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*North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.*

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# North Texas PC NEWS

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### Deadline:

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

### Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2500 last month. Member distribution was 2183; 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 December  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Wednesday, November 10th

### Meeting Dates:

November 20, 1993 - 3rd Saturday  
December 11, 1993 - 2nd Saturday  
January Meeting  
(To Be Announced)



## 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 November

— Timothy Carmichael —

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

## Stacker 3.1 for DOS and Windows

Stac Electronics Corporation

Stacker 3.1 is the industry standard for hard disk data compression, and it supports DOS, Windows and OS/2 platforms. Come see a demonstration of its capabilities, and get an opportunity to discuss technical details with a company representative. There will be a drawing for free software. \*

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## Quattro Pro for Windows

Borland International, Inc.

*Dan Johnson, Systems Engineer*

Come see a demonstration of Borland's new spreadsheet technology, Quattro Pro 5.0 for Windows and 5.0 Workgroup Edition. New features like ObjectHelp, Interactive Tutors and Experts maximize the windows environment and make it possible for all levels of users to become instantly productive with their spreadsheet work. The new Workgroup Edition allows users to distribute spreadsheet information to users in workgroups, within and outside an organization. There will be a drawing for free copies of software. \*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

## CorelDraw 4.0 for Windows

Corel Corporation

*Janie Sullivan, Area Representative*

CorelDraw 4.0 includes illustration, charting, photo-editing, tracing/OCR and presentation capabilities. There are advanced word-processing features, multi-page layouts and special effects. It also includes two CD-ROMs featuring a complete CD version of the program, 18,000 clipart images and symbols, 750 fonts, and animation elements and sound effects. Corel also offers CorelSCSI, a collection of SCSI drivers for PC peripherals, and their latest product - Corel Professional Photo CD-ROMs. 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...*



### DFW XCHANGE ...

If the October 9th Super Saturday appeared to operate in its normal efficient manner, you may be surprised to know that it was organized and administered by DFW Xchange Corporation rather than the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD). This change resulted from the September dissolution of the CCD by a number of its User Group "owners",

including NTPCUG and the Apple Corps of Dallas (ACD).

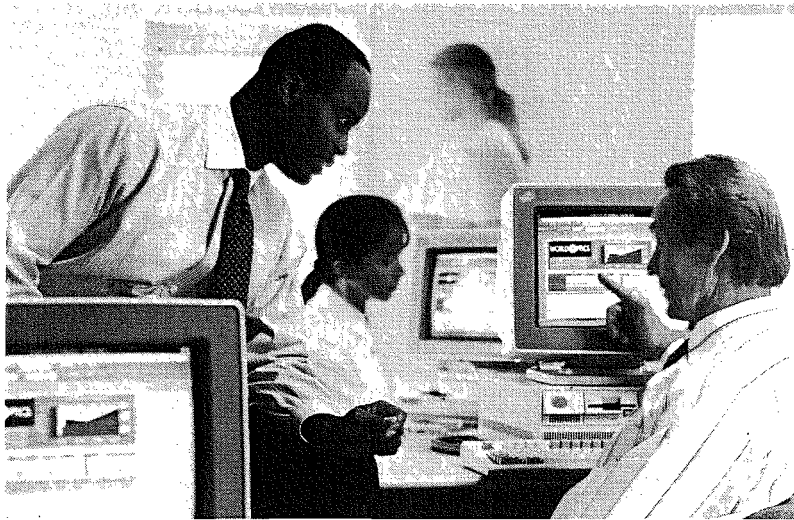
As the October 9th date approached, a major effort was instituted to assure the meeting would occur as planned. Kudos go to Reagan and Connie Andrews, David Harned, Jim Hoisington, Andy Oliver, Andy Reese, Matt Snider, Stuart Yarus and others for creating a new corporation, negotiating contracts and distributing leaflets. Special mention also goes to the Infomart, whose management did everything legally possible to help us maintain an Infomart presence as scheduled.

The major hassles of reorganization are behind us. Where desired, all previous CCD User Groups will continue to meet at Infomart under DFW Xchange sponsorship. By November 20th, all remaining confusion regarding the longevity of Xchange Saturday events will certainly (probably? maybe?) be



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## Share information effortlessly

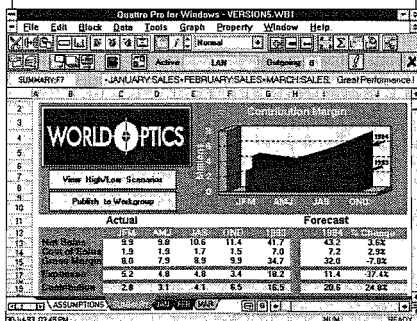
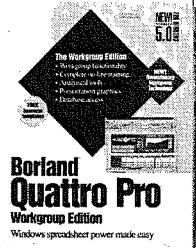
If you've ever wanted to share your spreadsheet information with other workers or automatically receive the most up-to-date information from someone else's spreadsheet, new Quattro® Pro 5.0 for Windows Workgroup Edition is for you. Quattro Pro's new Workgroup

Desktop™ makes sharing information with coworkers as easy as passing a piece of paper, only a lot faster! Best of all, you can use your existing LAN, WAN, or electronic mail carrier without upgrading your LAN software or buying a separate workgroup product.\* And with built-in support for SQL-based servers, you can view, query, and share more information than ever before.

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Copyright © 1993 Borland International, Inc. Quattro Pro for Windows and Spreadsheet Notebooks have patents pending. Offer good in the United States and Canada only. All prices in U.S. dollars. Dealer prices may vary. \*Supported communication transports: Novell Message Handling Service (MHS and NGM); MCI Mail; cc:Mail (vendor-independent messaging); Windows for Workgroups, MS-Mail, and other MAPI-compliant messaging services; Local Area Network (LAN) systems, such as Novell NetWare, Banyan, IBM® LAN Server, MS-LAN Manager, AT&T StarGROUP, and other peer-to-peer networks. †\$79.95 Upgrade offer for existing Quattro Pro users with \$20 rebate coupon enclosed in Special Upgrade box. BI 6369

## *Prez Sez... ctd.*

eliminated. [Ed. note: See "what we did ..." by Jim Hoisington on page 4 for details.]

### **MEMBERSHIP SURVEYS ...**

If you have not yet completed and returned a Membership Survey, please do so NOW. Cut it from the October newsletter, and mail as directed. Survey results are used by the NTPCUG in attracting major vendors for presentations, giving potential advertisers in the PC News insight into the composition and texture of the NTPCUG, and to assist the BOD and Club officers in planning future directions for the NTPCUG.

### **NETWORLD 93 ...**

Our booth at Networld was well staffed throughout the event. Thanks to those that volunteered their time, we acquired 18 new members on site, with a number of others taking applications to their office for corporate funding. Ironically, we had not planned on taking applications at the show, but changed our minds when the first check was offered. We used Halloween candy as bait, and snared a number of folks that got too close.

Given this degree of success, we have already reserved a booth for the 1994 show, renamed Networks EXPO. With all this advance notice, you should have little problem being a volunteer next year.

### **FALL COMDEX 93 ...**

Fall COMDEX is still on the agenda for many of our members. A number of Comdex giveaways from the convention will likely find their way to the anticipated December giveaways, so watch for specifics in the December newsletter.

### **1994 ELECTIONS ...**

The time is close. If you have not submitted your name for NTPCUG elections for BOD, now is the time. I know we have dozens of qualified members just begging to present their views to the BOD, and what better place to do it than as an elected official. Please begin thinking about running for a BOD position, or for President-Elect. Again, if you would like a no-obligation explanation of the duties involved, PLEASE contact me or any Board member.

## **WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE OLD Floppy DISKS...**

Look around the house and office. See those stacks of demo disks that are gathering dust? How about those 360K floppies that came with your XT? I know they have an important purpose in your life, but consider donating them to the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP). Their kiosk at Xchange Saturday will be more than glad to distribute them to their many computer labs recently installed in underprivileged areas of Dallas. And if you cannot bear to part with your disks "cold turkey", just follow them to the labs, and do a little computer instruction while there. Your contributions and assistance are much appreciated.

### **SUBSCRIPTION DISCOUNTS ...**

Some months ago, Delta Publishing Group agreed to provide NTPCUG with discounts (usually about 50%) on subscriptions to over 80 magazines. Most popular PC magazines are included, as well as a variety that address other interests. I rarely see better deals than these, even through Publishers Clearinghouse, so I urge you to take advantage. Forms are generally available through the Information Booth at each monthly meeting, and will appear in PC NEWS periodically. If you call (1-800-SAVE SAVE), be sure to advise that you are an NTPCUG member, as this gets you the discounts.

In addition, feel free to pass the form to all your friends, relatives, and associates. They will be impressed at the discounts available through your user group.

### **IN CLOSING ...**

As the holiday season approaches, remember to drive safely, shop early, and be sure to schedule time to attend Xchange Saturday. Just think -- while the maniacs are fighting the expressways and the crowds at the malls, you can be safely tucked into a cozy meeting room discussing a good piece of software. In fact, you can probably buy that software in our vendor area, along with ALL your Christmas gifts! Think how envious your friends will be!!

Have a great Thanksgiving, following the November 20th Xchange Saturday.

Doug Gorrie



by Jim Hoisington

*(Jim Hoisington is a current member of the NTPCUG Board of Directors, Membership Director, and twice-Past-president of the NTPCUG)*

# What we did ... and, why We did it — Again

By now most of you have heard that we made a change in our Saturday meetings at INFOMART. The NTPCUG Board of Directors (BOD) has asked me to explain what we (the NTPCUG and Apple Corps of Dallas (ACD) did and why we did it.

When we meet on Saturday, there are as many as 13 different user groups meeting in the building. Each group represents a different hardware platform, software product or special use of personal computers. Coordinating the meeting rooms for these groups and arranging the tables for the vendors in the basement has always been done by a group whose only purpose was to arrange the Saturday meetings.

In late 1986, the group [Ed. Note: Jim is referring to the Dallas Computer Council] that was trying to do this coordination had gotten to the point where every meeting was a debate about trivia and little coordination was being done. In addition, INFOMART had told us that they wanted to do business with a corporation, not a group.

December of 1986 found Andy Reese, representing Apple Corps of Dallas, Charles Sullivan, representing the TI Professional Users Group, and my-

self, representing NTPCUG, deciding to form a new corporation to coordinate the Saturday meetings. The corporation we formed was the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD.)

We wrote the corporate charter of the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD) to coordinate the meeting rooms and to arrange tables for the vendors of computer-related equipment in the basement. That was the sole reason for the formation of the corporation.

Over the years, the Computer Council went further and further away from its charter. In addition, the needs of Apple Corps and NTPCUG ( TI Professional became a Special Interest Group of NTPCUG several years ago) changed. Together, Apple

Corps of Dallas and NTPCUG now represent over 3,000 members.

The charter of the CCD that we wrote in 1986 no longer met our needs. After very serious deliberation, both Apple Corps and NTPCUG decided that the best solution was to dissolve the Computer Council of Dallas and replace it with a corporation better structured to meet our needs in the future.

We knew that the transition would involve a lot of work—both for those of us who started up the new corporation, the DFW Xchange Corporation, and for the officers of the Computer Council of Dallas who were instructed to shut down that corporation and dispose of its assets.

The transition is almost complete. I would like to thank the officers of the CCD for their work in closing down an organization in which they had invested a lot of time over the last several years. I'd also like to thank the people who worked to bring the new corporation to life.

We hope that we minimized the inconvenience to you, our members. We think we now have in place a structure that will allow us to expand our services to all the groups meeting at INFOMART with a minimum amount of work.

## *Dissolution of Computer Council of Dallas — Creation of DFW Xchange Corporation*

**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

*Jim Hoisington*

# The Adventures of PC Tech

## CHAPTER 22

by Ben Thar

The invitation came in the mail: COMPUEXPO Computer Show in Atlantic City, New Jersey -- THE LARGEST COMPUTER SHOW IN THE UNITED STATES, it read.

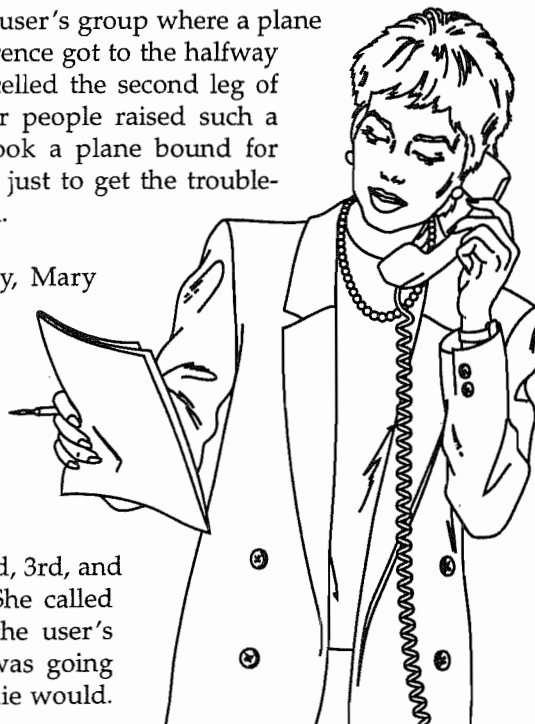
Mary Margaret never thought about going to computer trade shows in her position, but the invitation was in front of her and a post-it note from her boss simply stated "Planning to attend?"

"Right," she thought "like I'm going to turn down a chance like this." Even though the show date was over two months away, MM called the corporate travel agent about reservations. The agent called her back with the question, "What is so darn important that's going on in Atlantic City during that week. I can't find any open reservations."

Mary's heart sank. "Oh please try again," she said "I'll fly at midnight, I'll change planes in Chicago (and that's scary), I really want to go." So the agent tried again and he found her an 11:00 p.m. flight, changing planes in Atlanta.

She'd heard a story at the user's group where a plane headed to the same conference got to the halfway point and the airline cancelled the second leg of the trip. These computer people raised such a ruckus that the airline took a plane bound for Cleveland and rerouted it just to get the troublemakers out of the terminal.

With that out of the way, Mary Margaret filled out the application for the show and "hmmm.... that's strange," she murmured to herself "these hotel rates are the highest I've ever seen and the application asks you for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices for hotels." She called her friend Connie from the user's group to find out what was going on. If anyone knew, Connie would.



"Well, you see Mary Margaret it's like this," Connie explained that a giant corporation putting on the event buys up all the available hotel rooms and resells them at the rate posted on the back of the door. MM couldn't believe it; she had never paid the rate on the door in her life. "Get used to it," her friend said, "they have been doing it forever and it probably won't change. The company knows that a lot of corporate types come to these shows and that the companies will pay the price."

"Yes," said Mary, "but what about the poor person who wants to go to the event, but has to pay from their own pocket." The reply, "They stay in Newark."

Support calls never stopped. Some things could be answered over the phone. TURN THE COMPUTER OFF AND BACK ON AND CALL ME IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN.

PC Tech thought about changing her voice mail to say just that. Other inquiring questions included, WHAT HAS CHANGED, FROM WHEN IT DID WORK, UNTIL NOW? and DO YOU HAVE A RECENT BACKUP? (Ha!, Ha!, Ha!, Ha!, Ha,— what's that?) and CAN YOU TELL ME MORE THAN, "THE SYSTEM HASN'T WORKED IN WEEKS?"

On to brighter subjects, MM hired a consulting firm to be on call while she attended the COMPUEXPO show, and left for a new adventure.

One a.m. in the Atlantic City airport terminal and a computer company employee is handing her a T-shirt. Wow, catch them as they come to town; what a great advertising gimmick. After fighting some guy for her suitcase, MM proceeded to the airport cab line. It reminded her of Disney World. The line even has signs "Thirty minute wait from this point." The picture of patience (her time off came at a time when she needed an attitude adjustment) Mary waited in line.

## PC Tech ... Ctd.

The cab driver grouched, "You know these GUYS that come to this stupid computer show. They don't tip. They don't gamble. Why don't these nerds just stay at home with the little woman and the cat?"

Mary, through clenched teeth, said "I would think that they are bringing revenue into the city, all of the hotel rooms are full, all of the cabs are full, the car rental agencies are overbooked, the airlines put on extra flights, and I bet the restaurants will do a land office business this week."

"Yea, yea, but we gotta complain about somethin' in this town or we ain't happy." he grumbled. As she got out of the cab, Mary Margaret left a sizable tip for the cabby and he said, "And what brings you to town, lady."

"Oh, I'm one of the nerds," she smiled.

Up at dawn, full on a \$2.99 breakfast, MM waited outside the big hall for the doors to open. Never had she seen a crowd like this. All dressed up, until you



Mary Margaret heard — talk, and talk, and talk ...

got to their feet, and then anything goes, tennis shows, walking shoes, Hush Puppies, you name it.

A trip to the shoe store loomed in her future.

The COMPUEXPO keynote address, given by a leader in the industry, was insightful for what it promised. From everything Mary read in the trade press about legal battles, cheating, bickering, and general thievery that supposedly occurred, the talk was refreshing. Upon reflection, MM realized "keynote" meant "feel good speech." Make 'em feel good and send them out on the showroom floor with checkbooks blazing.

The showroom floor? Unbelievable.

Aisle after aisle of computer vendor or anything remotely related to computers. Some space more like a circus side show. Bob Denver over here playing Gilligan's granddad, a rap group over there break dancing, a karakoe setup playing your favorite tunes of the 60's, and people sitting for a half hour sales pitch to earn a hat that looked dorky to begin with.

Gosh it's fun. Mary met many nice people, informative about their products, sometimes not too informed on the competition, but overall helpful in explaining the technology to her.

"Don't get me wrong," she told her mom on the phone after two exhausting days, "I picked up my share of gimmies, key chains, Frisbees, and stuff. I'm pacing myself to make it through the week." Her mom exclaimed that the show made the national news, and that they showed the NJ Convention Center floor.

"No mom, it's the Waterfront Convention Center." Mary corrected. "I'm sure they said the NJ Convention Center."

"Okay mom, I need to get to bed, goodnight." Because it bothered her, MM got up that night and read through the Show newspaper that they thrust in her hand before she even hit the door on Monday.

She collapsed on the bed with a loud groan, "OH NO, there's another Convention Center and it's bigger than the one I've been strolling through for the last two days. I'll never see it all."

Ben



# The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

## DATA CONTROL — Best new feature in *Visual Basic 3.0*

The most significant new feature in *Visual Basic 3.0* is its ability to control databases. The data control is included in the "Standard Edition" of *Visual Basic 3.0* and can be used to create applications that will display, edit, and update information from these databases.

The "Professional Edition" of *Visual Basic 3.0* provides additional capability to the data control and adds more data-aware custom controls. The data control in *Visual Basic 3.0* is a very powerful control and deserves your attention if you haven't explored its capabilities yet.

The data control in the "Standard Edition" of *Visual Basic 3.0* is sufficient to handle most front-end database applications. Your applications will be able to display, edit, and update information from existing databases including Microsoft *Access*, *Btrieve*, *dBASE*, Microsoft *FoxPro*, and *Paradox*.

### Creating data-aware applications

The procedure for creating a data-aware application is straightforward. The following steps describe the procedure:

1. Add the data control to your form and size it.
2. Set the DatabaseName property to the file you wish to control.
3. Set the RecordSource property to the name of the database table you wish to control.
4. Add a text box to your form for each field you want to access.
5. Set the DataSource property for each text box to the name of the data control (default is Data1) and set the DataField property for each text box to the name of the field in the database table the text box is displaying.

6. Add labels to your form as required to identify the contents of the text boxes.

That's it! If you need assistance, come to the November 20 meeting of the two Visual Basic SIGs.

The Beginning Visual Basic SIG that meets at 8:00 a.m. will describe the process for creating a data-aware application using the data control as configured by the "Standard Edition" of *Visual Basic 3.0*. The regular Visual Basic SIG that meets at 9:00 a.m. will discuss the process using the data control as configured by the "Professional Edition" of Microsoft's new *Visual Basic 3.0*.

An excellent article on this topic appears in the October/November issue of *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal*. The article is entitled "Hand-Craft Your First VB 3.0 Database" and the author is Charles Darling. Reading this article will give you a large "heads-up" for the presentation on November 20.

### Upgrading *Visual Basic 2.0* to *Visual Basic 3.0*

If you acquired a copy of *Visual Basic 2.0* "Standard Edition" last May from the NTCPUG — and you registered it with Microsoft, call 1-800-950-3535 and ask for department VM2. You are eligible to upgrade to *Visual Basic 3.0* "Standard Edition" for mailing & handling costs of \$7.50.

Have your credit card ready when you call! Microsoft is extending this offer to anyone who purchased *Visual Basic 2.0* (Professional or Standard) after April 15, 1993.

Jim

### HELP WANTED -- VOLUNTEER POSITION

**Newsletter Publisher:** We are seeking volunteers experienced in editorial and publishing activities for the North Texas PC Users Group. Applicants should be familiar with the *PC News* editorial style and have page-layout expertise in either Aldus *PageMaker 4.0* or *5.0*, or Ventura (Corel) *Publisher 4.1.1 (Windows)*. These positions require intensive attention to detail and comfort working with sometimes peculiar deadlines.

Contact: Reagan Andrews at (214) 828-0699  
or Andy Oliver at (214) 223-4044.



Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

# The Variety Store

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

## Walking on the WILD Side—Opus blasts Flying Toasters, Sculley departs Apple Apple blasts prices and Comdex awaits

*We're all waiting for the other shoe to drop ...*

To start this month's column off, I need to clarify some of my terms — and usage(s). First, I mean "personal computer" when I use "PC." That's not the more-contemporary, *politically-correct* whatever that is/means this week in certain media. Second, even though I retch at the thought, I'll be forced to use *Pentium* for the more proper Intel 586 series of CPU chips.

Still think *Pentium* is really stupid — and only Intel's merry marketers (?empty-suits?) could have dreamed-up such a misnomer.

### No slow-down before Comdex/FALL '93 — PR, Rumor mills in overtime

I thought things would slow down before Comdex/FALL '93. Boy, was I wrong! The PC PR mills keep churning out releases to the tune "The times they are a-changing ..." One constant did hold, though. Rumors and rumors of rumors are running rampant through the media of anticipated/wished new consortiums/mergers/buy-outs — all "expected" to be "major Comdex announcements."

Visitors to NetWorld in Dallas (October) got a taste of this as even the marketing types are confused and asking "Gee, did you see any really outstanding new technology here?" That wasn't just one, it was several spread

across the display floors at the Comdex warm-up. Did see *some* new technology at NetWorld. Most interesting was a small, but important, surge protector for laptops, and two new software versions— Novell/DRI DR DOS 7 and Microsoft *Windows for Workgroups* 3.11.

### IBM's "New Attitude" Continues at NetWorld

Some things were really apparent at NetWorld. Had a bunch of NTPCUG attendees remark on the changes at the IBM booth(s) this year — where there were knowledgeable people manning the displays who wanted, really wanted, to talk about everything IBM, and were willing to "drop the scripts" to boot. Just wasn't the "Old Blue" we knew from years past on the

trade-show circuit. Be very interesting to talk to IBM at Comdex to see if it holds there as well.

Most fun this month is on the legal circuit, and only involves some of our favorite icons and cartoon characters. Think I'll pass on the other legal news since I don't understand most of what I've read and the real news probably won't come out until after Comdex (I hope, since this is being written well before the Las Vegas blow-out.)

### Opus blasts toasters for Delrina while A-D's Berkeley shouts "murder"

Opus is a cold-weather, sub-polar animal/bird (penguin) most-recently made famous by Berke(ley) Breathed in his *Outland* cartoon strip. I've noticed a distinctly "PC" orientation (that's PC as in personal computer, and not the more contemporary usage of "PC".) Delrina "hired" Opus to do some AA (Anti-Aircraft — or Anti-Toaster) chores for a new series of screen savers.

Target is Berkeley's *After Dark* flying toasters. Opus is a dead shot and blasts them joyfully from the screen-skies. Berkeley is not amused. They claim the Flying Toasters are a Berkeley icon and are syn-

## Variety . . . . .

onymous with *After Dark*. Berkeley's attorneys are definitely amused — and contemplating what really-juicy legal action could roll-up in fees/retainers.

Since I enjoy *Outland*, and have been curious how Bill Gates (Microsoft's CEO) managed to make his debut in the comic strips over the last several months there, I'm fascinated by it all.

### Bill Gates loses head

Do know (according to *Computer Currents*) Delrina has a version with Bill Gates of Microsoft and an exploding PC that takes off Bill's head. A little macabre but the idea is in keeping with the season, I guess. Bet Ray Noorda (Novell CEO) will be the first on his block with this little gem on his PC.

Spencer (not Bill, the ...) Katt (not Cat), columnist for *PC Week*, kept the issue churning after NetWorld with excellent recall for the '60's and *Jefferson Airplane* album covers, one featuring Flying Toasters. That's a hint this may be a lot of fun before it's over.

### Hottest Rumors ...

#### Lotus Buying Borland? Novell buying Borland? Borland & WordPerfect?

This has been flying around the media in various hints and rumor-oriented columns.

It's also been **denied** by all parties supposedly involved.

Rumor is that Borland is for sale and Lotus is interested. Saw a different twist on this, with Borland supposedly making a bid for Lotus.

### Old rumors resurface

Heard similar rumors several months back (and these are resurfacing again) that the players were Borland and Novell with Novell the party interested in swallowing Borland, VROOM and all. Have to add WordPerfect Corporation to this eerie brew as well since WP has been "bundling" lately and still smarts from Wall-Street claims they are a "one-product" company.

### Borland's cash problems?

Basis for all the above is Borland's cash flow status (problem, according to media), stock performance and difficulty getting product out the door and on the shelves.

I have a problem with all these scenarios — mostly a function of the personalities involved in any of the rumored mergers/buyouts proposed in the media mills.

Companies like Borland, Novell and Lotus have very definite and strong corporate personalities that set the internal style of operation as well as the external "face" of the corporations. Borland — in Cambridge?, or Utah?

### Intel feels breath of Cyrix, TI and AMD —Don't look back ...

Intel is amazing/disappointing lots of folks this month. On Wall Street (that's in New York City, NY) stock analysts were disappointed at Intel's most recent quarterly earnings and Intel's stock fell slightly in spite of record earnings. Huh?

Cyrix, on the other hand, has been getting lots and lots of favorable press on their not-yet-in-silicon (at time of this writing) M1 and M7 chips. Unlike Intel, Cyrix isn't pricing these in the stratosphere, but also isn't producing lots of chips, either. Cyrix still has the problem of limited (*very* at time of this writing) production capabilities—compared to Intel—which can't worry Intel that much.

As the other shoe drops, **Texas Instruments (TI)** has announced they are going after portions of the 486 CPU market and does have the production capacity coupled with lower prices that Intel should take seriously. Although most PC users don't remember/never knew, TI was producing 16-bit CPU's like crazy not that long ago. (Talk to any of the TI 99/4A users for a surprising ear-full about TI's 16-bit chips.) TI could be a significant threat to Intel given its expertise in silicon production, CPU design and ties to Cyrix.

## Variety . . . . .

Please forget TI's penchant for "improving" technology at the expense of compatibility. Supposedly, this corporate tendency/obsession won't take over as TI blasts into the marketplace with TI-designed 486 CPU chips.

**Advanced Micro Devices** (AMD) can't be forgotten, but also can't be seen as a major competitor for the same reason that Cyrix is hobbled — limited production capacities. Saw some interesting AMD flyers and heard some interesting AMD "future CPU" rumors at NetWorld, but don't know what they mean in light of the legal issues yet to be resolved between AMD and Intel.

### Why so much CPU news Over last few months?

Other than the fact that I'm an unrepentant techno-junkie, why is all this worth the paper and ink? Simple, and frightening. Intel does "own" the PC CPU market in spite of all the above.

Hardware prices are a definite function of Intel's CPU prices and if Intel gets scared and drops 486 CPU prices as expected, because of the above, then today's PC prices will become a joke. Already the "majors" are pushing the "clone makers" out of the market, and a real "sweet-heart deal" with Intel could bring us back to 1983 — when one PC vendor called all the PC tunes.

### Sun selling Sparcs Also feels breath Of CPU competition

In a move described as a reaction to Motorola's *PowerPC* chip, Intel's Pentium and the DEC *Alpha* CPU chip, Sun Microsystems announced in October that they will sell the flagship *Sparc* RISC CPU's and support chips to other vendors this year. Media sources see this as possibly "too late" to stem the tide of improved CPU's coming to the market.

Sun is primarily a workstation vendor and this market is visibly at risk as newer and more powerful PC's arrive on the scene. The Sparc CPU (set) is one of the most widely-used RISC designs on the market at this time, primarily running the UNIX operating system.

The fastest Sparc chips are made by Texas Instruments (TI). Other silicon houses in the US and Japan produce lower-speed Sparc versions.

### Microsoft saying NT Ahead of schedule, Answer to CPU wars

Without mentioning any numbers, Microsoft's Bill Gates has been saying *Windows NT* sales are "stronger than expected" and well ahead of Microsoft's projections since delivery of the new OS to retail channels. Since Microsoft, if anybody, loves talking about numbers and projected num-

bers, the above is a little curious.

Microsoft is, however, really pushing the multi-platform aspect of *NT* in the media and emphasizing the benefits to all of such a system.

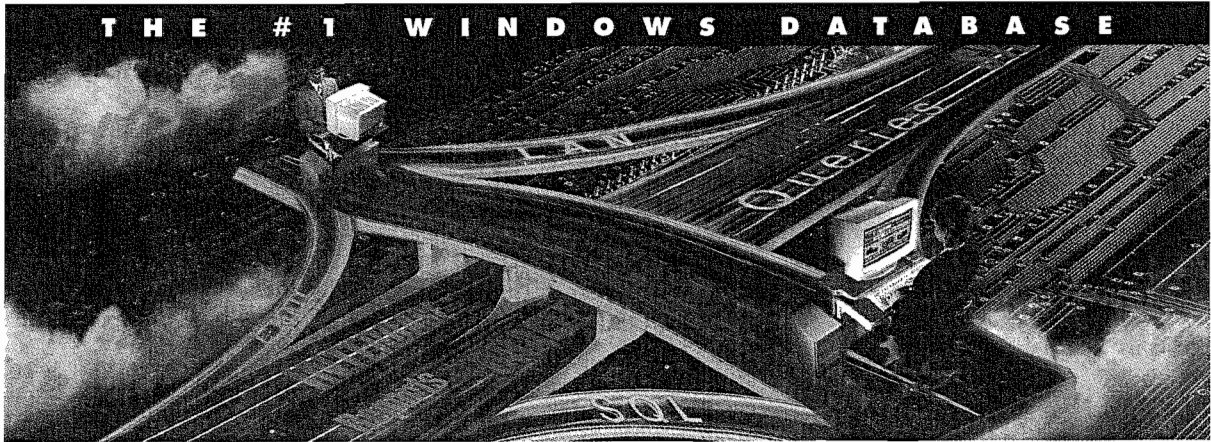
While we watch the UNIX consortium(s) fall apart at a record pace and *Pink* remains mostly speculation, Microsoft may have some merit in their claims for *NT* as "solution".

I still get uncomfortable when Gates doesn't/won't/can't quote numbers after such an assertion concerning sales figures, though.

### Problems bedevil Intel, Dell, Compaq And, PCMCIA users

Dell is having problems with hot CPU's and sub-notebooks. The Austin, TX, company announced yet one more recall of a production model as a result of high heat levels that threatened case integrity. It's the latest in a series of notebook and sub-notebook production problems Dell has experienced this year.

Intel's new PCI bus is also experiencing growing pains with announced incompatibility with the Pentium CPU's in some makers' initial versions. Second generation PC's announced by Gateway 2000, ALR and Ambra (IBM) don't have the problems and are expected to benefit from the



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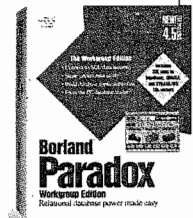


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## Variety . . . . .

problems found in 1st-generation PCI bus PC's. I'm doing this with a straight face, but "second generation PC" in designs only a month or so behind the "1st Generation"???

**Compaq** is having memory problems in some 486-powered ProLinea PC's, reportedly in the "fourth SIMM slot on the new motherboards. According to Compaq, users can update the models with 4M SIMM's only. Installation of the larger 8M and 16M SIMM's in the fourth slot behind the soldered-in, standard 4M, will result in system freezes or a failure to boot. Compaq has new, replacement motherboards to solve the problem.

**PCMCIA**, the "wonder slot" that's supposedly "universal" really isn't. Heard this soundly denied at Comdex last November (1992) in response to growing rumors.

At this year's NetWorld, vendors were a lot more candid and admitted that the PCMCIA standard is really about as "standard" as *UNIX* and *caveat emptor* is in full force when dealing with third-party add-ons via the PCMCIA slot in most notebook (and sub-notebook) PC's. Vendors at the October show in Dallas urged users to make sure they are dealing with reputable mail-order organizations and/or local vendors with full exchange and return policies.

### **Novell DOS 7.0, Microsoft WFW 3.11 Shine at NetWorld**

Novell may have scored big-time with their showing of *Novell DOS 7.0* at NetWorld this October. They emphasized that 7.0 was "still in beta" at the display in the basement of the Dallas Convention Center, but it looked good, very good, in their demonstration. (Notice I used "*Novell DOS 7.0*" and not "*DR DOS*." That wasn't in error—heard both usages at the NetWorld booth and the basement demonstration.)

7.0 features pre-emptive multitasking, built-in security functions and *Personal NetWare*, Novell's new peer-to-peer networking system.

Novell was unclear about this last item. At times during the demonstration, it sounded as if Novell will bundle the network with the new DOS. Other comments indicated it would be an add-on available at the time users purchased 7.0. At any rate, it was very impressive and looks like a cinch to make some strong inroads into formerly IBM (PC-DOS) and Microsoft (MS-DOS) corporate shops.

**Microsoft** was showing a greatly-improved *Windows for Workgroups 3.11* that should be available by the time you read this. Operation appeared somewhat smoother and some changes to the interface elements are definite improvements. Biggest improvement (from my point of view)

was a vastly-improved (in concept) *Workgroup Connection* that addressed one of my biggest gripes — inability of DOS-based "clients" to share their resources with the *Windows*-based workstations.

The new version will allow non-*Windows* clients to share resources, i.e., I can use one of my "old" 286 or 386SX PC's as a printer or file server on the WFW 3.11 network without "hobbling" one of the other machines. I'm looking forward to this upgrade.

### **LapTrax Surge Suppressor NetWorld Hardware Star**

A charred and twisted plastic blob mingled with melted copper brought this item to my attention at NetWorld.

EFI makes surge suppressors, a very broad line of them. Nestled among demonstration products at the EFI NetWorld booth was a surge protector that obviously had taken a lightning hit. It was all molten plastic and copper that had once been one of the EFI line.

While talking with booth personnel, I was introduced to *LapTrax*, a combined surge suppressor for power and telephone lines designed for use with laptop PC's. It also comes with EFI's Triple Crown Warranty.

First thought was why didn't I think of this before? Hotels and motels must have the

## Variety . . . . .

noisiest, most spike-prone power and phone lines around. Since I'm considering buying a laptop for Comdex this year, EFI's timing was excellent.

Manager at the booth described EFI's Triple Crown Warranty that comes with LapTrax (and other EFI surge suppressers) and covers repair or replacement of connected equipment. Opened the box of the demo unit and it's actually two warranties--the standard Triple Crown Warranty, a lifetime EFI product replacement warranty with coverage for connected equipment mentioned above, and a two-year, \$2,500 Theft Protection Warranty for connected equipment.

For more information about EFI's products and warranty coverage, contact EFI at (800) 729-3408.

### Corel Publisher's Death Rumors "Greatly exaggerated"

What's going to happen to (formerly) *Ventura Publisher*? Since Corel bought the former Xerox unit, there have been lots of questions concerning *Publisher's* future. Have heard a number of rumors that Corel would absorb some of the technology into future versions of *CorelDRAW* and abandon *Publisher*. Corel says it's not so, version 4.1.1 isn't the last of the *Publisher* page-layout breed. Actually, Corel re-

ports, there will be an enhanced new version, *Publisher* 4.2, scheduled for release about the time you read this in November. Corel confirmed a major revision, 5.0, will be produced in 1994 and there are no plans to abandon the page-layout program.

The Canadian firm is best-known now for drawing software. But, Corel was a major producer of *Ventura Publisher* GEM add-on utilities from the start and probably "knows" *Publisher* as well as anyone. That's why so many long-time *Publisher* users are quite happy with the recent Corel takeover from Xerox.

### Apple dumps Sculley Drops more prices In October moves

John Sculley is history at Apple Computer. First Wozniac, then Jobs, now, Sculley. The wheel turns, turns and turns. Sculley was forced out by outside directors according to media reports. A lot of people (left) at Apple are reported less-than-sorry to see Sculley depart as a result of his management style and preoccupations.

Sculley is replaced by John Markkula. Markkula was one of the three original founders of Apple (Jobs and Wozniac were the other two, better-known, founders) and was described in a recent *Dallas Morning News* article as a prime mover in bringing Sculley to Apple originally.

Shortly after Sculley's exit was announced, Apple announced further price cuts (up to 35% on some models) in response to continuing, intense competition in the PC arena. Apple's failure to make more intensive penetration of the corporate arena was rumored to be a major reason for Sculley's departure.

Apple has followed the dizziness-producing pattern of other PC vendors in the last two months in announcing major product-line repositioning via new models and re-configuration of existing models. Most noticeable result of this market trend appears to be buyer confusion with many potential PC customers hanging back while trying to make sense of it all.

Reagan Andrews

### NOVEMBER — CHANGES YOU'LL SEE THIS MONTH

You may notice a different look to the November *PC News*. Since Douglas McQuaid, former *PC News* Publisher, moved to Austin, Texas, publishing chores have been *temporarily* reassumed by Reagan Andrews. As a result, we've moved back to using Corel *Publisher* 4.1.1 for page layout and have changed back to *Palatino* for main body typeface. We liked the *Caslon* 540 and *Caslon* 3 typefaces used in September and October issues of the *PC News*, but agreed that their weights were "wrong" for the *PC News* as currently printed.

# THE BENEFITS OF UPGRADING 1-2-3 FOR DOS CAN BE EXPRESS FINANCIAL GUY

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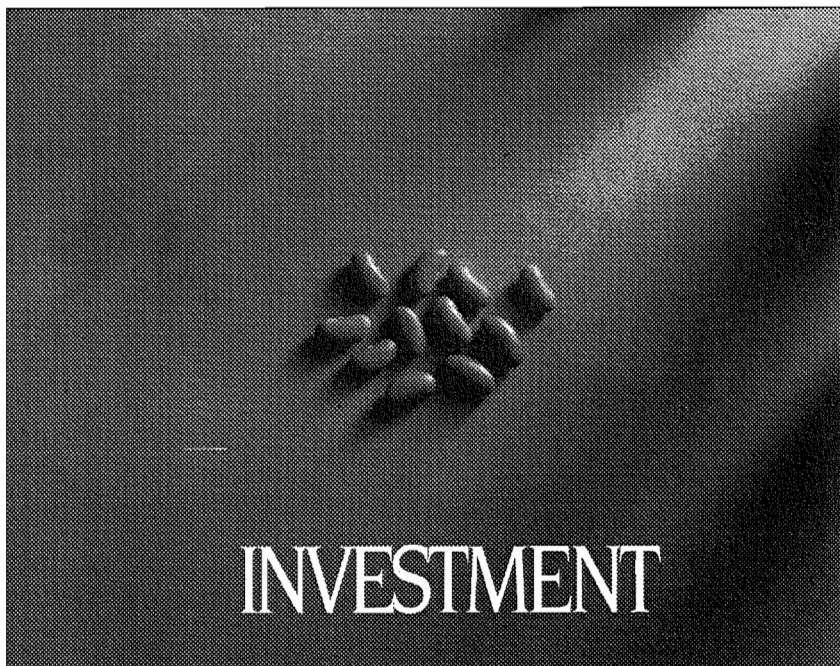
1-2-3 for DOS offers exceptional ease of use plus a GUI that lets you squeeze more out of the DOS environment — without forcing you to

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Savings/user/1 yr.	\$430
Number of users	500
Annual Dollar Savings	\$215,000

upgrade your hardware. This adds up to an incredible return on investment.

In fact, independent research from the Gartner Group demonstrates that the productivity enhancements of 1-2-3 for DOS Release 3.4 translate directly into money saved: you can expect gains in

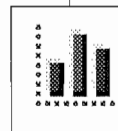
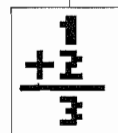


individual productivity in excess of 20%. And a return on investment of 330%. In the first year.\*

For example, a corporation with 500 users would spend about \$59,500 to upgrade to 1-2-3 Release 3.4. Based on a productivity model which considers the cost of training and support, this corporation would save over \$200,000 annually in support costs as a result of the upgrade. No matter what size your company is, upgrading to 1-2-3 R3.4 will save you money and increase your productivity.

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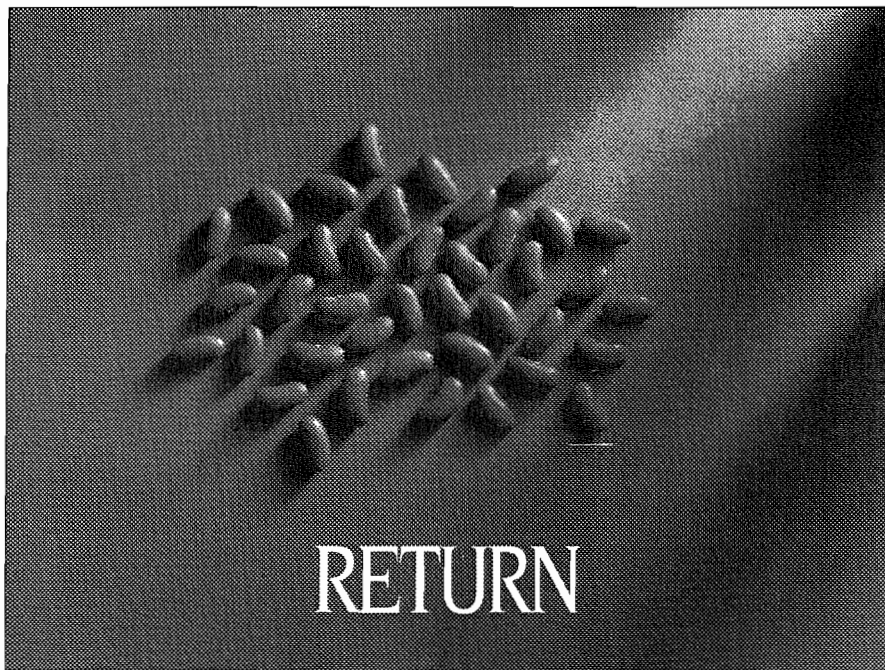
It just makes sense. First, 1-2-3 Release 3.4 has significantly increased the speed of key functions like product load, print, display and recalculation. And R3.4 prints faster, calculates faster, moves blocks of data faster and cuts file retrieve time practically in half. You save time. And time is money.



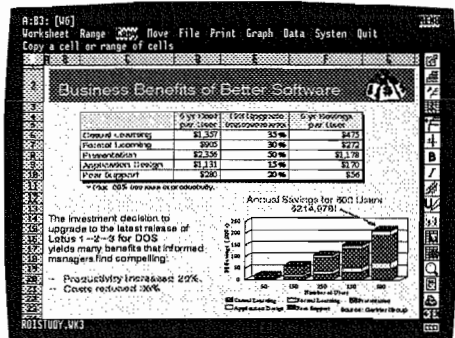
\*Based on an upgrade SRP of \$129. Gartner Group, 1993. \*\*Qualifying second Lotus spreadsheets are 1-2-3 for DOS or 1-2-3 for Windows™ shipping in 1994. Second Lotus spreadsheet must be purchased between Lotus DataLens and 1-2-3 are registered trademarks and SmartIcons™



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innovative features like DataLens® for external database access, which makes working with outside databases much

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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

November's program will feature projected demonstrations of ACCESS tips and techniques. Because our members range from beginners to advanced users, a variety of topics at different levels are planned.

Special thanks to Mike Carr, President of Salinor Corp., for his October presentation on the "Pros and Cons of ACCESS Databases with Visual Basic." Mike's discussion of his experience and observations on the subject, beginning with the beta test days of Visual Basic 3.0, was helpful for developers and users alike.

Three ACCESS-related disks are on the BBS, attached to messages in the "Swap Shop" message area:

- The ACCESS self-running demo,
- ACCESS self-study material for users getting started with ACCESS
- The ACCESS Companion Disk, Ed. 1.0, with sample databases for ACCESS users.

These files are very large, but they have also been submitted to the NTPCUG DOM. [Ed. note: these are DOM disks #860, 861 and 862.]

Reminder: Useful ACCESS material is in "Database" message conference of the NTPCUG BBS. An electronic copy of the "ACCESS SIG Notes" is uploaded each

month for those who aren't able to attend the SIG meeting.

Thanks to Microsoft for providing us with a copy of ACCESS 1.1 to be loaded and used on the NTPCUG demonstration PC.

Larry Linson

### ACT! SIG

Robert Hyde of Productivity Point has agreed to demonstrate some modifications that he has made to ACT! for Windows. He has done a number of specialized screen layouts and a program for the delayed sending of Faxes directly from ACT. The screen layouts work with both PC's and Mac's. Robert will be with us at the December 11 meeting.

The network version of ACT! for Windows will be released on DEC 11. I am working on getting a demo for the SIG in January.

We continue to solicit your input and questions:

Jim Thompson

### APL SIG

We are forming (again) an APL SIG at the NTPCUG. I have volunteered to act as SIG leader. We expect to have our first meeting in November (if not November, then December). Meeting time is unknown, but it will be either before 11 AM or after 1 PM. The topic of discussion for the first meeting is "Playing to the Hardware and Implementation Idiosyncrasies".

We hope that this SIG will provide an opportunity for those in the APL community to interact with the wider (much, much wider) PC community and vice versa. For those of you with no RECENT exposure to APL this will provide an introduction to the modern APL implementations.

### FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

#### Changes To SIG Meeting Times:

- Microsoft Networking** @ 8:00 [contact Debbie Lenhart at (214) 714-6000]
- TI-Pro** @ 12:00 until 12:55 [contact Jack McCurley (214) 348-9048]
- Investors** @ 11:00 - 12:55 [contact Dick Ritchman (214) 437-0322]
- Startext** @ 9:00 [contact Jim Boughton (817) 478-6665]

#### Changes in SIG Names:

- UNIX/Xenix** to **UNIX**
- Advanced BASIC** to **BASIC Classic**

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

- Personal Users Leader** [contact Alex Lilley @ (214) 517-7430 or Doug Gorrie @ (214) 618-8002]

#### The requirements for forming a SIG are:

- Leadership** — at least one individual willing to lead the SIG and 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.



Final meeting times and any last minute changes will be posted on the BBS.

Frank Cavallito

## Assembler SIG

Our October meeting, rather than being a continuation of the unfinished September presentation on Windows System Programming, turned into a discussion of various languages, including Assembler, C and APL.

A change in the SIG leadership was announced. Three years seemed to be enough and Glynn Brooks has volunteered to assume the SIG leadership. Glynn will be looking for an assistant - interested parties are urged to contact Glynn. The presentation in November will be a discussion on some of the material presented in the DOS 6 Programmers Technical Reference. As usual, check the BBS for any last minute changes.

Frank Cavallito

## 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 who wants to know more about its use should drop by. Over time, topics range from the absolute basics of installing a modem and software to use of off-line mail readers. Questions are encouraged at each meeting.

We normally meet at 1:00 PM, immediately after 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

## Beginners BASIC SIG

The Beginners BASIC SIG features GW-Basic & QBasic step-by-step program writing with small sample programs. There will be a six to eight-page instruction sheet available at each meeting. We will entertain questions and answers on any Basic Code subject at any time. This group has renamed itself the "No Windows Basic SIG" (NOW Basic for short with a chuckle).

Programs VC.ZIP (September) and ND.ZIP (October) were put on the BBS for easy downloading by NOW Basic SIG members.

A DOM disk #846 was released in August with all the material through August covered, including Basic code examples and extremely useful shareware utilities. This DOM will be expanded each six months.

To be covered in 1993: Bit/hex/decimal conversion, memory and disk exploration, payroll programs, general ledger programs, your own spread sheet program, inventory control--your own database program code (not necessarily in that order).

Charles Jacobus

## C++ SIG

In October, Howard Harkness who is an instructor for Technology Exchange Corporation and a long-time SIG attendee, talked about I/O streams. His emphasis was on using streams for file processing, which he demonstrated with a special-purpose sort program.

This makes four consecutive months that we've had a presentation. It's high time we just sat around and talked for an hour.

November will be open to any C++ or OOP topic (or even C topics, as long as they're advanced!) that you'd like to discuss.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

## Communications SIG

For November, we are pleased to have DCA, the makers of Crosstalk, present to discuss the concepts of remote access, and RLN, their Remote LAN Node product. RLN gives remote PC users having asynchronous modems the ability to dial into LAN environments, and become "nodes" on those networks.

If RLN is more product than you need, then Remote 2 may be a less expensive alternative. DCA can adjust the discussion toward either product, as determined by the audience.

DCA advises that they will give away some DCA software products to some lucky SIG members among those attending.

Of course, we'll require that the winners be NTPCUG members. Join us at the giveaway!!

Our October meeting was a general Question & Answer session. Issues varied, but the Internet became the predominant item.

Be looking for additional Internet topics in the future.

Doug Gorrie and Bill Green

## Desktop Publishing SIG

Last month the Desktop Publishing SIG gained new leadership. Larry Linson left us to chair the MS Access SIG and Frank Bede has gone to associate status due to job pressures. In their absence, Deborah Bean has become the new SIG Leader. She will be assisted by Ray Hackney.



Our November program is entitled "Getting Graphic with your Publications" and will cover the following areas:

- Getting Images- Using your "Image-ination" a presentation by Deborah Bean
- The Legalities of Using Images- a open forum lead by Ray Hackney
- Using Images
- Converting Image Formats, or "Standards Aren't" - a short presentation by Neal Berkowitz

Please be sure to access the "Desktop Publishing" message conference area of the NTPCUG BBS for all late-breaking news and gossip and to discuss problems, queries, and solutions. We also welcome program suggestions.

Neal Berkowitz

## DOS SIG

What DOS will be the winner and reign in 1994? Jim Hoisington, DOS SIG Leader will have the podium at the November DOS SIG Meeting since Reagan ran away to Comdex.

Jim has some definite ideas (wishes) for the "Ideal DOS" and what he expects to come out from Microsoft, IBM and Novell/DRI for DOS users next year.

November's DOS SIG will be focused on what users really need from DOS, what's available now, and, what vendors are likely to provide in the next 12 months. Jim will continue to address some of the "hidden" utilities in DOS 6.0, i.e., the lesser-known, but highly useful tools available in current versions of DOS.

Jim will end the November Meeting on the usual Q&A session de-

voted to assisting users with present problems in using DOS with their systems.

Reagan Andrews

## Genealogy (General) SIG

The General Genealogy SIG is not oriented towards any genealogy hardware or software. It meets from 9-10 a.m. Three other genealogy SIG'S are software-program based, and are:

- Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG which meets from 10 to 11,
- Brother's Keeper (BK) SIG from 11-12,
- Roots III/IV SIG 11 -12:45.

Brother's Keeper meets in Room 7014, the rest in 6044. This is an exciting SIG to attend and it tries to list all programs several months in advance.

The 9 October program was on Imaging. It was brought by Lowell Davidson and Joe Panaccione, of Custom Imaging. The genealogy programs of the future will take advantage of the computer's ability to produce sound, color and animation, as well as being used as a data base (to enter your normal genealogy data) and a word processor to publish a book, or report, or sets of family group sheets, charts, graphs, lineages, time-lines, and the like.

Imaging is a start. With imaging you can scan in a picture (color, if you want), wills, birth certificate, etc.

As an example, I got Custom Imaging to scan a picture of three of my grandchildren that I carry in my wallet, brought it home and used Windows graphics to install it on my computer. Now, every time I bring up my computer, these three grandchildren, in living color, appear on my screen.

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. The December program will be a presentation of the available windows genealogy, and the Mac counterpart.

Al Sanford

## Hardware Solutions SIG

November is the time for some of us to break out our most comfortable walking shoes and head for the COMDEX show in Las Vegas to see all of the newest hardware. In my absence, the November meeting will be lead by Assistant SIG Leader Gary Johnson.

Andy Oliver, NTPCUG President-elect, will be a special guest at this month's meeting and will bring a feature presentation on the topic of "What is inside your PC and what will go wrong?". Andy says he has given this talk to "the Association of Internal Auditors and wasn't booted off the stage," so I can imagine this will be quite a treat.

Andy will have available an actual computer in order to demonstrate how hardware components go together to make the personal computer we use. If you have ever wanted to know what goes on inside that box, as well as what can go awry, then this presentation is one you do not want to miss.

As always, Hardware Solutions is a place where you can bring any questions having to do with hardware. The meeting should include time for the question and answer session in which both the SIG leadership as well as the guest speaker will participate.

Charles B. Miller



## Networking SIG

Leroy Tennison did an excellent job leading the October session. In case you missed it, Leroy led a lively discussion of where to get HELP! when you find yourself surrounded by network problems. Thanks, Leroy.

Leroy will also be leading the November Networking SIG meeting with a discussion of network administration and management considerations and will be sharing several years of experience as a network administrator. You won't want to miss this session.

Did everyone enjoy NetWorld 93 last month? How many times did you hear, "It's still in beta test but it's real solid and will be re-released before the end of the year?"

Special thanks to those of you who helped staff the NTPCUG booth. Be sure to put the Networks Expo on your 1994 calendar for September 20-22.

Bernie VanRoekel

## OS/2 for End Users SIG

The OS/2 for End Users SIG welcomes both experienced OS/2 users and converted DOS or Windows users. Most meetings feature live demonstrations of OS/2 software done by the SIG leader, SIG Members, or vendors.

Most regular members are running OS/2 2.1 at work or home. Questions are always welcome and there's almost always someone with experience in whatever area of OS/2 your interest may lie.

The October meeting covered a variety of useful OS/2 shareware and freeware programs presented by Larry Truesdale. Larry was even gracious enough to provide

free diskettes with these programs to the attendees.

For the next several meetings we will be covering chapters from the book "OS/2 2.1 Unleashed" published by SAMS.

Future Meetings:

- November – Chapters 1-3  
Stacker Software for OS/2
- December – Chapters 4-6  
One UP Corp.
- January, 1994 – Chapters 7-9

Bob Fermier

## PAF - Genealogy

PAF meets from 10 to 11 a.m. on XCHANGE Saturdays. Joe Waldrop is the leader of the SIG. They meet in room 6044. There is a disk library and a hard copy library at the meeting. PAF is the most popular genealogy program in use and costs \$35.

This month's discussion will present one example of how to run PAF under Windows. Some users use Windows to start up in the DOS mode of PAF. The application listed here will go a step further and show how to run PAF under Windows.

PAF can be run under Windows (has to be Windows 3.1, not 3.0) if you have a 386 or 486 computer. One advantage of doing this is to take advantage of using a word processor instead of the PAF editor for your notes. The reason for having to have a 386, or larger, computer is that you have to be able to have multiple windows on your screen, and this is only possible in the enhanced mode. Use your Windows Reference manual to setup PAF under Windows by doing the following:

1. Create a PIF under Windows using the PIF editor.

2. Select 512 KB, -1 KB desired, TEXT (Video Mem), Full Screen.

3. Save as PAF.PIF to directory where you have the PAF program.

4. Go to PGM MGR, select NEW (from File). For Command Line use PAF.PIF and for Working Dir specify the directory which contains PAF.

To run PAF program, double click on the highlighted PAF icon to get PAF in full screen mode. Alt-Enter toggles between full screen and a window. Clicking on the file drawer symbol in the upper left corner of the window gives a dialog box. To use a word processor for notes, select EDIT and then MARK. Mark the text by highlighting with the mouse. Press Enter and the highlighted text is copied to the clipboard. Go to the location you want to enter the text and "paste" it there.

A word processor can also be used to copy text to or from the PAF note file. Both PAF and the word processor must be running in their respective windows. Use the PGM MGR to start the word processor. Then highlight from PAF and paste to the word processor, or vice versa. A more in-depth write-up is in the article *PAF Notes and Windows*, by Gordon K. Cotton, pages 2-4, International PAF Users' Group, First Quarter, 1993.

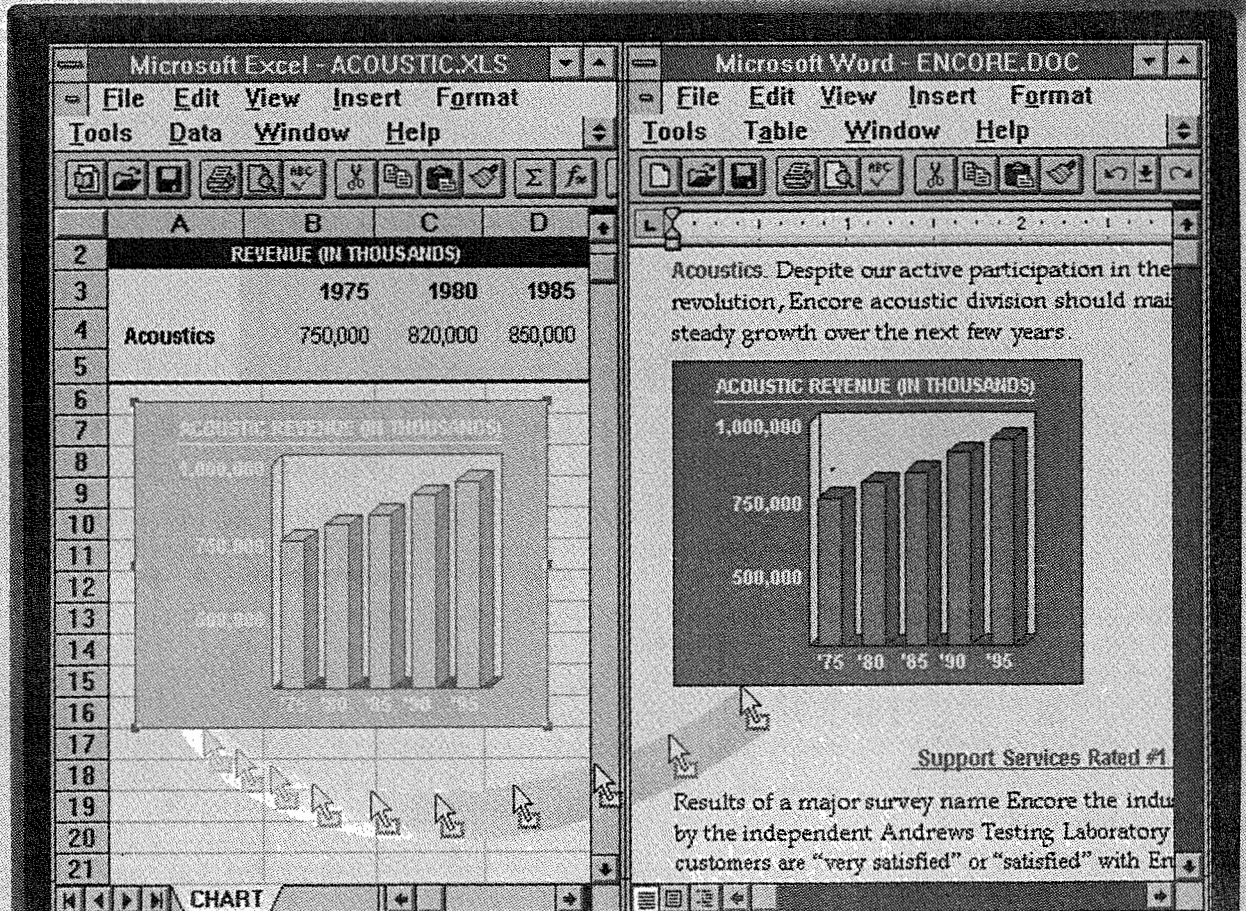
Al Sanford

## Personal Users

In November, the Personal Users will be presenting its 2nd series of classes including:

- 9:00 AM Class 5  
Fixed Disk Directories,  
Batch Files & Paths
- 10:00 AM Class 6  
Creating a DOS  
Menu System

# ANNOUNCING THE NEW MICROSOFT OFFICE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, ALL YOUR PROGRAMS WORK TOGETHER LIKE ONE.



## A whole new way to work.

With the new Microsoft® Office,\* all your programs do more than simply coexist. They thrive together. And that's only the beginning. Because the new Microsoft Office has all kinds of smart innovations you inspired.

## Intelligence that works for you.

Picture this. You're doing a report in new Word, and as you write, the typos you make are automatically fixed. Courtesy of AutoCorrect. Or say you need to do some analysis but you're a little fuzzy on how to do it. The Tip Wizard in Microsoft Excel tracks your work and offers insightful tips on new ways to do things with less effort.

This is our exclusive IntelliSense™ technology in action. It senses what you need then thinks ahead and helps you do your work the smartest, easiest way. So now 100 of your most common tasks are automatic. And complex jobs are dramatically easier.

Even if you're charting or designing sophisticated presentations, customizing form letters or creating data entry forms, you'll breeze right through, thanks to a little focused guidance from all our helpful wizards and Cue Cards. So you can put your manual away.

## What working together really means.

Our intuitive new OfficeLinks makes it simple to share text, data and graphics between programs. Without leaving your document.

Moving information between programs is like this: Drag a chart



from Microsoft Excel and drop it into Word with Drag-and-Drop.

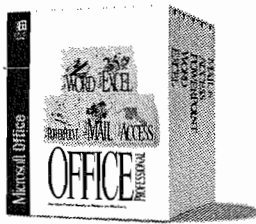
Then update with Visual Editing. Just click on the data you want to change and all the appropriate tools pop into place. It's seamless.

In the new Microsoft Office, things like toolbars, menus and buttons look, act and perform flawlessly alike. You may not even notice when you've changed programs. That's the whole idea.

If you'd like to see the new Microsoft Office in action, drop by the local meeting listed below.

Then get your work together like never before.

**NORTH TEXAS USER GROUP**  
**December 11, 1:00 P.M.**  
**Alexandria Auditorium**  
**InfoMart**  
**1950 Stemmons Fwy.**  
**Dallas, TX**



The new Microsoft Office Professional edition puts together these best-selling programs: Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Microsoft Access plus a Mail workstation license.

(Upper right) Only our Microsoft Office Manager (MOM) puts all the leading programs right at your fingertips with a click.

(Left) Sharing information between programs is as easy as dragging it from one and dropping it into the other.

\*Microsoft Excel, Word, the PowerPoint presentation graphics program and the Microsoft Access database management system are all part of the Microsoft Office family of programs. Microsoft Office Professional, shown here, includes these programs plus a workstation license for Microsoft Mail (server and software acquired separately). In the 50 United States, call (800) 426-9400, Dept. KX4. In Canada, call (800) 563-9048. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call your local Microsoft subsidiary or (206) 936-8661. © 1993 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft, PowerPoint and Microsoft Access are registered trademarks and IntelliSense and the Windows logo are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.



- 12:00 AM Class 7  
Fundamentals of Spreadsheets
- 1:00 PM Class 8  
Fundamentals of "Basic"

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.

Alex Lilley

## PRO SIG

Charles Sullivan, in a rare appearance before the Pro SIG, denounced the SIG leader for wearing a Microsoft FORTRAN Power Station tee shirt. Charles claims that having FORTRAN and Power in the same sentence is an oxymoron.

There was some talk of bringing a rope to next month's Pro SIG.

Jim Hoisington

## Spreadsheet SIG

At the November meeting, Mark and Adam will continue exploring 1-2-3 version 4.01 for Windows which started last month and largely became a discussion of some of the graphing capabilities. In addition, we will try and concentrate on the spreadsheet environment and some of the new capabilities and features included in this version of 1-2-3. Most of the review of 1-2-3 version 4 for Windows have been positive. Come on by in November and get some additional insight into this new version.

The Spreadsheet SIG always takes time to answer questions users are having with spreadsheet programs including 1-2-3, Excel, Quattro, and others. If you have a question, come to the meeting and ask, or leave a message in

the Spreadsheets Conference on the BBS.

Mark Gruner  
Adam Peterson

## Spreadsheet Developers

At the November meeting Mark and Adam will cover the DataLens feature of 1-2-3. DataLens allows a 1-2-3 version 3.X or Windows to query and analyze databases created in database programs such as dBase. Hopefully, Mark will be able to solve some of the configuration problems that caused the October presentation to bog down. The DataLens feature is very useful and does not require the user to know anything about the database other than the name of the program that created it and the name of the specific database. This powerful feature is very easy to use and simply treats the external database like a range name in 1-2-3. Come on by and learn more about it in November.

The Spreadsheet Developers SIG always takes time to address problems that developers are having in writing their models. If you have a problem, come on by and ask or leave a message in the BBS Spreadsheets conference.

Mark Gruner  
Adam Peterson

## StarSIG

StarSIG for October 9, 1993, featured StarText columnist Bob Zwick's presentation of his Stock\*Star program. It copies information from StarText for any chosen stocks, and saves it in comma-delimited files. Any number of stocks can be monitored.

SIG leader Jim Boughton has invited John Rody of KLIF to speak about Talk Radio Online, a new StarText feature at the November 20 StarSIG meeting. See you there at 9 AM, right after the un-sanctioned breakfast.

SIG leader Jim Boughton will attend Comdex in November. Watch for updates to the COMDEX1 through COMDEX5 keywords, and come to the December 11 SIG meeting for details.

William L. Jones

## Visual BASIC - Beginning

This month, we will venture into the world of database management with Visual Basic 3.0 and its powerful data control. This data control allows us to create significant applications for reading and updating the data in a database. The data control operates in conjunction with the Access Database Engine 1.1 to create these powerful applications.

We will create an application that will demonstrate the effectiveness of Visual Basic 3.0 as a Windows database development system. An excellent article on this topic appears in the October/November issue of *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal*. The article is entitled "Hand-Craft Your First VB 3.0 Database" and the author is Charles Darling. Reading this article will give you a large "heads-up" for the **Visual BASIC - Beginners SIG** presentation at the November Meeting, and to the **Visual BASIC SIG** that follows.

Last month, we discussed the procedures required to make copies of your application available to others. That is, we discussed the creation of an .EXE file and the additional files required for distribution. Gene Hamilton gave a quick demo of the Setup Wizard that is included as a part of the Standard Edition of Visual Basic 3.0.

If you acquired a copy of Visual Basic 2.0 Standard Edition last May from the NTCPUG and you registered it with Microsoft, you are eligible to upgrade to Visual





Basic 3.0 Standard Edition for mailing & handling costs of \$7.50 call 1-800-950-3535 and ask for department VM2. Have your credit card ready when you call! This offer is being extended to anyone who purchased Visual Basic 2.0 (Professional or Standard) after April 15, 1993.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic (Check the screens in the lobby for the room location) at 8:00 AM on November 20. See you then.

Jim Carter

## Visual BASIC SIG

The November meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will include a discussion of database management. The most significant added feature to Visual Basic 3.0 was the data control. The Beginning Visual Basic SIG will discuss the data control and its capabilities in the Standard Edition of Visual Basic 3.0 during the 8:00 to 9:00 slot.

Woody will extend that discussion to include the features available in the Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0 during the 9:00 to 10:00 AM slot. It's time to explore the powerful features within Visual BASIC now that it can control the Access 1.1 data engine.

The October meeting included a discussion of the issues around multi-programmer projects. Woody discussed several software packages, including the recently-released Microsoft Delta. L.J. Johnson gave a synopsis of The VBITS meeting held in Boston the previous week.

As usual, there will be time for your Visual Basic questions. Bring them to the November 20 meeting at 9:00. See you there.

Jim Carter

## MS Word SIG

Before anyone gets too excited about what the Word SIG is up to, let me remind all that there will be no SIG meeting in November because of the large number of SIG members who went to COMDEX. The Word SIG has suffered from logistical problems in the last two months. First, Reagan's demo machine's hard disk crashed, then this month, mine followed. Unfortunately, Word for Windows is not something you can run off of a floppy disk. Hopefully these glitches are now behind us.

The October meeting was attended by an "insider" at Microsoft Corporation who refused to confirm or deny any of the rumors about the new Word for Windows version 6.0. Rumor has it that the new version may be ready for debut at Las Vegas, and if so this may be the subject of the next Word SIG meeting in December. One thing which cannot be denied is that version 6.0 of WFW is coming soon and it is supposed to be as much of a revision as was version 1.0 to 2.0.

As a loyal Word for DOS user for almost a decade, it has been nearly impossible to tear me away from Word for DOS even though I'm impressed by WFW's power. WFW 6.0 promises to speed the process of my conversion (originally scheduled for well into the next century) to the Windows environment. At the same time, it is my hope that many other NTPCUG members will take the opportunity to come aboard the Word SIG so that we can all share our knowledge.

Charles B. Miller

## WordPerfect for DOS -- Tip of the Month!

There are many characteristics that you can assign to text; bold, underline, italic, font sizes, etc.

Most characteristics come as a paired code. One code turns it on, another turns it off. Any text that is typed between the two codes will have that characteristic. Usually, you turn on underline, then type the text, then turn underline off the same way you turned it on. NOTE: I'm not telling you the keystrokes for underline because they vary depending on whether you use pulldown menus or keystrokes and your WP version (5.X or 6.0.)

When you reveal codes, with version 5.1 you'll see that the "on" code is all caps and the "off" code is lower case. With 6.0, the codes say [Und On] and [Und Off].

You don't actually have to "turn off" codes as you type. The "off code" is there all along. You just need to position the cursor to the right of the off code in order to turn it off by touching a {Right Arrow}. That's exactly what happens when you use the underline feature the 2nd time to turn it off.

Using the {Right Arrow} (or possibly the {End} key) is not a time saver for bold and underline, but it is for italics or double underline since those take several keystrokes to turn off.

**FOR NOVEMBER:** Since most of our membership is still dedicated to 5.1—even those with 6.0 still use 5.1 occasionally—our emphasis will be on 5.1. We will incorporate differences between the two versions as we can on a per-topic basis.

In November, we're going to present—um—um—creative graphics. Yeah! That's it! Sounds like a good topic heading into the Holiday season. This is a feature where you'll quickly see the advantages of WP6 over WP5. We'll create the same Christmas Card in both versions! See you there!

Lori Quinn

# NEW DISKS

## ...from the DOM Squad

**Disk 857. Rodeos & Western Events 1.0, 5/93 -- List of Western Events by Joe Anderson, A Bit Soft, Company, P.O. Box 80036, Austin, TX 78727-0036. Registration Fee: \$9.95.**

Rodeos and Western Events is essentially a state-by-state list of rodeos and other western events such as livestock shows. The program is very easy to use and a real plus if someone is looking for western events for to attend and even vacation-planning.

**HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:** Documentation does not include any, but minimal hardware is required - a mouse may be required.

This software was donated by the author.

*Review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Will Davis (10/93).*

**Disk 858. Propagation Forecast 2.4, 7/93 -- Radio transmission utility by Scott Craig [WA4TTK], 409 Jessie Drive, Nashville, TN 37211.**

There is no registration fee; this is a free program. However, it can not be used for any commercial applications.

This program is recommended for anyone interested in Radio Propagation and "DX" or long range listening and transmissions. This program will plot the radio propagation from values of Sun Spot and Solar Flux data. The program can support about 1200 daily entries. Use the mouse to place an arrow on any point on the chart, and the Sun Spot number and Flux for that time is shown on the screen. The screen is multi-colored so following the curve is relatively simple.

There is a supporting file with the program that is accessed by a "?" keystroke at any time. Details of other keyboard operations is detailed in the "?" file.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** The program requires about 128 Kbytes of memory, an EGA or VGA video adapter and color monitor are required. Microsoft compatible Mouse is recommended but not required. Author recommends that the program be run from a hard drive. Also it is necessary to have a source of the Sun data to update the files to get usable data.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member I.F. Miller (W5PBN).

*Review prepared by I.F. Miller, edited by Kathryn Loafman (10/93).*

**NOTE:** Dom Disk 859AB are distributed on 1.44M diskettes.

**Disk 859AB. 1-2-3 4.01 Update Kit, (9/93) -- Update to 1-2-3 4 for Windows, Lotus Development Corporation. September 20, 1993.**

Dear 1-2-3 Release 4 Customer:

This Release 4.01 update kit is available free to all users of 1-2-3 Release 4 for Windows. To check which release you have, go to the 1-2-3 menu and choose Help, and then choose About 1-2-3. If the dialog box says 1-2-3 Release 4, then this kit applies to you. If it says 1-2-3 Release 4.01, then you do not need this update.

This new release delivers some new features that are described below, and addresses most of the customer problems and concerns that have been reported since we first

shipped in June 1993. For example, one problem is that users working with absolute references in specific sequences may sometimes get inaccurate results.

We suggest that you take advantage of these enhancements right away. It usually takes only 5 minutes, and will not change any of your settings, defaults, macros, or any other aspect of your installation. You can also use the disks to update a 1-2-3 Release 4 on a network. Node installations running from an upgraded server installation do NOT need to be updated.

This new release also delivers updated DataLens drivers for accessing external data. The Paradox driver now supports both Paradox 4 as well as Paradox for Windows. The OS/2 Data Manager driver now supports DB/2. This update only installs these if you have previously installed these drivers from your original diskettes.

Last but not least, the new release include Application Field Exchange, an exciting new way to move data between 1-2-3 and Lotus Notes.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Beir, Vice President, Spreadsheet Division

Editor's note: Parts of the above letter have been omitted which did not specifically apply to description.

This software was donated by Lotus Development Corporation.

*This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Will Davis (10/93).*

**NOTE:** The following 3 DOM Diskettes are distributed on 1.2M disk only.

**Disk 860. Microsoft Access 1.0 & 1.1 DEMO, 9/92 -- DEMO of Microsoft Program created for Microsoft by Advanced Computer Graphics, Inc.**

This is a self-running demo of Microsoft ACCESS, applicable

to version 1.0 or 1.1. In the first few months of its availability ACCESS became the best selling Windows database management system ever. This screenshow presentation describes the interface and features, so those interested in the program can make a more informed purchase decision. The screen show runs approximately one half-hour and illustrates the Microsoft ACCESS database objects: Tables, Queries, Forms, Reports, (point-and-click, no-code-required) Macros, and Modules (to contain Access Basic Code for the advanced developer). It also explains using Wizards, Cue Cards, and Help to assist the user to work "smarter not harder."

This is a demo, NOT a working model of the program with certain features disabled. It requires an IBM-compatible computer with DOS and a VGA display; it does NOT require Microsoft Windows (although the actual Microsoft ACCESS software DOES require Windows).

The demonstration is copyrighted but permission has been granted to "copy freely." No registration nor fee is required.

The source for this software was Microsoft.

*Review prepared by Larry Linton, edited by Will Davis (10/93).*

**Disk 861. Microsoft Access Companion Disk, Edition 1.0, 5/93 -- Sample forms and databases, Microsoft Corporation.**

This disk was provided upon registration of my ACCESS 1.1 Update, ordered directly from Microsoft. You will need Microsoft ACCESS installed to run the Companion Disk. The disk contains the following sample databases:

MSCMS.MDB -- A new contact manager and diary application to easily track personal and business contacts, demonstrating new ways to design

forms and menus in ACCESS. You can use it as the basis for your own application. (Developed by Timeline, Inc. (206) 233-1002.)

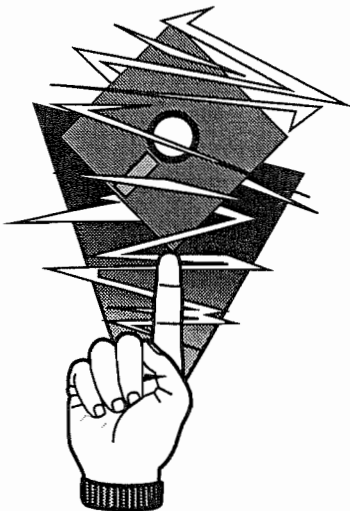
MSFORMS.MDB -- Five sample forms you can use "as is" or customize more for use in your own database applications. (They are a sample of the Access Business Forms Library, developed by Cary Prague Books and Software, phone orders (800) 277-3117 FAX orders (203) 644-5891.)

MSSWEETS.MDB -- Shows how a small candy distributor could use ACCESS to run its business. Demonstrates forms and reports that you can adapt to use in your own business. It is the example database for the book "Microsoft Access Step by Step." [Provided courtesy of Microsoft Press.]

MSDIRECT.MDB -- A comprehensive directory of trainers, consultants, user groups, books, and more for Microsoft ACCESS. (Developed by TechWorks International (203) 221-1500.)

The demonstration is copyrighted but permission has been granted to "copy freely" and to use the samples in your own applications, as noted above. No registration or fee is required.

The source for this software was Microsoft.



*Review prepared by Larry Linson, edited by Will Davis (10/93).*

### Disk 862. Microsoft Access Training, 12/92 -- Training files and demo scripts.

This diskette contains training material and demo scripts (see below) for use with Microsoft Access. To obtain the most benefit, Access 1.0 or 1.1 should be installed. Briefly, the names and function of each of the files on the diskette are:

README.TXT - Instructions provided by MS (please read these). HALFDAY.EXE - Self-extracting executable containing training material. SHRTSCRIP.DOC - "Short" (10 minute) demo script in MS Word format.

LNGSCRIP.DOC - "Long" (45 minute) demo script in MS Word format. STATES.DB - A Paradox 3.5 table used when running the "long" script. STATES.PX - A Paradox 3.5 index used as above. INFO20.DOT - A MS Word Template file.

When I first worked with Access I found these materials to be very much of value.

TRAINING MATERIAL The training material is stored in 13 files in MS Word format and is approximately 120 printed pages in length. Each section contains material which 1) introduces and "teaches" a topic (e.g., navigating in Access, tables, looking at data, forms, wizards, etc.), 2) offers the reader the opportunity to apply (thru exercises) the knowledge just "learned", and 3) presents a summary of the material just covered.

DEMO SCRIPTS Two demo scripts - in MS Word format - are on the disk; these are uncompressed and are found in the root directory on the diskette. The short script is six printed pages and takes 10 minutes to go through; the long script is 16 printed pages and takes 45 minutes to go through.

## NTPCUG On-Line

By Fred Williams,  
Sysop, NTPCUG BBS

Kind'a pressed for time this month, so this will be a short one. OK!, OK!, Already. Enough cheering.

### Internet is still news—and, real strange

Doug Gorrie is back on the trail of the always elusive Internet connection. Seems he found a contact point at Southwestern Bell. Hope this proves to be a much more "real world" experience than the previous encounters related to Internet.

A couple of times I swear I could hear the theme from the original *Star Trek* just above background noise when talking with a couple of the real "flakes." I'm beginning to get a little "gun shy" and a lot insecure about this whole thing since Internet sure seems to attract a strange crowd.

I had access to a Usenet News feed for over a year a while back. Everybody else must have more time to "communicate" than I do. I only tried to cover about 10 News Group Topics and that burned up so much of my productive day that I finally just quit calling. Life's too short to sit around reading "Flame" messages between a half dozen geeks.

If we can actually hit on a "Mail Feed" from the Internet our BBS users will be in a position to take advantage of international E-Mail. We will most likely be able to carry a small subset of Usenet News Topics also. In reality, the Usenet News topic base is so overwhelmingly massive that I know all of the *alt.'s* will never make it to our BBS.

### Knowledgebase on BBS?

e-Soft has just recently announced a new TBBS utility that will facilitate the connection of CD-ROMs I am personally evaluating additional hardware requirements for possible addition of CD-ROM drives to the BBS. The initial plan and thinking is that this would al-

The database used in the demo is Northwind.mdb which ships with Microsoft Access and is loaded during setup (unless you specified a minimum setup).

The demonstration is copyrighted but permission has

been granted to "copy freely." No registration or fee is required.

The source for this software was Microsoft.

*Review prepared by Jack Atkinson, edited by Will Davis (10/93).*

# On Complexity

No. 72 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington



As I look at the list of software projects that I'll be doing in 1994, I've noticed a change in the function of the programs. Most of the programs that I will be writing in 1994 will be communicating with other programs and with other computers, not with humans. This is a significant change from the programs I have written in the past.

In the early days of computing, programs either processed data from humans into the computer or reported the data that was already in the computer to the humans. Software served as a conduit between the human world and the computer world.

As computer memory became larger and programming languages became less tedious, programs sometimes did both input and reporting. But, the purpose of almost every program was to translate data between the computer and a human.

Three things are causing the change in the focus of programs:

1. the number of computers is growing rapidly,
2. communications between computers is easily available and mostly reliable,

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## NTPCUG On-Line ...Ctd.

low us to actually use the "free" *Knowledgebase* CDs that both Microsoft and Borland have been supplying to the NTPCUG. .

CD-ROM use probably would call for BBS hardware expenditures well over cost of the CD-ROM drives themselves. A second computer would be required as well as an upgrade of the existing BBS PC. The initial thinking is that the current 386 BBS platform could be shifted to become a "slave" machine and a new, more powerful PC could be installed as main BBS platform.

I hope to have a proposal to present to the BOD before the end of the year on this one. I'll start worrying about the Internet right after Doug gets that jelly nailed to the tree. Until then, don't let your Carrier drop!

Fred

3. general purpose programs to view data like word processors, spread sheets, and data bases, are commonly available.

As computers proliferate, it becomes cheaper and more reliable to gather data directly with the computer. As an example, I now pay for my gasoline at the pump using my credit card. I no longer need to go inside to complete the transaction with a human cashier.

What happens in the gasoline transaction is that a computer in the local gasoline station transmits my purchase information to a larger computer which services the North Texas region.

This computer, in turn, periodically updates the IBM mainframe computers in Kansas City where the oil company keeps all of its credit purchase information. The mainframes produce my monthly billing statement listing each of the purchase transactions and any payment transactions they have received.

Only human input is the payment transaction and I could probably arrange to have that become a computer-to-computer transaction through an electronic funds transfer debit to my checking account.

These programs that I have committed to develop in 1994 have a human interface but its purpose is to allow the human to monitor the program. The interface answers questions like, "How's it going?" "Have you had any problems doing your work?" "How much data have you processed lately?" "What are you doing right now?"

You may wonder with all these computers collecting data and passing it around between them, what person or persons have time to review all this data. The answer is, of course, that a computer reviews that data. I have one project to create a series of programs that will review the incoming data and report to humans any data that does not meet certain guidelines. The rest of the data gets sent to another computer to be archived for a specified amount of time and then it gets deleted. If the data is within normal ranges, no human ever sees it.

I'm not sure of all the implications of this automation of data processing, but I sure wouldn't recommend that a young person count on making a living as a data entry operator.

Jim

# Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

by Claude McClure

## Atlas Shrugged

Sometimes the North Texas PC Users Group develops a need for that special volunteer. This is one of those times, and fortunately our group has the answer in David Slavik.

David Slavik works in the Vendor Showcase Area on Xchange Saturday. You can find him setting up tables, answering questions from vendors, and maintaining that sense of order which makes the Showcase Area enjoyable for all of us. David's day starts before 7:00 a.m. on Xchange Saturday when he and a handful of dedicated volunteers park their cars in front of the Infomart.

Long before most of us rush to our first Special Interest Group of the day, the booths and rooms have been given

### Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus

### Vendor Setup/Breakdown

### Anchor:

Mike Griffin  
David Slavik  
Rod Rodolico (double)  
John Timbes

### Crew:

Jim Aragon  
Kenneth Berg  
Hank Coleman  
Robert Hartner  
Bill Vallance  
Paul Weathers

### Auditorium Presentations

Chris Jung  
John Ivers

### Information/Registration Booth

### Scheduler:

Bob Waller

### Anchor:

Connie Andrews  
Dianne Arnold  
John Arnold  
Al Aston  
Judy Griffiths  
Allan Harbaugh  
David Huckabee  
David Martin  
Raymond Reyes  
Jean Waldrep  
Paul Williams  
Bob Waller

### Booth Crew:

Mike Ashley  
Glynn Brooks  
Greg Canty  
Lorin Cranford  
Neil Culver  
Ron Deaton  
Eteta E. Eta  
John Galt  
Mac Gilarski  
Phillip Goodrich  
John Ivers  
Neil Jochelson  
George LaBrie  
Shirley London  
Cinda Lovil  
Claude McClure  
Foy T. Mills  
Elizabeth Rittenhouse  
Jennifer Wilkins  
Paul Williams  
Randy Wicks

### Disk of the Month (DOM)

### DOM Desk Crew:

Joe Allen  
Doug Athas  
Bernie Baars  
Roy Bales  
Nathan Bennette  
Rob Bender  
Gene Brown  
Gene Carleton  
Don Chick  
Oliver Daniels  
Norman Dang  
James Donlon  
William Farris

the once-over and equipped to present computer-oriented products and ideas.

The transition in management of our Monthly Meetings makes having strong dependable teams in positions of responsibility even more important. David can certainly be counted as an example of the self-reliant individual who brings benefits to all of the User Groups. Thanks to David Slavik and all of the volunteers who shoulder the needs of the Vendor Showcase Area.

Thanks to all SIG Leaders and Volunteers who work the Disk of the Month booth. Also, thanks to the Information Booth Volunteers and the Officers of NTPCUG.

### Charles Fernandez

Daramana Gata  
Thomas "Tuc" Goodwin  
Gene Hamelman  
Steve Hay  
Lloyd "Mac" McKeethen  
Duane Martin  
Jan Parkhill  
George Ponsford  
Bob Post  
George Read  
Craig Ringener  
Ed Snuggs  
Andy Stevko  
Oscar Tyler

### Jerry Stone

Inventory and Clean Up Crew:  
Gil Brand  
Charles Carter  
Debra Green  
Harold Menzel  
Roger Wick

DOM Desk Scheduler:  
Charles Cashion

Disks-for-Review Manager:  
Howard Hamilton

### With Special Thanks to:

Set-Up Crew:  
Kent Haven  
M. Pat Henley

### Disk Production:

Will Davis  
Kathryn Loafman  
Kenneth Loafman

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

### 3. By phone:

#### Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael (214)661-4626 (w)

#### DOM Booth Scheduler

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

#### DOM Software Review

Howard Hamilton (214)644-5721 (h)

#### Information Booth and General Information

Claude McClure (214)867-0978 (h)

## NTPCUG USER - TO - USER PROGRAM

Introducing the NTPCUG User-To-User program, composed of members who are willing to donate their time to help others with software and hardware questions. Some of our helpers are professional consultants. All have joined the User-to-User Program because they want to share their knowledge with others and help them. They 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			T&T	1800-2030
Access	Larry Linson	(817)487-2350	M-Sa	1300-1500	UNIX	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Assembly language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7	1800-2200	WP 5.x /Windows	Georgene Harkness		
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200			(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200 M-F 1800-2030
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869	7	0900-2200	Word for Windows	Beverly Kurtin	(817) 355-9594	7 ??
C (the language)	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200	Windows	Rick Sivemell	(214)306-5422	7 1830-2200
			T&T	1800-2030	XENIX	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
C++ (the language)	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 (all MS versions)	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/ProComm +	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700				
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900				
	Bill Green	(817) 731-f308						
Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148	7	1830-2100	Beginners	Microsoft C		Dataflex
	Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7	1000-2100	Hardware Help	Microsoft C++		dBase, dBase III+
SPFPC	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700	\$ & Sense	Visual C++		DeskLink
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900	Anti-Virus	CAD		Desktop Publishing
TurboVision	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200	Borland Turbo C	Corel Draw		MS/PC/DR DOS

**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

The subject areas below 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:**

- Microsoft C
- Microsoft C++
- Visual C++
- CAD
- Corel Draw
- 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
- Norton Utilities
- OS/2
- PAF
- Pagemaker
- PC Hookup
- PC Tools
- Personal Tax Preparer
- PKzip/PKUNzip
- Dataflex
- dBase, dBase III+
- DeskLink
- Desktop Publishing
- MS/PC/DR DOS
- Portfolio Analyzer
- Q&A File
- Q & A
- Quattro Pro
- QuietWrite
- RS-232
- Communications
- Roots
- Smart
- Smart Notes
- Sound Blaster
- Stacker
- SuperCalc
- Symphony
- TurboTax
- TurboVision
- Ventura Publisher
- Word (see Microsoft)
- XTree



### Membership Application

*North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.*

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

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

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

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

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

PHONE: (Check Preferred No.) Home \_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Metro? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Ext) \_\_\_\_\_ Metro? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

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 Groups

### Special Interest Group Meetings

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

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

SIG Coordinator	Alex Lilley	(214) 517-7430 h (214) 953-4970 w
ACT I	Jim Thompson	(817) 261-6159 h
Access	Larry Linson	(817) 481-2350 hM
	Jack Atkinson	(817) 481-6623 h
	Dianna DeCicco	(214) 446-0639 h
	Frank McCoy	(817) 232-2483 h
Alpha 4	Ron Jackson	(214) 276-3661 h
	Mac McKeethen	(214) 556-1352 h
APL	Frank Cavallito	(214) 423-9221 h
Assembler	Frank Cavallito	(214) 423-9221 h
BASIC - Beginning	Chuck Jacobus	(817) 379-6840 h
		(817) 379-5287 w
BASIC - Classic	Mike Firth	(214) 827-7734 h
BASIC Visual	Woody Pewitt	(214) 283-2292 h
		(214) 230-3485 w
		(214) 235-5968 h
BBS	Jim Carter	(214) 492-1315 h
	Fred Williams	(214) 618-8002 h
	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942 w
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214) 272-2869 h
Bus. Apps./DAC	Putt Shaw	(214) 235-2559 h
		(214) 669-9633 w
	Bruce Schubert	(214) 690-5848 h
C++/Advanced	Kent Cobb	(214) 233-8353 w
	Tom Cook	(214) 343-3862 h
		(214) 341-1890 h
		(214) 871-8177 w
C++/Middle C	Tom Cook	(214) 341-1890 h
		(214) 871-8177 w
CAD	Bill Sephton	(214) 296-1799 h
		(214) 641-7301 w
Communications	Doug Gorrie	(214) 618-8002 h
		(214) 464-7942 w
	Bill Green, III	(817) 731-1308 h
		(817) 738-6581 w
Community Service	Brian Mickel	(214) 521-2938 h
		(214) 521-6670 w
	Alex Lilley	(214) 517-7430 h
		(214) 953-4970 w
DOS	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101 h
	Reagan Andrews	(214) 828-0699 h
Datalfex	David King	(817) 640-6130 hM
		(214) 313-0408 w
Desktop Publishing	Deborah Bean	(214) 475-7463 h
		(214) 475-3124 w
Fox Pro	Ray Hackney	(214) 437-2439 h
Genealogy	Kevin White	(214) 644-5008 w
Hardware Solutions	Al Sanford	(214) 278-7888 h
	Charles Miller	(903) 938-4220 h
	Gary Johnson	(214) 938-0344 h
Investors	Dick Richtman	(214) 437-0322 h
MS Word	Charles Miller	(903) 938-4220 h
	Janet Patton	(903) 886-6249 h
MS Works	Mike Firth	(214) 827-7734 h
	Ralph Logan	(817) 498-9746 hM
Microsoft Networking	Debbie Lenhart	(214) 714-6816 w
Networking	Bernie Van Roekel	(817) 451-4540 h
		(817) 461-4120 w
OS/2 Developer	Francis Bright	(214) 279-5712 h
	James Dunn	(214) 497-8978 w
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	(817) 481-6625 h
		(214) 444-2195 w
PAF	Joe Waldrop	(817) 498-5856 h
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214) 492-1315 h
	Tom Browning	(214) 692-9764 h
Personal Users	Alex Lilley	(214) 517-7430 h
		(214) 953-4970 w
	Bob Russell	(214) 422-4269 h
Programmers	Kent Kingery	(214) 317-0125 h
	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101 h
Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817) 430-8148 hM
		(214) 630-1136 w
		(214) 699-9620 h
Roots III / IV	Jo Johnston	(214) 495-4410 h
Software Review	John Wylie	(214) 271-4911 h
	Pat Henley	(214) 326-2526 w
		(214) 475-7463 h
		(214) 475-3124 w
Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev.	Mark Gruner	(214) 964-8174 h
	Adam Peterson	
Startext	Jim Boughton	(817) 478-6665 h
		(817) 265-8044 w
TI Pro	Bill Jones	(214) 423-8486 h
	Jack McCurley	(214) 348-9048 h
		(214) 741-1993 w
UNIX	Walt Rice	(214) 596-7807 h
	Jim Stallworth	(214) 604-2226 w
		(817) 261-4653 hM
	Doug Scott	(817) 878-0367 hM
Window Apps.	Rick Sivernell	(214) 306-5422 h
		(214) 250-8146 w
Window Devel.	Art English	(214) 618-1266 h
WordPerfect / DOS	Lori Quinn	(817) 481-6453 h
		(214) 255-0555 w
	C J Bain	(214) 492-9129 h
		(214) 634-2104 w
WordPerfect / Windows	Mitch Milam	(214) 406-9054 w

### 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 inside front cover for date, time and place of the next User Group meeting.



#### Board of Directors

Doug Gorrie, Chairman

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

#### Officers

President	Doug Gorrie	(214) 618-8002 h (214) 464-7942 w
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214) 223-4044 h (214) 871-5750 w
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(214) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(214) 495-7071
Secretary	John West	(214) 620-8741 h
Membership Director	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. - (Acting)	Reagan Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214) 462-7980
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loafman	(214) 596-2539
Volunteer Coordinator	Claude McClure	(214) 867-0978 h
BBS	Fred Williams	(214) 492-1315

#### Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)	
Phil Chamberlain	Jim Hoisington
David McGehee	Stuart Yarus
Tom Prickett	Connie Andrews
	Kathryn Loafman

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

#### NTPCUG BULLETIN BOARD

Settings: N 8 1	(214)387-2751
	(214)387-2752
	(214)263-9036 (Metro)
SYSOP:	Fred Williams
Assistant Sysop:	Tom Prickett
Assistant Sysop:	Doug Gorrie
Information Mgt:	Lewis Graber
User Relations:	Adam Peterson
DOM Index:	Pete Testa
Voice line for validation problems:	
(214)682-0725	Ask for Adam

#### TI PRO BULLETIN BOARD (214)361-5275

SYSOP:	Tom Blackwell
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#### Address Changes, etc..

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

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date.)

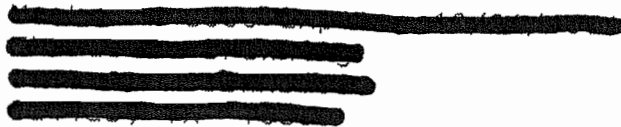


North Texas PC Users Group  
P.O. Box 780066  
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

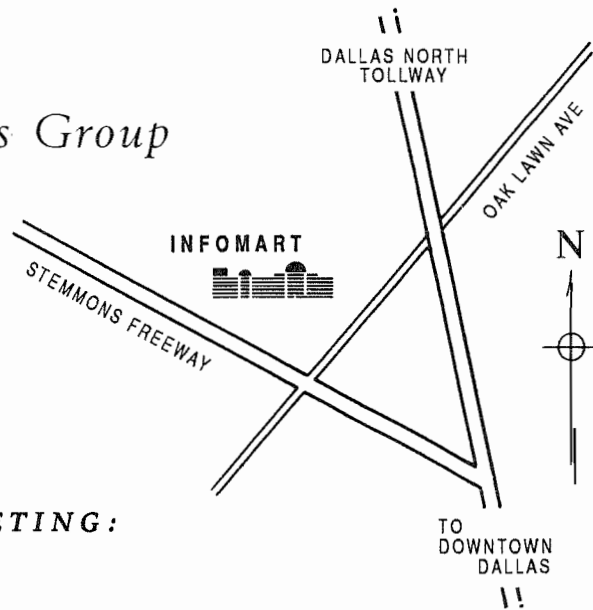
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Address Correction Requested.

12.11



*North Texas PC Users Group*



**NEXT MEETING:**

20 November 1993