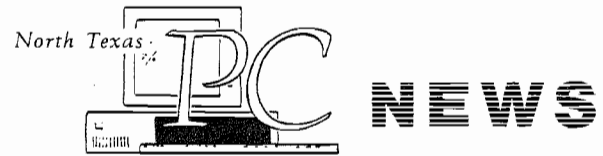


Price \$2.00



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*North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.*

*February 1993*

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 2



# North Texas PC NEWS

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### Deadline:

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

### Circulation:

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Member distribution was 1722; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

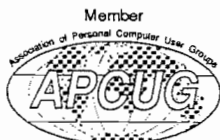
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## DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for March  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Wednesday, February 10th**

### Meeting Dates:

**February Meeting - 2nd Saturday**  
March Meeting - 3rd Saturday  
April meeting tentatively scheduled  
on the fourth Saturday.



## Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Program for February

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

### Hi-Tech Humor by St. Silicon

St. Silicon, Inc.

*Jeffrey Armstrong, President*

Come enjoy the comedy of Saint Silicon, a.k.a. Jeffrey Armstrong, founder of CHIP (Church of Heuristic Information Processing) as he puns and satirizes the high seriousness of computing. He will offer the "Keyboard Prayer," the "Ten Commands," the "Hail Memory," and introduce you to his "Binary Bible." This is a rare performance which you should not miss.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows

WordPerfect Corporation

*Jack Reeve, Area Manager*

Jack will be presenting the new WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows. WP5.2 includes new features like Grammatic V, Mail Enable, Quick Finder, Adobe Type Manager, and DDE and OLE support. There will be a drawing for a free copy.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

### NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

### Lotus Notes and Improv for Windows

Lotus Corporation

Improv for Windows is the "first truly dynamic spreadsheet on the market," which will allow users to rearrange spreadsheet data instantly and to spot trends and gain insights without having to rebuild the spreadsheet, re-enter data or copy formulas. The formulas can be displayed at the bottom in plain English which is easy to understand. Notes is a networked, document-oriented database that allows users to share any type of information: text, graphics, spreadsheets, reports, word-processing documents or whatever. It comes with built-in templates, but users can create their own applications or customize the templates to suit their own needs. There will also be a sneak preview of 1-2-3 for Windows Version 2.0. There will be a drawing for free products.

\* 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.

*Pres Sez...*



#### Elections

Winners in January's Board of Directors (BOD) elections are posted elsewhere in this issue. However, as MY deadline approached for February's PC NEWS, your choices for the three general BOD positions were not yet known. Whatever the outcome, I am especially pleased that we had six candidates formally offer themselves for crucifixion, plus two others that volunteered "if no one else will". This is the

biggest turnout ever for BOD candidates, and I hope is indicative of attitudes in future years.

As Andy Oliver ran unopposed for President-Elect, I feel confident that he assumed that role when the BOD met in January. Andy did a superb job as President in 1992, and I know that he will continue to make positive contributions in 1993 and 1994.

Separately, NTPCUG installed a new Secretary at the December BOD meeting. Mr. John West, a long time NTPCUG member, enthusiastically accepted our invitation to take over where David McGehee had left off. John's first challenge was to take meticulous minutes with one hand WHILE balancing a knife and fork in the other. John also counted the hundreds (hopefully) of ballots received by mail and at January's Super Saturday meeting. Welcome, John! Thanks for volunteering. ►

## Prez Sez... continued

### Membership

Microsoft Corporation has offered to pay \$10 toward each NEW NTPCUG membership received IF the member attends a presentation on ACCESS and FoxPro for Windows. That presentation is now tentatively scheduled for March. Watch for details in that month's newsletter, and bring all your friends!

How useful is your NTPCUG membership? A local UTD (University of Texas at Dallas) professor requires his students to attend at least one Infomart meeting, and to write a paper on what was observed. He recognizes the contribution that Users Groups play in providing continuing education to PC users.

### Our "Talk Show" Personalities

New member Jim Garrison is now the "Voice of NTPCUG" on the Information Hotline (214-746-4699). As of December, Jim began providing monthly updates on meeting dates and auditorium presentations. He certainly does it more professionally than Yours Truly did, possibly due to his "day job" as a Disk Jockey (that's DISK, not DESK...).

Turns out we have a SECOND radio personality. On November 27th of last year, Reagan Andrews responded to radio station KERA's request for a PC guru to participate in a "computer basics" talk show. Reagan did an superb job describing NTPCUG to those lucky persons buying or receiving computers as Christmas presents. With him was NTPCUG member Andy Reese, who elaborated on the Apple Corp's contribution to Mac owners, and John Chang, who covered Commodore systems. The only drawback was the limited time available; otherwise, all went very well. I wonder if Jim Garrison needs a backup...

## Election Results

The January election resulted in the following slate of officers for the year 1993:

President-Elect	-	Andy Oliver
Board of Directors	-	Reagan Andrews Jim Hoisington Fred Williams

### Special Interest Groups (SIG)

SIG Leaders -- please remember to get your room and equipment requests (overhead projectors, microphones, LCD plates, whiteboards, etc.) to Alex Lilley TWO (2) WEEKS prior to each monthly meeting. He must convey your needs to the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD) representative that deals with the Infomart. Late requests may be impossible to arrange.

### Bulletin Board System

The Off-line Mail Reader (OLMR) component known as QSO (QWK Support Option) is up and running. QSO had been operating in a "test" phase for about two months, its availability not widely known. Option "Q" from the Main Menu activates QSO, at which time you can set various options and initiate uploads and downloads of mail "packets". QSO is used in conjunction with any of several OLMR programs available from the DOM, and reviewed elsewhere within PC NEWS. The OLMRs are also useful when accessing many other BBS's around the country and Metroplex.

Use of QSO and OLMR were discussed in December and January in the Communications and BBS SIGs, and will doubtless be part of Q & A time in coming months.

### Giveaways in January

Did you attend the 11:00 Business Meeting in January? If not, you missed out on drawings for all kinds of desirable (and some less-desired) software and "trinkets" that vendors send us. We do this every few months, so watch PC NEWS for the next giveaway. Of course, YOU MUST BE A NTPCUG MEMBER TO WIN (all the more reason to join...).

### Call for Volunteers

NTPCUG still has need of someone to coordinate the receipt and duplication of each month's NEW shareware disks. The ideal person is one who lives in Richardson or a surrounding community, since our disk duplication service is located there. The individual should have a flexible schedule, or perhaps be able to work on a flexible schedule, or perhaps be able to work on a flexible schedule. The benefit to this volunteer is free access to all of NTPCUG's newest shareware titles. For further information, please contact the DOM Director, Kathryn Loafman, or myself. See inside back cover for numbers.

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Doug Gorrie

♠

# Introducing Borland's Paradox for Windows

## Experience the magic of easy database power

If you're looking for the easiest-to-use, most powerful, and most reliable Windows database, this is it! With new Paradox<sup>®</sup> for Windows, there's no limit to what you can do.

The graphical interface makes it easy to access, modify, and present your data. Create customer lists in seconds, automatically generate reports with the push of a button, or retrieve data from different sources into a single answer table.

## The best way to manage Paradox and dBASE data

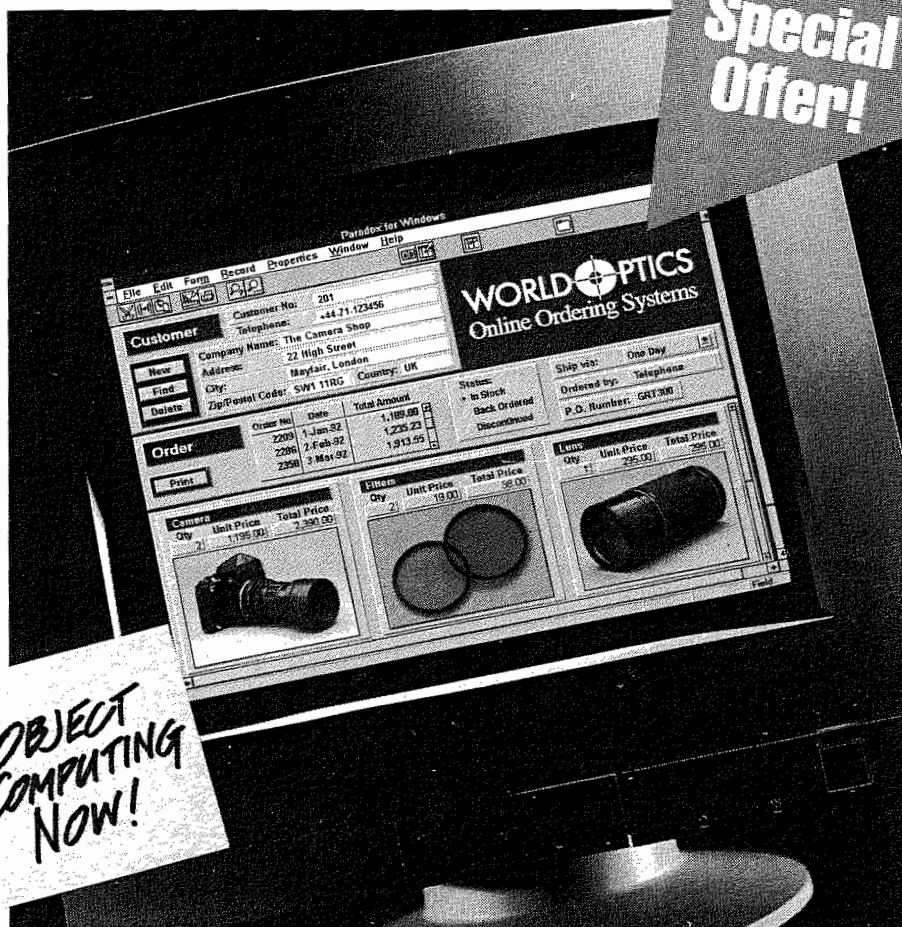
Paradox for Windows makes it easy to work with your Paradox and dBASE<sup>®</sup> data. You can view, edit, query, and link to all your data, with no limitations. You make your request for data simply by checking off boxes with easy-to-use Query By Example. Then the Paradox for Windows query optimizer automatically

determines the fastest way to deliver the answer.

Paradox for Windows lets you manage virtually unlimited data types, too. You can store any kind of information, including text, menus, graphics, OLE objects, sound, and even multimedia. You can even mix and match Paradox and dBASE data in queries, forms, and reports.

More people trust their data to Borland than all other database companies combined. That's why Borland is the Data Company. Put the power of Paradox to work for you today. You will be amazed at what you can do.

Special Offer!



OBJECT COMPUTING NOW!

BEST DATA CONNECTIVITY



## Paradox is the best Windows database

	Paradox	Access
<b>Performance:</b>		
Insert 1,000 records*	29 sec	147 sec
Range selection: 15,000 of 130,000 records*	<1 sec	16 sec
Complete Paradox and dBASE file support	✓	
Visual data modeling for forms and reports	✓	
Object-oriented development environment	✓	

## Special introductory offer.

Offer expires April 30, 1993.

**\$139<sup>95</sup>**

(regular list price \$795)

See your dealer or call now,  
1-800-336-6464, ext. 5975

In Canada, call 1-800-461-3327.

**Borland Paradox<sup>®</sup>**  
for Windows



\*All tests run on IBM<sup>®</sup> PS/2 Model 70 386/20 mhz, 4Mb RAM, Novell 3.11 NetWare, Ethernet network. Special offer good in the United States and Canada only. Prices in U.S. dollars. Copyright © 1993 Borland International, Inc. All rights reserved. All Borland product names are trademarks of Borland International, Inc. BI 5094

## NTPCUG On-Line

By Fred Williams  
Sysop, NTPCUG BBS

Pete Testa has done a yeoman's job of bringing the BBS DOM index search function up to date. Therefore we have "turned on" this new feature for use by both the general membership and our "public" users. The new on-line DOM index can be "key word" searched for software related to a user's particular interests and needs. Once the user has found a list of relevant DOM software, he can read selected software product Read Me files on-line.

Pete plans on working closely with the DOM Group to keep the index as up to date as is possible. We hope to be able to make available the newest DOM disk information in as timely a fashion as is currently done in the newsletter.

This month's hot topics will be TBBS message privacy and BBS security. Several BBS users have asked for a clear explanation of exactly how secure and private their messages really are. I think that some of our BBS users are working on some pretty ultra secret projects, like the impeachment of Doug Gorrie, so they are naturally concerned about message secrecy.

Actually the real usefulness of "private" messages is the ability to carry on a thread of messages with a second party without cluttering up everybody else's In Box. Also some people don't appreciate being called a jerk in public!

In the purest form of definition for private messages, a message that can be known only to two individuals, the sender and the receiver, there are no private messages on the NTPCUG BBS. All messages can potentially be accessed by the Sysop or anyone holding that status.

By gentlemen's agreement and through TBBS restrictions, we at the Sysop's access level do not have need, nor do we desire to peruse the message base. Full unlimited access to the message base is only possible off line. On line, Sysops have no more message reading privileges than any other user.

By convention, each "public" conference (SIG) on the NTPCUG BBS has a Conference Monitor assigned. The Conference Monitor can read and delete any,

public or "private", message posted to that conference. This means that in public conferences there are no "private" messages, ever.

Through TBBS configuration, all public conferences, (SIG's), do not allow "private" messages. If you are given the option of sending a private message from a public conference the message will post as "public". Please leave a message to the Sysop if you are given the option of electing to send what you think will be a "private" message in a public conference.

On line users will find a menu selection for sending E-Mail on each public conference menu. If you wish to send a private reply to a message posted in a public conference you must send the message as E-Mail. Off line reader users have a very easy way of redirecting a reply to a conference other than the originating conference. For those using off line readers, responding with a private reply is very easy. They can merely redirect their reply to the E-Mail message area. There are just two "private" message areas available to the "NTPCUG Member" level user. These are: "E-Mail" and "Message To Sysop". Both of these areas will never have conference monitors assigned. Both of the areas guarantee message privacy (sender, receiver read only) under normal day to day BBS operation. One important note; Messages To Sysop can be read by the entire BBS staff, not just the "Sysop". The BBS has some "special use" message areas that are accessible by those NTPCUG and CCD Members who help keep NTPCUG and CCD going. These areas are set aside for those folks to leave messages which relate to their particular area of involvement in our user groups' internal organizations.

There are some of the rank and file membership that are disturbed by the fact that there are message areas not accessible to all BBS users. My only advice to those individuals is, "Volunteer to do something more to aid in the continuation and improvement of NTPCUG or CCD." Those who do, receive increased BBS access rights, reflecting their area of volunteer effort.

With that said, on to how the special use message areas work. Special use message areas will never have conference monitors assigned. This gives these areas the same privacy level as E-Mail. One additional feature of these message areas is the ability to post "public" messages which may be read by all with access privileges to that particular message area. This reduces the need for long carbon copy, and distribution lists.

All of these special use message areas show up as selections on the General Conference Menu. These selections only appear to those users who have been granted special access rights based on their level of involvement in either the NTPCUG or CCD. If your General Conference selection list looks a little thin, might I suggest that we could use your contribution of time and talent to making NTPCUG and CCD better for us all.

For those who wish to know, the following is a complete list of special use conferences on the BBS: BOD, DOM, SIG Leaders, CCD, Editors, BBS Direct, Msg To Sysop, and Msg From Sysop.

A word of warning concerning the "public" messages posted in these special use conferences. Sysop level BBS staff can read the "public" messages posted in the special use conferences. Remember that for the highest level of message security, choose E-Mail. You can't even send a "public" message by accident in E-Mail.

Along a related line, the BBS Sysop staff is interested in "testing" the security of our implementation of TBBS. TBBS is possibly the only true "commercial" grade software BBS product on the market. The design of TBBS insures the ability to implement a very secure on line system. But, each implementation of any software product is only as good as the planning, design, and testing done by the implementers. Therefore the NTPCUG BBS staff is declaring the Last Annual Hacker Extravaganza.

### NTPCUG BBS Security Contest

Message Date: 2/13/93

A cordial invitation to all who can read this message.

Questions of the security of the NTPCUG BBS have been raised by the NTPCUG Officers and Board of Directors. This security concern has justifiably impeded the development and installation of some planned new on-line services for the NTPCUG BBS Membership. This concern of BBS security must be addressed before further progress can be made toward a wider service offering for the NTPCUG BBS user community.

What's in it for you?

Full recognition as very sly devil.

Should anyone actually breach security to a point that would allow them to find the golden rivet that holds the BBS security together, the BBS staff will prominently feature that person and their method of entry in an article to be published in the NTPCUG monthly newsletter. Also the BBS author's company would, without a doubt, be very interested in the method used to breach security. This BBS software is installed in some pretty impressive branches of the federal government.

How do you win?

If you actually breach security to the required point, you obviously will be intelligent enough to recognize the "clue" required to let the NTPCUG BBS SYSOP staff know you have broken down, tunneled under, or scaled the wall.

Are their rules?

Are you kidding me? Sure there are rules!

The first rule is there are three people who are not eligible for the contest, and we know who we are.

Physical damage to the BBS site, BBS equipment, telephone company equipment, or BBS staff will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. For the more simple minded, this means no dynamite, crow bars, or hand grenades.

This is an exercise in legal security testing. Should you actually breach security, we respectfully request that no damage be done to the actual BBS software or any data residing on the BBS system. Have fun and work your tails off! The contest has a time limit. If it can't be done in one month (beginning from the date of this message) then that should be a reasonable security test.

One last reminder. There are some things that we have no control over.

\*\*\*\*\* VERY STRONG WARNING \*\*\*\*\*

There are many federal and state statutes related to misuse and abuse of telecommunications media. We cannot protect the contest participants from these laws. Therefore, we strongly advise you to use due diligence in avoiding breach of any of these laws.

Fred

☐



Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

# The Variety Store

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

## PC industry agog over Novell's UNIX acquisition In December, a flurry of OS news -- and non-news Will this make OS Wars a four-way struggle?

Meanwhile, Access "bugs" may be video drivers ...

*I promised last month that I'd begin talking about really interesting new products seen at Comdex in this month's column. I apologize, but I felt the Novell-UNIX developments were much more important. We'll tackle products next month.*

Novell buys UNIX. That's staggering if you are Microsoft, IBM or SUN. It means that the OS Wars for dominance of the high-end desktop will be a real, four-way fight between the PC Giants -- and one aggressive workstation vendor.

This is still unfolding, and still somewhat of a mystery.

It's no secret that there's been no love lost between Microsoft's CEO, Bill Gates, and Novell's CEO, Ray Noorda. Some media have described the acquisition of UNIX from AT&T by Novell as one more foray against Microsoft by Novell. Interesting, \$350 Million idea.

Post-Comdex/Fall '92 stories highlighted Microsoft's ongoing FTC investigation with a surprising twist -- Novell, under Noorda's direction, was aiding and abetting the federal agency's scrutiny in every way possible. For a company that "owns" an estimated 60% of the LAN market, and has a reputation for some bare-knuckled business practices itself, Novell seems a strange FTC "partner."

Media pundits describe the UNIX acquisition (according to the writers' personal proclivities) with some seeing it as a "desperation move" to counter the threat to Novell posed by Microsoft's *Windows for Workgroups* and coming *Windows NT*. Other mavens view Novell's UNIX move as a logical "next step" for Novell and recognition of future trends in the industry.

### UNIX should prosper under Novell

One thing is sure -- UNIX should do much better under Novell's guidance than it has fared under AT&T's uneven, unsure management.

First, Novell does know the PC/LAN environment and OS's. Also, Novell knows how to make markets work for them, with a few exceptions, better than almost anybody -- except Microsoft. Maybe Borland belonged here as well.

What Novell bought was Unix System Laboratories (USL) and the source code to UNIX. That's simple. What's not so simple is that there are many, many varieties of UNIX around, each proudly hailed as the ultimate UNIX, and each carefully tailored to be hardware -- and software -- specific.

### Too many UNIX versions

That's always been the problem with UNIX. Each hardware vendor has a version, *SunOS*, IBM's *AIX*, Dec *ULTRIX*, etc.

Each is a different variety, and generally, each unable to run applications software written for a different UNIX platform. Also, each of the vendors except Sun (*SunOS*) has been primarily a hardware vendor with significant ties to either the mini or mainframe environment.

For users this has meant tolerating both predatory pricing as result of a very small user base, and mainframe-vendor arrogance in the areas of end-user support, bug patches, etc. This factor alone has been a primary source of the "invisible" hobbles



## Variety . . . . .

attached to *UNIX* for the small shop or single user.

Novell's acquisition of *UNIX* may, indeed, mean a reprieve for the small shop and individual user -- perhaps. Certainly, Novell's "weight" in the PC/LAN software world promises some long-needed pressure for uniformity across platforms if nothing else, and if managed properly.

### Is Novell a "savior" for *UNIX*?

Maybe. The above is a factor for sure. If anyone can unify the *UNIX* world, Novell should be able to accomplish this feat.

Novell also has a finger on at least one view of the future of desktop computing. This, the Novell view of the future, may be at some odds with the view(s) expressed by USL recently which sounded somewhat like the "return" of (at least) the mini to enterprise wide computing.

Of course, that occurred while USL was still a component of AT&T and still a minion of AT&T's views of the desktop world. And, everybody knows how successful AT&T has been in the PC -- and minicomputer market(s). AT&T has been named by some as the company that could take a superior idea and reduce it to a passing whim via AT&T marketing.

### Novell knows LAN marketing Are OS's another matter?

Microsoft has crossed swords with Novell LAN marketing savvy -- and lost -- several

times since Novell's inception in 1983.

Operating systems (OS's) may be another matter. *DR-DOS* doesn't seem to have prospered under Novell management. Sales of the former Digital Research Inc. (DRI) OS product have actually declined since Novell's acquisition of DRI.

Some contrarians state this is by design and part of Novell's "larger strategy" aimed squarely at Microsoft.

### Novell's "Dark Side"

In spite of all the positive aspects seen by the media, there may be a "dark" side to the "silver lining." Nobody ever accused Novell of being a universally-benevolent and altruistic organization.

Novell's in it for profits. Noorda's LAN giant is second only to Microsoft in PC-related revenues.

Single-users or small shops haven't rated very highly on Novell's list of treasured customers in the past with various versions/iterations of *NetWare*, etc., according to some users. The most recent flap concerns upgrade policies for users wanting to move up to latest version(s) on *NetWare*.

Announced pricing structures for updates looked very predatory according to some Novell users/critics. Also, Novell's relationship(s) with ISV's and VAR's has always been somewhat contentious.

If *UNIX* is handled in the same manner as Novell has handled *NetWare*, then the small-shop, single user may suffer according to some vendors. Other critics claim this couldn't be any worse than *UNIX* users have experienced over several years' dealing with SCO and other *UNIX/XENIX* vendors.

### Novell's problem with *UNIX* users

The *UNIX* "culture" itself may be a much greater problem for Novell than management considered. *UNIX* is a child of the university culture of the 70's.

*UNIX* gurus came from the same environment as the "Flower Children" of the same epoch. Back in my military episode, similar folks were described by drill instructors (DI's -- advocates of the Marquis de Sade's discipline philosophy by and large) as having "serious attitude problems."

As Microsoft knows very, very well, the marketing adage "You'll sell one copy of any software package in Italy -- and at any university," says much concerning this community -- and its graduates.

That's a little harsh, I know. But, licensing agreements, copyright restrictions, etc., are always problematic at best. In an environment where the product itself (*UNIX*) has been largely a university-based "hack", long-term users and developers may find any restrictions onerous.

Novell's accustomed operating caveats may seem downright satanic to this group. ►

## Variety . . . . .

### So, where does all this Leave Microsoft, et al?

Interesting question. Microsoft is busy redefining the desktop for most users via Windows and the GUI. Many have seen Windows 3.1 NT as Microsoft's first shot at the multi-platform market, perhaps its most important shot.

Microsoft -- and IBM, SUN, et al -- have to be asking if this is the first salvo in a Novell run at OS supremacy? Novell already owns the only respectable DOS competition at the low end (*DR DOS*) and *UNIX* may be the camel's nose under the upper-end desktop tent.

In the middle of all this is the ongoing Microsoft vs. Novell squabble over the fate of *Netware* hooks in "future" Windows-based products. There is certainly no love lost between the two CEO's at this point.

There is increasing speculation that this Novell gambit has caused a shift in focus for Microsoft as well as a decision to call the newest versions of Windows Windows 3.1 NT to avoid Novell license restrictions concerning version nomenclature.

IBM in particular has to be less than happy with this turn unless they have some agreement(s) with Novell that the media hasn't sniffed-out so far. *OS/2* had the promise to break the Microsoft monopoly over OS dominance on the desktop. Although Microsoft's NT may be the target, *OS/2* is going to feel the heat as well if Novell is able to shepherd *UNIX* into a real PC operating system in the near future.

That's a pity. *OS/2 2.x* is real OS with many (as many as fit on a 160K SSDD floppy database) advocates and a growing reputation as a good, if not great, alternative to the Microsoft product.

### On another track ... Rumors of *Access* "Bugs" greatly Exaggerated according to CIS

Microsoft rolled-out *Access 1.0* at Comdex with a lot of media attention -- including last month's *Variety Store*. Recently, one media source has been playing up the "many bugs" being discovered in *Access* by "frantic users."

Careful perusal of the CIS (CompuServe Information System) forums gives a somewhat different story, however. Looking through the forum message bases -- a daunting task -- reveals some surprising "commonalities" among the message threads. Seems that *Access* (and a number of other new products) doesn't get along well with certain video drivers.

Most commonly mentioned is the driver for ATI's Local Bus "Ultra" video card. *Access* isn't the only product negatively-impacted by some of the newer video drivers (ATI definitely isn't alone here), but has had the pleasure of most media attention to date.

Microsoft has been surprisingly quiet on this issue.

### And, a final rave

-- for local service

This is a result of using the NTPCUG BBS.

Andy Oliver left a message in "Swap Shop" -- a conference area on the Club BBS -- advertising two NEC MultiSynch XL, 20" VGA monitors for sale at a ridiculously low (apparently) price.

I was, 50-year-old eyes and all, very interested in a 20" VGA monitor for \$250. Called. Quickly. Yes, the monitors were still available. Andy admitted there was a small problem with "fuzziness" on both, hence the low price.

I bit the bullet and bought one. Andy was correct. The monitor was indeed pretty fuzzy in the center area. I called Nani Wu at QC Plus Computers for suggestions (after calling NEC, of course). Nani said she thought Bob Ramsay at Quality Electronics could help. I was really impressed by Quality's location -- DeSoto, TX -- approximately 10 minutes from the DVAMC Hospital where I work.

I took the clumsy, heavy beast (20" monitors used to be huge!) to Bob Ramsey. He spent a few minutes twiddling knobs, running test patterns, and making adjustments on the NEC. It looks pretty good now at 1024 X 768, even better at 800 X 600. Lots cheaper than the new 17" I had been eyeing.

Moral (the shameless plug), if you live in the southern DF/W area and have monitor problems, give Bob Ramsay a call. You can reach him at (214) 223-0652. It may be well worth your time.

Reagan

# Ami Pro gives Word and WordPerfect what they've never had before.

Features	Ami Pro 3.0	Word for Windows 2.0b	WordPerfect® for Windows 5.1
True WYSIWYG in all views eliminates guesswork	Yes	No	No
Fast Format - quick repetition of text formats	Yes	No	No
SmartMerge step-by-step mail merge guide with a card file data manager	Yes	No	No
Preview of Style Sheets for memos, faxes, newsletters, etc.	Yes	No	No
WYSIWYG preview in File Open to quickly view, print, or extract text	Yes	No	No
More import/export filters	45	27	37
On-line Tutorial	Yes	Yes	No
Automatic re-numbering of lists	Yes	No	No
Customizable, editable, sizable, colorful SmartIcons™ for one click access to frequent tasks	Yes	No	No
In-context editing of drawings and charts	Yes	No	No
Laptop install option for quick and minimal configuration on a laptop	Yes	No	No

## Something to shoot for.

Take a look at this chart and you'll see, feature-by-feature, just how far Ami Pro® 3.0 has leaped ahead of other Windows™ word processors.

### Ami Pro 3.0 takes top honors.

In fact, in recent tests† conducted by the National Software Testing Laboratories, Software Digest® (Vol. 9, No. 6, Sept. '92) gave Ami Pro 3.0 the highest Overall Evaluation in its category.

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

It also received the highest score ever for a

Windows word processor in a recent InfoWorld® review, and won the PC Computing MVP award for word processing. So it's definitely the word processor to evaluate.

Now that you've seen the evidence, why not prove it to yourself? Call us at **1-800-872-3387, ext. 7712** for your free working model or to upgrade from your current word processor for just \$129.\*

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**Lotus**

**Ami Pro 3.0**

Word Processor for Windows

†Among Windows word processors tested. Reprints of report available upon request. \*Offer expires 3/31/93. Call for a list of eligible word processors. Education-priced Lotus products not included. Offer valid in U.S.A. only. Not to be combined with any other offer. Please have your credit card and current word processor ready when you call. In Canada, call 1-800-GO-LOTUS. © 1992 Lotus Development Corporation, 35 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02142. All rights reserved. Lotus and Ami Pro are registered trademarks and SmartIcons is a trademark of Lotus Development Corporation. Software Digest is a registered trademark of NSTL, Inc. InfoWorld is a registered trademark of InfoWorld Publishing, Inc. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of WordPerfect Corporation. Adobe Type Manager and the ATM logo are registered trademarks, in the United States, of Adobe Systems, Inc.

## NTPCUG Community Service

by Brian Mickel

### Part 3: The People Involved

In the previous two articles, I described the potential opportunity for the disadvantaged in our community to have access to modern computer technology. There are two primary reasons for this. The first reason is the dramatic drop in the price of used computers which makes it economically possible to establish neighborhood computer labs. The second reason is the foresight of leaders in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) who are providing access to state of the art computer labs for after-school adult education programs. In this part, I will describe some of the people involved with the Dallas Computer Literacy Program and explain their purpose.

Gerald Davis is the Outreach Minister for the Cornerstone Baptist Church. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP). He teaches the DCLP Microsoft Works class at Daniel "Chappie" James Learning Center, a DISD grade school that is one of the DCLP's Affiliated Computer Centers. He teaches this two week class once every month and has been doing this for the last six months. Additionally, he teaches a computer class for adolescents living at the Holmes Street Adolescent Center on Saturday afternoons at his church. The young people there attend public schools, but live at the Center with other adolescents.

Gerald does this to give the residents and youth in the South Dallas Community exposure to what computers can do for them educationally and also to improve their job prospects. The Cornerstone Baptist Church, where Gerald is the Outreach Minister, has a DCLP Neighborhood Computer Lab to provide the local community and members of the church with the benefits of computer training and computer aided learning.

Marilyn Calhoun is the principal of Daniel "Chappie" James Learning Center (a DISD grade school located next to Fair Park in South Dallas). She has enthusiastically supported the DCLP's efforts to provide free computer classes to the local residents, students and parents of the children at her school. She has given the DCLP access to the school's two computer labs any time after 5pm Monday thru Friday. Part of Miss Calhoun's vision for her school is to develop the con-

cept of a "learning center" not just for the 4th, 5th and 6th graders that the school teaches, but also for the adults in her community.

Dr. Edward Baca is the Area Coordinator for DISD's Area 9, which includes South Dallas, Oakcliff and West Dallas. He is very interested in assisting the DCLP develop the concept of community participation in education. He strongly supports our efforts to provide free computer classes and has offered other DISD schools' computer labs as locations to further expand the concept of computer based educational opportunities for the local community. We are working in partnership with the DISD in developing this program.

Finally, I am a pilot with American Airlines and the current president of the Dallas Computer Literacy Program. Every week I fly a machine that, fifty years ago, others could only have dreamed of. The computer industry today is in its infancy, not unlike the fledgling airline industry of fifty years ago. The computer industry is still in the process of making its major impact on our society, whereas the airline industry has already made its mark in shrinking our world.

One major area of impact that the computer industry has already impacted and will further change is education. Because of this technology's educational potential, Gerald Davis, Chris Simmons and I incorporated this organization last Summer to tap the skills of the technical community to help meet the large educational needs of the inner city community.

Education is a basic requirement now for a good job and that means for people to achieve the American Dream of economic advancement beyond their current circumstances, they must have access to education. The Dallas Computer Literacy Program is setting out to meet this need by taking old computers and putting them where they can be used and by enlisting other interested people in helping us effectively use modern technology to keep alive an old economic dream... the American Dream of rising above ones current circumstances through hard work and diligent effort!

The final part in this series of articles will be published next month. For more information or to donate a computer please call Brian Mickel at 521-6670 or Alex Lilley at 953-4970

Brian

■

# CELLS & RANGES

*an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information*

by Betty Brooks

## **1-2-3 3.4 is now shipping.**

Lotus' newest version of the 1-2-3 spreadsheet is 3.4 which just started shipping as I was getting ready to write this column. There are several new features added to this new version, many of which are already in version 2.4. The biggest improvement in version 3.4 is the increased speed of performance of calculation, printing and screen refreshing as well as the initial start up of the program.

When you go to install this new version, you will note there have been some improvements in how the install program works. One thing I noticed, was that the first menu where you choose which options to install listed the amount of disk space required for each of the different options, such as the add-ins. You are also informed on the amount of disk space you have available, which helps you with the planning of option choices.

The SmartIcons which were included in version 2.4 are now present in version 3.4 and are an improved set. These icons allow the user to speedily perform some spreadsheet functions that would ordinarily take several menu choices. One of my favorites that is also in 2.4 is the icon which places a circle around the current cell.

As you would expect, version 3.4 has icons which will help the user in performing commands that are unique to the 3-D spreadsheet, such as a 3-D sum. There are 12 icons which are user definable just like in version 2.4, but these are much better because you can also edit the bitmaps for the icons. This makes it real easy to create a custom application complete with the customized icons with customized macros attached to the icons. If you are not good at creating your own icons, you can import the bitmap files for the icons.

The icons are integrated into WYSIWYG rather than being an add-in. If you don't want to see the icon bar onscreen, there is a little bar at the bottom of the screen which will toggle off the icons. This helps complete the customizing features that 1-2-3 3.4 includes. When using these features, you can

create a slick looking application for other users which is easy to use and clean looking on the screen.

There are now 3-D graphs allowed for line, bar, pie and area graphs. Greater control over the graphs is possible now by user control of how the graph frame is drawn and adding drop shadows to the graph. There are also several new printer drivers included in 3.4. Most of the new drivers are for the HP Laserjet III printers. By using the WYSIWYG menu to print, most printers will now be able to print the spreadsheet out in landscape mode, which is a very welcome feature for the dot matrix printer users. If you want background printing in this new version, you will have to run a separate utility called BPrint before starting 1-2-3. This is different that the earlier versions of the 3.x series of 1-2-3 spreadsheets which had the background built into the program.

The mouse features are improved in version 3.4. You can now specify a range by dragging the cell pointer from one corner of the range to the other using the mouse pointer. This works only on a single sheet range, however. At least it eliminates using the F4 key to lock down the beginning of the range.

One of the features of 2.4 that I have been using a lot, is the ability to erase a single cell by pressing the Del key. In fact, sometimes I delete things unintentionally! This feature is now in version 3.4, so be careful with your use of the Del key. It is definitely much quicker than using the /Range Erase menu options.

When I have a problem in my macro code, I use the step mode to work through the macro to help find where the problem is located. Lotus has now added a trace feature to the debugging process if you want it. Now when you press Alt-F2 to start the step mode, you will be presented with a menu of options. The trace option will now display the current macro instruction line and the cell location of the macro at the bottom of the screen only when the macro fails. The macro will run at normal speed until it hits the problem. The normal step mode will display the line of macro code at the bottom of the screen as you press some key to work through the code, step by step.

I think this trace feature will come in very handy in debugging, since many times it takes a long time to step through the code which is working ok until you get to the problem part of the code. Of course, many times I will stick a {?} into my code just before the problem area, run the macro until it hits the pause, then press Alt-F2 to start the step mode and press enter to continue the macro running step by step. The trace will cut out the need to do this! ▶

Just as 1-2-3 2.4 has enhanced settings sheets for the print and graph settings, version 3.4 now does, too. The settings sheets are really status screens that help you keep track of all the options which you have chosen for the particular operations. These settings sheets can be named and saved, allowing you to have multiple settings sheets in the same spreadsheet, which is a feature Symphony has had all along. Besides the printing and graph setting sheets, there are setting sheets for when you use the /Worksheet Status and /Worksheet Global Default Status menu options. These settings sheets make it much easier to keep up with which options you have used and which are needing a change.

The DataLens technology which was developed by Lotus to allow the reading and writing of data from external databases has been improved. Included with version 3.4 are drivers for dBase IV, Paradox and SQL. There are many other drivers available from other sources if you have a different database. I wrote about using the DataLens drivers a few months ago and have found them to be quite flexible in what you are able to do with the data.

Last but not least, you are now able to retrieve a worksheet file and specify a driver set (DCF file) from the DOS prompt. If you want to use a particular driver, you type in the name of the driver set following the 123 (i.e. 123 lotus.dcf). When you want to retrieve a particular spreadsheet you type 123 -w followed immediately by the spreadsheet name with the path if necessary. There is no space between the w and the file name, but there is a space between the 123 and the -w. Please note, the w must be in lower case.

I have done a little testing of some spreadsheets in version 3.4 vs 2.4 and found that 2.4 was still faster than 3.4 in the spreadsheets I tested. That will not always be true for everyone, since it is dependent on what type of functions are being used in the spreadsheet. There was a 2.5 second difference between the time I started up 1-2-3 2.4 and 1-2-3 3.4 which is much better than 3.1's performance. You will definitely notice a big improvement in the performance time in 3.4 and this should make many users happy. When you consider that 3.4 is a 3-D spreadsheet and includes more functions such as the datalens technology and better linking functionality, this is a giant step ahead. Most users will be very happy with the new performance improvements in 1-2-3 3.4.

Betty

*Betty has a spreadsheet and database consulting business called Records & Ranges. She can be reached at 214-618-1608 (4312 Bragg Place, Plano, TX 75024) if you have any questions or suggestions for this column.*

## Batch File Tips and Utilities

*Eighth in a series*

Mitchell A. Hoselton, Ph.D.

### REBOOT, REBOOT and REBOOT again

Anyone who wants use their own batch files to juggle multiple configurations quickly discovers that it would be really nice if DOS provided a utility to automatically reboot the PC after the batch file swaps the new and old versions of CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT. Here is an assortment of reboot utilities to consider.

The first method I learned uses a one line BASICA script. REBOOT.BAS is an ASCII text file containing the following single line.

```
10 DEF SEG=&HF000:RB=&HE05B:CALL RB
```

More recently, Paul Somerson reported using the equivalent decimal version of the same BASICA commands, as follows.

```
10 DEF SEG=61440:R=57435:CALL R
```

To reboot the PC, simply execute the following line from the command line or in a running batch file.

```
BASICA reboot
```

Those running DOS 5.0 will have to add BASICA to the version table and install SETVER.EXE before it will work. Both BASICA scripts work and both perform a cold boot of the system. Some users will have a problem making them work, however. The problem I found occurs only when QEMM386 or 386MAX is installed. DOS's HIMEM.SYS does not cause the same problem.

There are many other choices, so if you use one of those memory managers, don't get discouraged yet. Any number of commercial applications also include a reboot program. For example, MACE Utilities, Software CAROUSEL, and BOOTCON all have their own reboot utility. These particular programs all perform a warm boot of the system. Quite a few PC owners, though they may not know it, already have a reboot utility stored somewhere on their hard disk.

The PC Utilities, a large and growing collection of utilities available on PC MagNet, on diskettes from the NTPCUG, or by purchasing a copy of Paul Somerson's book, "PC Magazine DOS Power Tools, 2nd Edition," includes REBOOT.COM. This utility stops to offer the choice of Warm-Boot, Cold-Boot or ESC to abort the reboot operation.

PC Magazine printed a script file for another utility with the same name, REBOOT.COM (which performs

a warm boot, only), in the December 17, 1991 edition on page 429. PC/Computing printed script files for WARM.COM and COLD.COM in the December 1991 edition on page 343. The scripts REBOOT.SCR, WARM.SCR and COLD.SCR appear in LISTING 3. I've also included in LISTING 3 a script for the cold booting version of REBOOT.COM, which I've named REBOOTC.SCR.

=====  
 LISTING 3 - Scripts for four utilities that can reboot a PC

<p><b>Script File REBOOT.SCR</b></p> <pre>N REBOOT.COM A 0100 MOV AX,40 MOV DS,AX MOV WORD PTR [72],1234 JMP FFFF:0000  RCX 10 W Q</pre>	<p><b>Script File REBOOTC.SCR</b></p> <pre>N REBOOTC.COM A 0100 MOV DS,40 MOV DS,AX MOV WORD PTR [72],0000 JMP FFFF:0000  RCX 10 W Q</pre>
<p><b>Script File WARM.SCR</b></p> <pre>N WARM.COM E 0100 B8 40 00 8E C0 26 C7 06 C7 06 E 0108 72 00 34 12 EA 00 00 FFE FF E 0110 FF  RCX 0011 W Q</pre>	<p><b>Script File COLD.SCR</b></p> <pre>N COLD.COM E 0100 B8 40 00 8E C0 26 E 0110 FF  RCX 0011 W Q</pre>

All these script files begin with the N command. They all include a blank line ahead of the RCX command and they all need a blank line after the Q command.

=====  
 To create the executable programs from these scripts, first create the scripts in the TESTUTIL directory. Then, one at a time, execute the following command, substituting different script file names each time.

```
DEBUG <script_name.scr
```

Each DEBUG operation takes only seconds to complete its task of creating an executable file.

REBOOT.COM and WARM.COM do the same job. They both perform a warm boot of the PC. This is the same as using the [CTRL]-[ALT]-[DEL] key combination to reboot the PC. It bypasses the POST (Power-On Self-Test).

REBOOTC.COM and COLD.COM do the same job. They both perform a cold boot of the PC. This is the same as pushing the reset key on the front of some computers. This is easier on your hardware than

turning the PC off and then back on again. A cold boot does not bypass the POST.

The difference between a warm boot and a cold boot, is the value loaded into the address 0040:0072. If the value is any number except 1234, a jump to address FFFF:0000 performs a cold boot. If the value is 1234 then a jump to address FFFF:0000 performs a warm boot. The value 1234 is the one that COMMAND.COM stores in that address when it processes the [CTRL]-[ALT]-[DEL] key stroke combination.

All four of these utilities work as advertised on a 33 MHz 386 clone, running a SCSI hard disk with a caching hard disk controller, QCACHE, and QEMM386 or 386MAX. The other commercial reboot utilities I mentioned, including the version of REBOOT.COM that waits for input about the reboot type, also work on the same system. If they all work on that PC configuration, at least one of them ought to work on any PC. The old BASICA scripts are not very useful now that Microsoft has dropped BASICA from DOS.

**Key Capture Utilities**

Anyone who tries to write a batch file based menu system will quickly discover that it would be really nice if DOS provided a utility to pause the batch file and wait for keyboard input from the user. All you need is a way to capture one character from the keyboard. Your batch file can interpret the captured letter as the choice made from the menu. There are many such utilities. Here are just a few.

The first one I discovered is called ASK. It came in the early versions of the Norton Utilities. It eventually got subsumed under the BE (Batch Enhancer) feature of later versions of the Norton Utilities. I still use BE ASK today. BE, with all of its special features is a great tool around which to build a large, fast and personalized menu system. BE ASK prompts the user with a question and waits for a single letter response from the user. It does not wait for the [RETURN] key. It generates an exit code for the batch file to interpret. The Norton Utilities manual explains all the ins and outs of using BE.

QUERY.COM appeared in the March 1991 edition of PC/Computing on page 188. QUERY issues a message and waits for a user response. The response can be up to 127 characters long. The user must press [RETURN] when finished. Query stores the answer in the DOS environment using a SET command. Using QUERY takes two steps. In the first step, QUERY issues the message and redirects the user response to a temporary batch file. The temporary batch file contains a SET command followed by the user response to the message. The second step is to CALL the temporary file to execute the SET command it contains.

That places the answer in the DOS environment. ASK is the name of the environment variable that QUERY.COM creates. Since this scheme requires the CALL command, QUERY will only work DOS versions 3.3 and up.

For example, the following series of commands will request, save and display the user's name.

```
QUERY What is your name? >temp.bat CALL temp
DEL temp.bat ECHO Good Morning %ASK%.
```

That scheme stores the user's name in the environment. QUERY always uses the same variable name. The next time a batch file uses QUERY it will overwrite the user's name. To save the user's name, execute two additional lines, as follows.

```
SET name=%ASK% SET ASK=
```

The script file used to create QUERY.COM appears in LISTING 4.

---

#### LISTING 4 - Script File QUERY.SCR

```
N QUERY.COM
E 0100 FC B4 0E B3 0F BE 81 00 AC 3C 20 74 FB 3C 0D 74
E 0110 05 CD 10 AC EB F7 33 C9 BF 80 00 32 E4 CD 16 0A
E 0120 C0 74 3D B4 0E 3C 08 74 42 3C 0D 74 13 3C 03 74
E 0130 2A 3C 20 72 E6 83 F9 7F 74 2A AA 41 CD 10 EB DB
E 0140 CD 10 B0 0A CD 10 B4 09 BA 7B 01 CD 21 B4 02 E3
E 0150 0A BE 80 00 AC 86 D0 CD 21 E2 F9 B8 00 4C CD 21
E 0160 0A E4 74 F7 B8 07 0E CD 10 EB B0 E3 F7 B0 08 CD
E 0170 10 B0 20 CD 10 49 4F B0 08 EB C1 53 45 54 20 41
E 0180 53 4B 3D 24
```

```
RCX
84
W
Q
```

Don't forget the blank line after the Q. Create QUERY.COM by issuing the following command at the DOS prompt.

```
DEBUG <QUERY.SCR
```

---

QUERY.SCR is the largest script so far introduced in this series. Be especially careful when creating it. Double check it before issuing the DEBUG command to create QUERY.COM. The data entered with the E command consists only of the digits 0 to 9 and the letters A, B, C, D, E, and F. The letter O does not appear. Those are all zeros.

In contrast to QUERY.COM, the September 1988 edition of PC Resource introduced Y.COM on page 30. This tiny utility pauses and waits for a single letter response. It does not wait for the [RETURN] key. If you respond with a Y or y, it issues an exit code of 255. Any other key press will produce an exit code that equals the ASCII value of that character. Y.COM does not issue a message of its own. The ECHO command can print a message on the screen before Y.COM executes, however. The script for Y.COM is in LISTING 5.

---

#### LISTING 5 - Script File Y.SCR

```
N Y.COM E 0100 B4 00 CD 16 3C 59 74 04 3C E 0109 79 75
02 B0 FF B4 4C CD 21
```

```
RCX 12 W Q
```

Don't forget the blank line after the Q. To create Y.COM issue the following command

```
DEBUG <Y.SCR
```

---

Operation of an entire menu system can be based on Y.COM. The letters a - z have the ASCII values 97 to 122, the capital letters A - Z have the ASCII values 65 to 90, and the numbers 0 - 9 have the ASCII values 48 to 57. Normally, y has the value 121 and Y has the value 89. Y.COM does not distinguish between upper and lower case y/Y. It responds with an exit code of 255 to both choices. For all the other letters, upper and lower case letters produce different exit codes and so are readily distinguishable. Case sensitivity increases the amount of testing that the batch file has to perform, however.

Mitch

---

## AMI PRO 3.0

*A review by Neal Berkowitz*

One of the most demanding tests that can be used to evaluate a program is what I refer to as the "real world stress test." The test is quite simple. Begin by taking a brand new package out of its box. Install the program on the test computer. Then, use the program to do something the manufacturer stresses that it can do in their advertising. As an added complication, give yourself a deadline that has to be met and hide the documentation. Most advertising departments take liberties with the terms "easy to use" and "user friendly." The stress test shows if they are really serious with their claims as well as showing how good the program is.

Recently I had the opportunity to give Ami Pro the once over. Lotus makes some big claims of their product including that it is better than Excel at mail merge. My Christmas cards needed to be processed and I wanted to finally wean myself from Framework. This was going to be a good real word test and a very practical one. The only question was whether Ami Pro was up to the task.

Installation was a breeze. One of the interesting features in the Ami installation is that Lotus realizes that some people do not have machines with large hard



disks. For these people, two alternate installations are possible. The first of these is a minimal installation with just the primary features of the program. This installation is ideal for portables. The user can then have the full version on a home machine and a simplified version on the portable. For those who desire a fully customized configuration, the second optional installation permits the user to pick and chose features.

Since the first draft of our Christmas letter was composed using Microsoft Word, the first feature I tested was Ami's import capabilities. Ami stumbled a bit in this area - Word for Macintosh was not in the list of supported formats. In all fairness, it is not often that a person brings over Macintosh files to the PC in the native format. Another consideration is that the current version of Mac Word uses the same format as the PC version, which Ami does support. This was confirmed by importing the file into Microsoft Word for Windows, exporting the file as a Word document, then reading the file into Ami. As an aside, it is interesting to note that Word will not import Ami Pro files.

Once the file was imported, Ami performed admirably. All formatting in the original document was carried over to the new file. When the file was then examined, it was decided that the overall style was not quite correct. Changes were simple. Margins and page layout changes are simple in Ami. The default page layout is that of the printed output so true WYSIWYG is in effect. Page margins can be changed and the effect of these changes can be immediately viewed.

Ami Pro uses styles to determine paragraph attributes. The overall effect is identical to that used in Word but there are a few subtle differences. Word maintains its control bar at the top of the page, Ami Pro places its bar at the bottom. Both programs allow the user to change style, font, and font size with a few clicks on the control bar. Both allow changes to text attributes through the control bar at the top of the page. The biggest differences between Ami and Word are that Word gives an indication of the font characteristics (true type, proportional, bit map) along with the name. Ami, on the other hand, gives a better representation of what the font will look like when the font name, size, and color are selected from the menu.

Both Ami and Word feature icons to select specific features like bold text or underlining. Most of the icons are obvious but a few are a bit cryptic. One of the nice features of this (and all other Lotus products) is that Ami provides quick help with a simple button click. When the cursor is placed on an icon, the right button displays the icon definition along the top of the screen. Other nice features of icons are that they

are configurable. Multiple icon bars can be set up. A scrolling feature makes multiple bars accessible.

Where Ami greatly outperforms Word is in the area of embedded graphics and frames. Since the screen display is identical to the output, it is simple to do page layouts. Graphics, for example, can be arranged three ways on a page. they can be in their own paragraphs, taking up a linear amount of space on the page. They can be used as a background with text overlaying the graphic images. They can be also set up as areas on the page with text flowing around them. With all three layouts, the effects can be seen on the display. Operations performed on the graphics, like resizing or moving, have immediate feedback. In all cases what is done to the graphics has the same effect on the printed output as on the display screen. Graphics can be imported from other programs in a variety of bit mapped and vector formats. The only major graphic option that is missing is a transparency feature.

Going back to the stress test, the actual writing of the Christmas letter was painless. Importing pictures required me to go to the online help, but after reading the help description, things went easily. There were a few problems with printing, however. The final letter filled two pages and included two graphic images. The printer froze when half a page was printed. While the difficulty was directly attributed to the printer only having half a meg of memory, what was interesting was that the document would print using Microsoft Word. The problem was eventually isolated as a conflict between two identically named Adobe and True Type fonts. The original document used the true type font, Ami apparently tried to default to the Adobe font, and the system got lost in the process. With either Adobe Type Manager turned off, or the offending font removed from the Adobe font list, things progressed cleanly. This problem really cannot be attributed to any fault in Ami.

Overall, Lotus was right regarding mail merge. It is simple to use. The program prompts the user through each stage of the operation giving sufficient hand holding along the way for even the most squeamish. After seeing how easy it was, I decided to do a bit of experimentation. Ami permits the user to build and maintain databases directly in Ami. Basic database functions are supported for the merge operation including sorting the database based on selected fields and filtering the database based on user parameters. Examining the database revealed that Ami uses a flat file format with each field separated by a user selected delimiter and each record separated by a different delimiter. This knowledge made it possible to import a database using a comma separator delimited format. I could then use the tools Ami provided to do needed filtering and sorting. What I had planned on being a difficult job turned

## Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

### News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

#### Assembler SIG Haps

The Assembler SIG Meeting for December featured a presentation by Frank Cavallito on identifying RAM drives by 'walking' the device driver chain. The January meeting featured a presentation by Glynn Brooks on the use of macros in Assembler programming. Our February meeting will be a discussion on co-processor programming. It is hoped that the new release of Spontaneous Assembly will be out in time for some 'mini-reviews' at the February meeting.

We are still trying to arrange a presentation on protected mode programming. As usual, we are always looking for ideas for future presentations and welcome input from one and all. Among the potential subjects are programming for the x486+ processors, graphics programming, use of Assembly in HL languages, Windows (or OS/2) programming, etc.

Any last minute changes or notices will be posted on the club BBS. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Frank Cavallito

#### Visual Basic SIG

The February 13, 1993 meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will feature a presentation on "Getting Started in Programming in Visual Basic for Windows 2.0." This presentation will include a review of the first steps you should follow in writing your first application.

If all goes according to plan for the January meeting, Woody will give a presentation on several third-party add-on products; including Agility/VB and Q&E Database/VB. The software manufacturers were to supply software for door prizes. Results next month.

Nearly fifty people showed up for the December meeting of the Visual Basic SIG which featured an Introduction to Visual Basic presentation by Assistant SIG Leader, Jim Carter. The presentation traced the history of the

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#### AMI PRO 3.0 continued

out to be easy. For additional versatility, Ami also lets the user use external databases.

A few minor problems were encountered with the mail merge feature, however, mostly in the area of printing labels. On the good side, Ami deserves to be commended for supporting most of the Avery label formats. Selecting the label type from a list automatically sizes the label, number of labels per page, and number of labels per column. Printing the entire database as labels was a dream. On the other hand, I never got the hang of printing only a single page of labels. For reasons I have yet to discover, the printer keeps trying to print one label per page, not the full sheet worth of labels.

A few rough edges with labels could be easily overcome by giving the user the capability to view a full page of labels at a time instead of representing each label as a separate page. With so much of its philosophy based on true what-you-see-is-what-you-get, this is an interesting oversight on the part of Lotus.

A few other rough areas were noted in the grammar and spelling checkers. There were some words Ami was unable to provide alternate spellings for and some grammar rules where it was obviously lost. In both these areas Microsoft Word is still slightly better. Neither of these two problems were too great, however.

Overall, the program performed magnificently. Lotus has made the program easy to use but includes the capabilities to do fancy manipulations when the operator desires. This is the hallmark of a good program and it is in this area that Ami is still better than Word. Many programs are easy to use. Many programs have many functions. What is the real test of a great program is the ability to do the simple things, but to not hinder the user who desires to perform the more complex functions. Lotus does this with Ami. At least for now, Ami is my personal recommended word processor.

Neal



Basic language and covered the background, characteristics and features of Visual Basic, both the Windows and MS-DOS Versions.

This presentation was followed by a Question and Answer session led by SIG Leader Woody Pewitt. Judging from the nature and depth of some of the questions, some members are doing significant applications development with both the Windows and MS-DOS versions of Visual Basic. There was some discussion of the new database package from Microsoft called Access. Keep those questions coming!

We also distributed the copies of Visual Basic for Windows 2.0 to the winners of the drawing held during the November visit of Microsoft.

The Visual Basic SIG has been formed to assist Visual Basic programmers at all levels. Even if you haven't purchased Visual Basic yet, you can attend our meetings and we will answer your questions about how to get started with Visual Basic. Experienced Visual Basic programmers are invited to ask questions about any problems they are experiencing, help with problems other Visual Basic programmers are having, or even demonstrate any Visual Basic application they have written. See you at the meeting on Saturday, February 13, 1993.

Woody Pewitt

## BBS SIG

The BBS SIG now meets at 1:00 PM most months. Any exceptions will be noted here.

The BBS SIG is geared to the use of NTPCUG's BBS system. Anyone unfamiliar with our BBS, or wanting to know more about its use, should drop by.

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

## Business Applications/DAC Accounting SIG

"If anything can go wrong it will". Sometimes it seems to be contagious!!! First, our presenter for the December meeting gets violently ill on the way to the meeting and has to turn around and go home. Could have been worse, I suppose. Never did like to get my shoes barfed on!

Then the file I sent up to SIG Haps seems to have missed the BBS. If it wound up in anyone's mailbox, please do not send it back.

With a heart full of hope (not expectations, believe me), we will embark on one more SIG Happenings effort. The January meeting was (?) a presentation of Pacioli 2000, by Maurice Kelley. We look upon this accounting package as one of the more satisfactory alternatives for the small business which is in need of a package which will handle inventory, along with all the other basic accounting functions. I feel that all who attend will have broadened their awareness of lower cost accounting alternatives.

Once again in February we have scheduled a presentation of DAC Instant Accounting for DOS and Windows. I hope that all of you who took the time to meet with

us in December will return. The interest seemed to be very high, at that time, so perhaps a few more of you can be with us on February 13. You might even walk away with a Valentine in the form of free software from our drawing. Our presenter, Debby Sheldon of DAC, has arranged for a "Backup" in case lightning strikes twice!

Putt Shaw

## Communications SIG

Our January SIG discussed Off-Line Mail Readers (OLMR) used with the new TBBS software option known as QSO (QWK Support Option). With QSO, a BBS user can instruct NTPCUG's BBS to locate all personal and conference mail of interest to him/her, bring it together into a "QWK" formatted packet, ZIP (compress) it all together, and present it to the caller for downloading to his/her PC. Once the QWK packet is on your PC, the caller can disconnect, then examine the personal and conference mail in the packet using an off-line mail reader (OLMR).

In a similar manner, the OLMR on your PC allows you to reply to that personal and conference mail, and/or create new mail messages, all while unconnected. Later, as time permits, the user can upload these messages as a QWK packet to the BBS, and QSO will receive and distribute all the messages as if the user was on-line the whole time!

In February, we will discuss Data Transfer Protocols (XMODEM, ZMODEM, KERMIT, etc.). This topic has been requested on surveys distributed in the Communications SIG, and is definitely significant in the era of bulletin boards. Emphasis in February will be on an overview of the vari-



ous protocols -- their differences, which one to use when, etc. In March, we may examine the internal workings of one or more of these protocols, if enough people are interested.

If you have an interest in uploading and downloading using data transfer protocols, join us in February!!!

Doug Gorrie

## DOS SIG

Gee, we're back to "Wither thou goest ..." with the DOS SIG Meeting for February -- still 1993. If Russ and Microsoft's DOS 6.0 team appeared for the January DOS SIG Meeting (this is being written well before the January NTPCUG Meeting) members probably heard more about Upper Memory Blocks (UMB's) than we've covered in the SIG in some time.

Jim Hoisington and Reagan Andrews will pickup where Microsoft left off with an emphasis on when NOT to use UMB's and traps for the unwary when UMB's are used carelessly. We'll be looking at this from the non-MS application viewpoint which may focus on Windows applications without consideration for some of the favorite, older applications that have trouble with UMB assignment(s).

General discussion will follow, speculating where the OS area is headed. Media says there are four contenders for the top high-end desktop position in the future -- Windows NT, OS/2 2.x, Novell/UNIX, and Solaris. Where does this leave DOS? Is a protected-mode DOS in the future?

Should be good for a heated and not dispassionate termination for the February DOS SIG Meeting.

Reagan Andrews

## Desktop Publishing SIG

Long Document month: In January, we enjoyed a presentation by local DTP guru and entrepreneur, Christy Kurtz, about the special challenges of a "long" document project (from 100 to 1,000+ pages). Kurtz Communication's specialties include software documentation, training manuals, catalogs and proposals.

PC Service Bureau month: In February, we will learn about DTP techniques from PC-based Renderings, Inc., of Plano, TX. Renderings has some very unusual cost-saving ideas that have brought all phases of the DTP production cycle inside a PC environment. For local magazine start-up Business Horizons, Renderings was able to cut their production time by a fourth, and their pre-press cost per page more than 60%. From mundane over-the-counter services to the really fancy stuff, come see why they don't suffer from "Mac Attacks."

Reminder: Our DTP conference is up and running on the NTPCUG bulletin board. If you're reading this, you've already paid to use it.

Seeking permanent DTP SIG leader: Soon my schedule will change as anticipated and necessitate a new SIG leader. Volunteers are invited to contact me at home 214-335-9103 or on the bulletin board to discuss the job. Please understand -- without someone willing to fill the slot, NTPCUG rules will cancel our SIG!

Lewis Graber, Interim SIG leader

## General Genealogy SIG

The General Genealogy SIG is one of four genealogy SIGs that meet each Super Saturday at the Infomart. This is the only genealogy SIG that is not restricted to a specific genealogy software program or to any particular model of computer. (Although the IBM and compatible computers have been stressed in the past - primarily because most genealogy software is aimed towards them - there is now a conscious effort to support all computer types.)

The purpose of this SIG is to help members with their genealogy computing (from the novice through the expert). One way we do this is by maintaining a list of the members along with the type of software and computers they use. A member who has a problem can and seek help by using the list to find someone in his neighborhood who uses the same program.

The SIG has a disk and a hard-copy library at each meeting. Disks include genealogy and other pertinent software from the public domain (or freeware and shareware). The disks are sold to members for \$2 per disk. The hard-copy library has books, periodicals, articles, genealogy program printouts, etc. for people to check out and take home.

The December presentation was a slide show demonstrating a family genealogy. John Wylie, the SIG leader for Roots 3 was the presenter. John used Harvard Graphics to present a family genealogy as a "slide show." (You can also use other similar software - i.e. Designer, Microsoft Power Point, etc.) Slide shows are simple to make if you have the software. For instance, my wife's family



came from Bedfordshire England. My first slide shows a map of England and a large arrow pointing to it from text explaining the origin of the Bledsoe family. The second slide shows England and a large arrow pointing from it to Northumberland County Virginia in America. Above the arrow is a ship sailing from England to America. There is text explaining how George Bledsoe made the trip.

January's program gave an overview of the programs that were presented at the Gentech Genealogy Computer Conference in Dallas, January 22 and 23.

Al Sanford

## PAF SIG

The Personal Ancestral File (PAF) SIG meets from 10 to 11 on Super Sat at the Infomart. PAF is a popular, cheap, and easy to use, genealogy program. Data can be transferred between PAF and GEDCOM compatible genealogy software.

The PAF SIG now has a new leader, Joe Waldrop. Joe will make a good leader. He is no stranger to computers, PAF, or teaching. He teaches PAF to Senior Citizens and is active in the computer genealogy SIGs in the Mid Cities area. He will operate under the philosophy that the PAF SIG exists to help PAF users with computer problems and computer usage. He has asked that I continue as PAF SIG secretary and these articles will continue. Joe, like the other genealogy SIG leaders want the four genealogy SIGs coordinated and working together.

Our former leader, Travis Morris, started the PAF SIG some four or five years ago. When I first joined the SIG about 3-1/2 years ago, we would get an attendance of 8 to 12. When we got 15 to 17 we were "rolling in clover." Now the PAF SIG averages around 50. It had a high of 74 at the Jan 1992 SIG. This is all the more impressive when one realizes that Travis works from midnight to 9 a.m. He works for Southwestern Bell, somewhere in the Fort Worth area. For these many years he has driven straight from work, led his SIG, participated in the DALTRUG meetings, and driven to his home in Cleburne. This is no mean feat and we all appreciate the job Travis has done and we hope this will give him some well deserved rest (or at least the ability to slow down) on Super Saturdays.

The 16 Jan 1993 presentation, "DOS Most Needed by the Genealogist," was by the new SIG leader, Joe Waldrop. This was interesting and informative because Joe has been teaching such a course to senior citizens. Joe used this time to get to know the SIG members and let the SIG members become acquainted with him.

Al Sanford

## Personal Users SIG

This Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you!... if you consider yourself any of the following: ... a novice... a new PC owner... a beginner with PC's... a person curious about PC's... a soon-to-be PC owner... a personal (versus professional) PC user... or... a PC user needing to review some "fundamentals".

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the

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

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

This 16-class curriculum of PC fundamentals is specifically designed to be the kind of learning experience you always wished existed... where you are accepted just as you are, and where you can gain knowledge without the hassles... and best of all... the classes are FREE!

Join us as we learn and review "THE FUNDAMENTALS."



The Four classes for February 1993 will be:

9:00 am	Class 9	Genesis & Overview of Computer Languages
10:00 am	Class 10	NTPCUG Disk of the Month Library
12:00 am	Class 11	PC Graphics Modes
1:00 pm	Class 12	Bulletin Boards & Archiving Programs

Bob Presley

## Software Review SIG

We reported on some excellent programs in January: AutoMap Europe, Chemistry Works, Fast-Back Plus Windows and Voice Wizard Pro, among others. Although we gave out more to prospective reviewers for February we still have programs available for review. The software publishers appreciate your reviews, fellow SIG members appreciate them and the newsletter appreciates them. Come by and ask me how you fit in! Join the fun. First come, first serve: call me at 271-4911 to check our current inventory. We can get a program to you mid-month. As Fred Williams might say, DO-IT!

Pat Henley

## Spreadsheet Developer's SIG

Lotus Development will be sending representatives to give a presentation at the 1 pm Main meeting, so they will attend the Spreadsheet Developer's SIG. We hope to be able to see a preview of 1-2-3 for Windows version 2.0 at the SIG meeting. If it is not possible, they will show the SIG members a more in depth viewing of Impress, which is Lotus' new type of spreadsheet. The main meeting will be showing Impress and Notes as well as a quick look at 1-2-3 for Windows 2.0, so none of those products will get much time. Impress will

be an interesting product for NTPCUG members to see, though 1-2-3/W 2.0, if it is shown will be just as exciting. Plan to attend the Spreadsheet Developers SIG at 11 am to see more of either one of these products than will be shown at the main meeting.

Betty Brooks

## Spreadsheet SIG

The 1 PM SIG meeting will be held downstairs in the main auditorium for the Lotus presentation.

Betty Brooks

## Word SIG

Where's MS Word going? In DOS? In Windows?

Microsoft isn't saying much, but is soliciting beta testers for both versions according to media gossip. Meanwhile, Word for Windows 2.0C may be out by the time of the February Word SIG Meeting. (Definitely didn't make the January SIG Meeting.)

If so, we'll look at this new iteration of 2.0 with a magnifying glass to see if the upgrade is worth the trouble, and if there are new features sneaking in without advance notice. That happened with 2.0B and a similar move may mark the new upgrade. At any rate, it should be on the streets by meeting time and we'll be very interested in any new README.WRI or .TXT files that accompany the "maintenance upgrade."

Last-minute documentation: Speaking of README.WRI's, these last-minute documentation files have become increasingly important in Microsoft products, particularly those intended for Windows 3.1 or Windows 3.1 for Workgroups. Users should make printing these files, all of them,

highest priority after installing/loading any "new" version, especially "maintenance upgrades," such as Word for Windows 2.0C, when they arrive.

Reagan Andrews

## WordPerfect SIG

For the February meeting, I've got some giveaways! During a trip through the stuff piled on my desk, I found several old WordPerfect magazines that I no longer need as well as two older versions of my HITS seminar. This is a 200 page book that includes 139 tips, tricks and short-cuts. If you're interested, put your name in the hat and we'll have a drawing at the end of the meeting.

For the meeting itself, we'll discuss Merge. Since we've covered this in the past, we'll do a brief refresher on the basics for those of you who have never performed a merge before. Then we'll get into some Merge Language. So what's Merge Language? Come and find out!

## WordPerfect DOS Tip of the Month!

Even with the wonderful Tables feature (sorry Judy, this month's tip won't help in 5.0), there is still a need for setting Tabs. Assuming you know how to set Tabs and what they're used for, here are a couple of tricks you may not know. All of these are when you're in the Tab Set Menu: (Shift){F8} 1 Line 8 Tab Set.

To clear all the tabs, position the cursor at the beginning of the line and press {Ctrl}{End}.

If you need to be precise when setting a tab, don't use the arrows and "eyeball" the correct position. Just type the position and press

## The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

Next month, March, there will be two educational events of interest to Visual Basic Programmers. The first one is an event sponsored by Microsoft called "TECH(SYMBOL 183 \f "Symbol")ED." This four-day conference will be held at the Dolphin Hotel near Walt Disney World in Orlando Florida during March 9 - 12, 1993.

"TECH(SYMBOL 183 \f "Symbol")ED" consists of approximately 17 tracks covering every Microsoft product. The track of interest to Visual Basic programmers consists of eighteen 90-minute courses covering Visual Basic programming, debugging tips and tricks, cross-platform applications using Visual Basic for Windows and Visual Basic for MS-DOS, accessing DDE and OLE, and a number of courses relating to Visual Basic and database operations. Other tracks being presented simultaneously include such topics as Access, FoxPro, Excel, Word, and WindowsNT

The presentations at this conference will be given by Microsoft developers and engineers, leading industry solutions experts, Microsoft Consulting Services ex-

perts, Microsoft University instructors and independent technical gurus. The four keynote speakers are Microsoft senior executives, including Bill Gates.

The registration fee is \$995 with group discounts to \$895. The registration number is 800-227-7951. The above information was excerpted from an eighteen-page brochure from Microsoft.

The second event of interest to Visual Basic programmers is the Visual Basic Insider's Technical Summit '93 (VBITS '93) being held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel on March 29 & 30, 1993. VBITS '93 is jointly sponsored by Microsoft and BASICPro magazine.

As you may have surmised from the title, VBITS '93 is more focused on Visual Basic. Each of the two morning sessions will be divided into two tracks, Visual Basic for Windows and Visual Basic for MS-DOS. The afternoon session on the first day will be divided into two tracks, one for Database Management Part 1 and the other for custom controls in Visual Basic for MS-DOS and DDE/OLE for Visual Basic for Windows. The second afternoon will be split into User Interface design and Database Management Part 2. Specific topics include "Moving QB and PDS Apps to VB/DOS," "Optimizing VB/DOS Code," "Optimizing VB/WIN Code," "New Features of Visual Basic/WIN 2.0," "Creating and Maintaining Cross Platform DOS/WIN Applications," "Accessing the Windows API from VB," "Using ODBC, the New DBMS Connectivity Standard," and "Windows UI Design."

The presentations will be given by Microsoft developers and engineers, top developers of add-on products like AJS Publishing, Apex, Crescent, Desaware, Elltech, Pioneer, Sheridan and more. Keynote presentations will be given by Tom Button of Microsoft.

The registration fee for VBITS '93 is \$495 with unspecified "Corporate Discounts" for multiple attendees. The registration number is 800-848-5523. NTPCUG members will get a \$25.00 discount. See Visual Basic Sig Leader Woody Pewitt for a discount coupon. The above information on VBITS '93 was excerpted from a 20-page brochure from BASICPro.

I plan to attend the VBITS '93 symposium and will report on it in the May issue of the newsletter.

Jim Carter



{Enter}. For instance, if you want a tab set at 3 and a quarter inches, type 3.25 and press {Enter}. If the position you want is a "strange" amount that you can't figure in decimals, you can use a fraction. Let's say you want to set a tab at 5 and seven eighths. Just type 5 and a space then 7 slash 8. It will automatically convert to inches for you.

To set tabs that are equal distance apart (every half inch, for instance), type the starting position, then a comma, then the distance between. For example, if you want them every half inch apart starting at the left margin, type 0,0.5 and press {Enter}. If you want them every inch starting at 2.5 inches from the left margin, type 2.5,1 and press {Enter}.

Once tabs are set, you can jump to them by pressing the {Up} or {Down} arrow keys. This is much quicker than scrolling left or right.

Lori Quinn





# Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

by Claude McClure

## Newsletter Exchange Available at Information Booth

How would you like to have free access to new ideas and tips from PC users around the world? Then you need to check out the newsletter exchange. The newsletter exchange is a free service to NTPCUG members. Users Groups from around the world send us their newsletters in exchange for ours. Lewis Graber takes these newsletters and has them bound. The newsletters are bound by month and year, which is helpful when you are searching for a specific item of interest. Some months have more than one volume, for your convenience.

Looking through the newsletters will give you software and hardware reviews from actual users. Some of the Special Interest Groups have monthly columns just like NT PC News. One bound volume contains more useful information page for page than any newsstand computer magazine.

Lewis has provided a signout register to check out bound copies for a month. Members provide their membership number and sign out for them. It seems to me that's the easiest way for us to expand our horizons or just make a quick visit to a group we once attended.

Please remember to say "thanks" to our volunteers!

INFOMART Liason  
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown  
Anchors:  
David Slavik  
Claude McClure  
Mike Griffin  
Crew:  
Jim Aragon  
Bill Vallance  
Paul Weathers

Auditorium  
Presentations  
Timothy Carmichael  
Chris Jung  
Christopher Carmichael

BBS Champion  
Lewis Graber

Information/Registration  
Booth  
Statistician:  
Connie Testa  
Scheduler:  
Loyce Coolidge  
Anchors:  
Harvey Andrews  
Connie Andrews  
Dianne Arnold  
Mike Ashley  
Loyce Coolidge  
John Ferguson  
Paul Fredd

Judy Griffiths  
Allan Griffiths  
Ned Keig  
David Martin  
(double)  
Raymond Reyes  
Everett Turner  
Jean Waldrep  
Peyton Weaver  
Paul Williams  
Bob Wuller  
Booth Crew:  
Eteta E. Eta  
Ed Moreland  
Cinda Lovil  
E. Aaron Presley  
John Timbes  
Disk of the Month (DOM)  
DOM Desk Crew:  
Joe Allen  
Doug Athas  
Bernie Baars  
Ray Bales  
Bob Bender  
Jo Cannon  
Norman Dang  
James Donlon  
Williams Farris  
Thomas "Tuc"  
Goodwin  
Jimmy Green  
Judy Griffiths  
Steve Hay  
Pat Henley (double)  
Jo Johnston  
Tim Lanz

Duane Martin  
Lloyd McKeethen  
George Read  
Bob Reynolds  
Ed Snuggs  
Oscar Tyler  
With Special Thanks to:  
Set-up Crew:  
Jay Chambliss  
Kent Haven  
Pat Henley  
Jerry Stone

Shift Supervisors:  
Gene Carleton  
Kent Haven (double)

Pat Henley  
Claude Walston  
Inventory and Take Down  
Crew:  
Jo Cannon  
Charles Carter  
Jimmy Green  
DOM Desk Scheduler:  
Charles Cashion  
Disks-for-Review Manager:  
Howard Hamilton  
Disk Production:  
Kathryn Loafman  
Kenneth Loafman

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

**3. By phone:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Auditorium Presentations</b><br>Timothy Carmichael              | (214)661-4626 (w)                      |
| <b>DOM Booth Scheduler</b><br>Charles Cashion                      | (214)881-0952 (h)<br>(214)519-2583 (w) |
| <b>DOM Software Review</b><br>Howard Hamilton                      | (214)644-5721 (h)                      |
| <b>Information Booth and General Information</b><br>Claude McClure | (214)867-0978 (h)                      |



## Eclipse Fax

A review by Neal Berkowitz

Eclipse Fax by Eclipse Systems is a Windows based FAX program with two personalities. For those who desire simplicity, it can be viewed as a printer with a long extension cable. Any document can be sent as a fax as easily as printed. All the user needs to do is to specify Eclipse Fax as the output printer. For those desiring complexity, Eclipse Fax gives the user the functionality of a telephone switchboard. The user can have full control of when faxes are to be sent, the style of page, and the time and number of retry attempts. The user can also use tools to manipulate faxes before transmission.

Faxing has been growing in popularity. The business world has embraced fax machines as the chosen medium for rapid transmission. Fax modems have dropped in price to the point where fax modems are almost as cheap as nonfax modems. The only problem has been that until recently software has lagged behind hardware in ease of use.

Eclipse Fax is one solution to this complexity problem. The ease of use begins with the installation process. Under Windows, the user can start the installation process with a few mouse clicks from the file manager. The user only needs to know a few basics -- the port to which the modem is connected and whether the fax is a class two or CAS machine. The installation process is covered step by step in the documentation, but is simple enough for most people to do without the need of a manual. The installation is also one of the more entertaining to come out. Like most Window's programs, the percentages complete and file being copied information is present. Also present is a cute sidebar display indicating disk usage, ROM, and CPU usage by the installation process. Time quickly passed while I watched the slidebars move.

The installation process is good but there is one aspect that could be improved upon. Currently installation stops with the Eclipse program group displayed in the foreground. Present in the group are the Eclipse Fax icon and two Write files for registration and late breaking program changes. The program begs for a demonstration script to show the user the basics. With the registration form already provided and the Eclipse phone number in the data base, it would be simple for the installation process to complete with a sample fax operation. All that

would be needed would be an 800 number and a script to fill out the registration form. When completed, the form could be automatically faxed to Eclipse with the registration information. It is a sneaky way to get the user's cooperation but it would well illustrate the usefulness of the program.

Despite this lack of an example to teach the user, sending a fax is simple. The easiest way to send a fax is to call Eclipse fax from an application program. The print option from the File menu starts the fax process. Choosing EFAX from the printer setup sub menu displays the EFAX menu which in turn is used to choose the destination of the fax. Selecting a destination is a matter of selecting an entry in the phone book provided or by manually entering a destination person and phone number. The user then clicks on the SEND FAX button and the fax to be transmitted. It sounds complex but it is very intuitive.

This is just the tip of the features of the program, however. From the EFAX menu the user can also choose to delay the transmission of the fax to a later time. This can be used to take advantage of lower long distance telephone rates or to free up the computer. The operator can also add a cover sheet to the document using predefined Eclipse cover sheets or one of the user's choosing. Additional features permit viewing of the fax, marking up the fax, and appending pages from another document.

While this is the simplest way to send a fax, the real control of fax transmission is done by selecting the Eclipse Fax icon. From the send fax setup panel the operator can tailor the banner of the fax and line control features including transmission speed, quality, and retries. The receive fax setup allows the user to control the automatic printing, viewing of the receive fax status, and automatic notification when the fax is received. Two logs are also accessible allowing the user to view the send and receive fax lists, determine when the faxes were sent or received, and to read the status of the faxes. The user can click on specific files to view them as desired. Also present in the panel is the scanner processing functions. If the user has a scanner, it can be used by Eclipse Fax to read in documents for either printing, viewing, or transmission.

Viewing a file presents the user with numerous other features of the program. Since faxes can be scanned in upside down or at a 90 degree angle, Eclipse considers rotation to be an important feature. The operation is simple. More important, it is fast. The operator is also provided with several options to view the

fax. A fax can be viewed either full page or actual size. For closer examination of areas of the fax, the user can zoom in to highlight an area. Moving about a zoomed page is facilitated by a move image tool. All these features are available from both pull down menus and from an optional toolbar.

Another important requirement in viewing a fax is the ability to quickly page through a fax. Paging features are found on both the tool bar and via pull down menus. The user can quickly select the desired page by entering the page number, using arrows to increment or decrement the page number, or by using a quick page option to move between the current and three adjacent pages. For additional convenience the user can see the pages as thumbnail sketches. Using the thumbnail sketches the user can view the pages. The thumbnails can also be used to move pages around in a document by dragging them to a new location. For the user with a desire to add a letterhead to a page prepared for faxing, there is a feature to overlay a page with another image. In short, the user has many options to make moving through a fax as easy as possible.

As mentioned, Eclipse provides several cover page templates. The program automatically inserts pertinent data into the cover sheet including the originator, the originator's phone number, and information regarding the recipient. The option also exists to create custom cover pages using imported drawings from other programs.

The nicest aspect of the program is the attention to detail. An example of this is the processing of area codes. Since many individuals do faxing on the road, the program is designed to observe the area codes of the outgoing fax and compare them to the ones in the data base. When the user is away from home the program will automatically add the area code to faxes sent back to the home area code and will automatically suppress the area code for the faxes sent to the local area code. This feature can be cancelled when necessary. A nice touch that adds a great deal of convenience to the on-the-go individual.

Attention to detail is also present in the user manual. The people at Eclipse obviously care about their product. There are numerous little suggestions and pointers that are not directly related to their program but which are still very helpful. While many companies cut corners on the manuals, Eclipse deserves to be commended on their documentation. The tone of the manual is conversational and is very easy reading.

Overall, the program is easy to use, has a wealth of features, and comes at a reasonable price. While OCR is not yet supported, the program is an ideal fax interface. The basic user will find its simplicity a joy. Those who want full control of their system will likewise be pleased with the versatility of the program. While not the biggest selling fax modem program, Eclipse Fax deserves a look.

Details: Eclipse Fax by Eclipse Systems and Vista Microsystems, 33 West Monroe, Suite 1121, Chicago, IL 60603. (312) 541-0262. Suggested retail price - \$119.00.

Neal

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## AUTOMAP

The Intelligent Road Atlas For Windows

*A Review by Andy Oliver*

"Honey, I want to drive to Branson, Missouri this weekend. The Roy Clark Theater is having an All Star Salute to Roy Acuff, and I am not going to miss it. So, how long is it going to take us to get there?"

As always, upon receiving good news like this, you drag out the dog-eared 1971 copy of Rand McNally road atlas courtesy of Vinson's Oilfield Supply. With the yardstick you got at the Home and Garden show last year, you calculate it will be between 425 and 550 miles from DeSoto, Texas to Branson, Missouri. There has to be a better way. Sure, join an auto club, then call them up and have them send you a route map.

Say hello to a Microsoft Windows program that will not only calculate the mileage, and give you the travel time, but will also select alternate routes for you based on your preferences. AUTOMAP for Windows is an interesting program in a group of software that is coming to the marketplace. Other programs take you to the street level of cities and are sold by the county, where AUTOMAP gives you the United States highway system including mountains, rivers, small towns, forests, and Indian Reservations. AUTOMAP, Inc. also has an AUTOMAP Europe edition.

Like many Windows programs, you can use the icons or the menu for zooming, panning, calculating, and printing. After entering my starting location and

ending location, I chose the calculate function with options for Quickest, Shortest, Preferred, Alternative routes. Feeling daring, I clicked on all of them. The quickest route was 450 miles, 8 hours 41 minutes. The shortest route came out to be five miles shorter and takes 3 minutes longer. The preferred route, symbolized with a heart icon, was 26 miles further and took almost an hour longer. Detailed instructions pop up in their own window showing time, instructions, road, distance, direction, and what town you are going towards. These instructions can be sent to the printer with the touch of an icon, or can be copied to the Windows Clipboard via the scissors icon. The same goes for the map. So you could copy the map and instructions to your word processor and send them to people who are coming to visit.

Back to our trip, with the maps printed, the instructions in hand, we are ready for our trip. Well that is until I hear, "On the way back, let's stop in Little Rock and visit Uncle Henry." No problem. I call up the Automap program, go to the Route command, put in a intermediate destination, and tell the program to calculate. Now my trip is 515 miles with 9 hours 44 minutes of travel time. On the trip over, if I had to arrive by 6:00 pm, I can enter that, and the software will back-calculate my start time.

So where do preferences come in? AUTOMAP will put in a scale (like Rand McNally) and you can watch the scale change as you zoom in. There are sliding bars between thumbs up and down where you designate how much you like interstates, divided highways, other highways, ferries, and changing roads. For grins, I changed the return trip to state that I hated interstates and divided highways, but loved the back roads and ferries. The quickest and shortest routes did not change, but my preferred route became 632 miles, 12 hours 41 minutes. You can add detail to your map like the lakes, rivers, and mountains mentioned earlier, or you can just show the roads.

The documentation is not very thick, but if you use Windows, you can figure out 95% of this program without it. How does it behave in Windows? Very well, in my opinion. You can open multiple map views which can be synchronized, you can use all of your Windows fonts on the maps and directions, the Clipboard copies are easy, and the printouts are very good to a laser printer (but then what isn't). Just for this review, I hooked up my old 9-pin Panasonic dot matrix printer to try printing a map. This printer is so old that there was no printer driver in Windows

for it. So I picked an Epson printer that I knew was close in features and sent a map to print. Mind you, these printouts (laser and dot matrix) are graphics files, so go have a Coke while you are waiting for the output. The printout on the dot matrix printer was very impressive. I could read the highway numbers and city names with no problem.

Did we take this trip? Are you kidding? We will go to Branson, Missouri to listen to C&W music about the time that Saddam Hussien calls George Bush to wish him a Happy Birthday.

Andy



## The Adventures Of PC Tech

### Chapter 16

by Ben Thar

Mary came across a small two-line entry in the Business Section of the daily newspaper that caught her interest. It said, "North Town PC Users Group Meeting, Saturday, CommMart call 555-1234." Since she didn't have any idea what a PC users group was, she called the number. A recorded message told about the group, and who the guest speakers were going to be on Saturday. What really surprised Mary Margaret was a postcard from her software company that arrived the same day. It said they were going to be at the users group meeting on Saturday. The message said it was open to the public, so she made plans to attend.

Saturday arrived and even though MM hated to get out of bed early on Saturday, she wanted to arrive at 8:30 so she could find out more and make it to the 9:00 meeting. CommMart's parking lot fills up fast on meeting Saturday and Mary parked in the South 40. Inside were information kiosks with signs like PEAR Computer User Group, Commandant-66 Users Group, and the North Town PC Users Group. Mary Margaret approached the booth and she was greeted with a friendly "Hi, my name is Ralph, may I help you." "Yes," she replied, "I would like to find out more about this group." "Well, we are a nonprofit organization set up to help people become more familiar with their personal computers. There will be presentations going on today and SIG meetings." Mary thought, "You meet and discuss cigarettes?" The quizzical look on her face must have given her away because Ralph said, "SIG is short for Special Interest

Group. The groups meet for an hour on different subjects like, word processing, spreadsheets, finance, genealogy, desktop publishing, and community service."

Mary's next question just came out, and she thought it was rude just as soon as she said it, "Just how much do you get paid to work here?" Ralph laughed. He said he just received a 10 percent raise but since he was at zero to start with, it didn't help much. "Seriously," he said, "all of the people who work the booth and run the users group are volunteers. No one gets paid, except through the satisfaction of helping others. I'm an orthopedic surgeon in my real job, Fred over there is a consultant, and Judy is a high ranking government official. We do this because it's fun." Well, PC Tech felt that she found a home; a group of people who get together, with computers in common, to get questions answered and to help others. The diversity of people did surprise Mary Margaret. More males than females, but she could see that changing. Very few of the "pocket protector" set, although she did see some. Physically challenged people, retired people, and teenagers were there.

"Sign me up," she said. After paying her \$24 annual dues, she received the current newsletter, and a coupon for a diskette which held a catalog of the group's library of software. Then, she received a schedule of the day's events and was reminded that there was a

flea market going on in the lower level. The auditorium presentations were great, with exchanges going between the audience and the presenters. Drawings were held for software, and the lady in front of Mary Margaret won a \$400 program.

Upon going downstairs to the vendor area, PC Tech was surprised to see all of the people. The vendors included computer sales people, T-shirt vendors, and people selling computer paper, ribbons, diskettes, and surgical supplies. Mary just had to stop and ask this guy what he was doing at a computer show. He was very polite and asked her if she had ever worked on the inside of a computer. She replied that she had. So then he asked her if she'd ever dropped a screw down inside the PC. Again receiving an affirmative response. "Well," he said, "wouldn't these forceps come in handy for fishing that little screw out." MM replied, "Say no more; how much do you want for them?"

On Monday at work, MM told everyone about the group and showed them her newsletter. Some people couldn't understand why she was so excited. "Of course," Mary thought, "these are the same people who freak out when they are faced with a C:\ prompt on their monitor." The rest of the days went smoothly because it was the week before a holiday, and most of the "problems" had left town.

Ben Thar



### 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.

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

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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.

# NEW DISKS

## ...from the DOM Squad

**Disk 784. BRIX I, 11/92 --** VGA Action Puzzle Game by Michael Riedel, Published by Epic MegaGames, 10406 Holbrook Drive, Potomac, MD 20854. Registration Fee = \$30 (which includes Brix I and Brix II Deluxe).

BRIX is an exciting, fast-paced strategy game. The game is played by putting two bricks of the same type so that they are touching. Once they are touching, they disappear from the board. The goal of the game is to clear the board of these bricks (or should I say brix) in the time allotted.

*This review has been shortened due to space limitations in this issue of NT PC NEWS. The full review can be read in the DOM section of NTPCUG BBS.*

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** VGA graphics (at least 256-color), 640K memory, DOS 3.0 or later, and a hard disk. Also supports: Sound Blaster & compatible music cards and mice.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.  
*This review prepared by Zachary Loafman, edited by KathrynLoafman (12/92).*

**Disk 785. Melody Master 2.1, 7/92 --** Makes Melodies, Outputs Programs by Alexei A. Efros, Jr., Published by Shareable Software International, PO Box 59102, Schaumburg, IL 60159. 800-622-2793 (orders only) Registration Fee = \$19.

Melody Master is a simple, easy to use program for making music. It has several potential uses: -- play one of the 100+ melodies that come with the program; -- input, edit and play music on your PC; -- export music into BASIC, C, Pascal, or ANSI.

If you want to try your hand at composing music, this is the

program for you! You write the music in the traditional way, on a staff!

This is also a useful program if you are studying a musical instrument. When practicing the Bass Clarinet, I input the score into Melody Master and the program plays the piece with the correct rhythms. This has been a big help!

*This review has been shortened due to space limitations in this issue of NT PC NEWS. The full review can be read in the DOM section of NTPCUG BBS.*

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2, or a 100% compatible; requires a CGA, MCGA, EGA, VGA, or Hercules graphics card. At least 512K of RAM is required; program requires about 440KB uncompressed disk space.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.  
*This review prepared by Zachary Loafman, edited by KathrynLoafman (12/92).*

**Disk 786. Integral Scientist 1.11, 8/92 --** Info Utility for Scientists, Integral Scientific Software, 111 East Drake Road #7050, Fort Collins, CO 80525. Registration Fee = \$50.

The Integral Scientist is a great tool for anybody working in chemistry or the sciences. It is an useful program if you need information on the elements or are doing serious scientific computations. If you are a student in a science class, this is the answer to a prayer.

*This review has been shortened due to space limitations in this issue of NT PC NEWS. The full review can be read in the DOM section of NTPCUG BBS.*

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** DOS 2.0 or later, 192K available memory, any monitor (graphics not required). Hard disk is recommended: requires 740K to 900K of disk space.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.  
*This review prepared by Zachary Loafman, edited by KathrynLoafman (12/92).*

**EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH REFERS TO ALL THE REMAINING DOM DISKS.**

**Why Off-Line Mail Readers?** This month the NTPCUG BBS is entering a NEW WORLD. We have an off-line mail reader. Now, when someone leaves a question or comment, you can actually think about your answer without knowing you are blocking another member's access to the board. But to read BBS mail off-line, you need an off-line mail reader. There are a bunch of them, and for that matter, a bunch of off-line mail formats. The NTPCUG BBS supports QWK mail packets, and so do these mail readers.

**Disk 787. SLMR 2.1a, 1/92 --** Off-Line Mail Reader, SLMR 2.1a (Silly Little Mail Reader),

**Greg Hewgill, Technique Computer Systems**

**NOTE:** This is a fully functional shareware release, but it is the last release of this product under this name. Greg Hewgill, the author of SLMR (pronounced "Slimer") released this last update of SLMR just prior to taking a job with Mustang Software. The Author's company, Technique Computer Systems, is no longer accepting registrations for SLMR. Future releases of the software will be from Mustang Software, under the name "Off-Line Xpress."

SLMR is one of the most common off-line mail readers in the DOS world. It is highly configurable and very easy to use. It has a very advanced user interface with pop up menus, pick lists, scrollable windows, mouse support, and context sensitive help, just to name a few of the features.

All of the current QWK control services are fully implemented, including enclosed file

### DOM Mail Order Form

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

Specify disk size:  
5.25"  3.5"

Disk No.	No. of disks	Title/Description

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download requests. There is a large documentation file that is included, but so far I have not had to look at it.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**  
IBM PC & compatibles; 640K, better with XMS; DOS 3.0 or later. Will run on single 360K floppy disk.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

*This review prepared by Fred Williams, edited by Kathryn Loafman(12/92).*

**Disk 788. Off-Line Xpress 2.1 Test Drive, 1/92 -- Off-Line Mail Reader, Mustang Software, PO Box 2264, Bakersfield, CA 93303. 800-999-9619 (Orders only). Registration Fee = \$40 + \$4 shipping & handling.**

NOTE: "Off-Line Xpress" was previously released under the name "SLMR". The author, Greg Hewgill, took a job with Mustang Software. Registration of future releases of this software will be handled by Mustang Software.

This is a fully functional test drive of Off-Line Xpress. What I said about SLMR is true about OLX. It is highly configurable and very easy to use. It has a very advanced user interface with pop up menus, pick lists, scrollable windows, mouse support, and context sensitive help just to name a few of the features. All of the current QWK control services are fully implemented, including enclosed file download requests. There is a large documentation file that is included with the

shareware release of OLX, which I still have not had to look at.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**  
IBM PC & compatibles; 640K, better with XMS; DOS 3.0 or later. Will run on single 360K floppy disk.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

*This review prepared by Fred Williams, edited by Kathryn Loafman(12/92).*

**Disk 789. WinQWK 2.0a, 5/92 - - Windows Off-Line Mail Reader by Doug Crocker, PO Box 1454, Kent, WA 98035-1454. Registration Fee = \$35.**

WinQWK, which runs under Windows 3.1, takes a mail packet and breaks it out into the individual messages; grouped by area, number, or subject. When you start an unregistered copy of WinQWK, it opens a dialog box urging you to register, with five buttons, four marked EXIT and one OK, randomly placed. When you click on the OK button, you then are presented with the main screen of WinQWK. It has menu choices of files, edit, areas, packet, messages, options, and help, plus a button bar to open QWK packets, move among message areas and messages, and reply to the current message. Most of these buttons are grayed out until you specify and open a mail packet.

When you specify a mail packet, using a standard 3.1 file dialog, WinQWK uncompresses the packet, arranges the messages per your setup, and pres-

ents the first message for you to review. When you find a message you would like to reply to, you click on the reply button or menu choice and WinQWK presents you with either a blank message block, or one with the original message already added so you can quote from it. You type in your response and, voila, a reply. When you have been through the mail packet, you close it, saving or trashing your replies. Then, the next time you log on, you simply upload your replies, as a mail packet, and the system puts them in the proper areas. It's not a big deal on our BBS, but if you visit a BBS that uses one or more of the national echoes, you can get several THOUSAND new messages a day of general traffic. WinQWK lets you specify people, subjects, or areas that you never, ever want to see. This is often called a "twit filter," for obvious reasons.

In summary, WinQWK lets you read and reply to mail messages off-line. It supports the basic functions like quoting from original messages, sorting mail per your preference, filtering twits, and adding tag lines from your own list. The unregistered copy does NOT support taglines and presents an opening dialog reminding you to register.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Windows 3.1; program uses 270K of memory and 2% of system resources.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

*This review prepared by John Pellet, edited by Kathryn Loafman(12/92).*

**Disk 790. Speed Reader 1.20, 7/92 -- Off-Line Mail Reader, by Jim E. Smith, 344 Observatory Drive, Birmingham, AL 35206. Registration Fee = \$25.**

Speed Reader is the off-line reader I'm currently fiddling with. The appealing feature of this reader is its ability to maintain a fully user controlled message "archive" on the user's machine.

This means that an old message is automatically retained on the user's system until the user has no further need for it. Most other readers work only with the current QWK mail packet. These readers provide no automated message retention/reply services beyond the current mail packet.

There are some negatives that are really making it tough for me to switch to Speed. There is no automated way to request the download of an "enclosed/attached" file. The user interface is not as slick as many other readers. And there is no mouse support. (I can't believe I said that!)

I have also been forced to read the DOC file. This traumatic event was caused by the need for researching the "enclosed" file services provided, which appears to be zilch.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**  
IBM PC & compatibles; 640K; DOS 3.0 or later. Hard Disk recommended.

Downloaded from Collector's Edition by Kenneth Loafman.

*This review prepared by Fred Williams, edited by Kathryn Loafman(12/92).*

JULIA KELLY

214/881-9538



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(See page 1 for description of programs.)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>Hi-Tech Humor by St. \$ilicon</b> <i>St \$ilicon, Inc.</i>
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows</b> <i>WordPerfect Corporation</i>
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<b>NTPCUG Business Meeting</b>
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<b>Lotus Notes and Improv for Windows</b> <i>Lotus Corporation</i>

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## Special Interest Group Meetings

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

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

## North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066

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

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM or any other Corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to IBM Personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in this newsletter, and send it with \$24 membership dues to the Membership Director whose address is shown below. A subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership. The Group meets once each month, usually on the second Saturday. See cover for date, time and place of the next User Group meeting.



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<b>Disk of the Month</b>	Kathryn Loafman	(214)596-2539
<b>Group Statistician</b>	Connie Testa	
<b>Volunteer Coord.</b>	Claude McClure	(214)867-0978 h
<b>BBS</b>	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315

### Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain  
John Pribyl

Jim Hoisington  
Stuart Yarus

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** (214)387-2751  
(214)387-2752  
(214)263-9036 (Metro)

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

**Voice line for validation problems:**  
(214)565-2814 Ask for Adam

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

See footnote\*  
**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..)

\* Editor's Note: The TI Professional Computer BBS is a valuable resource to members with TI Pro PC's. If you don't own a TI Pro computer and are tempted to check out this (TI Pro) BBS, please DON'T. Running TI Pro software on another brand of computer could lock up the machine, reset the CMOS RAM and other such nasties. Fair Warning—.



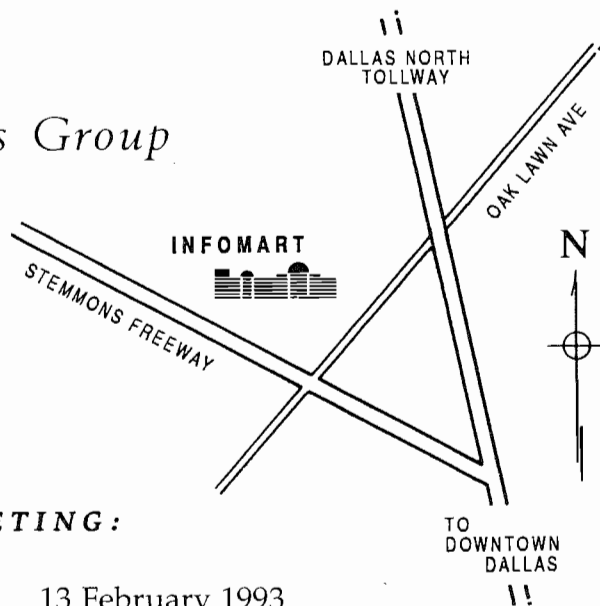
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**NEXT MEETING:**

13 February 1993