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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:

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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.

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for November
North Texas PC NEWS:
Sunday, October 10th

Meeting Dates:

October 9, 1993 - 2nd Saturday
November 20, 1993 - 3rd Saturday
December 11, 1993 - 2nd 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.

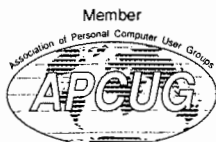
a) NTPCUG BBS (Preferred). Log-on to the BBS and select (U)pload from the main menu. Your default file transfer protocol will be displayed. If you want to change your default protocol, use the (P)rofile option. Once you have set the file transfer protocol, select the (A)rticle option from the upload 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 Gerry Heine 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: 218 Virginia Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165-2418.

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 October

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

QuickCards for Windows

Usability Sciences Corporation

Jeff Schueler, President

QuickCards are an on-line, task specific, step-by-step help and learning tool for Microsoft Windows applications. The QuickCard technology offers a help and training technology that is superior to currently existing technologies and is consistent across all Windows applications. Usability Sciences has been working with software developers since 1988 to help them improve the ease of use and ease of learning of their products. The need for standardized, easy to use learning tools led Usability Sciences to develop QuickCards — the fastest way to learn any Windows application. There will be a drawing for free software. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Microsoft Multimedia Product Showcase

Microsoft Corporation

Microsoft offers a full line of multimedia and CD-ROM products. Here is your chance to see them demonstrated and discuss them with a Microsoft product expert. Some of the products are Bookshelf, Cinemania, Encarta, Musical Instruments, Dinosaurs and more. There will be a drawing for free software. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

WordPerfect 6.0 for DOS and 6.0 for Windows

WordPerfect Corporation

New additions in WordPerfect 6.0 for DOS include: WYSIWIG editing, scalable fonts, selectable merge, and QuickFinder. Other new and enhanced features include color printing, drag-and-drop graphics, irregular text wrap around graphic images, Grammatik 5, multiple document switching, Undo, enhanced envelope creation, and more powerful macro capabilities. WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows offers powerful word processing, drawing, charting, spreadsheet functionality within tables, and complete customization of the interface, Button Bar, Power Bar, and templates. There will be a drawing for free software. *

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

Prez Sez...

OS/2 2.1 User Group Special...

The August OS/2 2.1 presentation and associated product sale was very successful, with IBM giving 107 members and non-members a free year of membership in NTPCUG. Maureen Gilligan of One Up Corporation, organizer of the event, has expressed her appreciation to NTPCUG for the marvelous turnout. About 500 persons, a full house, attended IBM's presentation.

No, the "107" above is not one of my usual numerical "finger checks." IBM did originally offer to cover only 100 OS/2 purchasers, but to their credit, graciously agreed to finance memberships for the remaining seven once the final count was in. Makes you realize how nimble IBM is becoming in making last minute

adjustments. Another round of applause to IBM for their generosity!!

I would like to publicly thank IBM, One Up Corp. and Maureen for their support of NTPCUG. I know all involved agree that such support is a Win-Win situation.

NETWORLD '93...

Just a reminder that NETWORLD returns to the Dallas Convention Center October 5-7. NTPCUG will be an exhibitor, so stop by and chat with your fellow members who have agreed to "man" the booth. If you would like to volunteer, please call (or "BBS") me ASAP so we can work out a time that's good for you. My number is (214) 464-7942.

Fall COMDEX '93...

Another important date is November 15-19, when COMDEX returns to Las Vegas. No, it's not the gambling and shows that determine the location. As the largest convention in the USA, and second largest in the world, Las Vegas is the only city on this continent with adequate facilities to host it! Still, there are side benefits, I guess ...



With Our Thanks...

Douglas McQuaid has announced his acceptance of a position with Motorola — in Austin! As our newest PC NEWS Publisher, we had hoped to keep him working hard for at least a couple of years. In any event, we wish him well, and thank him profusely for his long time contribution to NTPCUG.

BOD Meeting — August...

At the AUGUST meeting of the Board, Andy Oliver, as representative to the Computer Council of Dallas, advised that:

- 1) our volunteers must pick up all trash after each meeting (Infomart contract item). All members are reminded that trash is to be placed in a receptacle rather than left behind.
- 2) 141 tables were sold in the Vendor Showcase (basement) at the August meeting — a new record!!
- 3) for late afternoon SIG meetings (2 PM+), whiteboards should be taken to our 6th floor storeroom after the meeting ends, rather than being delivered to the information booth.
- 4) signs announcing sales and events are NOT to be attached to elevators, walls, etc., per contract with Infomart.
- 5) revisions to the CCD bylaws are still being reviewed. A vote may be taken at the October CCD meeting.

Timothy Carmichael, Program Chairman, advised of some special presenters being lined up for the December meeting. I won't name them here due to the possibility of cancellation, but you may want to bring your credit card and pick up those last minute Christmas presents.

In conjunction with the upcoming Network convention, the Board agreed that a new user group banner would enhance our ability to be seen at the various trade shows we attend. Peyton Weaver agreed afterward to manage this project.

Fred Williams, SYSOP, presented statistics on BBS usage. Membership was reported at 2,112 as of August 1st. Due in part to IBM's generosity, membership by September 1st was 2,166.

1994 Elections...

In the very near future, you will have an opportunity to help guide NTPCUG through the 1994 year. The 1993 elections were unique in having two candidates more than needed for at-large BoD positions, and a

record voter turnout. Now that the ice has been broken, there is little reason NOT to do even better. Please begin thinking about running for a BoD position, or for President-Elect. If you would like a no obligation explanation of the duties involved, PLEASE contact me or any Board member.

User-To-User Program...

The User-to-User program is set to begin. A number of volunteers have stepped forward to assist the membership at large, and I again want to express my thanks. Details and a list of topics and volunteers appear elsewhere in PC NEWS. My thanks to Bill Drissel for managing this worthwhile effort.

Newsletter Delays...

I have received a couple of calls recently concerning member's delayed receipt of PC NEWS. We are following up on this to determine whether we, our mail service, or the Postal Service are at fault. We are still adjusting from Publisher John Pribyl's untimely death this past May, and have a few rough edges to iron out. We would ask you to please be patient as we fine-tune things.

In the event of delays in newsletter receipt, I will remind you of other information sources available. Our voice mail line at 214-746-4699 is updated monthly to announce meeting dates and auditorium presenters. In addition, the meeting date is also available on the inside-front cover of each PC NEWS, where both the current and subsequent month's meetings are specified. Several dates also appear on the bulletin board system (BBS) introductory screen, which can be accessed by members and non-members alike. Anyone can access this screen by dialing the BBS numbers listed in any PC NEWS (inside-back cover). For members, meeting information is generally posted on the BBS in the "Meetings" conference as the meeting date approaches.

I hope these advisories will help out "in case of emergency."

Help Wanted...

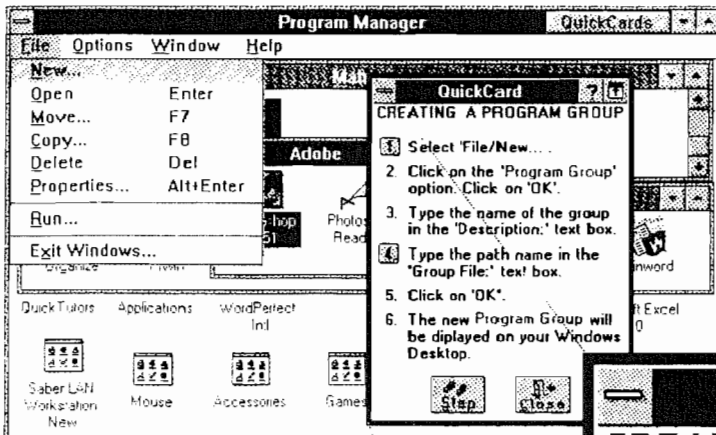
Mary O'Neal of Coca-Cola USA is developing a list of PowerPoint users available for hire whenever she needs presentation materials created. Opportunities would be very sporadic, would probably last only a day or two, and only a few days notice would be provided.

If you have an interest in being on Mary's call list for such part-time work, please contact her at (214) 770-3438 to discuss your rates and qualifications.

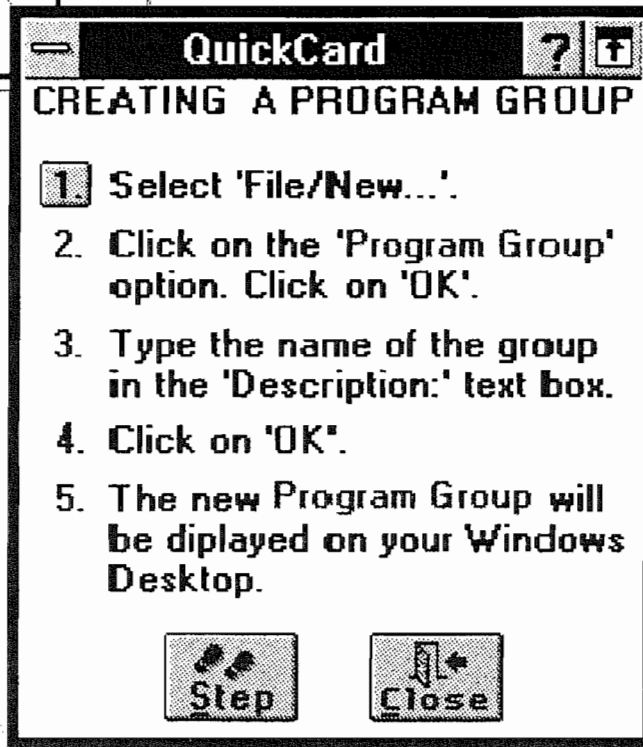
—Doug Gorrie

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Usability Sciences Corporation has been working with software developers since 1988 to help them improve the ease of use and ease of learning of their products. Windows tremendous popularity has changed the way typical users learn to use software. The need for standardized, easy-to-use learning tools led Usability Sciences to develop QuickCards - the fastest way to learn any Windows software product.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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FOR USER
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Lotus **Ami Pro 3.0**
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*Offer expires 12/31/93, valid in U.S. only. Competitive upgrade: Call for a list of eligible word processors. Education-priced Lotus products not included. Not to be combined with any other offer. Have your current word processor ready when you call. ©1993 Lotus Development Corporation. All rights reserved. Lotus and Ami Pro are registered trademarks and SmartIcons are a trademark of Lotus Development Corporation. 800 Software is a registered trademark of 800 Software Inc. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of WordPerfect Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Adobe Type Manager and the ATM logo are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems, Inc. 

On Complexity

No. 71 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

Poorly designed software takes longer to code than software with a good and complete design. Software with no design takes the longest to code. That's been a hard lesson for me to learn but I'm now a believer.

I've been managing my first software project under the ISO 9000 product standards. These worldwide standards apply a structure to manufacturing products to ensure quality. Since the software project I am managing will be sold to a customer, and I'm doing it for a company that sells products around the world and wants to become ISO 9000 certified, my software must conform to the ISO 9000 guidelines. It is estimated that by 1995, most products sold outside this country will have to conform to the standard or they will be difficult to sell. That's why you're going to hear a lot about ISO 9000 in the next couple of years.

The standard is a series of guidelines for the creation of products. To be ISO 9000 certified, a company must develop a series of standard practices which help it conform to the guidelines. After these standard practices are in place, the company must pass a series of audits to become ISO 9000 certified.

As the standard is applied to software by the company that is selling the software product that I am building, it means that there must first be a document defining the requirements of the product from marketing. At a meeting reviewing the product definition, we, the programmers who will build the product, get to ask questions of the marketing department to fill in the gray areas in the product requirements document.

In turn, we get to produce an exhaustive document called the product specification document. The reason that it needs to be exhaustive is two-fold. First, once the product specification document has been approved by marketing and engineering, any changes (read enhancements or new features) from the marketeers must go through a painful engineering change process. Secondly, if we, the programmers, would like to change the document because we did a poor or incorrect design of the software product, we have to go through the same painful change process explaining why and where we were wrong and how we're going to fix it without going over budget and over schedule.

Producing this document was a real discipline for me. I usually do the software design on several pages of a legal pad supplemented by some transient white board data flow diagrams. If everyone on the team likes the design, we usually go ahead and program it.

Guess what, when we produce software that way, the marketing department always has changes. We never seem to interpret their verbal description of what the customer wants quite the same way they do. Sure, some of them are brave enough to look at the drawings and outlines on the legal pad pages and a couple even saw my white board drawings and said they were "impressed." But we, the programmers, never get it quite right.

The ISO 9000 process attempts to stem this problem by making both sides commit to paper and explain to each other what the words mean.

I've been impressed by how easy it is to code the software on this project. Most of the structure of what each module does has already been written down. Sure, some small issues come up each week that need answers from the marketing department, but so far they have been inconsequential to the overall design of the software and have not held back development and testing.

To further reinforce how much I am relying on doing the design first, I got to an area of the software that was not defined in the design document. It involves the management of the temporary data files created by the software: naming the files, working directory to use, and when to delete them.

Now this part of the software is entirely hidden from the user although a minimum free disk space requirement does appear in the design document. But I slowed down while coding this part. For the first time, I couldn't turn to the design document and get a clear definition of how things were supposed to work.

So, I've learned two things. Up front time spent on design and design review is time well spent. And, if the software is going to be used outside the company that is building it, be prepared to manage the software project according to that company's standard practices for ISO 9000.

—Jim

The Law Offices of Kent H. Roberts

Ideas Are The Currency Of The 21st Century

2626 Cole Avenue, Suite 400
Dallas, Texas 75204
214 855 5353

Up From The Ashes

Borland's dBase Compiler
by Fred Williams

After several years in the business, designing and implementing database applications on a wide range of platforms, I have developed a pretty well defined set of beliefs about where certain products fit in the overall mix of database tools. It takes a very serious and well-done implementation shift to cause me to change a product's position in this personal universe of database tools.

In my mind, there are two environments in which personal computer database products exist; the user oriented interactive database environment and the normally much more complex world of single purpose database applications. The latter are designed and implemented by database software developers, normally without ever asking the user what he really needs. Oops, that's a whole other story!

dBASE began life in that other part of the PC database world. The original dBASE was a database software developer's tool. I think that Ashton-Tate's major marketing failure was not realizing that the PC world needed a dBASE language compiler, not a half-fast clone of Paradox. This left the window wide open for a product called "Clipper" and little company named "Fox."

When Borland bought out Ashton-Tate, they ended up with a whole lot of excess baggage, and two major players were already standing in the spot where dBASE needed to be. A little known fact is, that until very recently, there was a real cash cow in the old Ashton-Tate product mix, named dBASE III+. Borland does not want to just walk away from all of those dBASE III+ users, so now we have the first Borland release of a dBASE VI compiler.

The Borland dBASE compiler is a DOS-based, command line driven, bare knuckles, executable code generat'en mother! I think that it

will have great appeal to all of those crusty old dBASE III and dBASE VI software developers. You know the ones that are not so sold on all of that new fancy schmancy icon stuff.

As an initial test, I managed to pull off my first successful compile in less than five minutes, without opening the manuals. I did read the Readme file and started the compiler with no command line options so that I could get a look at the "usage" information for the command line.

The source for the first compile were three dBASE III+ clone source code modules. The compiler compiled and linked the modules in the typical, almost instant, Borland fashion without so much as a warning message. The resulting program ran flawlessly. I'll save the gotcha's for later, but in an acronym, RAM.

The first pass was almost too easy. I knew it was time to really test the compiler's mettle. So, I started planning to throw some of my personal dBASE III+ code at the compiler. Why the planning? Because my dBASE code is a lot more complex than that which was contained in the first set of three source modules. Those first three little source modules were supplied by a vendor as example source for their dBASE III+ clone compiler. Want to bet that those source modules contained really safe dBASE III+ code?

After rummaging through the other stuff that came with the diskettes, I found the very sparse "dBASE Compiler User's Guide." What a pleasant surprise in this day and age of sets of multi-hundred page manuals, the user's guide weighed in at a feather light 46 pages including the index. About half that space is taken up with a section on the Borland "MAKE" utility that is included on the shipment diskettes.

Other things included in the shipment are Borland's standard "Promo" literature and two other dBASE manuals, a handy "Quick Reference Guide" and a copy of "dBASE VI Language Reference." Too bad Borland doesn't ask if you already have dBASE VI when you order. If they did, we might save a few trees, if they could ship only the compiler user's guide to those who already have a current copy of dBASE VI.

The compiler's user's guide reflects a strength of the Borland dBASE compiler. That strength is simplicity. With the inclusion of Borland's Make utility, Borland is able to supply a simple to operate compiler that has the capacity, when used with Make, to be productive in some very heavy duty dBASE development environments.

For the purposes of this review, I have not resorted to the use of Make to test out the compiler. For the more complex, multi-module source code, I have used the convenient "file list" compile option. This compiler option allows the programmer to create a standard ASCII text file that contains a filename on each line. The compiler is then started with the "file list" filename included in the compiler command line with a "@" character preceding the file name.

Both .prg, .fmt, .frg, .lbg, .qbe, or

.upd (source) and .dbo, .fmo, .fro, .lbo, .qbo or .upo (object) files may be included in the "file list" file. By default, the compiler will name the resulting .exe (executable) file with the same name as the first module's filename as listed in the "file list" file. This action can be modified by the programmer.

Like most "C" compilers, the dBASE compiler will automatically call the dBASE Linker if the "-c" (compile only) option is not included on the command line, which brings up a pertinent point. What does Borland's dBASE compiler produce? Further more, is there any developer control over what the compiler outputs?

Remember back early in this review I mentioned the acronym "RAM"? What the compiler produces and what form the final product assumes, requires that the developer do some serious evaluation of what he really wants when his development task is done.

The Borland dBASE compiler actually produces pseudo code modules as output which have the extension ".dbo, .fmo, .fro, .lbo, .qbo or .upo." The Borland dBASE Linker can assemble individual pseudo code modules into a couple of executable module types. Both executable modules carry the DOS ".exe" as a file extension.

The two executable module types produced by the compiler/linker are referred to as "Compact" and "Standalone." Now, get a firm grip on your DOS-based anatomy! There is a "zinger" very early in the accompanying Readme file. And, I quote, "When you run BDC or a dBASE executable on a system with less than 4.5MB of extended memory..." Yikes!

Both the compiler and a compiled executable will run on a 286 or better machine with 2MB memory. There is a virtual

memory manager that will automatically and transparently manage memory on those systems that have less than 4.5MB of extended memory available.

When you request that the compiler produce a "Compact" model executable file, the compiler produces the smallest sized executable possible. Using this option requires that the developer deliver two support files with the "Compact" executable module. These support files are: DBASE.RTL, a run-time library, and DBASE.RES, the run-time resource file. The total size of these two combined files add up to just shy of 1.7MB.

When a "Standalone" module is produced by the compiler, both the DBASE.RTL and DBASE.RES files are encapsulated into the final executable module. So, if you compile a single source statement .prg file into a Standalone executable module, you are guaranteed the resulting module will weigh in above 1.7MB!

As an example, the following worthless program:

```
? "Hello World"
```

produced executable module sizes of: "Compact" about 1.54KB and "Standalone" of about 1.83MB in size. My medium-sized test program that contained four-hundred and six lines of dBASE source code, not including comment lines, produced module sizes of 1.7KB and 1.83MB for the "Compact" and "Standalone" executable modules, respectively.

Forcing the compiler to compile all source modules that made up the medium-sized test program required a compile time of fourteen (14) seconds. This was not a real-world test as recompiling individual source modules with each compile is wasteful and

counter-productive. In a more realistic test, where the main source module was compiled and linked with the pre-compiled subroutine modules, a time of six (6) seconds was recorded on my 486/33, 8MB software development machine. All of this review's test compiles were run in a DOS window under Windoze 3.1.

These times were so fast it was obvious that most of the logged time was related to loading the compiler. To try to get a little better grasp on the compiler speed, I pulled in the largest dBASE III+ module I currently have in production. This module is composed of thirty-nine individual source-code modules that contain a total of three-thousand, two-hundred and twenty (3220) lines of dBASE source code.

I forced a compile of all the three-thousand plus lines of code. This run produced a compile and link time of forty-four (44) seconds flat, when generating a "Compact" executable module. Obviously the compiler is Borland fast! I just hope the compiler development team gets exposed to the term "memory optimization" before the next release of the compiler.

Overall, I think that the Borland dBASE Compiler is a very solid first effort, which has been a long time coming. The Compiler is fast and smooth to operate. It fits nicely into that rapidly disappearing niche of true-DOS applications development.

The environment of dBASE is not totally DOS, and many non-DOS dBASE platforms will be a long time coming to other than a command line implementation. I am certain that one major reason that the compiler generates p-code is to make platform specific implementations quick and easy.

➤[See *dBase*, Page 25]



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.

Elephants waltzing, Borland vs. Lotus, Intuit inhales, Symantec swallows, Wang Rebounds & sues — Cyrix is everywhere

What a month! There's so much movement in the PC community it's hard to believe Comdex is still a month (or so) away at time of this writing. It's also hard to shape all this into something coherent.

Top of the news has to be IBM and watching the elephant learn to dance. As usual, Borland vs. Lotus, Borland vs. Symantec, Connor, Maxtor and Wang all made headlines. Intuit, Chipsoft and Ventura (Corel) scored too.

And, Cyrix isn't far behind as the media has exploded with Cyrix-based news. Microsoft had to take a back seat this month with a passing mention of shipping *NT*, new charges for *Windows* support and the ever-present specter of investigation.

Dancing elephants — Fantastic new IBM Learns to market *OS/2*

If you missed the September Meeting, you missed some real old-style marketing from IBM. I know "marketing" and "IBM" used to be the ultimate oxymoron, but a new CEO seems to have turned the tide.

The result may mean new life for *OS/2 2.1* and a chance at major penetration of the PC community at last. IBM is acting like it intends to sell this product — and that's a switch from the former attitude of "If you're nice, and really want to buy our product, we may consider

selling it to you — but you'll have to beg us, first."

IBM's change of pace is refreshing. I saw some of this last year at Comdex/FALL '92 when IBM dropped the dark suits for pastel-casual at their display booths. Most of us had written *OS/2* off because of IBM — now we'll have to reconsider.

Talk about the new IBM — Blue rumored trying 'Clean-room' 486 CPUs

IBM owned a substantial block of Intel stock in the 1980's — approximately 12%. Intel has some interesting agreements/cross-licensing deals with IBM as a result, including rights to 386/486 design and production — for IBM use. This really means IBM can produce the CPU chips for sale *only with complete motherboards*.

But, IBM would like to sell the CPUs alone. Thus, the announcement that IBM is planning to produce a "clean-room" clone of the 486 CPU floated out in August. This should be a really interesting development. IBM has already announced "tripled" 486SLC chips with 16K caches, but not for sale to other makers.

The "clean-room" CPU will bypass the Intel agreements, and may lead to some really fast 486+ CPUs down the road. First, though, there's all those Intel lawyers ...

Intel's lawyers are voracious and absolutely "at home" in courtrooms. Also, if Intel really forces the issue, they have "special rights" to use any modifications (improvements) IBM may produce from the original (Intel) chip designs. The latter point was aired by Walter Miller's August 24 *Wall Street Journal* article.

The same article quoted figures indicating Intel has 10:1 profit margins on some CPU chips in the line. That's why the new IBM is interested.

'Drinking out of a Fire hose' — IBM's PC twilight revealed

Dawn at Comdex/FALL '89 was twilight for IBM in the PC arena.

IBM's management grossly mishandled both *OS/2* and Bill Gates (among many others) at the 1989 industry showcase. How they managed to alienate Gates, most of the important PC software developers and major vendors is a stunning contrast between the "old" IBM and the group we saw at the August NTPCUG meeting.

Paul Carroll, author of *Big Blues: The Unmasking of IBM*, put it all out in the open. Read this book (or find a copy of the *Wall Street Journal's* August 16 issue) and you'll understand some of the interplay be-

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tween Big-Iron dominated IBM thinking in the late 1980's and Microsoft's Bill Gates.

You'll also get some truly priceless quotes from Jim Cannavino, (then) head of IBM's PC division.

Cyrix splashes media As Intel takes back Seat in CPU Wars

M1 at the top

Remember M1 — and the M7. Cyrix announced (named) the chips in late August after months of speculation about competitors to the Intel 586 [Ed: Pentium] series. Now, the "mystery chip" has a name — the M1. Cyrix claims the new chip will be faster than the 586 [Ed: Pentium] and will cost much less.

Cyrix' new chip is expected to appear in new PCs during the 1st quarter of 1994 — at prices well below machines with the Intel chip. A sobering note, though. Cyrix may be unable to produce enough of the chips to meet demands unless they are able to acquire increased chip manufacturing capacity.

More Cyrix upgrades

The M7 may be more fun. It's a replacement for the 486DX2 and will be available "later this quarter." The M7 will include a 8K-byte cache and math coprocessor (as do the Intel chips). Price for the M7 was not announced.

According to Cyrix, the 486DRx2 (replacements for 386DX chips with doubled clock speeds) are available now in 16 (32), 20 (40) and 25 (50) MHz versions at prices between \$200 to \$400. A 33 (66) MHz version will ship in the next quarter and includes a built-in heat sink and fan.

The legal front —

Send in the Clowns! More clowns! It's Borland vs. Symantec

Speaking of Intel's lawyers, sharks all, it's a good time to look at some of the "lighter" action in Scotts Valley, CA. The motto there must be "Bozo 'til I die."

One of the later rounds in the infamous Borland vs. Symantec (and Gene Wang) corporate espionage via E-Mail debacle is disqualification of the Santa Cruz County district attorney's office from the case. It seems that Borland underwrote some of the Santa Cruz DA's expenses in gathering evidence in the trade secrets case.

Huh?

That's right. Borland paid for \$15,000 in expenses related to the investigation and prosecution of the case. Seems that this isn't "unusual" in Santa Cruz County, according to ADA (assistant district attorney) Kathryn Canlis.

Ms. Canlis stated that her office permits plaintiffs "to underwrite expenses in costly white collar crime cases the county can't afford," according to the *Wall Street Journal* article written by Jim Carlton August 24. The Santa Cruz County ADA maintained that "We still make an independent decision" in such cases. Sure.

At any rate, a California Superior Court Judge, William Kelsay, disallowed participation and also the contract hiring of a former DA employee by Borland to "coach its witnesses" in the case. *WSJ* said the Judge suggested "such payment could compromise the prosecutors' impartiality."

Mo' Borland vs. Lotus 1-2-3 loss is won by Requesting an injunction?

Sometimes it seems you win by losing. Borland was enjoined (at Borland's request) from selling current *Quattro Pro* versions. Borland asked for this?

Right. By being "enjoined," Borland can appeal court rulings that it infringed on Lotus copyrights. Since Borland has even newer versions of the software in question, it can continue selling product while it appeals the original ruling in the US Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. That's what Borland wanted all the time — a different judge in a different court.

Lotus initially declined an injunction, probably because of the above.

Hmmmm ... The appeal will be heard October 24, 1994. Wonder how Jim Manzi, Lotus CEO, feels about his "Cashectomy" with this turn of events?

They're back! — Intel vs. AMD redux, Redux, redux, redux ...

AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) won another round this month. The ongoing saga of the rights to Intel microcode remains ongoing, and ongoing, and ongoing ...

In the last thrilling episode, we saw AMD losing (big time) to Intel, but this month's news reveals a new promise of hope for AMD. An early arbitrator's ruling (1992) gave AMD the right to produce clones of Intel's 386 CPU chips. A 1993 ruling by the California Court of Appeals "gutted" that ruling and found in favor of Intel.

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In the latest round, a ruling by the California Supreme Court found in AMD's behalf in that it granted a review of the arbitrator's 1992 ruling.

Still with us?

This means that the AMD vs. Intel case is still alive and kicking. The review is expected to take a minimum of a year, probably more, before a decision is reached. I would imagine that either side will take some action if a subsequent ruling is against their cause.

Meanwhile, AMD admits 'Clean-room' CPUs Really ain't 'clean'

Here's a kick. AMD revealed that its "clean-room" engineers had access to Intel microcode in designing the new "clean-room" 486 CPU chips AMD has been boasting for the last several months. That's a real blow.

Vendors who had been planning on using the new AMD 486 CPU chips may have some second thoughts as a result of the revelations. AMD had claimed that even if it lost to Intel on the matter above, it was producing a new generation of 486 CPU chips based on "clean-room" technology that wouldn't infringe on any Intel copyrights/patents.

"Clean-room" design had its start with Compaq and Phoenix in the early 1980's with clones of the original IBM BIOS sets for the PC. Adoption of this approach made possible the widespread "cloning" of the IBM PC without incurring (then) the wrath of IBM attorneys. Intel may be reading the news very closely as a result of the above.

Wang leaving Ch. 11 Feisty — suits vs. Microsoft & others

Wang Laboratories (remember them?) is coming out of Chapter 11 this fall. And Wang is coming out hungry and swinging as three patent infringement suits were announced in August. The major target named was Microsoft who Wang contends infringed on two Wang patents issued in 1992 covering object manipulation.

Watermark Software Inc., and Imagery Software Inc. (Canada) were also named in the suits launched by Wang Laboratories. *PC Week* described the suit against Microsoft as aimed squarely at Microsoft's Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) technology.

Specific products were not named as infringing Wang's patents in the suit against Microsoft.

The August 23 article also hinted that Wang may really be after a settlement in the Microsoft suit that would "wipe out systems software royalties (Wang) owes Microsoft."

PC financial software Domination target of Intuit-ChipSoft merger

This one will close after Comdex. Intuit, publisher of *Quicken*, and ChipSoft, publisher of *Turbo-Tax*, signed an agreement to merge the two leading PC financial/tax software vendors in December. Combined sales of the two companies last year were in excess of \$130 Million.

ChipSoft had attempted earlier to acquire MECA Software, Inc, but was thwarted by a Department of Justice objection that the acquisition would give the companies a "stranglehold" on the tax preparation software market.

The combination of the leading tax-preparation package maker and leading personal-finance package publisher was seen by the media as an effort to counter probable Microsoft moves in the future. Computer Associates International, Inc., was also mentioned in articles describing the Intuit-ChipSoft merger.

Computer Associates recently introduced a new, \$69.95, financial management package — by giving 1 million copies away. (Yes, that was a "real" offer you saw in all those PC magazines.)

Symantec still hungry In spite of Borland — Grabs 5th Generation

I'll bet they didn't do this by E-Mail, but Symantec moved in August to acquire Fifth Generation Systems, publishers of *Fastback Plus* and other system and utility software. Old-timers will remember Fifth Generation for the original *Fastback*, one of the first decent backup utilities for DOS-based PCs in the 1980's.

If you thought the Novell-DRI merger would produce culture shock, think about Cupertino, CA, based Symantec acquiring the Baton Rouge, LA, Fifth Generation. I seriously doubt that the Symantec cafeteria carries Gumbo or crawfish-anything.

Perhaps they'll add "blackened" tofu and sprouts?

The result should make Symantec a real powerhouse in the utilities business with enhanced capabilities in data management, security and network-based products added to the Peter Norton Computing Group. *PC Week* reported September 6 that Symantec plans to cut Fifth Generation's staff from 214 to

>[See *Variety*, Page 25]

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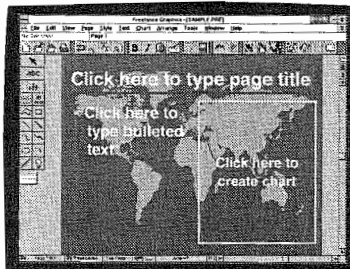
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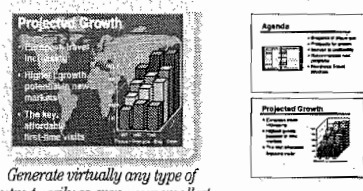
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Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

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

Mike Carr, President of Salinon Corp., our guest speaker for October, will discuss the "Pros and Cons of ACCESS Databases with Visual Basic." Mike is a developer who used ACCESS and Visual Basic in the beta test days of Visual Basic 3.0. Mike will also 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 an interesting and information-filled presentation.

October's giveaway: We will draw for at least one copy of the Access 1.1 Update disks and the Microsoft ACCESS Companion Disk, Edition 1.0.

The September meeting saw the conclusion of Fred Williams' "Introduction to Relational Database Design," explaining how a traditional database can be redesigned in relational format and examples of "real-world" modifications to the relational model that simplify implementation. Thanks, Fred!

Plans for November are still tentative, but with just a little luck, we will have a live demonstration!

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

Larry Linson

Advanced Programmers SIG

Bob Wheeler demonstrated his new object oriented keyboard. No key had any markings but derived its meaning from the adjoining keys. But Bob was stumped when the software displayed the message "Press *%#@ key to continue...."

Join us next month for our annual object bash and mud wrestling contest.

Jim Hoisington

Assembler SIG

The August SIG meeting was a presentation on the use of the ZEN timer (from the book, "ZEN of Assembler" by Michael Abrash) to time and evaluate alternative coding techniques. There is, in fact, a difference in the timings of MOV AX,0 vs SUB AX,AX (MOV AX,0 is approximately 50% slower than SUB AX,AX on all machines tested). Another interesting fact to come out of the discussion is that the use of 'complex' instructions (such as LOOP or MOVSW) is significantly slower on the 486 than comparable 'simple' instructions.

Our September SIG meeting featured a presentation on Win-

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 Lenhart at 214 714-6000)
Previously meeting at 2:00 PM
- TI-Pro @ 12:00 PM 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 PM until 12:55 PM
- StarText @ 9:00 AM
(Contact Jim Boughton at 817 478-6665)
Previously at 1:00 PM

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- Personal Users Leader (contact Alex Lilley at 214 517-7430, Doug Gorrie at 214 618-8002 or Bob Presley at 214 867-1679)
- Desktop Publishing Asst. Leader (contact Frank Bede at 214 320-8305)

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



dows System Programming, including DOS3CALLs under Visual Basic, as well as some of the material covered in the book "Windows Assembly Language and Systems Programming" by Barry Kauler, such as a direct-video text mode routine.

As usual, any last minute changes will be posted on the club BBS. Hope to see you at the October meeting.

Frank Cavallito

Beginners BASIC SIG

The Beginners BASIC SIG features GW-Basic & QBasic step-by-step program writing with small sample programs. This group has renamed itself the "No Windows Basic SIG" (NOW Basic for short with a chuckle).

A DOM disk #846 was released in August including BASIC code examples and extremely useful shareware utilities. This DOM will be expanded each six months.

To be covered in future meetings: Variable & Command sorting program, Editing techniques, Bit/hex/decimal conversion, memory and disk exploration, alumni list programs, payroll programs, general ledger programs, your own spread sheet program, inventory control—your own database program code (Not necessarily in that order).

Charles Jacobus

Beginning Visual Basic SIG

In September, we discussed the controls available in Visual Basic 3.0, Standard Edition as compared with the controls available in Visual Basic 2.0, Standard Edition. We demonstrated as many as possible.

In the October meeting, I will discuss the process of creating and using an .EXE file in the design mode of Visual Basic.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to Room 7011 (Check the screens downstairs for any last minute room changes.) at 8:00 AM on October 9, 1993. See you then.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

The September meeting featured a discussion of techniques that Visual Basic programmers use to minimize the problems that can occur when programming for multiple screen resolutions. The potential problems justify testing your code in the actual operating environments your program will operate in. Woody would like to thank Kay Carr for her presentation to the Visual Basic SIG at the September meeting.

In October, Woody will present a discussion on the issues around multi-programmer projects. That is, the techniques we should use when more than one programmer is working on a single program. Must keep everything sorted out.

As usual, there will be time for your Visual Basic questions. Bring them to Room 7011 (Check the first floor screens for last minute changes to room assignment.) at 9:00 AM on October 9, 1993. See you there.

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, immediately following and in the same room as the Communications SIG.

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

Middle C SIG

For the past several months, the Middle C SIG has delved into pointers, dynamic memory, the runtime stack, and several other mysteries of C. Starting in September and running (probably) through December, we are going to put all these together in our own little application.

We will build an arithmetic expression parser and evaluator. Among the new topics covered will be metalanguage specifications, parsing, recursion, and (naturally) expression evaluation with operator precedence.

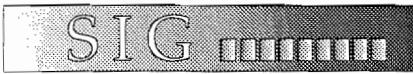
This is a no-homework kind of investigation. You'll walk away with pre-written code in your hands that you can study or use later. As always, questions on any facet of C and C programming are welcome.

Tom Cook

C++ SIG

In September, Randy Davis discussed his techniques for "defensive programming." Randy is the author of several books on programming, including *C++ Programmer's Companion — Designing, Testing, and Debugging* (Addison





Wesley). Randy concentrated on methods of class design that incorporate debugging tools from the start, rather than after problems occur.

At this month's meeting, Howard Harkness will discuss C++ I/O streams, with emphasis on file I/O. Howard is an instructor for Technology Exchange Corporation, and has been teaching classes on C++ programming for the past four years. Gather up all those burning questions about I/O streams that you've been dying to ask someone, and join us in October.

Kent Cobb & Tom Cook

Communications SIG

Just to recap, our August meeting centered on the Internet, with local celebrities Ken and Kathryn Loafman explaining its operation to a full house. Given this level of interest, there is little doubt that an encore will be necessary at a later date.

Our September meeting was conducted by Ken Picot of Northern Telecom. The topic was current and future cellular technologies, and transmission of data over cellular frequencies. If you were present, you learned about exciting changes that will improve both voice and data communications over cellular.

As of our September 10th deadline, our October meeting is undefined, but watch the BBS for "late breaking news" about what we will have to offer. And for November or December, we're arranging a fax/modem presentation through Delrina. More on that later.

Doug Gorrie & Bill Green

Community Service SIG

The DCLP held its first fundraiser, The Computer Baron's Bash in the lobby of the Infomart on the 21st of August. The event was held to publicize the work the Dallas Computer Literacy Program is doing in the community and we received numerous radio spots from KVIL, KKDA and other stations on the event, plus the Dallas Morning News carried an article in the Business section the week prior.

The response to the program in the South Dallas Community continues to grow.

We have entered into a partnership with the Dallas County Community Action Committee (DCCAC) to offer free computer classes at the DCCAC's computer lab located near Fair Park. The computers for this lab were all donated through the Dallas Computer Literacy Program and we are looking for volunteer teachers to assist in teaching these free classes.

Additionally, we are entering into an agreement with the Maple Avenue Development Corporation in establishing a 2000 square foot computer lab and repair facility at the Maple Avenue Community Center. We will also have an office located there. Anyone interested in working on this project can call Brian Mickel or Alex Lilley for information.

We are also bringing on four more sites with computer labs. They are Singing Hills Baptist Church, the Wesley Rankin Center, the Trinity River Mission and Oaklawn United Methodist Church. If you know of anyone with an old computer please give us a call.

Brian Mickel & Alex Lilley

DOS SIG

I really knew which DOS I'd be using come next October.

I/we have a lot of interesting choices. There's MS DOS 6.0, and the coming Version 6.2 (now in beta), PC DOS 6.1 (IBM) and a coming DR DOS 7.0. This latter may be the most interesting of all. Rumors (and I love 'em) report Novell is going to spring a real user-oriented network system as part of the new DR DOS.

I know there's Workgroup Connection for users with access to Windows for Workgroups 3.1 nets, but this isn't the best solution for some of my needs. I'd like to be able to retain command-line operation while sharing some of my DOS-based PC's assets with the Windows-based PCs on the workgroup. I would be nice to have an older, 286 print-server handle the printing chores rather than one of the 386/486 Windows machines.

If the Novell solution works well and includes the above, I may become a convert.

Jim feels just as strongly about OS/2 2.1. In spite of all the IBM hoopla, OS/2 is still a DOS, and still a workhorse in some settings. Now that Windows 3.1 NT is released, it will be interesting to hear some comparisons from DOS SIG members.

But, if your DOS problems are in the here-and-now, and involved with day-to-day operation with MS, PC or DR DOS, come to the DOS SIG Meeting in October and join the Q&A session terminating the meeting. You'll probably get the answers you need and have some fun to boot.

Reagan Andrews



At last! A spreadsheet that's easier to learn and use than 1-2-3 and Excel!

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THE ENTIRE MANUAL IS NOW ON-LINE

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QUATTRO PRO DOES YOUR WORK FOR YOU

To build a complete spreadsheet analysis just click on one of the 23 built-in Experts.™ You'll be asked a few questions. Answer them, then sit back and watch as Quattro Pro does the work for you. Excel's "Wizards" are similar, but there are only two of them—and they're no match for Experts. In 1-2-3, you don't get any. Zero. Zip.

Quattro Pro answers "What if...?" questions. The Scenario Manager lets you find out how changes to some of your numbers will affect your final



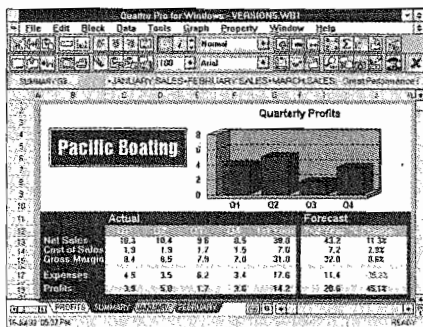
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General Genealogy SIG

The 18 September program was on The Master Genealogist. This is a new genealogy software program which gives the computer genealogist more leeway in entering and controlling data. The discussion was given by Jeri Steele, a SIG member. The retail price is \$99 and it can be purchased from Wholly Genes, Inc., 6868 Ducketts Lane, Elk Ridge, MD 21227, phone 410-796-2447. It requires a 386 or better microprocessor, 2.5 MB RAM and a hard drive.

The 9 October program will be on Imaging. It will be brought by Lowell Davidson and Joe Panaccione. These two own a company called Custom Imaging, and generally have a booth set up in the basement on Super Saturday.

Imaging, in the genealogy computing world, is the ability to bring in an image (color picture, birth certificate, land deed, etc.) and display on the computer. After these images are put on the computer they can be edited and included in some genealogy programs. In the near future almost all genealogy programs will allow the inclusion of such images. They will allow these displays to be in video and audio form and even put on video tape to send to family members or friends. Exciting? You bet.

The November program will be Family Connections. This is a database aimed for genealogy that, with GEDCOM, can be used with almost any genealogy software. Gene Burris, a SIG member, and a longtime user will lead the program.

Al Sanford

PAF SIG

The discussion at the August meeting was on how to use the local LDS church libraries' Family History Center (FHC) and how to submit a GEDCOM package to LDS for future inclusion in FHCs around the country. Every one of you is encouraged to send in such a GEDCOM disk for this is one of the primary ways the FHC data gets updated.

There is not room in this newsletter for a detailed discussion of how to obtain the GEDCOM file to send to Salt Lake City, Utah, but you can follow the procedure in the PAF User's Manual. If you get into trouble trying to make up the GEDCOM file, or if you don't feel comfortable enough to get started, give me a call at 278-7888 and I think I can lead you through the procedure on the phone.

For this talk, I obtained from LDS in Salt Lake City, the genealogy software that has GEDCOM output suitable for submission to them. Also, there are some bulletin boards you can use. The only Texas BBS is The Family Tree, Ron Tenbush, SYSOP, Austin, TX, 512-250-0769.

Software Compatible with Ancestral File:

Brother's Keeper	GENEASCOPE
DISGEN	Generation Gap
Everyone's Family Tree	Griot Alternative
The Family Edge	My Family Record
Family Origins	PAF
Family Reunion	Pedigree Pursuit
Family Roots	Personal Dorot
Family Ties	Reunion
Family Tree	Roots III
Family Tree Maker	Roots III Comm Util
GAOPERSO	Sesame
Gen'l Info Mgm	

If you need software vendor information (name, address, phone, etc., please give Al Sanford (see inside back cover) a call.

Al Sanford

Investors SIG

In September, the speaker was Joe Duarte, Dallas publisher of the mutual fund newsletter *The Stock Market Detective*. Joe's specialty is trading funds, an art that places a higher priority on the timing of markets than required for buying and selling individual stocks. He is also a frequent contributor of articles on this and other subjects to the *Technical Analysis of Stocks and Commodities* magazine, you'll find one in the September issue.

In October, we'll have Greg Morris to describe and demonstrate the *Windows on Wall Street* technical analysis software developed by MarketArts Inc. of Richardson. Greg has previously made pitches to us on the *N-Square* program and is the author of one of the top books on Japanese Candlestick methods so we can expect another educational and entertaining program from him.

Dick Richtman

Microsoft Networking SIG

The Microsoft Networking forum has been ongoing for the last four months, and is currently one of the hot forums to attend at 8:00 AM. Our intent is to provide an arena for all of the networking issues that are related to running one or all of the suite of Microsoft networking products. SIG leaders are Debbie Lenhart (Windows NT Advanced Server and LAN Manager), Bruce Wynn (Microsoft Mail and Schedule +), John McCrae (Windows for Workgroups), and Azfar Moazzam (Windows NT Advanced Server).

The Microsoft Networking forum's focus is systems oriented, although we may bring in an overview of APIs from time to time. Because all of us in the SIG are troubleshooters, we intend to bring that perspective to the meetings, rather than being more sales and feature oriented.

SIG

Some of the topics we will be covering in the next year are: Troubleshooting the network (both Windows for Workgroups and Windows NT), Networking Performance, Protocols (NetBEUI, TCP/IP, MSDLC, MSIPX, and NWLINK), File and Printer Sharing, Network DDE, the OSI Model, Understanding the Windows NT Registry, Microsoft Mail, DIRSYNC, and Printing with Windows NT. We also intend to showcase 3rd party products that work with Windows NT and Mail.

The meeting for August's topic was "NetBEUI", covered by John McCrae. This discussion covered the internals and setup of using the NetBEUI protocol with Windows for Workgroups.

Networking SIG

Have you ever run into a problem while working on a network after hours or on a weekend and didn't know where to get help? All you really needed was the meaning of a cryptic error number but the vendor's help line was closed for the weekend. And besides, the last time you called them you waited on long distance hold for 45 minutes. And then the person who finally took your call seemed to know less than you did. Are there any viable alternatives? During the October Networking SIG meeting we will be discussing some alternate possibilities for HELP!!!

In November, Leroy Tennison is planning to discuss how to peacefully coexist with a network. Leroy will be reviewing some of the considerations for successful network management and administration from his practical, first-hand experience.

Make plans now to attend one or both of these informative sessions. 10 AM at the Networking SIG. See you there.

Bernie VanRoekel

Paradox SIG

Tom Browning is soldiering on with his excellent "Introduction to Paradox Database Design" series of presentations. Seems that as Tom has continued on his presentations are undergoing a rather dramatic metamorphosis from a DOS to a full Paradox for Windows format.

I'd say his presentations are highly reflective of the "real world." I have not received a call for DOS Paradox support for more than six months now. Everybody seems to be jumping on the Paradox for Windows wagon.

So, come join us as we explore the uncharted waters of Paradox for Windows, Object PAL, Windows, and a myriad other new and exciting subjects. I'm actually getting so used to using Windows, I catch myself doing an "ALT-Tab" on a straight DOS machine!

Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

The Personal Users Series is starting over in October and the four classes will be:

9:00 AM	Class 1	Start Up
10:00 AM	Class 2	Diskette Sizes & Formatting each
12:00 PM	Class 3	Copying & Backing Up Files
1:00 PM	Class 4	Personal Computer Hardware

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

Bob Presley

Quicken SIG

Another upgrade? Yes, it's that time again and there is talk of a new version of Quicken. Since Quicken has a deserved reputation for being the easiest accounting program to use (a distinct advantage for small businesspersons) the upgrade will probably be worth purchasing. Your comments on the subject are important to decisions made by others at the SIG meeting.

QuickBooks, a direct threat to DacEasy Accounting programs, has stumbled by not offering a Windows version and by lacking inventory control—which limits its use to service businesses. Also, the optional Payroll package requires an annual purchase to update for income tax changes. And what is your opinion?

The August meeting targeted the use of Quicken for investments, a popular topic since all of us have at least a savings account. Quicken is all one could hope for in tracking mutual funds and many find the program useful for tracking stock shares. Thanks to Jim Hall (who also has helped Billy Pitts anchor the SIG meetings for the past year.)

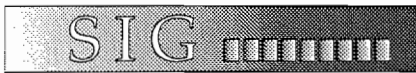
In September and October, all the Questions that so many new users have will be Answered. Also, please make requests for special topics so that a subject can be discussed in depth at a future meeting. Perhaps someone has a unique application of Quicken (many small businesses fit this description); share your expertise and help a budding entrepreneur.

Jo Johnston

StarText SIG

The August meeting of Startext subscribers, columnists, and staff members at the Infomart Super Saturday was exciting and busy.





American Airlines sent two representatives to brief everyone on Easy SAABRE, the airline reservation service that is provided on StarText. Also joining us for the meeting was Startext Marketing Director Gerry Barker, who finally fit us back into his busy schedule.

Our friend and SIG co-leader Bev Kurtin has regretfully resigned her fun job with the SIG in the interest of continued income. Her replacement has only the "talent" of volunteering with more haste than intelligence. Please welcome Bill Jones, Startext MC444501, as Jim Boughton's latest helper. Those wishing to object may contact Jim at Startext MC318963.

Our sad moans about having to stay around Infomart well past lunchtime just to have our friendly talks have been heard. Beginning with the September 18 meeting, we will meet at 9:00 AM. Parking is much easier when you arrive early on Super Saturday.

September we scheduled a visit to C-CAD, the Center for Computer Assistance to the Disabled, to view their new training area in Infomart. Startext, and several StarText SIG attendees, have been friends of C-CAD for a long time.

William L. Jones

TI-Pro SIG

The August meeting was another round-table (although it probably should be called a triangle-table, based on the participation) discussion of things in general.

One of the subjects concerned helping school children with their computers. One of our participants has become involved with his school and was looking for programs to support his effort. We still

haven't got any leads on LOGO for the Pro. Any ideas?

Walt has taken on a new project. As most of you know the Santa Clara Valley group puts out a fantastic newsletter covering the Pro. Walt has obtained most of the back issues and is in the process of reviewing and cataloging all of the technical articles. He's missing a few of the recent issues, if anyone has any issues of "The Times" that they would like to donate to the cause.

I can't say enough about the SCVTIPCUG. If you're serious about the Pro, by all means JOIN this organization.

Our meeting now starts at 12:00 PM, instead of 11:30 AM, and we also have a new room assignment, so be sure and check the board in the lobby. Hope to see you there.

Jack McCurley

Windows Developers SIG

At the September SIG, we discussed writing Windows communication software. John Cole from InfoPoint did the presentation and managed the SIG for me while I was attending the Windows Solutions Conference in Santa Clara, CA. At the meeting John covered the basics of writing a Windows communications program and spiced it up with a few advanced tips, tricks, and how-to's.

I will also be off-line for the October meeting. In October I'm off to the Unisys users conference to talk about what else—Windows programming. In my absence, Rick Sivernell will be taking over the October meeting. He will be discussing the Visual C++ way to create Windows resources—AppStudio. Rick will show how to get the most from AppStudio and solicit suggestions from the other AppStudio experts attending our SIG. Rick is also very familiar with

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

I'll be back again at our November meeting. At this meeting, I will take you through the major topics in my book, *Advanced Tools for Windows Developers*. In November, I will also be hosting a one-day seminar on maximizing Visual C++ development. If you are interested in attending, give me a call at (214) 618-1266.

Art. English

Word SIG

This is a SIG Note I was hoping I wouldn't write.

I've enjoyed working with the MS Word SIG members for the last several years and was looking forward to continuing for years to come. Unfortunately, the untimely death of John Pribyl, PC News Publisher, and the rapid transfer of his successor, Douglas McQuaid, to Austin, TX, leaves the NTPCUG without an experienced publisher to produce the monthly newsletter.

For the interim, until we can find a PC News publisher, I will be filling-in to assure continued publication of the Club's newsletter and will be unable to devote the time necessary to organize and run the MS Word SIG in a suitable manner. Although I would like to continue, I feel SIG members deserve a more active and involved SIG leader who can devote the time appropriate to these products.

This promises to be a very exciting time with Word for Windows 6.0 expected this fall with a number of promised enhancements that should be quite exciting. It's going to take a lot of

➤ [See SIG, Page 23]

TYPEREADER BY EXPERVISION

a review
by Neal Berkowitz

Why should a person invest several hundred dollars in a program? ExperVision's *TypeReader* answers this question with its reliable, easy to use translation of print to computer data. There are other OCR programs on the market but few are as easy to use. There are even fewer that are as reliable.

ExperVision spent much time on attention to detail. This is first seen in the user's manual. The manual begins by providing simple to understand instructions for using the program. But ExperVision does not stop there. A large appendix fully covers the installation and setup of most of the major scanners on the market. The documentation also provides a detailed list of features available with each scanners. Continuing the attention to detail, ExperVision also provides the drivers needed to run each of the scanners. Generally the drivers are provided when a person buys a scanner, but the inclusion of the drivers with *TypeReader* is a nice plus.

Using the program is as easy as placing the hard copy on the scanner and clicking one button in the program's control menu. *TypeReader* goes through three passes. The first pass scans the image. The second pass examines the page and determines the location of text. The third pass interprets the text on the page.

ExperVision realizes that no program can perfectly recognize all type. Smudges, blurred text, and misformed characters are possible points of confusion to an OCR program. *TypeReader* uses several technologies to overcome these problems. The program begins by recognizing each character on the page. It then combines the characters to made words. The words are then checked against an internal dictionary. At any point, potential problems may be flagged by the program.

The user then has the option to correct the problems. Three levels of correction take place. First, the characters that *TypeReader* cannot recognize are presented to the user. A small window is displayed on the screen with the actual bit map of the text. The user can then type in the corrected characters. Taking the approach that it is better to show possible error characters to the user than to automatically make marginal assumptions, the user can also examine the "maybe" characters. These characters are presented to the user with the

program's "best guess." The user can either accept the program's interpretation or make a change as needed. Another final level of validation takes place at the word level. The program highlights all misspelled words for user correction. The result of these checks is that the likelihood of mistakes is drastically reduced.

Processing a variety of documents demonstrated the usability of the program. Single page text, manuals, and magazine articles were all tested for reliability of translation. The results were impressive.

The program was able to interpret almost all text. In addition, it was able to differentiate between italic, normal, and bold fonts in varying point sizes. It also handled and differentiated between serif and sans-serif fonts. The only problems were with very small fonts less than 5 points and very large point sizes. The program also had some minor troubles with one serif italic font that I attempted to process. The letters "c", "e", and "l" were occasionally flagged as being possible error conditions. However, in most cases, the program was correct in its interpretation.

The program is also fast. Testing on a 486-33 with 8MB of memory produced no significant pauses in the interpretation of scanned pages. The slowest part of the operation was the actual scanning rather than the translation. While it was not tested on a 386, based on the 486 performance, performance on a 386 should be acceptable. The biggest requirement seems to be in the amount of memory. Even with 8MB of memory, the program was making calls to the hard disk.

The program will automatically handle page processing and will attempt to differentiate columns. Testing showed that the program had some problems determining page layout. However, the ability to manually set up text areas reduces layout problems. The user can also save the manual setups if multiple pages with the same layout are to be read. The user can force the program to recognize the entire page as straight text and ignore any possible column divisions.

TypeReader gave me several surprises. Orientation of text on the page, for example, was not a problem to the program. Although portrait layout was entered for one scan, the program correctly identified the page as being in landscape orientation. In another case, the program was able to process a mailing label on a page. What was really interesting was that the label was upside down when compared to the rest of the text on that page.

>>

TypeReader by ExperVision
Version 1.01a
3590 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134
(800) READ-TYPE
MSRP \$695
Competitive upgrade \$149

The Adventures Of PC Tech

Chapter 21
by Ben Thar

Mary Margaret always looked in the Morning News want ads under Data Processing to keep her finger on the pulse of the job market. This Sunday was particularly frustrating because it seemed like there are more unknown DP terms than known terms. Mary decided to add definitions to the terms in the paper.

UNIX - UNecessary Information eXchange
Now Hiring Data Modeler - someone who dresses in green bar paper
Oracle DBA - a prophet Doing Business As someone else
CICS - Create Inaccuracies, Confound Stability
IDMS - Intelligence Don't Mean Squat
MVS - Mainframes Violate Sanity
AIX - Association of Incoherent eXperts
VSAM - Victory for South American Manufacturers (obviously the ad didn't belong in the DP ads)
JCL - Just Complete Lunacy
SDLC - Simply Done, Lacks Complexity (programmer did not charge enough)
4GL - four Great Liars
EDP - Everyone Doesn't Pay (warning to get your money up front)
FOCUS CONSULTANT - binoculars tester

TANDEM/SQL/C - Tall AND Extremely Masculine / Searching for Quiet Lady and Commitment (programmers find ways to hide Personals in the regular ads)
MICS Administrator - Maybe I Can Spell
VTAM - Very Touchy About Mom (warning prospective clients about subjects to avoid)
APL - Awfully Proprietary Language
SAS - Statistics And Statistics (the author couldn't think of anything more original)
DOS - Downright Obsolete System
OS/2 - the next Obsolete System
VAX/RDB - Very Archaic eXecution and Ready to Do Business
RPGIII - Real ProGramming, I think, I think, I think
PC/LAN - Probably Can't Link ANything
CASE - 24 cans or bottles
SMALLTALK - so the TANDEM guy can get to know you
LAN/WAN/MAC/PC TECH - No experience required.
CNE - Certainly Not an Expert
ECNE - taken Every Course, No Experience

Mary Margaret decided she would have to continue her education long into the future to every grasp everything that is going on in the computer industry. She did know an oxymoron when she read one: "Expanding Company Needs Key punch Operators."

—Ben

TypeReader...

Another pleasant surprise was the ability to process multiple pages. Some programs require the user to scan in each page then wait for the program to interpret that page before the user can scan in the next. *TypeReader* allows the user to scan in multiple pages then do other things while processing takes place. Alternately, the user can save the scanned images as a TIFF file then process the file later. A logical extension of this is that any TIFF file, including Faxes, can be processed by *TypeReader*.

TypeReader was not perfect. Its biggest stumbling block was in the saving of files. There was no

problem with simple text in any format including basic ASCII. Unfortunately there were some problems with *Word for Windows* output in rich text format. Font type, point size, and font attributes were preserved but column information was sometimes badly scrambled. Having worked extensively with multiple column data in *Word*, the problems might be more in the way *Word* was handling the file than in the way *TypeReader* was exporting it. This feeling is in part substantiated by the way *TypeReader* was able to cleanly move multi-column data to *Ami Pro*.

Overall, *TypeReader* is a good addition to the software collection of anyone who has a scanner. The ease with which text can be translated is good and the reliability of translated text is high. The program is also fast. Why take the time to manually key in data when this program reduces both time and effort and increases reliability? The price of the program is high, but the price becomes easier to handle when all these features are considered. Besides, the competitive upgrade price is a bargain.

—Neal

Neal Berkowitz is a partner in the computer consulting firm D-N-B consultants and can be reached at (214) 475-3124.

NEW DISKS

...from the DOM Squad

Disk 839. Sherlock 1.5, 8/92 — The Game of Logic, Everett Kaser, 35405 Spruce Street, Albany, OR 97321. (503) 928-5259
SHAREWARE FEE = \$15.00.

But first a warning! If you like solitaire or backgammon or mystery novels or puzzles, you will find this game addictive. Take me, for example. I'm trying to write this readme, and it's taking all my willpower not to go play just one more round of Sherlock. I'm on game 26, and that doesn't count the times I've gone back to replay a game just to see where I went wrong. OK? So don't say you weren't warned.

Sherlock is a game of logic and deduction. You eliminate the blocks that are inconsistent with the clues until you have determined the locations of the 36 blocks. The game board is grid of 6 by 6 boxes. Each box contains 6 possible items. The items in the boxes are identical in each row: six faces, six houses, six numbers, etc. As you identify which column a certain item cannot be in, you remove it from the box by placing the cursor on the item and clicking on the RIGHT mouse button. Once you identify the item you believe must be in the box, you expand it to fill the box by placing the cursor on the item and clicking the LEFT mouse button. If at the end of the game you were only one identification off, the program will show you which one was wrong.

The clues are displayed in two areas. One set of clues across the bottom of the screen shows items that must be (or must not be) in the same column. The other set of clues is on the right side of the screen, next to the game board. These clues are more diverse: item A must be in the adjacent column to item B either on the left or the right; items A, B and C must be in

adjacent columns, either left to right or right to left; item C must be to the left of item D; items B and D must be separated by one column, and item A must not be between them, etc. As clues are eliminated, they can be sent to an alternative holding area that can be toggled from the menu area of the screen.

Another selection in the menu area is an UNDO command that will undo the last 25 moves. You can also ask for hints. You can also go back to the main menu to read the instructions or restart the game. Instructions for playing the game are available on-line, and are also available in a file called SHERLOCK.DOC.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC compatible computer with at least 512K of RAM. EGA/VGA compatible display with at least 128K of RAM. Will not function with CGA, MDA, or Hercules display adapters. Mouse required.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

Review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis (8/93).

Disk 840. Lotto Challenger 3.2, 11/89 — Play the Texas Lottery! Data Solutions, 1529 Thistledown Drive, Brandon, FL 33510. SHAREWARE FEE = \$29.50, plus \$3 s&ch.

Lotto Challenger is a nicely conceived program and a wonderful interface menu system with sliding presentation screens. You can store, study, analyze and play your lottery numbers with confidence and have fun at the same time.

Once you have loaded the program, it is recommended you read the manual to see the "pecking order" required to play the lottery selection.

The manual is helpful to learn the correct sequence of use, but it falls short in the detail department. You won't find much help when you need it, so you are required to learn some of the richer program features on your own through trial and error. Once you are up and running, that isn't so hard to do.

I did experience some problems with mysterious disappearance of my stored data (ALL the entered Texas Lottery numbers disappeared...). I am not sure, but I rather suspect the Configure New System option was the culprit. I spent some time reentering data and created a DATA sub directory in the program to store backup copies of my data files for safety.

This Menu system is solid and well presented, offering simplicity while using the lotto program. Program options are clear and precise, with each selection offering added details after you make your selection. Navigation throughout the menu system is enjoyable. The limited Help command offers only navigational directions with no context help at all.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM-PC or compatible computer, minimum of 256k of memory, PC or MS DOS 2.0 or higher. A color monitor, hard drive and printer are recommended but not required. A graphics card is not necessary.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Jan Parkhill.

Review prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (8/93).

Disk 841. StupenDOS 4.0, 3/93 — DOS and PKZ Shell, Eclipse Technologies, P.O. Box 23136, Milwaukee, WI 53223. (414) 354-7040 SHAREWARE FEE = \$35 plus \$3 s&ch.

StupenDOS is a wonderful DOS shell that makes managing your hard disk easier than it would be from the traditional C> prompt. In fact, it is significantly easier and better than other DOS

shells. And there is another great feature — a shell for PKZ so that you can zip or unzip files with ease. For Windows users, an icon and PIF file are included.

All features are easy to get at. Speed keys are available for most, if not all menu features. While other DOS shells try to be everything for all users, StupenDOS concentrates on those common needs of most users. As such, the program is easy to learn and use for even the novice user.

Once started, StupenDOS displays a menu at the top and bottom of the screen, a list of files in the current directory is on the left.

The top menu includes the following options: DOS, Sort, Tag, More, File, Zip, Setup, and Exit. To activate the menu, press the right or left arrow key. The DOS option includes copying, moving, and deleting files, and changing the drive, although speed keys for these commands are at the bottom of the screen. The DOS menu also includes typing (displaying) tagged files, editing files, making and removing directories and renaming files.

The Sort menu temporarily changes the sorting of the directory. This does not permanently change the sorting of the directory on the hard disk. Under the Tag menu, the user can tag all files, clear the tags, flip the tags to those files that are not tagged and other commands. The More menu option includes calling external DOS commands, shelling to DOS, and other useful commands.

The Zip menu option makes it easy to manage creating and extracting zipped files. The location for the PKZ is included in the Setup menu option. This capability is great since it creates a sorted list of the files from the tagged files to zip, and once the *.ZIP is created you can delete the files that are in the ZIP file easily.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Any PC/XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible. Color and monochrome monitors are supported. A mouse is

supported but not required.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

Review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (8/93).

Disk 842. REMIND 5.3, 6/91 — Appointment Reminder and Scheduler by Robert M. W. Tsou, 28441 Cedarbluff Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274. SHAREWARE FEE = \$10.

The idea behind REMIND is very simple: you enter the important dates that you need to be reminded of, such as your anniversary, your mother's birthday, your doctor's appointment, any important date, etc. You also enter the number of days you would like REMIND to start reminding you ahead of the event. As your computer boots each morning, the program will automatically compare the current date to the entries in the data file. If a date matches, a window will pop open giving you the important reminder. If no date matches, the program will simply end inconspicuously and allow you to proceed with your daily work. You may have multiple entries for each date and you may enter dates up to one year in advance of the current date. REMIND is not a memory-resident (TSR) program and will not occupy RAM when not active.

The following are features of REMIND:

1. Automatically reminds you of important dates and things to do for the day as the date approaches or arrives.
2. User-determinable advanced reminding (however many days of advanced notice for a date/event you desire).
3. Recurrent (monthly) reminding for any day of the month.
4. Perpetually-accurate built-in reminders for most of our major holidays.
5. Simple view/editing capabilities built-in for the data file so one may easily

delete outdated entries.

6. Celebrate important holidays and birthdays with music.
7. Includes handy perpetual calendar (with accurate holidays) for quick referencing.
8. Interesting historical chronicle included with calendar.
9. Leap years taken into consideration by programming logic.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM-PC or compatible, 256k of memory, PC or MS DOS 3.1 or higher, hard disk recommended.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Jan Parkhill.

Review prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (8/93).

Disk 843. Turbo Menu 5.4, 10/92 — Menu System, Decisis, Inc., P.O. Box 120481, Peoria, IL 61614. (309) 655-0177. SHAREWARE FEE = \$40.

Oh boy! Another menu system! Yeah, but this one may have some features to attract your attention, like:

Interactive addition, deletion, re-arrangement, and editing of menu and submenu items

Resident or Non-resident operation modes

Mouse support

Color configuration customizable

Automatic Menu Building at installation time (optional), and

Automatic Menu Rebuilding at any time from within Turbo Menu

Graphics Screen Saver

Automatic conversion of old menus when a new version is installed

Five levels of passwords (all optional)

Logging detail available for detailed charge back

Log reporting

Built-in Text Editor

Hypertext documentation and help screens

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Turbo Menu runs

on any PC, XT, AT, PS/1, PS/2, or compatible, with 256K memory. A Hard disk is recommended. DOS 2.1 or later needed.

The source of this disk is the Software Labs.

Review prepared and edited by John Puckette (8/93).

Disk 844. Snooper 2.00, 3/93 — System Information Utility by John Vias, c/o Vias & Associates, P.O. Box 8234, Gainesville, FL 32605-8234. (904) 332-8234. SHAREWARE FEE = \$25.

Snooper is a system information utility that "snoops around" your computer to report its configuration and operating characteristics. The program will run on most any IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible.

Some of the features include the following:

- * Detects dozens of different kinds of computers, including many IBM models
- * Detects all popular micro-processor models
- * Accurately detects math coprocessors
- * Detects all current bus types: ISA, EISA, and MCA
- * Reports all memory types: conventional, extended, XMS, HMA, UMB, EMS, and eXtended and Enhanced Memory Specification levels supported
- * Reports serial and parallel port addresses, detects game ports and Sound Blaster, Adlib, and Roland MPU-401 sound cards
- * Detects and reports video hardware, including text-only vs. monochrome graphics cards, several VGA chipsets
- * Separate reports of BIOS-recognized and DOS-recognized disk drives
- * Reports DOS version and type (PC-, MS-, DEC-, HP-, DR-, or Zenith-DOS)
- * Reports mouse type or port and driver version
- * Detects several networks, including Novell and LANtastic
- * Reports BIOS support for enhanced (101-key) versus

84-key keyboards

- * Detects environment size, total and free bytes
 - * Reports ROM BIOS brand, extensions, and date
 - * Recognizes all DOS-supported disk types, including CD-ROMs
 - * Reports drive geometry (heads, sectors/track, cylinders)
 - * Reports used disk space as bytes, percentage, and bar graph
 - * Runs instantly no waiting for lengthy BIOS or disk searches
 - * Can write a running log file or printout of report screen
- This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

Review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (8/93).

Disk 845. Super Label 1.01, 5/87 — A Super Label-Making Program, TUTE Technology Services, RD #1 Box 138A, Johnsonville, NY 12094. SHAREWARE FEE = \$15.

Have you ever tried to fumble through a stack of unlabeled floppies trying to determine what's on each one? Or worse, try to decipher your handwriting on nasty disk labels in order to find the filename you want? Well then — Look! Up in the sky — Da Da Dah! SUPER LABEL is here in the nick of time. This is the last disk label program you will have to try. Just go out, get some labels for your printer, and use — SUPER LABEL! This program is written so that the making of disk labels is easy and fun to do. (FUN? Well, let's just say easy.) It allows you to produce up to 100 different labels and each label may be repeated as many times as necessary. Be sure to save each label filename as you design it and you can load the file and be ready to print a new label on a moments notice.

This program will allow you to create labels with twelve (12) rows tall by six (6) inches wide. The inches are incremental so you can custom design any size label

you desire. Using (Edit, Options) you may use Wide, Italics, Compressed fonts, then Center, Left and Right alignment. This is "fair-to-good" font variety and good text alignment. You can make diskette labels for 3.5" and 5.25" disks; labels for file folders; labels for mailing parcels; name tag labels — you can pretty well make a label for anything your imagination can dream up. This shareware is well prepared to let you do everything in one program. The documentation is weak, but learning the ropes is easy after you work with the program a short time.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM-PC or compatible, 256k of memory, PC or MS DOS 3.1 or higher, hard disk preferred, printer required.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Jan Parkhill.

Review prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (8/93).

Disk 846. **BASIC** Language Programming, 6/93 — NTPCUG Beginner's Basic, No Windows BASIC Language Programming Written and (c)1985 to 1993 by Charles J. Jacobus Published by: Wescap Industries Inc., 795 Maplewood, Keller, TX 76248. Phone: 817-379-5287. Fax: 817-431-9560. Shareware Fee = \$15.

The material on this disk was first written in book form in

1985 to teach programming in the Microsoft GW-Basic language, with an emphasis on creating specialized programs for business and accounting systems. The material has recently been updated for presentation to the Beginner's Basic class at the North Texas PC User Group, at their monthly meeting at the Infomart in Dallas, Texas. About half the class have GW-Basic and the other half have QBasic, so it was thought it might be good to include sample programs and explanations that would suit both. This updated book-on-disk includes the added QBasic and QuickBasic commands and non-line number programs.

Copies of each chapter have been given to the students at each monthly session. However, new students arrive each month and need to start at the beginning. And people miss sessions for various reasons. Also the question arises: when shall we start the cycle over? (I have not yet answered that question because there are at least as many more chapters/subjects to be taught.) So we have created this disk, which is the text material and sample programs starting at the beginning. About every six months we will have a new disk with the added chapters we have lectured on in the meantime, with additional example programs (such as: Payroll, general ledger, special journal and aging reports, check book, inventory control program sets, screen control and graphics, etc.)

It is our desire that this material be widely distributed via modem or disk to any BBS

or computer club who wants it. Each chapter and example program should be kept intact with this file included and with all copyright notices in place. We would appreciate a note from any BBS or computer club who puts this disk in its library so we can send upgrades direct when they are first available.

Thanks for your interest.

The source for this software was the author, Charles J. Jacobus.

This review prepared by Charles J. Jacobus, edited by Kathryn Loafman (8/93).

Disk 847. **3_Drives 2.50, 7/93** — Driver to add 3 more hard drives, Dustbowl Designs, Inc., 12600 S.E. 38th Street, Choctaw, OK 73020-6107. (405) 741-4705. **SHAREWARE FEE = \$30** Plus \$3 shipping & handling.

This is an update of the device driver program previously available on NTPCUG Disk 838 released in July 1993. The following quote is taken from the Program Description of this revised version:

"3_Drives v2.50: Universal Device Driver that allows you to add a 2nd 16-bit Hard Disk Drive Interface to your DOS AT (286+) system. Add up to two more MFM, RLL, ESDI, IDE AT Interface drives for a total of THREE drives. Windows compatible. Fully functional."

This is an excellent program which will allow you to have more than 2 hard disk drives in your 286, 386 or 486 computer. You must however have 2 controller cards, a 3rd hard disk, and of course the cables for this to happen. The documentation is very complete and contains good examples and drawings.

The author has two non-shareware versions of this program which allow 3 or 4 drive configurations and up to 10 partitions on drives 3 and 4. The shareware version only allows one partition on drive 3 and does not support drive 4.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM or compatible AT (286+) computer, hard drive, DOS 3.0 or higher. 8 bit machines (PC and XT) are not supported.

The source of this software was the vendor.

Original review prepared by Roy Bales, edited by Will Davis (8/93).

DOM MAIL ORDER FORM

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

Specify disk size:

5 1/4" 3 1/2"

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 _____



evaluation to determine whether it lives up to all the media hype before it's introduced/released. Coupled with Word 6.0 for DOS, the Word future looks brighter than ever.

Charles Miller, Co-SIG Leader has done an excellent job taking up the slack for the last several months, and will be a very good candidate to lead the MS Word SIG in the future.

Reagan Andrews

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

by Claude McClure

The Bonus

Last month NTPCUG was able to provide 100 free annual memberships to those who purchased OS/2 2.1. One member who bought it reported to the registration booth after attending the IBM Corporation presentation of the version. He was amazed that he had also won a free copy in the drawing. You see a lot of good things happening to members on Super Saturday. I call that a BONUS!

After two years spent looking for a game development system my search was ended by one of the helpful volunteers at the Disk of the Month Squad table. As a volunteer for the Information Booth on this Saturday, I had earned a coupon which could be exchanged for the shareware program. The real BONUS, however was the quality of service which is so evident at the DOM table. The DOM Squad continues to provide a unique and much appreciated service.

The Computer Literacy Volunteers Party was held last month to launch what may be an annual celebration for those computer users who want to share their computers and knowledge with others who want to learn. The party was fun, but the BONUS was the skills learned by people and the improvement in the quality of people's lives.

Infomart Liaison
David Harned

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchor

Jim Butler
Mike Griffin
David Slavik
Rod Rodolico (double)

Crew

Jim Aragon
Kenneth Berg
Hank Coleman
Bill Vallance
Paul Weathers

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Christopher Carmichael
Chris Jung

Information/Registration
Booth

Statistician

Connie Testa

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

Anchor:

Connie Andrews
Dianne Arnold (double)
John Arnold
Al Aston
Ralph Beaver
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh

Hank Holt
David Huckabee
David Martin
Raymond Reyes
Jean Waldrep
Bob Wuller

Booth Crew

Louis Armstrong
Glynn Brooks
Eteta E. Eta
Mac Gilarski
John Ivers
Neil Jochelson
John Keohane
Shirley London
Cinda Lovil
Jackie May
Claude McClure
Elizabeth Rittenhouse
Terry Robinson
Jennifer Wilkins
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
Tuc Goodwin
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)

Variety

86 employees, but will leave several employees at the Baton Rouge offices.

Disk wars fallout — Maxtor sells 40% To Korea's Hyundai

The hard-disk wars continue unabated. While the blood still flows freely, one of the combatants, Maxtor Corp., looks at a bleak future, then sells 40% stake to Hyundai Electronics Industries, Inc., of South Korea.

The deal to sell part of the once-mighty Maxtor was consummated in August. It followed a series of loss-ridden quarters for Maxtor and forecasts for an even gloomier future unless Maxtor could gain a cash infusion quickly according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Hyundai will gain the board chairman's seat at Maxtor and an increased marketing foothold in the U.S. the August 20, article revealed.

Maxtor is the first of the major disk makers to fall in this round of the hard disk wars, but media pundits think it won't be the last major casualty.

On the DTP front ... Ventura reorganizes In July — sold to Corel during August

This may be good news for everybody. Ventura Software Inc, a subsidiary of Xerox Corp. and publisher of *Ventura Publisher*, was sold to Corel Corp., of Canada in August. Media estimated Corel acquired the Ventura family for approximately \$5-10 million in the deal.

Ventura has languished over the past several years and hasn't been able to fight-off (now) market leaders Aldus (*PageMaker*) and Quark (*Express*) after losing its former domination of the PC-based page-layout software market.

Prior to the sale to Corel, Ventura laid off "about 150 of its 200 employees" according to *PC Week*. The September 6 article by Ted Smalley Bowen reported that Corel expects to retain about 25 "development, technical support and marketing employees."

Corel plans to release *Ventura Publisher 5.0* in May '94 according to Bowen's article.

We'll end this with A little Microsoft And *WordPerfect 6.0*

Two "quickies" from Microsoft — and you probably won't like the first. Microsoft announced in September that it intends to charge users for *Windows* telephone technical support. *Windows* is the only MS product mentioned. Microsoft claims they only want to recover the cost of the support, not make a profit on this service.

Second, Bill Gates sold 350,000 shares of his stock in Microsoft in August. Let's see @ \$76/share that would amount to \$26.6 million. That's going to be some wedding.

WordPerfect irks 6.0 for DOS users

Boy, the media really hopped on WordPerfect's case in September. The object of the media's fury was WP-revealed enhancements in the *6.0a* slipstream upgrade less than two months after release of 6.0. There were lots of quotes from angry *WordPerfect 6.0 for DOS* users after learning about this.

—Reagan Andrews

dBase...

Developers who choose to use the Borland dBASE Compiler to produce their deliverable modules will have a professional-grade software tool to work with. Use of the compiler will require that some serious planning for the structure of final deliverables be done before actual production. This planning is mandatory due to the large amounts of memory required to both develop and execute the deliverable modules.

In the future, I suspect that we will see a Windows version of the dBASE Compiler before we see the second release of the DOS dBASE Compiler. I'm certain that Borland is working on the memory require-

ments right now. I look for things to improve in that area with the next release of the DOS dBASE Compiler, and you can take a bet on Windows development to the bank.

I also look for, sooner than later, a release of the dBASE Compiler that will produce code that will provide access to both dBASE and Paradox tables. Then there is also the prospect of the integration of SQL into the fabric of the compiler. If Borland holds true to course, a near future release of the compiler will have a version of the Interbase client engine imbedded in there somewhere.

—Fred

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, and within reasonable time limits (at the volunteer's discretion).

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. Please honor the wishes of our helpers by seeking help only during those hours.

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)487-2350	M-Sa	1300-1500
Assembly	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7	1800-2200
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869	7	0900-2200
C	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
C++	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
Borland C++	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
CompuServe	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
DOS	Rick Steffon	(214) 327-2728	7	1000-2400
MathCAD	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)442-1315	7	1300-2100
ProComm/	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
ProComm Plus		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
	Bill Green	(817) 731-1308		
Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148	7	1830-2100
	Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7	1000-2100
SPFPC	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
TurboVision	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
UNIX	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200
WP 5.1 & 5.2/ Windows	Georgene Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
Word for Windows	Beverly Kurtin	(817) 355-9594	M-F	1800-2030
Windows	Rick Sivernell	(214)306-5422	7	1830-2200
XENIX	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200

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 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
 - Slacker
 - SuperCalc
 - Symphony
 - TurboTax
 - TurboVision
 - Ventura Publisher
 - Word (see Microsoft)
 - XTree

LEGEND:
 7 All 7 days of each week
 M-F Monday through Friday
 T&T Tuesday and Thursday
 M-Sa Monday through Saturday
 S&S Saturday and Sunday



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 INFO MART

<p>8:00 - 8:55 Microsoft Networking Visual Basic - Beginning</p> <p>9:00 - 9:55 DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Personal Users Quicken Software Review StarText Visual Basic Windows Applications WordPerfect</p> <p>10:00 - 10:55 BASIC Programming-Adv. CAD Fox Pro Database Networking PAF - Genealogy</p>	<p>10:00 - 10:55 (cont.) Paradox Personal Users WordPerfect/Windows Unix/Xenix</p> <p>11:00 - 11:55 BASIC Programming-Begin. Assembler Brother's Keeper Genealogy Investors (to 12:55 PM) MS Works Roots III - Genealogy Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers</p> <p>11:30 - 11:55 Orientation</p> <p>12:00 - 12:55 Alpha Four C++/Advanced C</p>	<p>12:00 - 12:55 (cont.) Communications Desktop Publishing OS/2 for End Users Personal Users TI Pro</p> <p>1:00 - 1:55 Access ACT! BBS Business Apps./DAC Easy Middle C MS Word OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet</p> <p>2:00 - 2:55 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 Frank Cavallito	(214)276-3661 h (214)556-1352 h (214)423-9221 h
Alpha Four	Mike Firth Charles Jacobus Woody Pewitt	(214)827-7734 h (817)379-6840 h (214)230-3485 w (214)283-2292 h
Assembler	Jim Carter	(214)235-5968 h
BASIC Prog-Adv.	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315 h
BASIC Prog-Begin.	Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
BASIC Prog-Visual	Neil Sunderland Putt Shaw	(214)272-2869 h (214)235-2559 h (214)669-9633 w (214)233-8353 w
BBS	Bruce Schubert	(214)871-8177 w (214)343-3862 h (214)296-1799 (214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w (817)731-1308 h (214)521-2938 h (214)521-6670 w
Brother's Keeper	Alex Lilley	(214)953-4970 w (214)517-7430 h
Business App./DAC	Jim Hoisington Reagan Andrews David King	(214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h (817)640-6130 h (214)313-0408 w (214)320-8305 (817)481-2350 h
Middle C	Frank Bede Larry Linson Kevin White Al Sanford Charles Miller Gary Johnson	(214)644-7536 h (214)278-7888 h (903)938-4220 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h (214)437-0322 h (817)461-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
C++ / Advanced C	Francis Bright Debbie Lenhart James Dunn	(214)714-6000 w (214)279-5712 h (214)497-8978 w (817)481-6625 h (214)444-2195 w (817)498-5856 h (214)492-1315
CAD	Bob Fermier	(817)481-6625 h
Communications	Joe Waldrop Fred Williams Tom Browning	(214)498-5856 h (214)492-1315
Community Svc	Bob Presley Bob Russell	(214)867-1679 h (214)422-4269 h
DOS	Jim Hoisington Kent Kingery	(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
Dataflex	Billy Pitts Jo Johnston John Wylie Pat Henley	(214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-9048 h (214)741-1993 w
Desktop Publ	Neil Berkowitz Mark Gruner Betty Brooks Jim Boughton	(214)475-7463 h (214)964-8174 h (214)618-1608 h (817)478-6665 h (817)265-8044 w (214)348-9048 h (214)741-1993 w
Fox Pro	Jack McCurley	(214)741-1993 w
Genealogy	Wait Rice Clifford Gade 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)634-2104 w (214)492-9129 h (214)823-9837 w
Hdw Solutions	Jim Stallworth	(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)634-2104 w (214)492-9129 h (214)823-9837 w
Investors	Arthur English Reagan Andrews Charles Miller Lanet Patton Lori Quinn	(214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 h
Local Area Net	C J Bain	(214)634-2104 w (214)492-9129 h (214)823-9837 w
MS Networking	Mitch Milam	(214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 h
OS/2 Dev	Mike Firth Ralph Logan	(214)827-7734 h (817)498-9746 h
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		
WordPerfect for Windows		
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
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214)464-7942 w (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.	Reagan Andrews	(214)828-0699 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.)

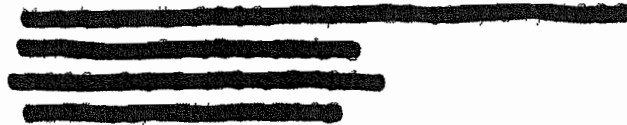


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Dallas, TX 75378-0066

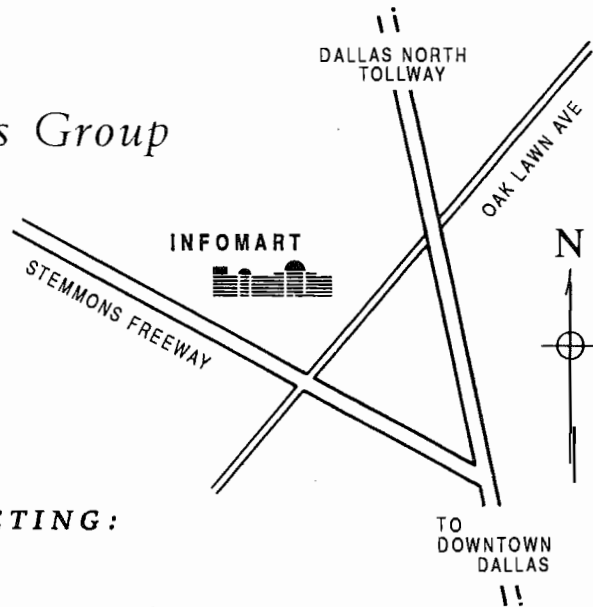
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North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

9 October 1993