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North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.



SEASONS GREETINGS

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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 2650 last month.

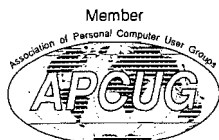
Member distribution was 2230; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Corel Ventura Publisher and HP Scanjet IIp. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica, Brush Script, Lithos and Mistral. This issue used a number of illustrations from the Corel CD-ROM Archive Collection.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for January
North Texas PC NEWS:
Friday, December 10th

Meeting Dates:

December 11, 1993 - 2nd Saturday
January 22, 1994 - 4th Saturday
February 19, 1994 - 3rd Saturday



Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

— Timothy Carmichael —

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Broderbund Software Review

Broderbund Software

Dave Hatchel, Sales Representative

Come see what is new from Broderbund. The company which produces Print Shop, Kid Text, Prince of Persia, Living Books and numerous other titles has many offerings now. There will be a drawing for free software. *

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Knowledge Adventure Multimedia Software

Knowledge Adventure, Inc.

Lynda Orban, Director of Corporate Communications

Discover what's new from Knowledge Adventure. The company has been quite busy since they presented at our November meeting last year. Lynda will demonstrate the company's award-winning multimedia educational CD-ROM and diskette software for the PC, its interactive movie technology and new 3-D technology. She will demonstrate 3-D Dinosaur Adventure where dinosaurs come alive in true 3-D images and 3-D movies. In addition, journey to the world beneath the seas in the company's new Undersea Adventure. And, experience the world's first interactive IMAX movie, Speed, with Knowledge Adventure's adaptation of this movie. There will be a drawing for free software. *

11:00 - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Microsoft Office for Windows

Microsoft Corporation

This demonstration of the latest release of the Microsoft Office family of Windows software will show you how integration and consistency between the products has been developed. IntelliSense technology provides Auto Tools and Wizards to make complex tasks simple. Programs in the new Microsoft Office family include Word version 6.0, Excel version 5.0, PowerPoint version 4.0, Access version 1.1 and Mail version 3.2. 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...



by Doug Gorrie

December Giveaways ...

There are at least two good reasons to do a giveaway in December — Christmas, plus we got a bunch of "stuff" from COMDEX. Too much to store at the house, and our budget does not allow for renting a warehouse. So, I'm declaring December 11th as another Giveaway Month at the NTPCUG Business Meeting, 11:00 in the Alexan-

dria Auditorium. As always, only NTPCUG members can win!

I.D. Cards, and Badge Holders ...

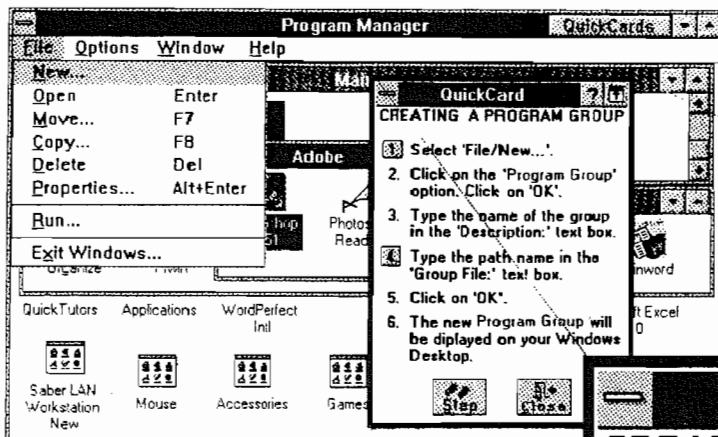
We are placing greater emphasis on members having their I.D. cards with them at our monthly meetings. Either the ID card or your current newsletter is needed in order to participate in member giveaways and similar events, so don't forget them. Please remember that we can no longer provide temporary receipts to the "forgetful", because our numbers have grown so much.

As requested at a recent Business Meeting, we hope to soon be printing ID cards with large, easily readable print. This will aid us in tying names to faces, as well as identifying the non-members who need to join. I encourage you to start wearing your ID card NOW, even with the smaller print, so

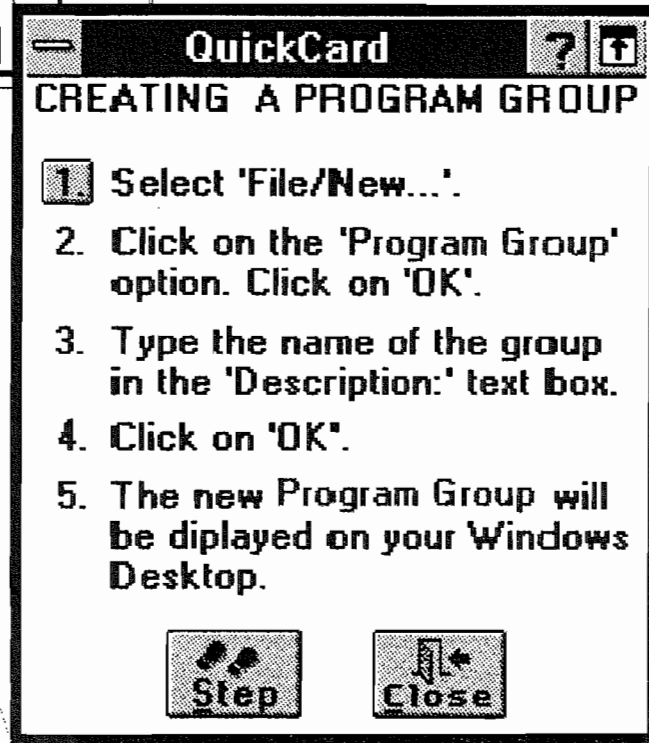
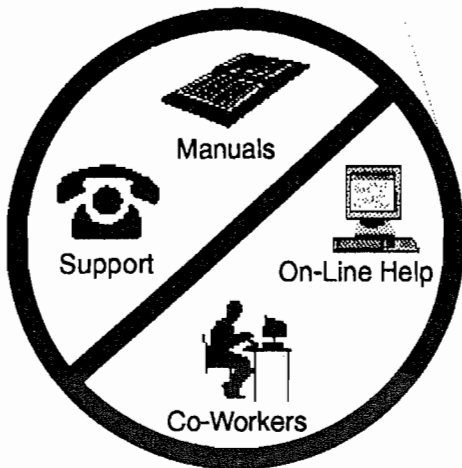


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Prez Sez... ctd.

it can be seen by others. In fact, consider this your first "New Year's resolution"! Look around your home for one of those badge holders received at past conferences, insert your NTPCUG ID (tape the ends !!), and proudly demonstrate your support. If you have extra holders, bring them by our Information Booth whenever they show up so we can pass them along to those in need.

Special Thanks ...

Publishing a newsletter for our 2,230 member organization is no small feat. Doing it properly requires a person having technical, editorial and organizational skills, plus some slack time. **Reagan Andrews** certainly has all these, although he finds the needed hours only by modifying the laws of physics. Neat trick!

Reagan, along with his wife and former NTPCUG Volunteer Coordinator, **Connie Andrews**, is also doing double duty coordinating advertising for *PC NEWS* until an Advertising Director is appointed. Both positions are critical to the success of NTPCUG, and I want to ensure that Reagan and Connie receive the proper accolades for all their efforts. Please join me in giving both a round of thanks.

Because there were so many, it's easy to forget how many great presenters we had this year. Reading the *PC News* reminded me of at least 25 major presentations. covering products like *DOS 6.0*, *OS/2 2.1*, *Windows for Workgroups*, *WordPerfect 5.2 & 6.0*, *Norton Utilities*, *Stacker*, *Quattro Pro*, *Paradox*, *FoxPro*, *MS Access*, *1-2-3*, *Ventura Publisher*, *Quicken*, etc. If you enjoyed the demonstrations and the giveaways, please thank **Timothy Carmichael** and his staff for doing such a fine job in scheduling.

In Retrospect ...

This will be my last *PREZ SEZ* for this year. There is great satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment in having been President of the NTPCUG.

Reviewing 1993 newsletters, I noted with pride that we had increased our membership from 1,732 to 2,230 — a growth in membership of 498 for the year. This continues the NTPCUG trend of constant growth since its beginning in 1982. I feel very proud of the North Texas PC Users Group and where it is going.

Additions, Changes and Losses in '93 ...

The NTPCUG underwent substantial changes over the past year as a result of membership growth, addition of NTPCUG services to members and loss of a long-time member, *PC News* Publisher and Member Emeritus, **John Pribyl**.

❖ Two new BOD Directors

With our greater membership comes the need for greater representation and services, so we created two additional director positions to the NTPCUG Board of Directors, making five in total.

❖ New User-to-User Program

The NTPCUG BOD recently instituted the User-to-User program, where members volunteer to share their computer expertise with other NTPCUG members.

❖ BBS Enhanced

Our Bulletin Board System (BBS) went to high speed modems (14.4k) on all lines, added support for offline mail readers, and enacted a JOBS conference. We even updated batteries in the UPS so they would work properly during power outages!

❖ Creation of DFW Xchange

As a finale to the year's activities, we joined with the Apple Corps of Dallas (ACD) in creating DFW Xchange, Inc. DFW Xchange assumed the former CCD's role in coordinating our monthly meeting and vendor operations with Infomart. This was a difficult decision to make, but necessary, and one that will benefit us and most involved User Groups.

❖ Four Members Emeritus

Four outstanding NTPCUG members who have made significant contributions to the Group were granted Member Emeritus status by the BOD for their ongoing support of NTPCUG — **Connie Andrews**, **Kathryn Loafman**, **David McGehee** and **Tom Prickett**.

❖ *PC News* Publisher Dies

Sadly, we lost **John Pribyl**, Member Emeritus, longtime *PC News* Publisher and friend. John was the first, and only, *PC News* Publisher from 1982 until his death in May, 1993.



Prez Sez... etd.

IBM, Microsoft Contribute ...

A surge in new members? Recognition of the NTPCUG as an important influence in the area PC community was certainly a factor.

Microsoft's support netted us 441 new members in March alone, and we were chosen as one of only 15 sites nationwide to participate in the rollout of DOS 6 (over 600 attended that night!) Later in the year, IBM stepped forward to pay the entire \$24 membership cost for 108 new and existing members as OS/2 2.1 was presented.

We also appreciated the efforts of Microsoft, Borland and Symantec in conducting a series of User Group Summit meetings where NTPCUG officers could deal face-to-face with some of the major players in the industry.

Would I Run Again?

Would I run for President again? Yes, I have enjoyed my first tour tremendously, made a lot of new friends, and look forward to continued involvement with NTPCUG in the future.

For those that don't recall, my introduction to BOD activities was back in 1991, when I occasionally did reports to the Board about the status of our Bulletin Board System (BBS). I had also been a SIG leader for a couple of years, but only came to



know the detailed, day-to-day workings of NTPCUG after becoming President-Elect.

What this means to you is that it is not necessary to know the innermost details of the NTPCUG before you can run for the BOD, or for President. *Unofficial* prerequisites include only a degree of level-headedness and a willingness to spend some time representing the User Group and furthering its interests, etc. On-the-job training IS available once you get elected. All this leads into the next topic ...

Elections -- Last Chance (for a while) ...

Elsewhere in this *PC News*, you will note the first slate of nominees for 1994 BOD and President-Elect positions. Is your name there? If not, we must have failed to get your call or letter, but look forward to hearing from you as you try to contact us again.

Seriously, if you are one that complains that it's always the same folks running for the BOD, consider running -- you can actually have an influence on NTPCUG and how it operates. New blood is essential for any organization to prosper. And, believe it or not, it can actually be fun. Think about it, review the nominees so far and consider running. And, plan to vote in January.

In Closing ...

On Saturday, November 6th, I attended the *First Saturday*, "under-the-bridge" sale for the first time. (This event always occurs during the early hours on the first Saturday of each month on various parking lots adjacent to Ross Avenue at Central Expressway.) I distributed flyers to remind vendors that our monthly meetings and vendor sales operation would occur as planned on November 20 and December 11th. Most vendors did not need reminding, telling me instead that our Infomart event was the major ongoing show in Dallas — an institution in its own right.

Do yourself, our vendors and the NTPCUG a favor by exposing one or more of your friends to the Infomart/DFW Xchange experience. What better time than December 11th, 2 weeks before Christmas! In fact, an NTPCUG membership makes a great gift to friends, business associates, etc.

As the holiday season approaches, remember to drive safely, shop early, and be sure to schedule time to attend Xchange Saturday.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Live long and prosper.

Doug Gorrie

KNOWLEDGE ADVENTURE PRESENTS ONE-STOP HOLIDAY SHOPPING!



***Toss your holiday shopping lists-
we've got you covered!***

From now until December 31st, you can stop by your local software store and get one blockbuster Knowledge Adventure product **FREE** for every two you buy. It's the simplest way to take care of loved ones (and treat yourself at the same time). Get a newly released **CD-ROM** version of an old favorite, or give all of the exciting new adventures from Knowledge Adventure this holiday season.

KNOWLEDGE ADVENTURE SPECIAL GIFTS:

AGE GROUP 2 AND OVER

The Tale of Peter Rabbit-The best way to learn how to read.

Available: PC disk and CD. SRP: \$12.95 disk; \$24.95 CD-ROM

Zurk's Learning Safari-Seven engaging games teach a multitude of learning skills.

From Soleil Software. Available: PC disk; Mac coming soon. SRP: \$59.95 disk

Kid's Zoo - A baby animal adventure.

Available: PC disk and CD; Mac coming soon. SRP: \$59.95 disk; \$79.95 CD-ROM

AGE GROUP 3 AND OVER

Dinosaur Adventure-A scientifically accurate dinosaur spectacular in voice, graphics and film.

Available: PC disk and CD; Mac disk and CD. SRP: \$49.95 disk; \$69.95 CD-ROM

Bug Adventure - Ideal for young children and insect enthusiasts.

Available: CD-ROM; PC disk coming soon. SRP: \$59.95 disk; \$79.95 CD-ROM

Undersea Adventure - Dive into a fascinating new underwater frontier.

Available: PC disk and CD. SRP: \$59.95 disk; \$79.95 CD-ROM

AGE GROUP 5 AND OVER

Space Adventure - Voyage through space with full-motion video and science simulations.

Available: PC disk and CD, Mac disk; Mac CD coming soon. SRP: \$59.95 disk; \$79.95 CD-ROM

Isaac Asimov's Science Adventure -Take a trip though the worlds of Chemistry, Biology, Physics and more.

Available: PC disk; CD-ROM coming soon. SRP: \$59.95 disk; \$79.95 CD-ROM

Knowledge Adventure - A journey of sight, sound and mind. No CD-ROM required!

Available: 3.5" PC disk only. SRP: \$59.95

Note: All prices shown are suggested retail price. Check with your dealer for the best available price.

Take this page to your favorite software store and make a clean sweep of your shopping this year. Call (800) 542-4240 for a store near you.



A Look at the OS/2 Workplace Shell

Bernard F. Mayoff

The Workplace Shell in OS/2 Version 2 is the first feature a new user will see. Because it is so intuitive and easy to use, you'll just naturally start using it if you've taken the tutorial, seen a demonstration, or used another GUI (Graphical User Interface) such as *Windows* or the Macintosh.

For users who would like to know a little bit more about the Workplace Shell without getting too technical, this article explains the kinds of things you see on the OS/2 desktop and what they are for.

The Workplace Shell provides a remarkably friendly and very powerful user interface. It is different than the *Windows* Program Manager, and *Windows* users will take a little while to make the adjustment. Very quickly both *Windows* users and non-*Windows* users learn to like the Workplace Shell and to find it preferable to other interfaces. Of course if you're a long-time DOS user and you think the only way to use a computer is by typing in commands, you'll want to bypass the Workplace Shell — and this article.

There are four kinds of objects on the OS/2 desktop. These are:

- ❖ Containers,
- ❖ Data Files,
- ❖ Programs,
- ❖ Devices.

Containers hold things. Examples are folders. You can put things in containers and they stay there. You can put folders inside folders. When you open a folder by double-clicking on it, you can see the things it holds and you can do things to those things.

If the folder contains folders, you can open them and you can see the contents of the "master" folder and the "inner" folders at the same time.

There are really two kinds of folders. With a "normal" folder, a master folder, you can close the folder (like putting it away) or hide it and you'll still be able to see the contents of any "inner" folders you may have opened. There is also a "magic" folder, called a work area. If you close or hide a "magic" folder all of the things that were in it will also close or hide along with it. Wouldn't it be nice if you could clean off your desk, or switch the mess on your real desk, as easily as this?

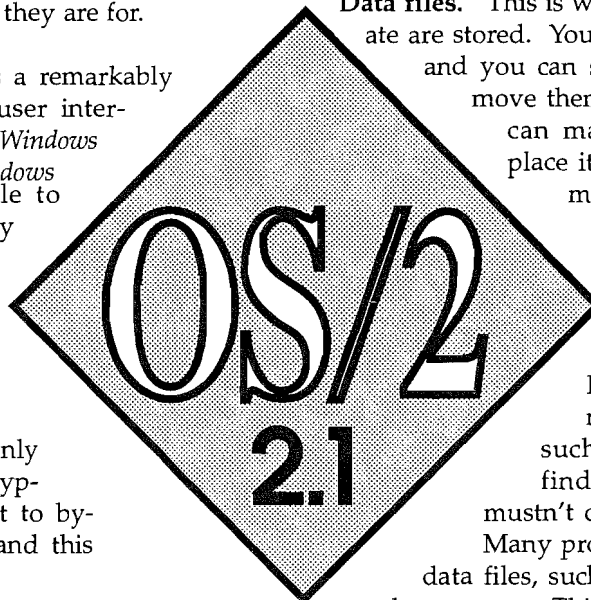
Most programs look for data in "directories". Directories are the same as folders. This is a carry-over from the DOS operating system. Over time, programs may start referring to directories as folders.

Data files. This is where the things you actually create are stored. You can name the things you create and you can store them in folders. You can move them from folder to folder and you can make a copy of a data file and place it in another folder. You can also make a copy of a data file and keep it in the same folder but you have to give the copy a different name so that you can tell the two copies apart.

If you start a program, it may need specific data files to work, such as a dictionary. If it doesn't find them, it won't work so you mustn't change the names of those files. Many programs let you create or modify data files, such as a document created with a word processor. This kind of program will usually let you choose the name of the data file and let you decide which folder to put it in.

You can also create a "shadow" of a data file and put it into any folder you choose. A shadow isn't a "copy" of a file, it is more like a "post-it note" that tells you where to find it - but it is even better. You don't have to go to the real location. You can use the shadow instead and everything you do will happen only to the "real" file! (You can also make shadows of folders, programs and devices.)

Sometimes you can double-click on a data file and it will automatically start the program that uses it! Some programs tell the operating system how to do this when you install them. You can also tell OS/2 which program to start when you click on a data file.





OS/2 Workplace Shell ... ctd.

You don't have to worry about whether something is a data file or a program. If you click on a program it will start to do its thing. If it needs to know what data to use, it will ask. If you click on a data file, it starts the program that it thinks is the right one, or OS/2 will tell you that it doesn't know what to do.

Programs do things

We've already mentioned programs. **Programs DO THINGS** to data files. They let you change them, or they change them for you.

Word processors let you create and change data files. Financial management programs, like *Quicken*, change the data files for you based on the things you tell the program. Communication programs take the data you type and send it out over your telephone line, or receive data from your phone line and put it on your computer.

There are some programs that can **DO THINGS** to other programs. So programs are a special kind of thing (object). Sometimes programs are the doers, but sometimes they are data files to other programs. You **DON'T HAVE TO** treat programs differently in these two situations, but OS/2 will **LET** you treat them differently.

OS/2 and the Workplace Shell let you use a special "thing" that you can name whatever you want and store in any folder you want and that "thing" will start a program for you. When you are setting up your system or installing a new program you have to tell the "thing" the real name of the program, the name that is used if the program is ever used as a "data file" to another program.

I don't know a good name for the "thing". OS/2 calls the "thing" a "program reference object". You may have a better name. Like "thing".

"Things" should refer to real programs

Usually it is a good idea to make a "thing" that refers to your real program and keep the thing on your desktop and in your folders. That way you don't have to worry about changing the name of a program by accident, or even erasing a program by accident.

If you **REALLY** want to know if something is a program or **JUST** a data file you can open the "disk" or folder where it is stored. If it is a program, the icon will say DOS or OS/2 or be an icon representing the program or just be a picture of a window. If it is data, it will usually look like a sheet of paper with a corner folded over.

Devices are things that are attached to your computer or are built into it. Printers are devices. Disks are devices. The shredder is a device. When you drag something onto a device, the device will try to **DO SOMETHING** to whatever you dragged.

If you drag something to the shredder, that thing is gone! If you drag something to a diskette, then OS/2 will try to copy the thing to the diskette. If you drag something to a printer, the printer will try to figure out how to print it.

Now, the complicated part — Power in "Drag and Drop"

You may have noticed that programs **DO THINGS** to data files, and that **Devices DO THINGS** to data files. In fact, as programs get smarter, and developers continue to get used to the "**drag and drop**" idea, you will be able to drag a data file and drop it on something else.

If you drop it on a container, the data file will be moved into that container. If you drop it on another data file, OS/2 will let you know that you are trying to do something that doesn't make sense and it won't let you do it. If you drop something on a device, the device will try to do whatever it does best. And if you drop it on a program, or a "thing", the program will be started and it will work on your data file.

So programs and devices will look more and more alike. When you drop something on either one it will do whatever it does best. Which is exactly what you want it to do, isn't it?

So, maybe it really isn't so complicated after all. Especially if all we have to do is use it and somebody else gets to worry about making it happen!

(And thanks to those that do make it happen.)

Bernie Mayoff



Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

The Variety Store

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

Fighting Disk Space-Eating Dragons, By Stealing from Wife Across the Network While Musing on Comdex /FALL '93

Writing and packing as Las Vegas calls

Leading off with a complaint ... software upgrades coming so quickly I can't keep track of what I'm using and what I need to replace with a newer version. That's apart from new software I'd like to try, but don't have time or disk space to spare. What?, I just upgraded to a 340M disk a few months back and it's cramped already?

Actually, I've got 680M available between the two PC's in my work area via a *Windows for Workgroups 3.1* peer-to-peer network. And, if I were sneaky, I could use (steal) some of Connie's (my wife) 200M disk -- if I thought she wouldn't notice.

So, where did it all go? That's the question a lot of users are asking themselves these days. When I was laying out the results of the NTPCUG survey for the September issue of the *PC News*, I was fascinated by the "growth" of the *Average PC* reported by members. A 120M hard disk is now *entry level* and 200M seems to be on the verge of being *average*.

From 10M to 200M —So, what's average?

It wasn't that long ago that a *serious* business PC sported a 40M drive and home users were proud to have a 10M hard disk attached to their PC/XT. I can buy a 1G (1,000M) drive now for less than my first 40M cost via a NTPCUG *group-purchase* deal (approximately \$1,200).

Windows to blame? ...

Blame a lot of this on *Windows* and very bloated application software. That takes us back to my first paragraph --

and knowledge that I'll be leaving for Comdex within a week. Each time I've made the trek to Las Vegas for the giant computer show, I've returned with cartons of new software packages and demo disks. Accepting free software is not only habit-forming, but it's also a great space-eater.

Big disk vendors, ahoy!

Think this means a serious chat with the really-large hard disk makers is at the top of the "must see" list this year at Comdex. Guess that also means looking at DAT tape drives more closely as well.

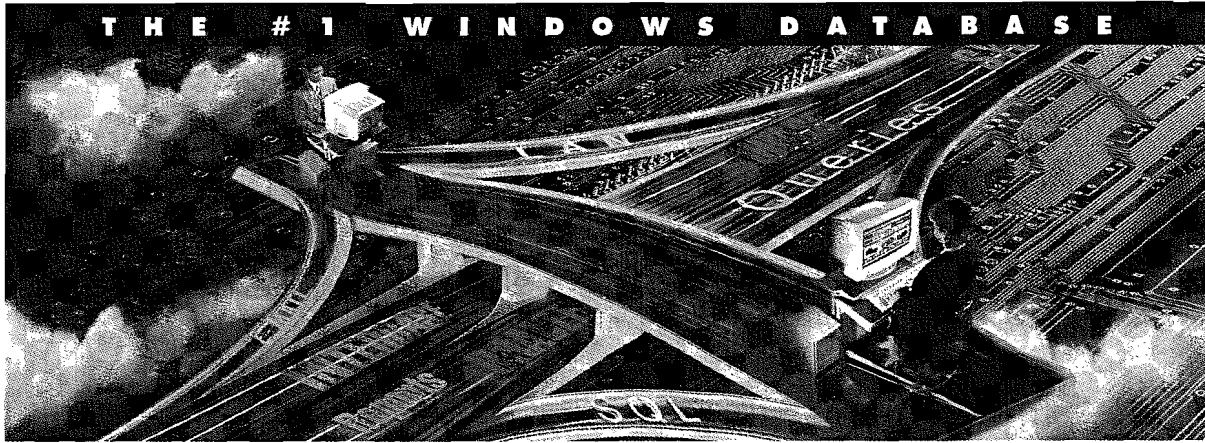
And what else will we be looking at—and for—during the show?

Saw lots of "gee-whiz" applications running at NetWorld, but what I really want to see are the various iterations of *Windows NT*, *DOS*, *OS/2* and *UNIX* running real applications. I'll probably be more curious than last year and spend more time "peeking" under the applications when possible (and where appropriate) to see which version of DOS is dominant.

"Peeking" may yield secrets and answers

That answers a lot of questions about stability. Most "new" software on display at Comdex is actually *semi-beta* software and is being shown months before release and shipping. As a result it tends to be sufficiently "buggy" and crash-prone that vendors go for stability when it comes to the DOS (and Windows) underneath.

Since *WordPerfect 6.0* (and *6.0a*) are already in retail outlets, we'll be looking at further iterations displaying at the WordPerfect booth. Be interesting to see just which WP version is used, or if there's a *6.0b* coming down the WP slipstream channel. Microsoft's *Word for Windows*



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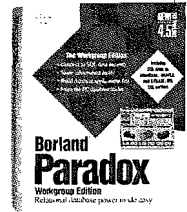
Best Windows database for all skill levels

Of course, no new version of Paradox would be complete without enhancements to the powerful and easy-to-use features that have made it the #1-rated Windows database. Built-in productivity Experts™ guide you at every step, from linking tables to building forms and reports. Object Inspector™ menus provide instant access to capabilities without searching through layers of menus. Paradox's ease of use stays with you as you move up the power curve. Corporate developers find that ObjectPAL,™ the fully integrated

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When it comes to workgroup database productivity, nothing gets you where you want to go faster or easier than the new Paradox Workgroup Edition from Borland.

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\$495 *Suggested retail price for new users.*

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Variety

6.0 should be showing along with the new *Windows for Workgroups 3.11* which may become the de facto Comdex standard if media claims for increased stability are true.

"Suite Wars" continue as MS, Lotus, Borland and WP fight for position

So where do Borland, Lotus, Microsoft and WordPerfect fit in the "Suite Wars" we're seeing in the giant media advertising campaigns lately?

Magazine editorials seem to be straddling the fence on this issue. There's some positive coverage/mention of the Microsoft and Lotus offerings as well as mention of the Borland-WordPerfect "bundle."

Most editorial writers show a decided preference for looking hard at individual applications before buying any of the suite(s) as a package.

LAN licensing & "Suites"

Suite licensing issues are being mentioned as problematic here as well with LAN users "hobbled" to some extent by the various restrictions that come with each of the suites.

Major example cited is with Microsoft's *Office* when many users (the number licensed) are using *Word*, and one more user wants to use *Excel* or *Access* and is denied since the number of licensed users would be exceeded. I.e., if you have 10 licensed copies of *Office* and 10 people on the

LAN are using *Word*, an 11th user can't load/run another application in the suite since this would be one more user than the site license allows.

That's going to be a lot of fun if other vendors follow the Microsoft license restrictions. And, this would actually defeat the purpose of the trend toward suites by the vendors, each of whom would like to see a strictly Borland-WordPerfect, Lotus or Microsoft shop, respectively.

LAN administrators simply won't play this game and will probably opt for individual applications instead.

CPU Wars at Comdex?

I'm really interested (as you all know by this time) in the movement(s) in the CPU arena over the last year.

Motorola/IBM will be at Comdex and will be showing-off their new *PowerPC* series. I expect to see several hardware vendors with *PowerPC* machines running both Macintosh and PC software (*Windows NT*.) This may be the debut of **Intel's DX3** CPU's as well and I'd be curious to see a good comparison between the new tripled-clock rate chips and the *Pentium*. With luck, both **Cyrix** and **AMD** will be showing some surprises as well.

Speaking of hardware, it will be interesting to see who's backing the new **V.Fast** and **V.Terbo** modem protocols at

Comdex. We have two contenders for a "new standard" for asynchronous communications via modem that will undoubtedly encourage us to buy into one or the other in future purchases.

I'll be looking at what Hayes, MultiTech and US Robotics are showing in their booths very closely as a result.

PCMCIA — 2nd chance?

I'll also be looking at PCMCIA progress in terms of "standardizing" the notebook slots as well as offerings in the modem/fax capabilities presented by the major vendors. This is a really hot area with a number of vendors not usually known as "major" in the field. I've gotten PR releases for Ethernet cards, modem/fax cards, memory cards and removable disk drives -- all designed to slide into the PCMCIA slot.

Largest drive (so far) is a 120M unit, but I'm sure I'll see "larger" units shown at the Las Vegas show.

MultiMedia — Again? Ouch!, my aching ears

Multimedia has taken the press by storm this year. Although I've avoided too much contact with the various Comdex Multimedia display areas in the past, think this will be the year to put in some earplugs, gird my loins (whatever that means) and re-



Just *who* is Running this Group anyway?

by Andy Oliver
President-Elect

Some of you have noticed a list of names on the inside back cover of your *North Texas PC News*. It enumerates the Board of Directors, officers and other people who volunteer their time to help run this group. The North Texas PC Users Group is a nonprofit corporation. As a corporation, we have bylaws that guide us in how we can run the organization.

If you observe, the same names sometimes crop up in the BOD and officer's sections. Some board members serve in multiple areas, most board members have been officers in the past. However, this is not a requirement. Any member of the group can run for a board or the President-Elect position. If elected by the membership, you serve for one year.

The NTPCUG has seven voting board members: The President, the President-Elect, and five other elected directors. My only designated duties as President-Elect are to attend monthly board/officer meetings, and to form a nominating committee to select recommendations for next year's President-Elect and board. I am pre-

paring this article for the December *PC News*, which has a November 10th submissions deadline. If you want to run for one of these positions or you know someone that you want to nominate, the only requirements are that the nominee be a member of the NTPCUG in good standing and that he or she is willing to serve for one year. Nominations can be made to me at 214-871-5753 (w) or 214-223-4044 (h) or at the following meeting:

North Texas PC Users Group Business Meeting
Saturday, December 11, 1993, 11:00-11:30 am in the Alexandria Auditorium at the Infomart. After the meeting, the nominations will be closed and the ballots will be printed in the January *PC News* along with biographies and pictures of all of the candidates.

Current candidates for President-Elect and for positions on the NTPCUG Board of Directors are listed on this and the following page.

1994 Nominations

President-Elect Nominee: Jim Hoisington

Jim is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. He and his family moved "up north" to Dallas in 1980. Jim joined the North Texas PC Users Group at its second meeting.

Since then he has served 3 terms as President, two terms as a Director, and has been Member-

Variety

ally give the loudest of all halls a look-over. Almost every major hardware vendor has some product they're touting as MultiMedia, including the display-board makers who have included sound as well as graphics this year.

Last year, MultiMedia was not only a "pain", but also an unknown commodity. Vendors were not sure what qualified as MultiMedia and everybody was showing something (usually quite loudly) they

thought might fit some unknown set of standards to qualify for the MultiMedia title. Most of it was not terribly well thought-out and some was plainly ridiculous, even to the vendors.

Quickest to catch on at Comdex in 1992 were the educational and video game vendors. Certainly, some of the game makers seemed to make the best use of the interactive potentials and it will be interesting to see what they have in store this year.

You'll get to see one of the major MultiMedia vendors at the December 11 NTPCUG Meeting. [Ed. Note: Post-Comdex — **Knowledge Adventure is the group, and Comdex crowds were quite heavy in the Knowledge Adventure display this year.**]

If you come to the 10:00 A.M. presentation in the Alexandria Auditorium, you'll know why their last NTPCUG presentation was such a hit.

Reagan Andrews



1994 NTPCUG Officer & Board of Directors Elections ...ctd.

ship Chairman for over four years. Together with Reagan Andrews, Jim leads the DOS SIG and he has been the back-up leader for the Advanced Programmers SIG since the SIG began.

In addition, Jim was on the first Board of Directors of the Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG), was the first treasurer of the Computer Council of Dallas, and is the current vice-president of DFW Xchange Corporation. Jim is also a member of the Metrocrest Amateur Radio Society (MARS). When he isn't attending meetings, Jim does a little consulting to pay for all the computer "stuff" that he buys.

Board Member Nominees:

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

Reagan is currently a member of the Board, and a past President. He is co-leader of the DOS SIG and has led the Word SIG in past years. Reagan stepped in this year to become Publisher of the North Texas *PC News*, a tremendous volunteer task. The Variety Store column in this newsletter was his idea and has become a mainstay of keeping on top of industry news. Reagan works for the VA Hospital as a Clinical Psychologist treating veterans suffering from delayed stress syndrome. He and his wife, Connie, continue to be ambassadors to the COMDEX computer exposition.

Timothy Carmichael

Timothy serves as Program Chairman of the NTPCUG and has done so since 1989. Timothy is a current member of the Board of Directors, joining us in the expansion franchise this year. The Program Chairman is responsible for the Auditorium presentations at our Saturday meetings and Timothy continues to do an excellent job for us. In his real job, he is an electrical and biomedical engineer doing research, applying computer hardware and software for medical measurement and diagnostic systems.

Doug Gorrie

Doug is the 1993 President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG. He is the co-leader of the Communications and BBS SIG's and is involved in the day-to-day support of our Bulletin Board System. Doug's is the voice that you

hear if you call the NTPCUG phone number, and he updates the message monthly as new information about our monthly meetings becomes available. He has spent the past 24 years with Southwestern Bell Telephone, 17 of those were working with IBM mainframes. The past four years he has worked as an Internal Auditor for SWBT.

Mark Gruner

Mark is currently on the Board of Directors. He leads the Spreadsheet and Spreadsheet Developers SIGs, and helps with two of the sixteen Personal User SIG presentations. Mark is actively involved in securing and evaluating shareware for the Disk Of the Month group. He is currently serving as Treasurer of the DFW Xchange Corporation. His real life includes being a Senior Financial Analyst for EDS, husband, and father to an active two-year-old.

Alex Lilley

Alex has been the Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator for the past year and is also the room scheduler for all computer groups that meet at Infomart. This job entails making sure the rooms are equipped and ready for the Saturday meetings. Alex co-leads the Community Services SIG and is on the board of the Dallas Computer Literacy Program. He picks up and delivers a lot of the computers donated to DCLP. Alex is married with two grown children and works as a contractor for a federal agency. He is a Certified Property Manager and holds a degree from Texas A&M.

Fred Williams

Fred has been a member of NTPCUG since its founding in 1982. He has been SIG Leader for the Communications and LAN SIG's, and is the founder and current leader of the Paradox SIG. He chaired the BBS Steering Committee which reorganized the BBS support staff, and he provided project management and technical services while converting the BBS software to the current TBBS. He is SYSOP of the BBS and helps maintain the system. He has been an independent software developer of communications and database systems for personal computers since 1982. Fred is married and has a son in college.



Tape Backup Considerations

Part One

by Mark O'Pella

I see a pattern developing here. First, we move to the Windows operating environment, with it's Graphical User Interface (GUI) and neat stuff like Pull Down Menus and What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get (WYSIWYG) applications. Second, we discover that our hard drives aren't big enough to install all of the neat applications we want to run, so we buy bigger hard drives or install "disk doubler" software, or both. Finally, we discover that backing up 100 or 200 megabytes (MB) of data to floppies is about as much fun as washing the cat.

If your question at this point is "What's a backup?" then you needn't read any further. Just continue down your merry path (ignorance is bliss, right?) until you discover, like I have, that hard drive failures do occur. It's not a question of "if", but "when". There are many causes: software errors, software viruses, power surges, mechanical failure, electronics failures, and even human error. You may think that your computer will always start when you power it up, but you need to ask yourself, "How much can I afford to lose?" I've even had people tell me, "I don't need to back my system up. If my hard drive crashes I'll just re-install all of my software." So after countless hours they will have their programs back up, just all of their data will be gone. Forever.

So after an hour or more of feeding floppies into the computer a few times I decided it was time to start looking at the low-end tape backup units. By "low-end" I meant they had to hook up to my existing system with no special controller cards and they had to cost less than \$300. The local computer salesman couldn't answer any real technical questions about the drives so their advice was always, "just buy it and if you don't like it, bring it back." So I did. Over a three week period I purchased and returned 4 different tape backup systems. I learned a lot about tape drives along the way. I won't mention brand names in this article because I want to share information, not give a plug.

All tape backup manufacturers overstate the capacity of their systems. A "120 MB" system will really only hold 60 MB per tape, and a "250 MB" system will only hold 120 MB. The good news is, they all "lie"

equally. The problem is that they assume your data will compress at a 2 to 1 ratio. Realistically, any system I've seen (running Windows) compresses to 1.7:1. So don't think you're going to put 250 MB of data onto a "250 MB" tape. Still, you can always have your backup go to more than one tape.

The next issue is speed. This translates to data transfer rate, which is the rate in MB per second that the data is written to tape. The typical tape backup system that attaches to the floppy controller will run at a "native" transfer rate of 2 MB per minute. By "native", I mean the rate of tape device itself, not considering any data compression achieved. This comes down to the number of bytes on each tape sector, the number of sectors per inch of tape, and how fast the tape is moving (in inches per second). With an actual compression rate of 2 to 1, the achieved backup rate would be 4 MB per minute. Let's see, 200 MB of data backed up at 4 MB per minute would be 50 minutes. That's still not too bad because you don't have to baby-sit the machine while the backup is running. You'll still have time to wash that cat.

I wanted the backup to go even faster, so one of the drives I evaluated was attached to the IDE hard drive controller. It boasts a backup capacity of 305 MB (still assuming a 2:1 compression ratio). The native capacity is 150 MB. The native transfer rate of the IDE attached drive is 6 MB per minute. Doubling that to account for compression could yield an achieved backup rate of 12 MB per minute. That would knock out the 200 MB drive in under 17 minutes. The cat will have to wait until you have more free time.

Another important consideration is tape format. If you do have a hard disk crash and you do have a tape backup, can you go to a friend's house and restore an important file? Can their tape drive read your tapes? I found the QIC-40/QIC-80 format to be supported by the largest number of drives. Stay away from proprietary formats (unless your friend buys the same type of drive.) Also, make sure you have a bootable DOS diskette with a copy of your installed tape backup software on it. This way, you can recover if a hard drive failure occurs.

I wanted to keep the size of this article down, so I'll save the more technical info for Part two.

Good luck.

Mark O'Pella

THE BENEFITS OF UPGRADING 1-2-3 FOR DOS CAN BE EXPRESSLY QUANTIFIED BY A FINANCIAL GUY

You know that 1-2-3® for DOS R3.4 is the fastest DOS spreadsheet ever. And you know its unique 3-D capabilities and SmartIcons™ make it the easiest DOS spreadsheet ever. So it won't be any surprise that 1-2-3 for DOS is also the most productive DOS spreadsheet — upgrading your current spreadsheet to 1-2-3 Release 3.4 will actually save you and your organization time and money. But don't take our word for it.

BUY 1-2-3 RELEASE 3.4 AND REDUCE YOUR COSTS TODAY.

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

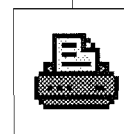
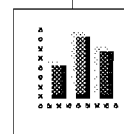
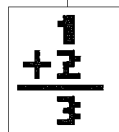


individual productivity in excess of 20%. And a return on investment of 330%. In the first year.*

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.

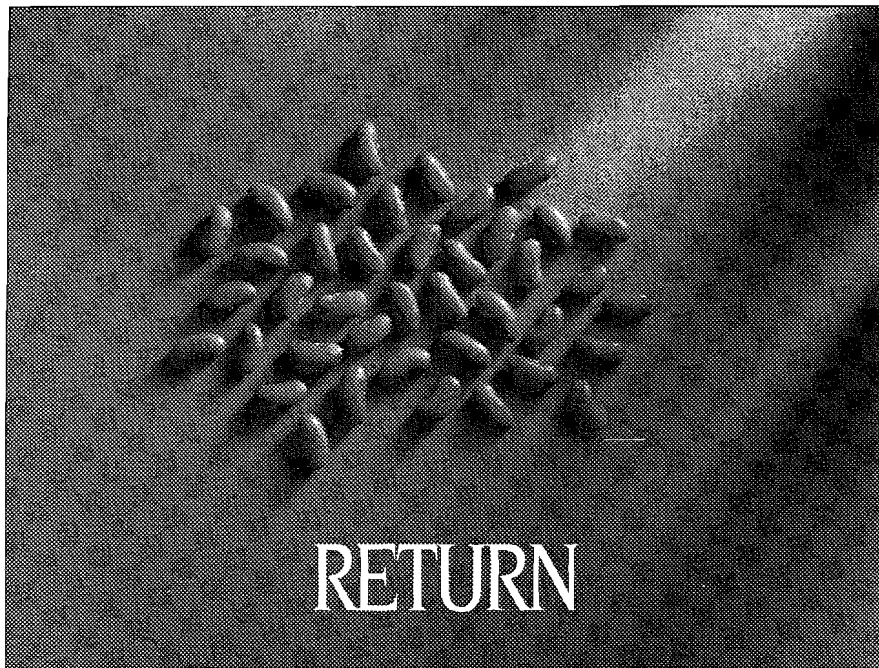
THE FASTEST, EASIEST DOS SPREADSHEET GIVES YOU THE BEST RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

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.



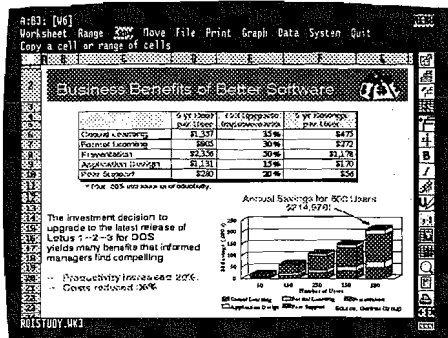
*Based on an upgrade SRP of \$129. Gartner Group, 1993. **Qualifying second Lotus spreadsheets are 1-2-3 for DOS or 1-2-3 for Windows* shipping in 1994. Second Lotus spreadsheet must be purchased between 1/ Lotus, DataLens and 1-2-3 are registered trademarks and SmartIcons is a

GRADING TO 1-2-3 FOR D IN TERMS EVEN YOUR WILL APPRECIATE.



But we understand it's not enough that it's fast. It's got to be easy. 1-2-3 Release 3.4 offers the most advanced

used commands with a single click. And because SmartIcons are so easy, users become proficient more quickly,



The productivity and ease-of-use features of 1-2-3 for DOS give you increased productivity and an excellent ROI—without any change in your hardware.

ease-of-use features of any DOS spreadsheet. More than 90 SmartIcons let you access your most commonly

without costly training support — another way upgrading saves you money.

And 1-2-3 Release 3.4 is the only true 3D spreadsheet for DOS — 3D worksheets increase productivity by letting users work much more efficiently with large spreadsheets. Release 3.4 also offers

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

quicker and much easier. Plus 1-2-3 R3.4 is fully compatible with earlier releases of 1-2-3 across platforms.

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YOUR NEXT LOTUS
SPREADSHEET UPGRADE.**

Purchase your 1-2-3 for DOS — either R2.4 or R3.4 — before December 31, 1993 and get 50% off your next 1-2-3 purchase — 50% off any upgrade to 1-2-3 for DOS or Windows.** This is our way of demonstrating our confidence that Lotus® 1-2-3 is your spreadsheet solution — today and tomorrow.

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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

How can you make it easy for the users of your *Access* applications to specify what information from the database they want to see? *Vince Prehn*, our December speaker, responded to the call for volunteers to share their experience by offering to show us one good way: "Query by Form." Vince is President of Network Utilities Corporation, an experienced consultant and developer, and was one of the earliest providers of *Access* applications to clients in the North Texas area.

If you haven't already upgraded to *Access 1.1*, now is the time. The *Access 1.1* update disks are available through NTPCUG DOM. With just a little luck, the Microsoft *Access* Knowledge Base will also be available this month. The Knowledge Base is an information base built and used by Microsoft's Technical Support and is distributed in the form of a (large) Windows Help file that can be installed on your system to be readily available as you use *Access*. You can even "cut and paste" code from the Knowledge Base articles directly into your *Access* applications.

"Old Santa" is visiting the *Access* SIG a little early this year: Microsoft has donated a brand-new, complete *Access 1.1* for us to give to a lucky *Access* SIG attendee. Also, if you didn't receive a "Microsoft *Access* for Windows "Step by Step" book at the November meeting, you are eligible for a

drawing for one of the remaining copies.

Check the Database, All, and Swap Shop message conferences of the NTPCUG BBS for updates and information between meetings. For those who miss the meeting, a copy of the "Access SIG Notes" handout will be attached to a message in this conference. (Telephone numbers for the NTPCUG BBS are on the inside back cover. The Database message conference is a "NTPCUG members only" conference; that's a good incentive for your friends to join NTPCUG.)

Looking ahead: in the coming months, we'll have presentations

on the *Access* Distribution Kit, Microsoft's user support programs for *Access*, and other topics requested by the attendees in our ongoing interest survey. If you haven't expressed your interest, fill out and turn in a copy of the survey forms available at SIG meetings.

Now, it's time for some special year-end acknowledgments: -- many thanks:

To *Microsoft*, especially to our SIG support coordinator in User Group Support, *Mike Werner*, and to *Cheri Chapman* of Microsoft Press, for the support they have given our SIG: software for the demo machine, support, reviews, and giveaways; books for review and giveaways; information and assistance in getting the SIG organized; and freeware sample databases and learning material.

To our enthusiastic Assistant SIG Leaders: *Jack Atkinson*, *Dianna DeCicco*, and *Frank McCoy*, who have contributed greatly to the smooth-running SIG meetings and the success of the SIG.

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.

SIG

To our 1993 speakers, *Jack Atkinson, Mike Carr, Larry Linson, Vince Prehn* and *Fred Williams* for sharing their knowledge and experiences with all of us.

To all attendees who meet with the *Access SIG* on a regular or occasional basis. You keep the level of enthusiasm high and encourage us to continue!

"Happy Holidays and Thank You" to all the people who have contributed to our *Access SIG* having such a great year. We are looking forward to having an even better year in 1994.

Larry Linson

ACT! SIG

Our special guest for the December Meeting will be Robert Hyde of Productivity Point International. Robert is a certified ACT! development programmer. He will be able to address modifications to the ACT! screens that a number of you have asked about.

Robert developed and is selling a program for sending delayed faxes directly from ACT!. If you have any questions about using ACT!, Robert is a knowledgeable person to ask.

We are anticipating the release of the network version of ACT! for Windows around the end of the year. As soon as it is official, I will try to arrange for Symantec to give a demonstration. I will see you all at the meeting on Saturday, December 11.

Jim Thompson

Alpha 4 SIG

Over the past few months, the leadership in this SIG has been on a quest to provide as much interest and information as possible at our monthly meetings. Between meetings we have made strides in contacting new individuals who have an interest in ALPHA FOUR. As a result of all this, we have seen some new faces at our past two or three meetings. Significantly, we have been fortunate to have come across a lot of talent and interest

among these individuals. Their interests, backgrounds and ways in which they use ALPHA FOUR vary significantly. All this is good for the rest of us.

As of this writing, the NTPCUG January meeting date has not been determined. However, we still plan to have a very interesting program for you. Sid DeJarnett, a professional programmer from Lake Dallas, will be presenting a program on "scripting." We are attempting to have a two-hour session scheduled.

After the presentation on scripting, it may be that the last hour will be used for a "Q&A" session on any special interests that you may have. "Not to worry." Our programming need not be too rigid. After all, this whole effort is to make available to you all the ALPHA FOUR information that we can muster. We may have to move the time and room number of our meeting. We will have more information by the time of our December meeting. Also watch for more information in the next issue of this newsletter.

Ron Jackson

APL SIG

The first regularly-scheduled meeting of the APL SIG was held in November. It was a rousing success - a number of people (some unpaid, other than Stuart and myself) showed up! The subject was "Playing to the Hardware and Implementation Idiosyncrasies" and showed that if you try hard enough, APL can be as non-portable as Assembler. A lot of the material came from time-sharing based systems where each CPU tick cost a noticeable amount of money, making the use of these tricks financially worthwhile.

Copies of TryAPL2 (free from IBM), along with preprinted



SIG ■■■■■■■■■■

documentation, were available at the meeting (we plan to make this a regular feature), along with some other very reasonably priced interpreters. A number of books on APL, complete with

a copy) have appeared. One, APL Notes (\$29), was reviewed at the meeting. It is our plan to do a variety of presentations on APL, with topics ranging from introductory to advanced. We welcome all suggestions for presentations, and hope to see you at future meetings. Come see how to shape, ravel and roll with APL!

Frank Cavallito

Assembler SIG

To meet the publishing deadline for the newsletter, I'm writing the November Assembler SIG Happenings 10 days before the November meeting will be held. So



rather than speculate on what might happen at that meeting, let me tell you instead what usually happens at our meetings.

1. We usually pick a topic to talk about in the previous meeting. For example, the topic we chose in September for the November meeting was the application programming interface (API) for DOS 6's DoubleSpace. I will discuss how DoubleSpace works and how it can be called by user-written programs to do data compression. I don't know what the topic for December will be 'cause we haven't decided yet, and by the time I know, it will be too late to get it in the December SIG Happenings. Hint: keep an eye on the BBS and you'll know ahead of time.

2. We always enjoy learning from one another. That's the big thrill for me: the people who come are eager to share their experiences and I always learn something new. Many of the SIG visitors come with good questions and interesting hardware and software puzzles for us to solve. Those are always fun.

3. We don't limit the discussion to Assembly language; in fact, I can remember many meetings in which we didn't talk about Assembly coding at all. What we do like to discuss is how to program "close to the metal", i.e., how to write code that manipulates the PC hardware and works closely with the operating system. Assembly language is frequently the most efficient tool use for these things, but the group discusses other programming languages, too.

If you've always wanted to know more about what the world looks like from inside a PC, I think you'll enjoy what we do in the Assembler SIG.

Glynn Brooks

BBS SIG

The BBS SIG will be taking the month of December off.

The BBS SIG normally meets monthly at 1:00 PM to help our membership become familiar with and enjoy our Bulletin Board System (BBS). Anyone unfamiliar with our BBS and wanting to know more about its use should drop by. Over time, topics range from the absolute basics of installing a modem and software, to the use of off-line mail readers. Questions are encouraged at each meeting.

We normally meet immediately following and in the same room as the Communications SIG.

As always, questions regarding the BBS can be directed to the SYSOP throughout the month, or placed into the conference named "BBS Directions".

Doug Gorrie

Communications SIG

In November, DCA, the makers of Crosstalk, discussed their Remote LAN Node product, which allows remote PC users to dial into LAN environments and become "nodes" on those networks. DCA personnel did a great job explaining the concepts, and even gave away several copies of Crosstalk to those members present.

In December, David Martin has agreed to provide his perspective on connecting to the Internet. This will be a low-level discussion, geared to those who have a desire to handle mail and UseNet news over the Internet, but don't want or need to pay high dollar amounts to acquire "ftp" or "telnet" functionality. Should be interesting, so I encourage you to join us.



"Ami Pro 3.0 takes the lead over Microsoft® Word as the Windows word processor to beat."

- *InfoWorld* 9/28/93

"You can learn to use Ami Pro... in about a day. Put the manual in a drawer as a first step."

- *Forbes* 2/93

"Lotus Ami Pro 3.0 offers an unbeatable combination of peerless usability, top-level features and fastest overall performance."

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

"[Ami Pro] is simply the best word processor anywhere in the universe... Note to WordPerfect users: Switch to Ami Pro and join the 21st Century."

- *Chicago Tribune* 3/26/93

"[Ami Pro] is full of clever features that make your work easier and faster."

- *Byte* 9/92

"Ami Pro is raising the bar in the Windows™ word processing sweepstakes."

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

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

"No other package can match [Ami Pro's] ambition, its range of functions, or the sheer pleasure of using it."

- *PC Magazine* 1/12/93

"Ami Pro 3.0 is the best word processor on the market... [it] goes the competition one better in every respect."

- *PC/Computing* 12/92

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

AMI PRO NOW
\$99
FOR USER
GROUPS ONLY


No other word processor matches Ami Pro for ease of learning and ease of use. With features like QuickStart on-line tutorial, one-click SmartIcon™

sets and Fast Format, you'll find Ami Pro easier and more intuitive than any word processor you've tried before. We even have a SwitchKit to make your transition from WordPerfect® absolutely painless. Call **1-800-SOFTWARE** today and

get Ami Pro 3.0 for \$99.* At this price, you'll have plenty of nice things to say.

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Microcomputer Software, Hardware & Network Products

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Word Processor for Windows

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



As we've said before, we're still talking to Delrina about a fax/modem presentation. Let's try for January this time!

See you on December 11th !!

Doug Gorrie & Bill Green

DOS SIG

December's DOS SIG Meeting should be a lot of fun!

We'll have a few members, fresh from Comdex, willing to add fuel to the Operating System (OS) of the future fire and some comments on why software that *wasn't* shown was the most talked-about non-product at Comdex. There was a lot that *wasn't* shown at Comdex, or really talked about in the exhibition halls for that matter.

Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG Membership Chairman, NTPCUG Director and Past-President, was working conducting the November DOS SIG Meeting, but will have a lot to say -- if he's not in New Zealand, Bangkok or Houston December 11. Reagan Andrews, (this month's) *PC News* Publisher, NTPCUG Director and Past-President, did go to Comdex and will report on OS news from the perspective of what was running on Comdex display PC's throughout the exhibit halls.

One tip -- DOS ain't dead yet.

Although there are a lot of pretenders to the throne, even Apple Computers were sporting DOS in the Apple pavilion. What does this mean for day-to-day DOS users? Probably, it means a long time before our OS is gone and buried. As usual, we'll end the December DOS SIG Meeting with a Q&A session to allow members to share their problems -- and solutions -- with other DOS users.

Reagan Andrews

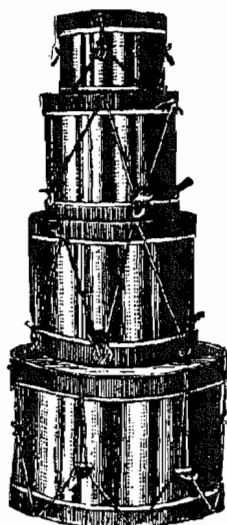
Genealogy — General

The General Genealogy SIG meets from 9 to 10 a.m. in Room 6044. We try to support all genealogy software or hardware and have a disk library and a hard copy library in the room.

There are three other computer genealogy SIGS that meet on Xchange Saturday at Infomart. These are Personal Ancestral File (PAF) which meets from 10 to 11 a.m. in room 6044, Brother's Keeper which meets from 11 to noon in room 7014, and Root-sIII/IV which meets from 11 to 12:45 in room 6044.

The November program was on Family Connections and was brought by SIG member Gene Burris. The use of a program like Family Connections allows for very flexible manipulation of the genealogy data which you have input to your normal genealogy software program.

The December 11 program will be on the genealogy software that is available to run under Windows and its counterpart for the Macintosh computers. Programs to run



under Windows have just started to become available. The coming computer genealogy environment will not only operate in Windows, but will also take advantage of the interactive video and audio capabilities available on newer computers.

Al Sanford

Genealogy — PAF

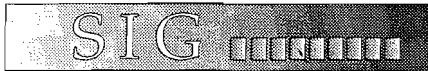
PAF meets in room 6044 from 10 to 11 a.m. on Xchange Saturdays. There have been a lot of people who have asked me to bail them out of "PAF" problems recently. But these problems, in the main, were DOS problems and not PAF problems. Therefore, a short review of DOS as applied to genealogy will be given here:

Remember, DOS is a disk operating system. Without it your computer would have been programmed in machine language or some other programmer-written method to allow your computer to interact with the keyboard and allow display or hardcopy printouts of your data. And in PAF genealogy, DOS is used to tell the following:

- ❖ Location of Genealogy Program Files;
- ❖ Location of Genealogy Program Data Files;
- ❖ Location of Genealogy Program Temporary Files;
- ❖ 4. How to Help Fix Bad Data Files.

Sometimes when the genealogy software is installed, it will automatically set up the files listed above. Even so, DOS will be used for troubleshooting or finding where (in what directories and subdirectories) these files have been located. For example, suppose your genealogy program is PAF and is located in the root directory of the C drive, and the data and scratch files are located





in subdirectories that you (or the software installation) have named "data" and "scratch". You would *Access* these directories or subdirectories as follows:

At the C:> prompt, type "CD\
and press ENTER ("CD\
for Change Directory) and you
will be in the root directory of the
C disk drive.

Then, if you type "CD\PAF" and
press ENTER, you will be in the
PAF directory, which is a subdirec-
tory of the C drive root directory.

Type "CD\DATA" and press EN-
TER to get to the data directory.
Your prompt should now be
"C:\PAF\DATA". Type DIR and
press ENTER and you will get a
listing of the files in your data di-
rectory. To get to the scratch di-
rectory from the C:\PAF\DATA
prompt, type "CD\PAF\
SCRATCH" and press ENTER.

The next meeting will be Decem-
ber 11, 10 a.m. in room 6004. The
topic will cover some aspect of
PAF and we will entertain any
questions you may have.

Al Sanford

OS/2 for Endusers

The OS/2 for End Users SIG wel-
comes both experienced OS/2 us-
ers and converted DOS or Win-
dows users. Most meetings fea-
ture live demonstrations of OS/2
software done by the SIG leader,
SIG Members or vendors.

Most of the regular members are
running OS/2 2.1 at work or
home. Questions are always wel-
come; and there's almost always
someone with experience in what-
ever area of OS/2, your interest
may lie.

For the next several meetings we
will be covering chapters from

the book "OS/2 2.1 Unleashed"
published by SAMS.

Future Meetings:

- ❖ December — Chapters 4-6
One UP Corp.
- ❖ January — Chapters 7-9

Bob Fermier

Paradox SIG

Tom is soldiering on with the da-
tabase design series. It's a good
thing he has a month to rest up
between meetings!

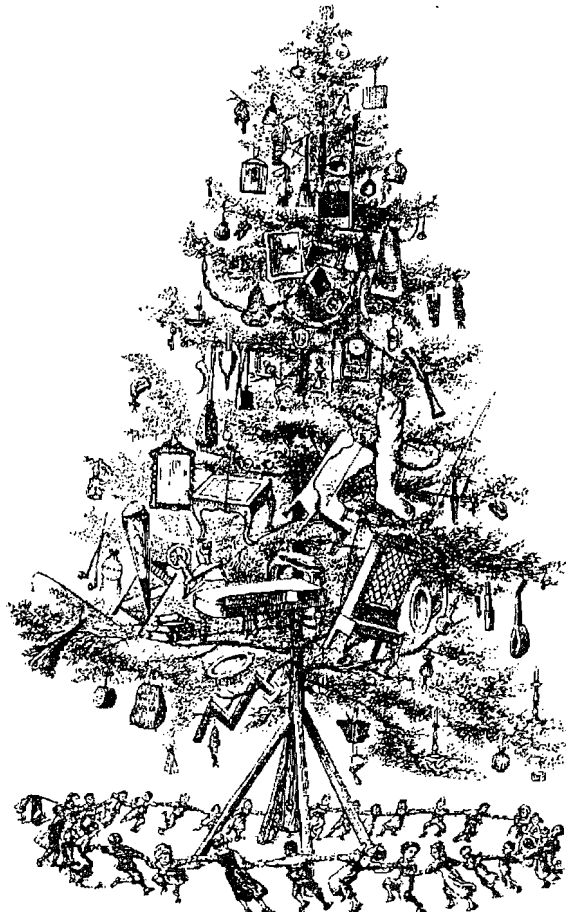
I still have not finalized any plan
to expand the SIG to two hours.
With the recent changes related
to Xchange Saturday, there may
or may not be additional meeting
rooms available. Once the dust
has settled and the '94 Infomart
contract ink is dry, I will have a
better grip on meeting resources.

I'm waiting to hear from Borland
"real soon now" on the NTPCUG
Pdcox upgrades. I want to up-
grade Pdcox's ASAP. I plan on
pushing for the "work group" re-
leases that will provide *Access* to
SQL Link.

I am also working on getting a
copy of *Quattro Pro for Work
Groups*. This will be for both our
use, (interoperability) and the
spreadsheet crowd.

Long-range I may even try for a
release of Interbase. This would
allow us to address Client/Server
computing. Of course this would
also require a second machine to
run as the Interbase server.

This one may have to wait until
we get the final word on the
NTPCUG/ACorp's "Resource
Center".





Anyhow, hope to see you all at the December SIG meeting.

Fred Williams

Personal Users

The Personal Users will be presenting its 2nd series of classes including:

- ❖ 9:00 am — Class 5
Fixed Disk Directories,
Batches & Paths
- ❖ 10:00 am — Class 6
DOS Menu Systems
on Fixed Disks
- ❖ 12:00 am — Class 7
Fundamentals of
LOTUS 1-2-3
- ❖ 1:00 pm — Class 8
Fundamentals of
BASIC Language

Please be sure to attend any and all of the classes, whether or not

you own a computer, are just beginning to use a computer at home or at work, or consider yourself an intermediate user .

Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

John Fitzgerald and David Martin debated the pros and cons of Microsoft's new BASIC macro language. It was finally agreed that BASIC would only succeed as a macro language if IBM stopped selling AS/400's with their excellent macro language RPG.

Next month we hope to have John REXX as a guest speaker.

Jim Hoisington

Spreadsheet SIG

At the December meeting, Mark and Adam will compare the database features of 1-2-3 and Excel. Both programs provide basic flat database features as part of the

program as well as external database analysis tools.

We will concentrate on the internal database features and not the external database tools. Both programs provide the same basic capabilities, but there are some differences.

If you have an interest in using 1-2-3 or Excel in manipulating relatively small databases, come on by in December.

Mark Gruner
Adam Peterson

Spreadsheet Developers

At the December meeting, Mark will demonstrate two add-ins for 1-2-3 and Excel that provide monte carlo simulation. The two add-ins are @RISK and Crystal Ball. Both are excellent programs and provide easy-to-use interfaces. Monte carlo simulation uses probability distributions and randomly selects numbers from that distribution and calculates the model hundreds of times so that a range of values is determined for particular output cells. This capability enables the analyst to determine the sensitivity of the results by each input. It also provides the analyst with a range of possible values of the final results and helps to determine the risk.

If you want to learn more about monte carlo simulation or these two add-ins, come on by in December.

Mark Gruner
Adam Peterson

StarSIG

November's meeting, being reported before the fact, featured KLIF personalities Pam Reynolds and John Rody. They were invited to talk about Online Talk Radio, a new feature of StarText





available under the KLIF keyword. This keyword has six choices, one of them allowing the StarTexan to send a message directly to a Talk Radiohost.

Also featured was SIG leader Jim Boughton, adding news from his trip to Comdex that did not get posted to his Comdex 1-5 keywords. Jim offered to get answers to our questions from industry personalities, and we were ready to listen.

William L. Jones

Visual Basic - Beginning

This month, we will continue our venture into the world of database management with Visual Basic 3.0. We will discuss the Data Manager application, which comes with Visual Basic 3.0 Standard Edition.

We will use the Data Manager to 1) examine a database, 2) modify a database, and 3) create a new database from scratch. For those wanting to "warm-up" for the meeting, the Data Manager is in the Windows menu of Visual Basic 3.0 and it has an excellent help file. By the way, word is that

Data Manager was written in Visual Basic!

In the regular Visual Basic SIG meeting following our meeting, Woody will continue the topic of database development with a presentation on the database capabilities offered by the Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0

In the November meeting, I demonstrated the workings of the Data Control in Visual Basic 3.0 and demonstrated a small application using the Data Control and operating on the BIBLIO.MDB database provided with Visual Basic 3.0.

At November's meeting, we passed out cards for the four volunteers that will be helping beginners in Visual Basic. The business cards have the names and telephone numbers where they can be reached any evening between 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM with your questions. The four volunteers are Jim Carter, Woody Pewitt, L.J. Johnson, and Gene Hamelman. We hope this works out to everyone's benefit, especially the beginners.

My apologies for the improper spelling of Gene Hamelman's name last month. Gene gave the

demonstration of the Setup Wizard at our October meeting.

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! This offer is being extended to anyone who purchased Visual Basic 2.0 (Professional or Standard) after April 15, 1993.

Attendance is still exceeding 65 members and the working computer and display is helping demonstrate the effectiveness of Visual Basic much better than overhead cells. If you run into a member of the NTCPUG Board of Directors, tell them how much you appreciate the teaching tool they have provided.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to Room 7011 (Check the screens downstairs for any last minute room changes.) at 8:00 AM on December 11. See you then.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

The December meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will continue a discussion of database management. The most significant added feature to Visual Basic 3.0 was database management. The Beginning Visual Basic SIG will discuss the Data Manager and its capabilities in the Standard Edition of Visual Basic 3.0 during the 8:00 to 9:00 time period. 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 time period. The principal difference is that the Standard Edition only supports the creation and struc-





ture modification of databases at design time while the Professional Edition permits the creation and structure modification of databases at run time.

The November meeting began the discussion of database management using the database capabilities of the Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0. This capability is new in Visual Basic 3.0 but extremely powerful for applications development. Woody discussed some of the code necessary to perform these database functions.

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! This offer is being extended to anyone who purchased Visual Basic 2.0 (Profes-

sional or Standard) after April 15, 1993.

As usual, there will be time for your Visual Basic questions. Bring them to Room 7011 (check the first floor screens for last minute changes to room assignment) at 9:00 a.m. on December 11. See you there.

Jim Carter

WP5.1 DOS Tip of the Month!

On-line Help answers the most common questions about any feature. Just touch {F3} and the main help screen displays. The top line shows the license number you entered when you installed WordPerfect. HINT: If you want to change/add the license number, the next time you start WordPerfect, type WP/LN and you'll be prompted. Since they don't ALWAYS ask your license number, you might consider putting the 800 phone number of WordPerfect support instead.

There's also a date in the upper corner. This is the release date.

The last release date for WP 5.1 is 3/9/92. If your release date is 3/30/90, get an update. There were a lot of problems with that release. Since there was a release in September, 1991 which provided new printer drivers, if your date is older than that, get all new diskettes. To obtain a new release with all diskettes, send money (\$24.95 plus \$4 S/H), a letter stating diskette size, your address and license number to:

WordPerfect Corporation
Attn: Accounts Receivable, Bldg Q
1555 N. Technology Way
Orem, Utah 84057-2399

Or call them at 800-321-4566.

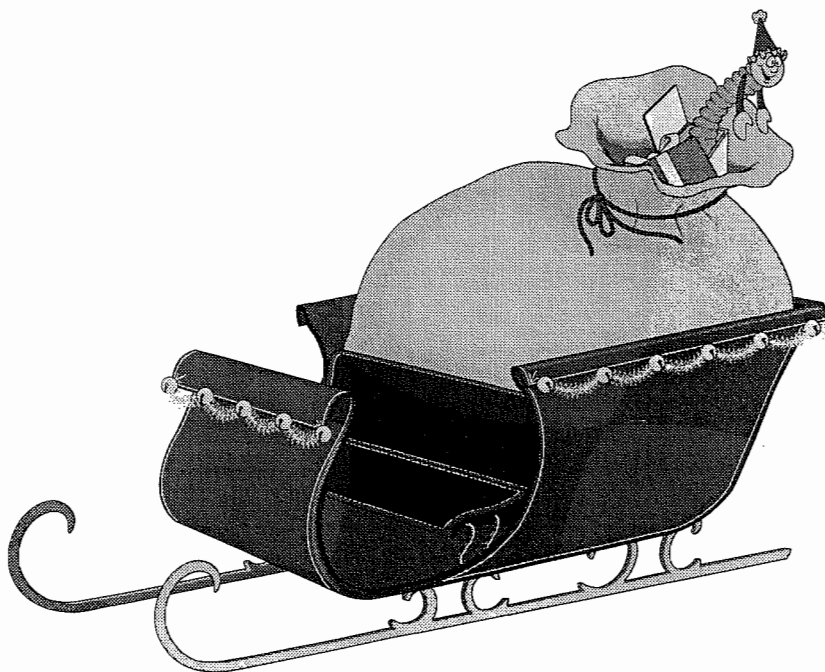
Back to Help. Touching {F3} twice displays the template. Type any alphabetic character to show a list of all features that begin with that letter. It also shows you the keystrokes to perform that function. Touch any function key to display helpful information about that function. Touching {F7} just gives you help about exiting but DOES NOT exit Help. Likewise, touching {F1} just gives you help about cancel, but DOES NOT exit Help. The lower right hand corner will always tell you how to get out of help.

For you 5.0 users, since you are NOT prompted, the magic keystroke is the space bar.

So the next time you've got a problem, just yell {F3}!

On to the December SIG Meeting. It seems we've covered all the topics over the last two years. I'm sure you're thinking of some we haven't covered so just give me a list. For lack of a real "subject", I'm going to give you a power-packed session of tips and tricks that are my favorites. It's a great way to end the year!

Lori Quinn



Picture Publisher 4.0

A review by Neal Berkowitz

Micrografx has blurred the lines between draw and paint programs with the latest release of *Picture Publisher*. Until recently, paint programs could be compared to applying a brush to canvass. Once something was placed on the screen it was fixed.

Draw programs, on the other hand, consisted of objects. Objects remained distinct and could be moved and modified at any time. *Picture Publisher* removes this distinction.

Picture Publisher lets the user place shapes onto the screen and keeps these shapes for later manipulation. As an example, a person can cut three shapes -- a tree, a bird, and a frog- from different sources and place them onto a new image. The user can then move the bird object and place it in the tree. The user can then sketch a lily pad and move the frog on top of it. The user can then increase the contrast of the frog and add a red highlight to the bird. Flies can then be drawn around the frog.

What is remarkable is that each of these operations only affects the specified object. The other objects are not affected by the operations. The major consequence of this is that the user need not predetermine what is going to go where in the picture. Instead, the natural train of thought can be used to compose the desired picture.

This illustrates just one example of how the program has been made easier to use. While object manipulation is an important addition, there are many other new features and enhancements. Features with names like Ruby Overlays, Fastbits, and Alpha Channel give the power user the ability to easily manipulate the largest image.

Picture Publisher is not for the average user. At \$595 it is one of the costliest paint programs on the market. It's requirements for disk space (15 meg) and memory (6 meg) also limits its practicality for the basic user. And finally, while fairly easy to learn, the wealth of features would be intimidating to the casual user and, in most cases, would be overkill.

But, if you wish to have the ultimate program for image manipulation, this is a definite contender.

It is difficult finding a place to begin describing the features of *Picture Publisher*. Like more basic programs, it provides the basic capabilities of image processing. Color balance, contrast, brightness, and calibration are all available with a few button clicks.

A new enhancement is the ability to visually perform many of these functions. *Picture Publisher* gives the user nine thumbnail views of the picture. The middle thumbnail shows the untreated picture. The outer thumbnails show the result if the effect is applied. One example of this incorporates contrast and brightness. Around the center image are thumbnails that are darker, darker with increased contrast, increased contrast, lighter with increased contrast, lighter, lighter with less contrast, less contrast, and darker with less contrast.

The effect is like going to the eye doctor. The user can see all nine images and decide which one is the best, then repeat the process until the picture is visually perfect. No more guessing whether a 5% increase in contrast with a 10% lightening of the picture is better than a 10% increase in contrast with a 5% lightening.

Thumbnails also play an important part in the application of special effects. With dozens of special effects available the selection of the "preferred effect" could be a daunting task. The difficulty is increased since the application of some effects can take several minutes. *Picture Publisher* eliminates part of the problems by allowing the operator to preview the effect on a small portion of the picture. Only when the desired effect is achieved does the user need to apply it to the full picture.

Working with large images takes a great deal of CPU processing and memory. *Picture Publisher* compensates for this with two unique tools. The first of these is Fastbits. Rather than load every bit of a picture, *Picture Publisher* samples groups of pixels producing a courser- and much smaller picture for manipulation. By turning on the built in recording function prior to picture manipulation, the operator can work significantly faster. The recorder can be later replayed on the full picture at a more convenient time (like overnight).

Another new feature to simplify working with large images is the ability to select small pieces of a picture for manipulation. Often, photo retouching only involves working with small parts of the picture. By



allowing the user to load and work with sections of the image, the entire block can be kept in memory with no need to swap parts of the image back and forth to disk.

Other new features of the program include new ways of viewing and working with masks. Previously the only indication of a mask was through a marquee around the masked area. The user can now use an overlay tint to show what part of the picture is masked. This is extremely useful when fine tuning a masked area. Editing a mask is also easier. Previously the user had manipulation control points on the mask to change its shape. Now the user can go into the mask and paint it larger or smaller just as if he were painting a picture.

Access to the mask is by a control at the bottom of the Picture Publisher screen. While viewed, all the operations that can be applied to a picture can be applied to a mask. The mask appears as a gray scale, with white areas representing areas of the picture that are not masked and black areas indicating areas that are not affected by operations on the picture. The fun arises with the gray areas. Gray implies a certain amount of opacity. A 50% masked area will have 50% of the consequences of an effect applied to that area of the picture.

An immediate application of this is ghosting. By selecting a variable amount of grayed areas in the mask channel, the user can have bits of one picture "ghost" into a second. Special effects applied to solid objects in the mask channel can have interesting effects. An emboss pattern applied to text in the mask channel can give an interesting effect if the mask is then used with a color fill to the main picture.

There are a few bugs in this release of Picture Publisher. Most are an irritation, rather than critical.

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

One example of this is that arrows sometimes do not turn into hourglasses when the machine is processing data. Another annoyance is the cursor on the tone balance chart.

The cursor appears to be referencing a point other than where is it pointing to. While there are ways around this, it would be nice to have better cursor control.

The program is also not very friendly while creating thumbnails for a library. Rather than working in background mode and allowing the user to perform other operations, the program releases control only when all thumbnails are built. The biggest problems occurred with exporting a picture using EPS mode. The program repeatedly crashed when I attempted this operation. Micrografx is aware of the problem and has a maintenance fix that should be out by the time this review appears in print.

Overall, the problems were minor when compared to all the new goodies in the package. Hard copy documentation is lighter than in previous releases but there is a wealth of hints hidden in the help section. For users of the program, look under "how to-" and "specialized how to's" for procedures to add a soft cameo or a wood grain effect to a picture. Another nice addition is CD ROM support. A CD-ROM supplied with the program makes installing the program a cinch and gives access to many interesting pictures.

For people who want the ultimate play-toy or who wish to just do serious work with images, this program is it.

Details-

Picture Publisher 4.0
by Micrografx
1303 Arapaho
Richardson, TX 75081

1-800-733-3729

Retail price \$595, SIGNIFICANT savings if purchased at the Micrografx SIG at Xchange Saturday

Neil Berkowitz

Neil Berkowitz is a partner in the computer consulting firm of D-N-B Consultants and can be reached at (214) 475-3124

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

by Claude McClure

Seasons Greetings!

Not the kind you read on a holiday greeting card, but the cool surprise of the north wind and wet umbrellas that tell you it's Comdex time. The North Texas P.C. Users Group like the other computer entities holds its collective breath waiting for the news from Comdex that will hint of the new direction the winds will blow. It is a time of changes.

This all makes me look for a hand hold or firm footing that will permit active rather than passive participation in the joys of computing. The stabilizing factor in our group

is the quality of our volunteer workers. The dependability of our volunteers is needed and appreciated.

There are some very talented people in the N.T.P.C.U.G. who are able to do a very special service as oversee a meeting or lead a SIG. They provide the needed direction this season. The volunteers who find their names in this newsletter are the evergreen trees who faithfully study, call, report and work on Super Saturday. They weather the storms and face the month to month summons to duty. To them I raise a cup of cheer during my Thanksgiving feast. Say THANKS to a volunteer today.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Information/
Registration Booth
Statistician:
Andy Oliver

Disk of the Month
(DOM)

Andy Stevko
Oscar Tyler

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:

Mike Griffin
David Slavik
Rod Rodolico (double)

Scheduler:
Bob Wuller

DOM Desk Crew:

Doug Athas
Bernie Baars
Nathan Bennette
Gene Carleton
Don Chick
Norman Dang
Oliver Daniels
James Donlon
William Farris
Charles Fernandez
Judy Griffiths
Gene Hamelman
Steve Hay
Duane Martin
Bob Post
George Read
Ed Snuggs

With Special Thanks to:

Inventory and Packing Crew
Charles Carter
Jimmy Green
Debra Green
Robert Wick

Crew:

Jim Aragon
Kenneth Berg
Hank Coleman
Robert Hartner
John Ivers
Paul Weathers

Anchors:
Connie Andrews
Dianne Arnold
John Arnold
Al Aston
Ralph Beaver
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
David Huckabee
David Martin
Raymond Reyes
Jean Waldrep
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller

Disk-For-Review-Manager
Howard Harkness

DOM Scheduler
Charles Cashion
DOM Organizers

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman



Booth Crew:

Mike Ashley
Greg Canty
Patricia Couch
Lorin Cranford
Neil Culver
Eteta E. Eta
Al Gloyna Jr.
John Ivers
Shirley London
Claude McClure
Foy T. Mills
Kristy Neblett
Thelda Opella
Don Springer
Bill Wade, II
Jennifer Wilkins
Randy Wicks

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)667-0978 (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
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 Sivernell	(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	LEGEND:				
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200	7	All 7 days of each week			
			T&T	1800-2030	M-F	Monday through Friday			
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700	T&T	Tuesday and Thursday			
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900	M-Sa	Monday through Saturday			
CompuServe	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900	S&S	Saturday and Sunday			
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) 731-1308							
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

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:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Beginners | Microsoft C | Dataflex |
| Hardware Help | Microsoft C++ | dBase, dBase III+ |
| \$ & Sense | Visual C++ | DeskLink |
| Anti-Virus | CAD | Desktop Publishing |
| Borland Turbo C | Corel Draw | MS/PC/DR DOS |
| | Easy Text | Portfolio Analyzer |
| | First Choice | Q&A File |
| | First Publisher | Q & A |
| | Fox Pro | Quattro Pro |
| | Fund Watch Plus | QuietWrite |
| | Harvard Graphics | RS-232 |
| | It's Legal | Communications |
| | LAN's | Roots |
| | LapLink | Smart |
| | Managing Your Money | Smart Notes |
| | Mathematica | Sound Blaster |
| | Modems | Stacker |
| | Money Counts | SuperCalc |
| | Money Plans | Symphony |
| | Microsoft Assembler | TurboTax |
| | Microsoft Word | TurboVision |
| | Microsoft Works | Ventura Publisher |
| | MIDI | Word (see Microsoft) |
| | MKS products | XTree |
| | Norton Utilities | |
| | OS/2 | |
| | PAF | |
| | Pagemaker | |
| | PC Hookup | |
| | PC Tools | |
| | Personal Tax Preparer | |
| | PKzip/PKUNzip | |



Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (Check Preferred No.) Home ____ (____) _____ 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.

8:00 - 8:55	10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.)	12:00 - 12:55 (Cont.)
Microsoft Networking	PAF-Genealogy	Communications
Visual BASIC - Beginning	Paradox	Desktop Publishing
9:00 - 9:55	Personal Users	OS/2 for End Users
BASIC Programming-Visual	WordPerfect/Windows	Personal Users
DOS	UNIX	TI Pro
General Genealogy	11:00 - 11:55	1:00 - 1:55
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
10:00 - 10:55	11:30 - 11:55	Spreadsheet
BASIC -Classic	Orientation	2:00 - 2:55
CAD	12:00 - 12:55	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	Glynn Brooks	(214) 578-9737 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
		(214) 233-8353 w
C++/Advanced	Kent Cobb	(214) 343-3862 h
	Tom Cook	(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
	David King	(817) 640-6130 hM
		(214) 313-0408 w
Desktop Publishing	Deborah Bean	(214) 475-7463 h
		(214) 475-3124 w
	Ray Hackney	(214) 437-2439 h
	Kevin White	(214) 644-5008 w
Fox Pro	Al Sanford	(214) 278-7888 h
Genealogy	Charles Miller	(903) 938-4220 h
Hardware Solutions	Gary Johnson	(214) 938-0344 h
	Dick Richtman	(214) 437-0322 h
Investors	Charles Miller	(903) 938-4220 h
MS Word	Janet Patton	(903) 886-6249 h
	Mike Firth	(214) 827-7734 h
	Ralph Logan	(817) 498-9746 hM
MS Works	Neal Berkowitz	(214) 475-3124 w
	Debbie Lenhart	(214) 714-6816 w
Micrograf	Bernie Van Roekel	(817) 451-4540 h
Microsoft Networking		(817) 461-4120 w
Networking		(214) 279-5712 h
		(214) 497-8978 w
CS/2 Developer	James Dunn	(214) 481-6625 h
		(214) 444-2195 w
CS/2 for End Users	Bob Fermier	(817) 498-5856 h
		(214) 492-1315 h
PAF	Joe Waldrop	(214) 692-9784 h
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214) 517-7430 h
	Tom Browning	(214) 953-4970 w
Personal Users	Alex Lilley	(214) 422-4269 h
		(214) 317-0125 h
	Bob Russell	(214) 416-3101 h
	Kent Kingery	(817) 430-8148 hM
Programmers	Jim Hoisington	(214) 630-1136 w
	Billy Pitts	(214) 699-9620 h
Quicken		(214) 495-4410 h
	Jo Johnston	(214) 271-4911 h
	John Wylie	(214) 326-2526 w
Roots III / IV	Pat Henley	(214) 475-7463 h
Software Review		(214) 475-3124 w
	Neal Berkowitz	(214) 964-8174 h
		(817) 478-6665 h
		(817) 265-8044 w
		(214) 423-8486 h
Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev.	Mark Gruner	(214) 348-9048 h
Startext	Jim Boughton	(214) 741-1993 w
		(214) 596-7807 h
	Bill Jones	(214) 604-2226 w
TI Pro	Jack McCurley	(817) 261-4653 hM
		(817) 878-0367 wM
UNIX	Jim Stallworth	(214) 306-5422 h
		(214) 250-8146 w
	Doug Scott	(214) 618-1266 h
		(817) 481-6453 h
Window Apps.	Rick Sivernell	(214) 255-0555 w
		(214) 492-9129 h
		(214) 634-2104 w
Window Devel.	Art English	(214) 406-9054 w
WordPerfect / DOS	Lori Quinn	
	C J Bain	
WordPerfect / Windows	Mitch Milam	

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 third or fourth 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

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

TI PRO BULLETIN BOARD (214)361-5275

SYSOP: Tom Blackwell

Address Changes, etc...

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

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)



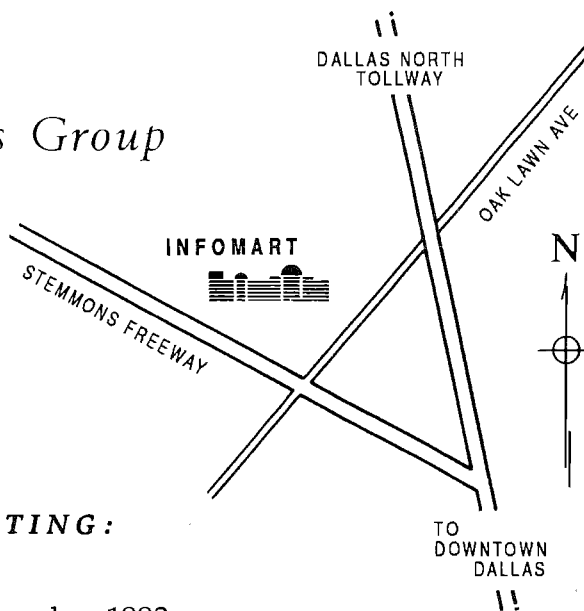
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NEXT MEETING:

11 December 1993