some push for PC users groups to join the suit as *Amicus Curie* (friends of the court). Users groups are concerned about the long-term impact of this suit on the PC world. The major players in this effort are primarily anti-East Coast in their orientation. You might read that as "Anti-Cambridge and anti-BCS." BCS is the Boston Computer Society and Cambridge, MA, is the home of Lotus.

BCS is viewed by some of the West Coast PC UGs as the latest incarnation of "the Evil Empire" since the fall of the Soviet Union and seat of all foulness in the PC world.

After Manzi's comments, it's really tempting ...

### Cyrix & Intel reach Agreement over suits

I don't know where this leaves the struggle against Intel's near-monopoly of the 486 world. At any rate, local CPU-maker Cyrix reached an agreement with Intel over the many suits and counter-suits concerning Cyrix' rights to produce 387 math coprocessor chips.

Who cares? — The Real fight is over the 486 CPU.

The battlefield is now shifted to the 486 (and beyond) CPU chips and the 387 is a minor sidebar. Maybe. Details of the suit agreements are somewhat spotty, but they seem to indicate that Cyrix will owe Intel a bunch of money if one of the key suits goes in Intel's favor, and Intel will owe Cyrix even bigger sums of money if Cyrix holds the winning hand.

The real battle will be over the 486 and later chips and the bizarre,

interlinking agreements between Intel, TI (Texas Instruments) and Mostek, and, now between TI, Mostek's successor (SGS-Thomson), and Cyrix. Better believe that's where the blood will flow.

### IBM vs. Conner as Hard drive makers Collide in court

IBM has lots 'n lots of patents. IBM also has accumulated lots 'n lots of cooperative agreements with other makers/vendors over the years since the introduction of mass storage devices for computers.

The latest lawyer celebration may be an on-going battle heating-up between IBM and Conner Peripherals, a major IBM supplier. Conner also is a major supplier to Compaq and other PC makers as well. IBM claims "infringement" on "certain" IBM disk drive technology.

Conner says it's using technology it developed, and laid the blame for the suit on the failure of IBM and Conner to come to agreement on cross-licensing the disputed technology. Conner also estimates this will take the usual "several years" to resolve, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Guess who's going to pay the legal fees?

### Destiny forges forward With *Blue Lightning*— IBM's 486 SLC CPUs

I've gotten some really interesting motherboard offers from Destiny, a California-based vendor recently. The subject is the new IBM-produced motherboards, featuring the IBM 486 SLC 2x and 3x chips. IBM can't sell CPU chips directly,

> [See *Variety*, Page 16]

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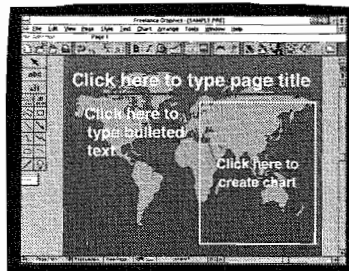
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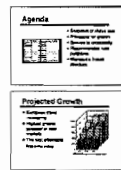
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## Lotus Freelance Graphics 2.0

Presentation Graphics for Windows

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## Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

### News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

#### Access SIG

"Database Design Day II" at the September Access SIG!

The main speaker for our September SIG meeting is NTPCUG's own Fred Williams, with Part Two of "Introduction to Relational Database Design." Fred's August presentation was a great one, explaining why it is better to move a traditional data file into a relational data base and to normalize it. Fred's extensive knowledge and understanding of database issues resulted from years of "time with his back to the wall" in the worlds of Oracle and Paradox. The techniques he will be telling us about apply to Access, of course, but to other relational database software as well, so come and visit the Access SIG if you have an interest in any database!

Look for another "surprise" giveaway in September, continuing the precedent set in July with a copy of the Access 1.1 Update disks and followed in August by diskettes of sample Access code and a copy of *The Windows Interface: An Application Design Guide*. We try to keep things interesting around the Access SIG!

August also saw the availability (through NTPCUG Disk of the Month) of a diskette with a self-running demo of Access. Tell your friends who haven't decided on a Windows database to get a copy and take a look at Access. This demo is NOT for Access users; it is to help non-users decide if Access is the RDBMS for them. You will

soon see some diskettes in DOM for users of Access, too.

Remember: Use the "Database" message conference of the NTPCUG electronic Bulletin Board System to ask, and answer, questions about Access. The probability is high that some other user will be able to help you with your question. Look inside the back cover of this newsletter for phone numbers and other information about the NTPCUG BBS.

Mike Carr, President of Salinon Corp., is our guest speaker for October. He's a developer

who's used Access and Visual Basic, since the beta test days of Visual Basic 3.0. Mike will tell us about using Access to design and build databases for use with Visual Basic and its Access database engine. We are looking forward to Mike's presentation.

We're also looking forward to seeing you... join us in September.

*Larry Linson*

#### Beginning Visual Basic SIG

Last month, we finished the Sketch program by adding menu items to the application from John Socha's book. The availability of a computer with an overhead projector has surely improved the amount and depth of coverage we get in the one hour program.

In September, we will discuss the controls available in Visual Basic 3.0, Standard Edition as compared with the controls available in ➤

#### 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 AM  
(Contact Debbie Meaney at 214 714-6000)  
Previously meeting at 2:00 PM
- TI-Pro @ 12:00 Noon until 12:55 PM  
(Contact Jack McCurley at 214 348-9048)  
Previously from 11:30 AM until 12:55 PM
- Investors @ 11:00 until 12:55  
(Contact Dick Ricktulan at 214 437-0322)  
Previously from 12:00 until 12:55

##### Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- Spreadsheet & Spreadsheet Developers  
(contact Mark Gruner at 214 964-8174)
- Personal Users (contact Alex Lilley at 214 517-7430, Doug Gorrie at 214 618-8002 or Bob Presley at 214 867-1679)

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).

—Alex Lilley



Visual Basic 2.0, Standard Edition. We will demonstrate as many as possible on the computer with the overhead projector.

By the way, hearty thanks to Microsoft for furnishing us a free copy of Visual Basic 3.0, Professional Edition, to register for our new teaching computer. There is a Mindshare group at Microsoft, headed by Mike Werner, that keeps tabs on User Groups around the country. Mike was responsible for getting us Visual Basic 3.0 for the teaching computer.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to Room 7011 at 8:00 AM on September 18, 1993. See you then.

*Jim Carter*

### Visual Basic SIG

The August meeting of the Visual Basic SIG featured discussion of (1) naming conventions for variables and controls in Visual Basic and (2) code control in either the multi-programmer environment or in the multi-project environment. We had hoped to have a copy of Microsoft's *Delta* program which plans to address the second topic, but Microsoft has delayed the introduction of this product. We will return to this topic again at a future meeting.

We also discussed reaction to Woody's first Visual Basic disk for the Disk of the Month (DOM). Any additional offerings will be considered for inclusion in this disk.

In September, Woody will discuss the "surprises" you might get into by developing your application in one display format (SVGA) and then using the application in other display formats. You can experience some unusual reactions by

the monitor. Woody plans to present some of the "tricks" that keep you in control and largely independent of the monitor environment.

As usual, there will be time for your Visual Basic questions. Bring them to Room 7011 at 9:00 AM on September 18, 1993. See you there.

*Jim Carter*

### Communications SIG

For the August 21 meeting, Ken Loafman was kind enough to discuss the Internet, the whiz-bang network that encircles the globe. Ken familiarized those present with what the Internet is, how it relates to Usenet, and how both can be used.

At our September 18th meeting, we anticipate having Mr. Ken Pecot of Northern Telecom present to discuss Data over Cellular. Ken is Product Manager over NT's Wireless Division, and is eager to describe and compare today's analog and tomorrow's digital cellular networks. Then, too, there is CDPD — Cellular Digital Packet Data, another variation.

Come join us for what should be an extremely interesting foray into the world of cellular communications.

*Doug Gorrie & Bill Green*

### C++ SIG

In August, we discussed functions that take a variable number of arguments. We began with a discussion of `argc/argv` type functions, and then proceeded to `printf`-style functions that take a variable number of arguments of variable types. We also looked at ways of using the standard library functions as a base for our own variable-argument functions.

In September, we will be visited by Randy Davis, of E-Systems' Greenville Division. Randy is the author of several books on programming; his most recent is *C++ Programmer's Companion — Designing, Testing, and Debugging* (Addison Wesley). He will be presenting his techniques for "defensive programming" — ways of designing classes with testing and debugging features built in from the start, rather than tacked on after a problem arises. Randy's emphasis will be on C++, but he is careful to point out that many of his techniques apply to C, as well.

There will be a drawing for a free copy of *C++ Programmer's Companion*, which is open to any NTPCUG member.

*Kent Cobb & Tom Cook*

### DOS SIG

Are we having fun yet? Some DOS SIG members will have the "real" Windows NT by the time this reaches print. Some will be beta-testing Microsoft's heralded Chicago, and some will have sprung for IBM's PC-DOS 6.1. Guess a few will have upgraded to OS/2 2.1

I don't think the Chicago users will be talking too much until the last half of 1994. That's when the NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreements) will end with release/sale of the new Windows/DOS combo. Then, they'll be free to talk about the new system.

The real question is, "will Chicago displace DOS?" Or, will this new version merely highlight Microsoft's commitment to DOS with a version that will meet some of the criticism/demands resulting from DOS 6.0's release in face of user expectations for enhanced 32-bit operation and end of the 640K "barrier." Jim Hoisington, resident DOS expert/guru will wax eloquent (as usual) on this topic for ➤

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— *Forbes* 2/93

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— *Software Digest Ratings Report*, Vol. 9, #6, 9/92

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— *Chicago Tribune* 3/26/93

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— *Byte* 9/92

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— 100 Best Products of 1992, *Windows Magazine* 2/93

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— *PC/Computing* 12/92

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the September DOS SIG Meeting.

Jim and Reagan will be looking at “probable” Microsoft moves with DOS and other OS (Operating System) developments anticipated in the next year or so as result of the massive swing to 386/486 PC’s by our members over the last two years. The “typical” PC is postulated by media pundits as a 486DX PC with 8MB DRAM and a 200MB hard drive. The big question will be “Does this description match ‘typical’ NTPCUG DOS SIG members?”

September’s DOS SIG Meeting should be a real “interesting” session, terminated, of course, by the usual Q & A format at the end of the meeting. It will be fun, don’t miss it.

*Reagan Andrews*

### Paradox SIG

Due to the unforeseen (and for many DOS Bigots, greatly unwanted) rush toward Windows, Tom Browning is slowly transporting his continuing Paradox system design series to the Windows environment.

Many do not agree with this, at least currently, but the switch is occurring. Paradox for Windows is such a major shift in paradigm from Paradox for DOS that many who are wanting to switch are demanding (pleading?) for help. Tom and I will attempt to walk a tight rope between DOS and Windows in the foreseeable future.

I would be interested in hearing from the SIG members what their thoughts are on how best to serve both the DOS and Windows environments. I am considering a two hour format, where DOS and Windows would each have their

own hour. I will be asking for your views at the September meeting, providing the problem is not resolved by the time you read this.

If you missed the August meeting, you will have missed my database product observations gained at the July Borland User’s Group “Retreat” which I attended. If not elsewhere in this issue, soon to be published, I will be presenting my spin on what information I can disclose as was presented at the Retreat. We were under pretty comprehensive non-disclosure agreements, but I will do the best I can.

*Fred Williams*

### Personal Users SIG

The Personal Users SIG will take off for one month (September) and then start over in October. Please be sure to attend any and all of the classes when they start over in October, whether or not you own a computer, just beginning to use a computer at home or at work, or consider yourself an intermediate user.

### Windows Developers SIG

At the August SIG, we discussed VBX controls for Visual C++ in general and the Pinnacle Software Graphics Server SDK in particular. John Cole from InfoPoint has been evaluating Graphics Server SDK for a month and shared what he learned about Graphics Server SDK with us at the meeting.

I will be off-line for both the September and October meetings. In my absence, Rick Sivernell will be taking over. At the September meeting, Rick will be discussing the Visual C++ way to create Windows resources—AppStudio. Rick will be giving you tips and tricks for using AppStudio and soliciting them from the other AppStudio experts attending our SIG. Rick is also very familiar with

Borland’s Resource Workshop and will give you a critical comparison of what these two programs can do for you.

*Arthur English*

### Word SIG

Now that Word SIG members have had a chance to look at Word 6.0 for DOS, what’s the general consensus concerning this new Word product? Is it sufficient to hold-off the DOS WordPerfect wolves? Or, is the new Word too little, too late?

We’ll look at the new Word pros and cons at the September Word SIG Meeting, with an emphasis for users with “small” machines. Most of the media hype has indicated that Word still works with the “less-endowed” PCs much better than the new product from Orem, Utah. Some of the September meeting will be devoted to elaboration of what “small PC” means in terms of hard-disk size, DRAM and Word utility.

Charles Miller will continue to lead the Word SIG discussion, and will share his experiences with Word 6.0 for DOS with SIG members. Since Charles is concerned with operation on all PC platforms from the lowliest 8088 PC-XT to the 486DX-2 66 speed king, this should be an interesting and informative SIG Meeting.

We will, of course, terminate the SIG Meeting with the usual Q & A session where members pose questions and share solutions to day-to-day MS Word problems.

*Reagan Andrews*

### WordPerfect SIG

#### DOS Tip of the Month!

Drawing a line should be a simple task and it is if you’re using Courier 10 or some other monospaced

> [See SIG, Page 16]

## A Visit With Borland

By: Fred Williams

I had the pleasure of meeting with many of Borland's top staff members recently. The little get-together was called the Borland User Group Retreat. The one thing I did learn is, Borland is definitely not in retreat!

Much of what I saw is covered under an NDA (Non Disclosure Agreement). Some things I was shown and learned, as well as my own general impressions, are not covered by the NDA. Many of you already know I am a Borland Inc. stock holder, but to ensure no one feels like they have been misled, I am now restating that fact here.

I also must say that I have returned with a much improved opinion of the future of Borland. I have discovered, much to my satisfaction, that Philippe Kahn is doing exactly what I thought he needed to do, and a lot more.

For instance, as required, he is building the new, soon to be occupied, Borland offices to meet stiff California earthquake building codes. He is actually building at one and one half times the accepted requirements. I think the aftermath of the last big shake left a very strong impression.

Also on the top floor of the new offices, where all the R & D types will be, there are fully operational windows in all offices. The windows serve two purposes, as best I can tell. The windows let in that wonderful, moist, cool, northern California air when opened, but what is more important, they provide physical proof of Borland's commitment to Windows!

Philippe showed up the first evening of the Retreat to welcome everyone. He was in his normal high spirits. Philippe started things off with his impressions of one hot area in our industry, multimedia. His opinion was that there were really two driving forces behind the multimedia effort.

Those driving forces are MOD, Movies On Demand, and GOD. No, no! Games On Demand. He feels that the industry will justify all of this by having the marketing types refer to the two above key reasons as, EOD (pronounced Eee Odd, with a slight French accent), or Education On Demand. Sounds about right to me!

Then Philippe and a couple of technical weenies in the crowd got off on a tangent — designing (I think) a multimedia solution, with Philippe scribbling furiously on the presentation easel paper. Tami Casey, Borland's

Director of User Group Relations, got things back on course by very diplomatically steering Philippe away from all the fun he was having.

Then, somebody mentioned Lotus. Bummer! Philippe had some very pertinent views on how things might proceed. Also he had some definite opinions on how this all could come back unexpectedly to haunt the entire industry. I do not want to include the details of this one in this report as it deserves it's own article.

I hope to do an article soon on the Borland vs. Lotus suit. I would hope that the article would spur us all to reflect on some things that Philippe, and later, Borland's Chief Counsel discussed with us. There are some very far reaching and potentially quite unpleasant things that could come from all of this, and not just for Borland.

Philippe got back on course again talking about Borland and their products. He kept asking the audience if we were scheduled to see such and such. With each no, we got another entry in our already crowded agenda. I suspect Tami was just a little bit relieved when Philippe decided to wrap it up.

Like I said earlier, a great amount of what we saw of Borland's products was under the NDA we signed. I'll try to cover all that I feel I can. Please understand that I hate NDA's, but also I do keep my word.

The one product that we were encouraged to talk about was Quattro Pro for Windows Release 5.0. The rollout for this one is imminent. It seems that the spreadsheet market has developed into a horse race to see who can out "feature" the other guy.

I cannot believe the features and functions that will come with the new Quattro Pro! There is even a super-easy function that allows you to analyze, side-by-side, a "refi" (refinance) on your home loan. With three or four data items for each scenario and a few mouse clicks you get this fantastically detailed analysis of the planned "refi". The presenter did point out that these whiz-bang features do eat up disk space. The new Quattro will have a much more selective install procedure.

One thing us old database types need when we start messing with a spreadsheet is all the help we can get. Borland has added a context sensitive on-line Tutor with its own icon on the second speed bar. (Yes, I said second speed bar!) The icon looks like a professor. The on-line tutor is very impressive. You can also cut and paste things out of the tutor right into your spreadsheet.

➤

I have only scratched the surface on the new Quattro. Just get ready for a big leap forward. It is definitely going to send those other guys back to the old drawing board. I'm going to get with Timothy Carmichael and ensure we get a Borland presentation of Quattro Pro set up as soon as possible.

On the language front, much is astir. But, unfortunately, most of what I saw and heard is covered by the NDA. I can say that, like Bill Gates and BASIC, Philippe and company will not let Pascal languish. All of the C and C++ stuff is getting very serious attention. Look for public announcements "real soon now."

To sum up what I saw of Borland's languages, they will become more "visual," and remain strongly object-oriented. One of the very welcome improvements will come from an area within the IDE (Integrated Development Environment). In the past, being a multilanguage developer has prevented me from taking advantage of any vendor's IDE because there is no really integrated way to "roll your own" development environment. I don't think I should say any more.

Ah, my favorite subject, databases! I saw so much and can say so little! Philippe took what I feel to be the most critical step to insure Borland's future in maintaining PC database leadership. Rob Dickerson has been appointed to lead the newly formed "Client/Server" division of Borland.

There currently are two camps in the more than one workstation segment of our industry — the "Workgroup" type applications and the "Client/Server" applications.

The only real difference in the two approaches is the number of seats

(workstations) that the product is intended to address. Currently the Workgroup stuff is aimed at the smaller organization and the Client/Server solutions are targeted for the larger "Enterprise" wide applications.

In reality, these differences are only for marketing convenience. Workgroup applications are sold as a simple, less robust, lower-cost-per-seat solution for the smaller organization. Client/Server is sold as the "all things to all people," very complex, solution reserved for those with more money to spend.

I think that as competitive pressures increase and technology advances, Client/Server solutions will migrate down and slowly absorb the Workgroup solutions. There is really no difference in the two markets other than the size of the organization's pocketbook being targeted. Both need what Client/Server has to offer, but most can only afford a Workgroup solution.

I have been very concerned with the future of the one product that many industry observers claim was the real reason Borland bought Ashton Tate. This product is currently little known in the personal computer market. The product is Interbase, a next-generation, post-relational database.

Some time back, some market seer claimed that Oracle was privately very worried about Borland. That was before I knew anything about Interbase. At the time I wondered which turnip truck that gentleman fell off. Now that I have gained some insight into the inter workings of Interbase, I'm happy to say I don't own any Oracle stock.

It is no secret that Borland is building every application product with an imbedded database client

engine. It is becoming common knowledge that the Borland client database engine is built as a subset of the Interbase engine. It is also rather common knowledge that Borland has indicated every intention to support Windows NT. Gee, I wonder what Borland is going to do to provide a Database Server for NT?

If there is one key word in Borland's applications development divisions it has to be "Interoperability". That not only applies to the personal computer platforms, but will soon apply to all platforms running NT, OS/2, and most common flavors of Unix.

So what about that other product Borland acquired from Ashton Tate? No, I don't mean Multi-Mate. By the way, have you ever heard the term "coasting" applied to a Borland product? One Borland wag claimed that was the code word used to describe "Dead."

I don't think we need to put dBASE in the "coasting" category in the foreseeable future. Contrary to wide speculation, Borland is not slacking up on the future of dBASE.

I think that Borland is wise enough to recognize the religious fever that many dBASE developers have toward their language. Realizing this, Borland has continued to develop dBASE in complete indifference to the arch-nemesis, Paradox, on the other side of the house.

But, all of what you see is only on the surface. Underlying the future of dBASE is that same Borland Interbase client engine. The current release of Paradox can read dBASE files, because of the imbedded Interbase engine, so . . . Oh, and while I'm thinking about it. Did I mention the windows on the third floor of the new Borland offices? > [See *Borland*, Page17]



## The Adventures of PC Tech

Chapter 20  
by Ben Thar

Sexual discrimination from a contractor? Mary's ears perked up as she sat, eating breakfast with some of the user group regulars before the Saturday meeting.

"Wait a minute," she said. "Start at the beginning. I want to hear all of this." As it turned out, two firms hired a consultant to install networks in both locations. The consultant then gave each firm the names of two wiring contractors that the consultant knew and trusted. The cable pullers visited each location and submitted bids, not knowing that the presidents of each company are partners in another joint venture. When the office administrators of these companies got together the next day for lunch, they discussed their new networks. And what to their wondering eyes should appear..., the quotes from one contractor had different rates per workstation for the two bids — the lower rate belonging to the company with the drop-dead gorgeous, honey-sweet, southern belle receptionist who, according to the source, "...could melt the tires off a Volvo."

Well, the consultant was furious. She defended the quality of work of both contractors, but could not believe the "deal" that the facts revealed in this case. After confronting the owner of the firm with the easily influenced estimator, a new bid came in at the lower rate, and the job ended successfully.

Mary Margaret's awareness of the benefits of user groups broadened as she was able to spend more time talking to users from all walks of business and exchanging "war" stories. She found that her contribution was significant and welcomed.

Meanwhile, back at the office, PC Tech, our heroine, could not get a single mail order company to live up to the promises that their sales force made. One company, a hard disk manufacturer, advertised a great deal on a hard disk drive. Mary called them up and the sales person assured her that the drive was in stock and would ship "Second Day Air." The only "air" that shipped was the hot air from the sales person. Three days later, no drive. Mary called the company. "Oh, you need to talk to Customer Service," she was told after waiting on the line for 7½ minutes. Transferring to Customer Service brought "All lines are busy, please continue to hold ... blah...blah...blah."

After only a minute, the voice said she could continue to hold or leave a message. Mary's message contained the date, time, her order number, a request for the

status of the order, and her phone number (with voice mail).

The next day, no answer. She tried again. Same result. One week after she ordered, she called again, but instead of leaving a message, she continued to hold. Finally, the operator came on, and MM insisted on speaking to a supervisor. The supervisor came on and takes the information that Mary had left twice with the Customer Service voice mail. Checking the order, the supervisor tells Mary that the hard disk drive is on back order with no anticipated delivery date. Mary Margaret's Irish blood boiled, she canceled the order and swore never to buy a product from that company again. (Remember her "list"? A new name is on it now.)

The next day (August 10th) a voice mail message from the company stated, "Hi, I'm returning your call of August 2. If you still have questions about your order, please call us back." No statement about the status of the order. But the lucky person was the one who called on August 12th returning the phone message from the 3rd. Why lucky? Because he reached MM's voice mail and not Mary in person.

Mary realized that not all mail order companies provided such poor support. However, when it happened a second time in the same week, she decided to learn a lesson and go back to buying locally where a target for her frustrations could be viewed in her sights.

At the next PC user's group meeting, new tales were passed around the breakfast table and MM contributed her mail order woes. Alex came upstairs from the flea market to report that the police had arrested one of the vendors for selling stolen merchandise. The topic changed to the more exciting world of criminal activity...

—Ben

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# Variety

but can sell motherboards with CPU's attached.

So what's new? Lots. Destiny announced the "Blitz" 486DX-3 33/99 MHz motherboards (price unannounced) along with the Blitz SLC-2 40/80 MHz motherboards with a sample price of \$599. That's roughly \$150 less than equivalent boards with the Intel 486DX-2 66 MHz chip installed.

If you see some similarity between the Ambra (IBM) "Blue Lightning" and Destiny's "Blitz" — it must be purely coincidental. Sure ...

The motherboards are made by IBM and will accept 80387 math coprocessors since the SLC CPU's lack this function. I haven't seen any benchmarks on the motherboard/CPU combinations, but I'll bet Intel won't like the results vs. pricing. Users will.

## Coming COMDEX Cellular attractions ...

Lots of pre-Comdex fun this year. The Big Push is toward anything with "cellular" and/or "multimedia" in the same descriptive sentence. And, that's scary. For many reasons.

First, for me, is my fear of the cumulative effects of RF (Radio Frequency) exposure on unwary users. I don't really care about the *bozos* and *bozettes* (slur intended) who talk on their cellular telephones instead of driving — even though they are driving (often really "weaving") on I-45, I-30, etc., at 65-75 MPH.

They'll never ever notice the brain/jaw/pituitary cancer — or the 50-75 point IQ decrements. Unfortunately, they don't seem to notice other vehicles/drivers sharing the road either.

### Is Cellular RF cumulative?

I am worried about the effect on the "typical" workplace, though. Not nearly enough is known about long-term exposure to low-level RF fields for my comfort — especially if this added RF garbage is brought into wide use. I even get nervous about all the RF energy *currently* permeating my environment, much less what may be added by all the cellular RF garbage projected for the next few years.

I haven't seen a thing in print about "second-hand cellular RF exposure." I just hope I'm protected from the effects by the "inverse square law."

—Reagan Andrews



font. But if you use proportionally spaced fonts, what you create on the screen isn't going to look great when you view or print it. Then if you add text with the line, you've really got a mess. Try this the next time. Even if you use Courier 10, I think you'll find this technique a lot easier to work with.

At the point where you want to draw lines in the document, change the underline feature to include spaces AND tabs. {Shift}{F8} 4-Other 7-Underline Spaces and Tabs. Set both the

spaces and the tabs to Yes. Now exit back into your document. For our exercise, we'll create a little form with your name and address.

Type the word "Name," then touch {F8} to begin the underline. Press {Alt}{F6} to force the line ending on the right margin. Press {F8} again to turn the underline off. Press {Enter} a couple of times. Let's do it again for your street address.

Type the word "Address," then touch {F8}, {Alt}{F6}, {F8}. Not only was that easy to do, but it's easy to really add your name and address. Reveal codes and position

the cursor on the [F8] command. Type your name (or address). It doesn't matter if typeover is on, you can touch backspace if you make a mistake, it doesn't matter if you type in upper or lower case: the end of the line will still be anchored on the right margin. There are more tips with this that I'll show you in the September meeting. By the way, this will work in 4.2, 5.0, 5.1 AND 6.0.

In September, hold on to your seat belts because we'll be showing you WordPerfect Six! In October, we'll cover macros and keyboard layouts and try to include a little about them in 6.0 as well.

Lori Quinn

From Prompt> The Newsletter of the Pasadena IBM Users Group, July, 1993, Version 14.7.

# Dear DR. DOS

by Steve Bass, PIBMUG

**Dear Dr. DOS:** I'm told the temperature of the new Pentium chip, Intel's next generation processor, runs pretty hot. Is it true and do I need to worry?

—Evelyn, Altadena

**Dear Evelyn:** Many Intel engineers were troubled with the heat problems and they offered some linear solutions like heat sinks and small fans. One designer installed a six BTU air conditioning unit in the case, back near the parallel ports. Unfortunately, the heat tended to burn the paint off the wall behind the computer. But Dr. DOS's marketing department got a crack at the problem so you needn't worry, there's a slick solution at hand.

The Dr. DOS combination Heat Sink and Coffee Warmer™ attaches directly to your Pentium chip. Using a six foot thinsulate wire attached Heat Sink, the Cup Warmer sits next to your computer, keeping your coffee or tea piping hot. In fact, for those long, lonely nights when you're hacking away at code, the Heat Sink and Coffee Cup Warmer™ is perfect for cooking a can of chili. For even quicker cooking, sort a large database or recalc a spreadsheet. (Available at most computer stores, only \$49.95.)

**Dear Dr. DOS:** I have this addiction for fonts. I love Bondini, Jourard and Alberseque. I've toyed with Cooper and flirted with Zapata. But it's getting out of

## Borland..... Ctd.

Back in the real world, Philippe knows that product excellence does not insure success. There is a very big cloud hanging over Borland's head, and it has nothing to do with the continuing advancement of Borland's products in the marketplace.

I remember a quotation Philippe made a while back. I think what he said pretty well sums up what Borland really wants to do. Philippe said something like, "I would much rather innovate than litigate."

—Fred

hand. Last week I bought MegaSet, a CD with 4000 fonts and I spend my evenings downloading fonts from \*MOBBS\*. [Editors note: \*MOBBS\* is the bulletin board system of the Pasadena IBM Users Group.] What's worse is when I talked to my shrink about the problem, he admitted to using a Mac and doesn't even *understand* fonts. I still have the problem but I no longer have a shrink. What should I do?

—Sammy, Temple City

**Dear Sammy:** Dr. DOS has seen *Font Addiction* first hand and it's not an easy problem to solve. In fact, Dr. DOS himself is a recovering Fonter.

You must seek professional help quickly as the addiction increases exponentially. In one recent case, a woman was institutionalized when she couldn't install new fonts because her hard disk was full.

Until you can get to a therapist, consider the following self-help steps: Stop logging onto \*MOBBS\* and other electronic BBSs. Change your Windows screen fonts to Courier. Begin printing all your text in Times Roman, *even*, yes, your headlines. Although I guess there wouldn't be much harm in doing *some* headlines using Schoolbook. Hmmmmm, you could even try **Cooper** because of the rounded sides and heavy strokes. Did I ever tell you about the time I used a \*❖!@#00▼ to emphasize the [See *Fonts*, Page 35.]

DOM MAIL ORDER FORM		
Mail to: NTPCUG, DOM Mail Order P.O. Box 780066 Dallas TX 75378-0066		Specify disk size: 5¼" <input type="checkbox"/> 3½" <input type="checkbox"/>
Disk no.	No. of Disks	Title/Description
TOTAL DISKS _____ @ \$2.00 each . . . . . \$ _____		
SHIPPING & HANDLING @ \$1.00 for each 5 disks . . \$ _____		
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ORDER \$ _____		
NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____		

## Book Review

by Larry Linson,  
NTPCUG Microsoft ACCESS SIG  
Leader

*THE WINDOWS INTERFACE: An Application Design Guide.* ISBN: 1-55615-439-9 (Book with disk) Microsoft Press, A Division of Microsoft Corporation, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052-6399. List price in the U.S. \$39.95, discount coupon in some Microsoft development software packages.

*THE WINDOWS INTERFACE: An Application Design Guide* provides guidelines from the developers of the Windows operating environment to assist application developers in maintaining visual and functional consistency with other Windows applications.

### What's in it?

A good balance of background and general theory with practical implementation advice make this a far more useful reference than

either alone could provide. The explanation of different user interface windows and controls is enlightening for the developer just moving from the DOS to the Windows environment. The "what, why, and how" helped me get up-to-speed much faster than relying on experience and intuition to understand why Windows applications use these items when they do.

### Chapters are:

1. Principles and Methodology — considering the user in designing your application.
2. Fundamental Input Elements — using the mouse and keyboard.
3. General Techniques — selection, focus, navigation, transfer interface, direct manipulation, providing feedback, editing text, moving objects, and text frames.
4. Windows — types, components, and operation of screen windows.
5. Menus — types, components, and operation of menus; standard menus; common optional menus.
6. Dialog Box Controls — buttons, check boxes, list boxes, text boxes, read-only pop-up text fields, sliders, static text fields, group boxes, control labels, and validation of input.
7. Using Dialog Boxes — types of dialog boxes; dialog placement; using command

- buttons, fonts, and samples in dialogs.
8. Common Dialog Boxes — file operations, printing, text search and substitution, character properties, page setup dialogs, and the "About..." dialog.
9. Object Linking and Embedding — compound documents, OLE concepts, OLE interface, links and link dialogs, and status message recommendations.
10. The Pen Interface — pen input and designing pen interfaces.
11. Miscellaneous Topics — loading and initialization, user levels and customization, help, and international considerations.

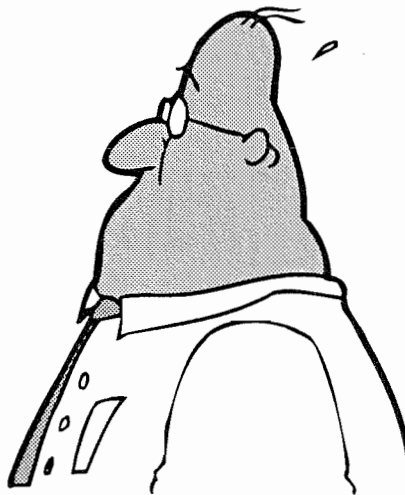
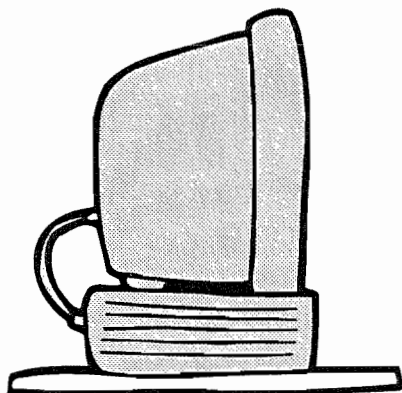
### Who needs it?

This is a valuable reference for the Microsoft Access application developer who may go beyond the basics. If all your applications will simply be built using the "Wizards," Access itself will guide you to a Microsoft recommended interface design. If you design your own user interface, using the extended capabilities that Access provides, it is useful to have recommendations based on significant experience in the environment and on human factors research. Casual and "power" end users may find it interesting reading, but will not find it essential.

### Recommendation

If you are new, or relatively new, to Windows development and plan to do "serious" application development in the Windows environment, you will find this a book worth having. I suggest you first read it rather quickly cover-to-cover and then re-read in detail the topics that you know will be pertinent to your own work. Keep it handy on the shelf for reference when you address new functions in your application. It can help you build applications that allow users to concentrate on the business functions of the application instead of "how to use" the application itself... and happy users never hurt the reputation of an application designer or implementer.

—Larry Linson



## Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

by Claude McClure

It's amazing to see how dedicated our volunteers are to the group and to their own sense of purpose. This month's preface is dedicated to the list of super helpers who served in July for the DOM group, the Vendor Showcase Area, and the Information Booth. The time for each of these volunteers to serve is arranged by one of our schedulers. Charles Cashion and Bob Wuller call each of them asking for an hour of their time on NTPCUG meeting day, or perhaps during the month. It's not easy being the caller for volunteers and many times their call is meant only as a reminder to make sure the entire day is properly staffed. The best thanks they can get is a willing helper who has a sense of purpose.

We also want to remember our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter staff and writers, newsletter exchange, bulletin board SysOp and technical staff, who are all volunteers; their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter. This group of volunteers make a lot of phone calls and attend several meetings between our monthly Super Saturday meetings. They do this to guarantee the best possible program for the rest of us.

Please remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

Infomart Liaison  
David Harned

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

anchors:  
Jim Butler  
Mike Griffin  
David Slavik

Crew:  
Rod Rodilico  
Paul Weathers

Auditorium Presentations:  
Timothy Carmichael  
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration  
Booth

Statistician:  
Connie Testa

Scheduler:  
Bob Wuller

anchors:  
Connie Andrews  
Dianne Arnold (double)  
John Arnold  
Ralph Beaver  
Judy Griffiths  
Allan Harbaugh  
David Huckabee  
Edward (Ned) Keig  
David Martin  
Claude McClure  
Bob Wuller

Booth Crew:  
Glynn Brooks  
Carolyn Cochran  
Eteta E. Eta  
John Ivers  
Neil Jochelson  
Peter Lewis  
Cinda Lovil  
Bob Marley  
Mundee Rodriguez  
Paul Williams  
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  
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 USER-TO-USER PROGRAM

Introducing the NTPCUG User-To-User program, composed of members who are willing to donate their time to help others with software and hardware questions. Some of our helpers are professional consultants. All have joined the User-to-User Program because they want to share their knowledge with others and help them. They have agreed to answer questions that they are comfortable handling over the phone, without charge.

These individuals are volunteering to assist NTPCUG members. NTPCUG is assisting in finding these volunteers for you, but cannot be responsible for unsatisfactory outcomes.

Next to each subject, we will list the person's name, phone number and the times they are available.

An example listing would be:

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
C++ 7.0	Ben Thar	(111)555-1212	M-Sa	1300-1800

**Please try to resolve your problem by reading the manual and any on-line help BEFORE calling.**

The following areas have helpers and should appear in next month's newsletter. Access, Assembly Language, Basic, Brothers Keeper, C, C++, Borland C++, Communications Software, CompuServe, DOS, Lotus, 1-2-3, MathCAD, Paradox, ProComm/ProComm Plus, Quicken, SPFPC, TurboVision, UNIX, WordPerfect, Windows, and XENIX.

The subject areas listed below currently do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Bill Drissel at (214)264-9680 M-F 1830-2200 or Sa & Su 0900-2200. Bill will send you a form on which you can list your qualifications and sign.

**Areas Needing Helpers:**

Beginners  
 Hardware Help  
 \$ & Sense  
 Anti-Virus  
 Borland Turbo C  
 Microsoft C  
 Microsoft C++  
 Visual C++  
 CAD  
 Corel Draw  
 Dataflex  
 dBase, dBase III+  
 DeskLink  
 Desktop Publishing  
 DR/Novell DOS

Easy Text  
 First Choice  
 First Publisher  
 Fox Pro  
 Fund Watch Plus  
 Harvard Graphics  
 It's Legal  
 LAN's  
 LapLink  
 Managing Your Money  
 Mathematica  
 Modems  
 Money Counts  
 Money Plans  
 Microsoft Assembler

Microsoft Word  
 Microsoft Works  
 MIDI  
 MKS products  
 MS-DOS (see DOS above)  
 Norton Utilities  
 OS/2  
 PAF  
 Pagemaker  
 PC Hookup  
 PC Tools  
 Personal Tax Preparer  
 PKzip/PKUNzip  
 Portfolio Analyzer  
 Q&A File  
 Q & A

Quattro Pro  
 QuietWrite  
 RS-232 Communications  
 Roots  
 Smart  
 Smart Notes  
 Sound Blaster  
 Stacker  
 SuperCalc  
 Symphony  
 TurboTax  
 TurboVision  
 Ventura Publisher  
 Word (see Microsoft)  
 XTree



### Membership Application

*North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Work \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (Ext) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



## 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

<p><b>8:00 - 8:55</b> Microsoft Networking Visual Basic - Beginning</p> <p><b>9:00 - 9:55</b> DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Personal Users Quicken Software Review Visual Basic Windows Applications WordPerfect</p> <p><b>10:00 - 10:55</b> BASIC Programming-Adv. CAD Fox Pro Database Networking PAF - Genealogy Paradox</p>	<p><b>10:00 - 10:55 (cont.)</b> Personal Users WordPerfect/Windows Unix/Xenix</p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:55</b> BASIC Programming-Begin. Assembler Brother's Keeper Genealogy Investors MS Works Roots III - Genealogy Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers</p> <p><b>11:30 - 11:55</b> Orientation</p> <p><b>12:00 - 12:55</b> Alpha Four C++/Advanced C</p>	<p><b>12:00 - 12:55 (cont.)</b> Communications Desktop Publishing OS/2 for End Users Personal Users TI Pro</p> <p><b>1:00 - 1:55</b> Access ACT! BBS Business Apps./DAC Easy Middle C MS Word OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet Startext</p> <p><b>2:00 - 2:55</b> Advanced Programmers Community Services</p>
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## Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
Access	Larry Linson Jack Atkinson Dianna DeCicco Frank McCoy Jim Thompson	(817)481-2350 (817)481-6623 (214)446-0639 (817)232-2483 (214)487-0085 w (817)261-6159 h
ACT!	Ron Jackson Mac McKeethen	(214)276-3661 h (214)556-1352 h
Alpha Four	Frank Cavallito Mike Firth Charles Jacobus Woody Pewitt	(214)423-9221 h (214)827-7734 h (817)379-6840 h (214)230-3485 w (214)283-2292 h
Assembler	Jim Carter Fred Williams Doug Gorrie	(214)235-5968 h (214)492-1315 h (214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
BASIC Prog-Adv.	Neil Sunderland Putt Shaw	(214)272-2869 h (214)235-2559 h (214)669-9633 w (214)690-5848 h
BASIC Prog-Begin.	Bruce Schubert	(214)233-8353 w (214)871-8177 w
BASIC Prog-Visual	Tom Cook Kent Cobb	(214)343-3862 h (214)296-1799
BBS	Bill Shepton Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w (817)731-1308 h
Brother's Keeper	Bill Green Brian Mickel	(214)521-2938 h (214)521-6670 w (214)953-4970 w
Business App./DAC	Alex Lilley	(214)517-7430 h (214)416-3101 h
	Jim Hoisington Reagan Andrews David King	(214)828-0699 h (817)640-6130 h (214)313-0408 w
Middle C	Frank Bede Larry Linson Kevin White	(214)320-8305 (817)481-2350 h (214)644-7536 h
C++ / Advanced C	Al Sanford Charles Miller Gary Johnson	(214)278-7888 h (903)938-4220 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h
CAD	Dick Ricktuan Bernie Van Roekel	(214)437-0322 h (817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
Communications	Francis Bright Debbie Meaney James Dunn	(214)714-6000 w (214)279-5712 h (214)497-8978 w
Community Svc	Bob Fermier	(817)481-6625 h (214)444-2195 w (817)498-5856 h (214)492-1315
	Joe Waldrop Fred Williams Tom Browning	(214)867-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)416-3101 h (214)317-0125 h (214)458-9711 w (817)430-8148 h (214)699-9620 h (214)495-4410 h (214)271-4911 h (214)326-2526 w (214)475-7463 h
Desktop Publ	Neil Berkowitz Mark Gruner Betty Brooks Beverly Kurtin	(214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)355-9594 h (214)314-6304 w (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-9048 h (214)741-1993 w
Fox Pro	Jim Boughton	(817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-9048 h (214)741-1993 w
Genealogy	Walt Rice Clifford Cade Doug Scott	(214)357-5522 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-6249 (214)255-0555 w (817)481-6453 h (214)823-9837 (214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 h
Hdw Solutions	Jim Stallworth	(214)604-2226 w (214)306-5422 h (214)250-8146 w (214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-6249 (214)255-0555 w (817)481-6453 h (214)823-9837 (214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 h
Investors	Arthur English Reagan Andrews Charles Miller Lanet Patton Lori Quinn	(214)618-1266 h (214)828-0699 h (903)938-4220 (903)886-6249 (214)255-0555 w (817)481-6453 h (214)823-9837 (214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 h
Local Area Net	Mitch Milam Mike Firth Ralph Logan	(214)823-9837 (214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 h
MS Networking		
OS/2 Dev		
OS/2 for End Users		
PAF		
Paradox		
Personal Users		
Programmers		
Quicken		
Roots III		
Software Review		
Spreadsheet /Dev		
StarText		
TI Pro		
Unix/Xenix		
Windows Applic.		
Windows Dev.		
MS Word		
WordPerfect		
MS Works		

## 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, Chairman  
Reagan Andrews, Timothy Carmichael  
Mark Gruner, Jim Hoisington  
Andy Oliver, Fred Williams

### Officers

President	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214)223-4044 h (214)871-5750 w
Program Chair.	Timothy Carmichael	(214)661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(214)495-7071
Secretary	John West	(214)620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214)416-3101 h
Advertising Dir.	Douglas McQuaid	(214)313-0086 h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214)462-7980
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loanman	(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)  
Stuart Yarus Phil Chamberlain  
Jim Hoisington Connie Andrews  
Kathryn Loanman David McGehee  
Tom Prickett

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..)

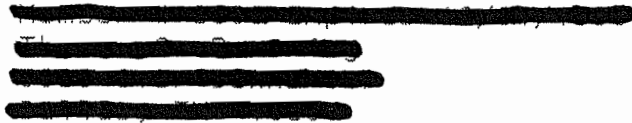


North Texas PC Users Group  
P.O. Box 780066  
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

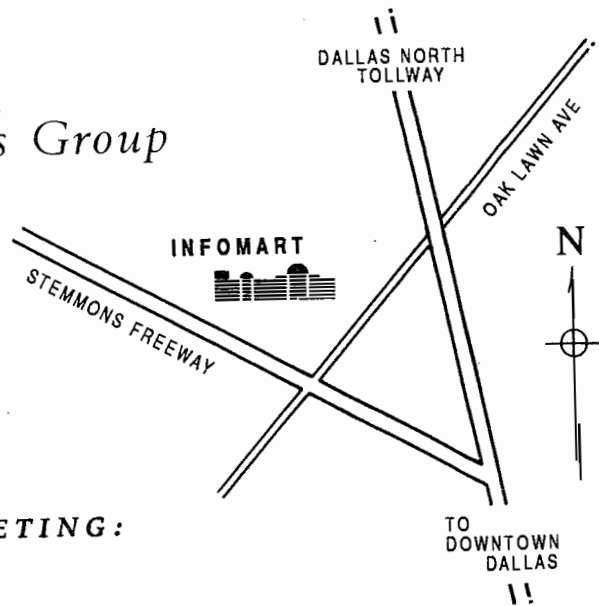
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*North Texas PC Users Group*



**NEXT MEETING:**

18 September 1993