North Texas PC NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

January is NTPCUG Elections Month
(See Pages 26-27)

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for February
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, January 10th

Meeting Dates:

January 22, 1994 - 4th Saturday
February 19, 1994 - 3rd Saturday
March 26, 1994 - 4th Saturday

Member

APCUG

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

b) Snail Mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service). Put the article on a floppy diskette and mail it to: 218 Virginia Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165-2418

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

Table of Contents

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY ... TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Charisma 4.0 - Powerful Presentations Made Simple

Micrografx, Incorporated
David J. Wilson, Business Productivity Category Manager

Charisma 4.0 for Windows features three-dimensional drawing power, a streamlined interface, and enhanced controls for charting, graphing, and adding multimedia effects to your presentations. The power of its 32-bit engine lets you create powerful presentations in minutes. Its new text handling capabilities ensure quick edits of extruded and warped text, objects, and bitmapped fill textures. Charisma even provides a media manager that lets you add video, sound, photos, animation, and ClipArt to your presentations. There will be a drawing for free products. '

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Experience the Internet

On-Ramp Technologies, Inc.
Jeff Smith and Joe Bush

Tired of bumper to bumper BBS byways? Get off the service road and hit the highway, the *Internet Information Super Highway*. Learn how your Windows 3.1, Macintosh, or Unix machine can be rescued from the fate of terminal emulation and converted into a competition data dragster. Discover how high-octane, graphical front-ends can send your PC tooling down the information super highway at speeds that will knock your socks off. Watch MAC's and WIN3's go head-to-head in live competition. Be the lucky winner of the drawing and get three free months of internet access. Don't miss it!
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11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Borland Office 2.0

Borland International, Inc.
Dan Johnson, Systems Engineer

Borland Office 2.0, announced on November 17, 1993, includes new best-of-breed products, enhanced cross-application integration, built-in client/server connectivity, and is the first workgroup-enabled software suite. It includes WordPerfect Corporations new WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows, Borlands new Quattro Pro 5.0 for Windows Workgroup Edition, and Paradox 4.5 for Windows Workgroup Edition. It introduces Perfect Fit Technology, which gives users easy application integration and provides a common look throughout all the suite components: users are able to easily access all functionality in the suite regardless of the individual application they happen to be using. There will be a drawing for free products.
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* 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.

Special Interest Group SIGs January Meeting Schedule

8:00 - 8:55
Microsoft Networking
Visual BASIC - Beginning

9:00 - 9:55
BASIC Programming-Visual
DOS
General Genealogy
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users
Quicken
Software Review
StarText
Visual BASIC
Windows Applications
WordPerfect

10:00 - 10:55
BASIC – Classic
CAD
Fox Pro Database
Networking

10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.)
PAF-Genealogy
Paradox
Personal Users
WordPerfect/Windows
UNIX

11:00 - 11:55
BASIC Programming-Begin..
Assembler
Brother's Keeper Genealogy
Investors
MS Works
Roots III/IV - Genealogy
Spreadsheet Developers
Windows Developers

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Desktop Publishing
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
TI Pro

1:00 - 1:55
Access
ACT!

1:00-1:55 (Cont.)
BBS
Business Apps./DAC Easy
Middle C
MS Word
OS/2 Developers
Personal Users
Spreadsheet

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers
Community Services

In a Changing World ...

Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting times and room assignments are subject to changes after presstime. Please consult the NTPCUG BBS just before meeting day and check the overhead display in the INFOMART lobby at Xchange Saturdays for latest SIG schedules and room locations.

Prez Sez...

Thanks

Thank you to all of the volunteers that have made this group. **Doug Gorrie**, we appreciate your two years of service as an officer and board member. To the outgoing Board of Directors, there will always be another volunteer position to fill, to the incoming board, caveat canum, beware the dog.

Unsung but NOT unappreciated

Many of our volunteers work behind-the-scenes to keep this group going with contributions of time and expertise that are critical to operating a non-profit organization. It is not possible to list them all, but I will try to give recognition to some of them over the next year.

Raymond Reyes, NTPCUG Treasurer, thank you for paying the bills and keeping up with the financial business of this group. You are in the enviable position, where everyone is glad to see you walk into the room.

John West, our Secretary, thanks for recording the minutes of the officer's meetings. I know it's hard to take notes, contribute to the conversation, and eat at the same time.

Elections

You will find a ballot in this newsletter. Please remove it, vote for the President-Elect and five Directors of your choice, and either mail it in or drop it in the ballot box at the Information Booth on January 22nd. This is how you can help the user's group, by actively participating in the election. Also, give us an hour of your time during the upcoming year. It doesn't hurt, and it's an easy contribution to make.

What do YOU want?

Let us, the officers and directors, know what you want out of the user's group and suggest how we can help meet these goals. We probably have answers (probably being the optimal word carrying equal weight with probably not) and I will try to get some of these questions and answers into my column, because your question is most likely someone else's, too.

Comdex/FALL '93

A special mention of gratitude goes to all of the sponsors of the Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG) officer events at COMDEX this year.

The hospitality and support of user groups by these organizations is truly commendable: Adaptec, Adobe, America Online, Arabesque, askSam, Autodesk, Avery Dennison, Borland, Bureau of Electronic Publishing, Campbell Services, Claris, Coactive Computing, Dell, Delrina, GST, Hayes, IBM, Infoworld, Intuit, Kao, Kingston, Knowledge Adventure, Logitech, Lotus, Matrox, Micrografx, Microsoft, Motorola, Mustang, Panasonic, Parsons, PC Week, PC World, Peachtree, Quarterdeck, Shapeware, Sierra On-Line, Softbank, Software Publishing, Stac, Symantec, WordPerfect, and Ziffnet.

December's Meeting

The Computer User's Saturday Meeting at Infomart went real well. The business meeting had a full house. Could it have been the software giveaway?

Several members made job announcements. The business meeting and the Jobs Conference on the BBS are two places that you should watch closely, if you are unemployed or looking for work in the computer field.

Andy Oliver

The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

DATA MANAGER - Creates and Modifies Databases in *Visual Basic 3.0* at Design Time

Last Visual Basic Corner column described the Data Control, the database tool Microsoft introduced in Visual Basic 3.0 Standard Edition. This month, we will describe the Data Manager, an application program that Microsoft includes with the Standard Edition of Visual Basic 3.0.

The Data Control can only manipulate an existing database while the Data Manager can create and/or modify a database at design time. The Database Manager can create an *Access* 1.0 or 1.1 database from scratch.

This means that you could create a personal database of all your personal property with the structure you prefer in Access. The Database Manager can modify the structure of an existing database from Access (1.0 and 1.1), *Btrieve*, *dBASE* (III and IV), *FoxPro* (2.0 and 2.5) and *Paradox* (3.0 and 3.5). This means that if you have an existing database in dBASE III, for example, you can modify its structure to satisfy your current needs.

What is a Database?

A database is a structured set of data. The structure helps us locate specific data within the database. A common example of a database is a telephone book. The structure of a telephone book is alphabetical, by last name. Each of the fields related to the last name (first name, address and phone number) combine to make a record within the database. All of the records in the phone book are referred to as a table in database lingo. A database with a single table is also referred to as a flat file.

What is a Relational Database?

Suppose we now add to the database information regarding the telephone charges to each telephone number. This new table could consist of fields such as the telephone number (the index for this table), local charges this month, long distance charges this month, equipment charges and year-to-date charges for each of these categories.

Now we have created a relational database with two tables and a common field, the telephone number.

This is a very simplistic description of a relational database, but suffice it to say that the powerful Access database engine used in Visual Basic 3.0 works well with the relational database model. Inspecting an Existing Database with Data Manager Data Manager is very useful in examining an existing database to determine its structure and whether there is need for modification to fit your particular application.

- ❖ Open Data Manager from the Windows menu in Visual Basic 3.0.

- ❖ Open the File menu in Data Manager, select Open Database and select the Access option in the submenu.

- ❖ Open the biblio.mdb database.

Note that the structure of biblio.mdb is displayed and consists of four tables; Authors, Publisher Comments, Publishers and Authors.

- ❖ Select the Authors table and "click" the Design command button.

Note that the fields and indexes of biblio.mdb are displayed and that there are command buttons for adding fields and adding or deleting indexes. You cannot delete fields in existing tables, but rather must delete the entire table and reconstruct it without that particular field.

If you have another database on your computer, use the Data Manager to examine the database and its structure.

Modifying an Existing Database

If you have an existing database that is listed for Visual Basic 3.0 above, you can add or delete tables, add fields to a table and add or delete indexes to a table. The process is straightforward, but understand that you cannot delete a field from a table.

The only way to accomplish this is by following the procedure shown above to examine the exist-

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THE VARIETY STORE

Reagan Andrews

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

Looking Down the Road at COMDEX/Fall '93
Biggest show definitely on the "Strip" as
SEGA Gane Room at Luxor shines & shakes

And, Finally —
A Real MultiMedia Display

I wanted to call this "Lessons learned from COMDEX/Fall '93" initially. Not that sure what I experienced there in November could be called "learning" or "lessons." I think I did get a taste of the PC industry's future direction though.

COMDEX/Fall '93 was a different show this time around. I'll add to that statement later in this article, but major change seems to be maturity and a completion of the shift from its former, technically-based, conference to a full-bore marketing showcase.

Hardware was increasingly important, but will become irrrelevent to the consumer if COMDEX was a good indication. That takes some explanation and I'll try briefly. The major CPU battle(s) were joined at Comdex with no-holds-barred struggles between CISC (Intel, AMD, Cyrix and TI) and RISC advocates (MIPS, SUN, DEC and Apple/IBM/Motorola) for desktop supremacy.

CPUComparisons
Void of Meaning
For Most Part

Saw lots of CPU comparison demonstrations, all running apparently-similar test suites under Windows NT. (SUN was an exception, but was showing WABI.)

Real Meaning(s)?

Real meaning appeared to be that users won't care what CPU is in the box as long as they can run the software they want (at reasonable prices) with performance they need. Intel won't like this news — in light of their "Intel Inside" ad campaign. Sorry, Intel, but that's how things appear to be shaking out.

No Excitement in Software

Software was much less exciting than in previous years' expositions – to the point that "Gee-Whiz" wasn't an adjective used by anybody I met. What I saw was very, very good, but essentially improved versions and not really new. Consolidation into "suites" was major software

theme in the halls. Vendors want this, large shop and LAN managers probably will hate the trend because of licensing restrictions.

Real Excitement?
— MultiMedia

MultiMedia probably most exciting area at Comdex — and site of some hilarious controversy (*CyberSex*) — during the show. Best graphics were not at Comdex, but were to be found on the Las Vegas "Strip" at the new Luxor's SEGA game room(s.) Multimedia displays also among most crowded at Comdex even though in a non-prime-time location (the North Hall Annex) this year.

What's in a Name?

That brings up another point that was confusing to old-Comdex-hands — the Las Vegas Convention Center manager(s) decided to re-name the convention center display halls. The "old" East Hall became the South Hall, and the West Hall (really an annex) was renamed the North Hall Annex.

As usual, we all thought Interface Group (Comdex organizer) was lying through their teeth about Comdex attendence figures. 175,000 were claimed by show's end, but

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The Variety Store

I'd have pegged it at closer to 125,000. That's based on crowds we didn't see, empty spaces in the exhibit areas and absence of long taxi ques, traffic jams or other Comdex indicators.

Real News — Maturity

What was the real news at Comdex? Mostly that the industry appears to have grown up and reached some maturity. The show itself was almost entirely a giant marketing effort.

Comdex finally matured — what a shame. Almost completely missing this year was the juvenile excitement and puppy-like adoration of technology for technology's sake.

I think this means the industry has matured (reached senesence, perhaps?) with the professionals (marketeers and bean-counters) firmly ensconced in management. Saw some of this at last year's Comdex, but not as such an overwhelming presence.

Reflection of Economy?

Economy may be partial factor — with lots of folks worried they would find a pink-slip on return to their offices after the show. Was a joke heard widely that among the usual marketing handouts Borland booth personnel were including their resumes. That fits with some of the gen-

eral rumors that Borland is about to be absorbed by WordPerfect with the *Office* suite just the first step in the consolidation.

Techies Missing in '93

Gone were the days of Comex as a combination technical exposition and raucus after-hours party. By and large, the technicians were not present this year.

There were exceptions, of course — as at Hercules where you could get answers to serious graphics-controller questions— and, at several other unexpected sites where people knew the insides of their products and were anxious to discuss why their software/hardware was the best available.

Outrageous — Fell to *PC* At '93 Comdex Parties

Also, the outrageous parties were a lot less outrageous and the general atmosphere was definitely "PC" (mostly shades of gray) with little genuine sparkle seen in either exhibitors or attendees.

CPU News?

News? How about DEC (Digital Equipment Corporation) α - Series -- fastest chips at Comdex -- showing 320 Mhz on PCI-equipped "mini AT" form-factor motherboard. Also sported a massive (by PC standards)

heatsink that took me back to nostalgia of designing linear power supplies and early solidstate audio amplifiers.

Was about the size I'd put on a 35-watt mono amplifier unit.

Wait a Minute — Borland and Philippe Kahn?

Yeah. Rumor mills were working at a feverish pace, cranking out the bad news about a Borland take-over by WordPerfect (the Orem Bandits) in the offing.

Do know that Philippe Kahn didn't look as "bouncy" as he has in past shows, and even lost his temper during one major gathering. The joint roll-out of *Borland Office* done in combination with WordPerfect was a good example — with WP doing most of the talking and PK looking depressed, pretty much on the sidelines..

"Worst of Breed Award" — WP's APCUG Presentation

The Borland-sponsored press conference was followed shortly by a WordPerfect presentation/talk to APCUG members in which I learned to truly despise the phrase "best of breed." If I never hear that phrase again, I won't feel any loss at all. None. Nada.

Everybody involved in this 90-minute debacle should have known better.

WordPerfect not Alone

"Best of Breed" seemed to be used by everybody at selling anything at Comdex. Unfortunately, several different pur-

veyors of office-suite software packages were all using the term to describe their "new" features, each quoting one or another PC-related magazine competition/survey. This was really confusing, trying to keep track of which magazine, which article, and which publication year.

Years? Named years? This must have been the year of the RISC CPU!

RISC vs. CISC was definitely one of the major sources of press attention at Comdex (second to the *CyberSex* press conference) with the major players well represented. Motorola/IBM/Apple's *PowerPC* was ubiquitous (mostly marketing handouts and talk). Quieter, but much more impressive was *DEC's* Alpha RISC CPU's running at various clock rates in several configurations, including notebooks sporting *Windows NT*.

SUN had the most popular (my opinion) demonstration -- centered on the SPARC CPU and *WABI* (Sun's Windows emulation running under *Solaris*.) People were bursting through the doors at opening time just to get in line for tickets to the demo. Comdex security nearly got trampled in the onslaught of determined people in pursuit of the SUN tickets. (I was offered $10 for mine on Friday.)

MIPS, on the other hand was quieter, less flashy and did have technicians available to demostrate their R4400-150 RISC CPU's. MIPS also had the best of the parallel comparison/demos of various RISC and CISC.

The Variety Store

chips running standard test suites under *Windows NT*. Included in the MIPS comparisons were a *Pentium* running at 60 MHz, A DEC Alpha running at 150 MHz and a R4400-150 CPU.

An Honest Demo at last

MIPS' Demonstrator was quick to describe each of the test machine configurations and which aspects he/she felt were important in the performance differentials seen.

MIPS was equally quick to state that any comparison of this type was inherently unfair to one or more of the other machines since their suite was "tuned" for their machine. Surprisingly, the *Pentium* (586) did better than I would have expected.

Intel Meets RISC Threat?

Intel countered this -- mostly by either ignoring the RISC machines, or by focusing on why the *Pentium* was better since it didn't use "emulation" to run Windows software. Intel also focused on how much faster things would fly, once software was re-compiled for the *Pentium* strong points.
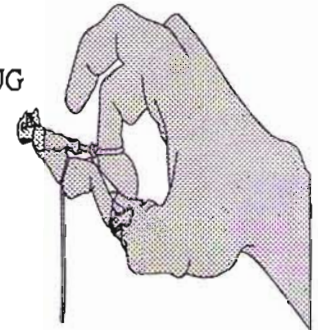
(Does this sound familiar? Re-compiling software for a supposedly compliant architecture -- shades of *UNIX!*)

UNIX was fairly-well represented -- by several Unix-consortiums, each claiming itself to be "open" and the "universal" candidate -- Saw a lot more *NT* at Comdex. A DEC executive was overheard laughing about the above, calling *UNIX* a product of the "Consortium-of-the-Week."

Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Access SIG

What's the "fast way to learn Windows 3.1 applications?" Usability Sciences Corporation will tell us their answer at the January Access SIG meeting: *QuickCards.* Now available for Access, Quick-Cards provide step by step guidance, onscreen, in performing Access operations. They eliminate long sidetracks into Windows Help and research in the manuals. We are looking forward to an interesting and informative presentation.

As usual, we will have a Question and Answer (and Tips and Hints) segment and another exciting giveaway.

Thanks to Vince Prehn, President of Network Utilities Corporation, our December speaker, who explained how to make queries simple for our Access application users with "Query by Form."

Other big news in December: AC-CESS now has its own message conference on the NTPCUG BBS. Check it out, if you haven't already. Choose the Conference Select menu, Applications area, and look for the "ACCESS" message conference. Anyone can read it and NTPCUG members can post questions, answers, opinions, or just gossip of interest. If you miss a SIG meeting, a copy of each month's "Notes" handout will be attached to a message in the Access message area. Look

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

New SIGs & Meeting Times:

—APL @ 1:00 - 1:55 [contact Frank Cavallito (214) 423-9221 h]
—Micrografx @ 10:00 - 11:55 [contact Neal Berkowitz (214) 475-3124 w]

Changes in SIG Names:

—UNIX/Xenix to UNIX
—Advanced BASIC to BASIC Classic

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

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

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

Leadership — at least one individual willing to lead the SIG and an assistant

Membership — at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

If you have a group that meets these qualifications or would like help in finding others that might share your interests, please contact me at (214) 517-7430 (H) or (214) 953-4970 (W)

—Alex Lilley.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator
Alex Lilley .... (214) 517-7430 h
.... (214) 953-4970 w

ACT !
Jim Thompson .... (817) 261-6159 h
Access
Larry Linson .... (817) 481-2350 hM
Jack Atkinson ...... (817) 481-6623 h
Dianna DeCicco .. (214) 446-0639 h
Frank McCoy .... (817) 232-2483 h
Alpha 4
Ron Jackson .... (214) 276-3661 h
Mac McKeethen .. (214) 556-1352 h
APL
Frank Cavallito .... (214) 423-9221 h
Assembler
Glynn Brooks ...... (214) 578-9737 h
BASIC - Beginning
Chuck Jacobus ... (817) 379-6840 h
.... (817) 379-5287 w
BASIC - Classic
Mike Firth .... (214) 827-7734 h
BASIC Visual
Woody Pewitt ...... (214) 283-2292 h
.... (214) 230-3485 w
Jim Carter .... (214) 235-5968 h
BBS
Fred Williams ...... (214) 492-1315 h
Doug Gorrie .... (214) 618-8002 h
.... (214) 464-7942 w
Brother's Keeper
Neil Sunderland .. (214) 272-2869 h
Business Appications/DAC
Putt Shaw .... (214) 235-2559 h
.... (214) 669-9633 w
Bruce Schubert ... (214) 690-5848 h
.... (214) 233-8353 w
C++/Advanced
Kent Cobb .... (214) 343-3862 h
Tom Cook .... (214) 341-1890 h
.... (214) 871-8177 w
C++/Middle C
Tom Cook .... (214) 341-1890 h
.... (214) 871-8177 w
CAD
Bill Sephton .... (214) 296-1799 h
.... (214) 641-7301 w
Communications
Doug Gorrie .... (214) 618-8002 h
.... (214) 464-7942 w

SIG LEADER LISTINGS CONTINUED ...

Communications SIG, ctd.
Bill Green, III....... (817) 731-1308 h
.... (817) 738-6581 w
Community Service
Brian Mickel .... (214) 521-2938 h
.... (214) 521-6670 w
Alex Lilley .... (214) 517-7430 h
.... (214) 953-4970 w
DOS
Jim Hoisington.... (214) 416-3101 h
Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h
Dataflex
David King .... (817) 640-6130 hM
.... (214) 313-0408 w
Desktop Publishing
Deborah Bean .... (214) 475-7463 h
.... (214) 475-3124 w
Ray Hackney ...... (214) 437-2439 h
Fox Pro
Kevin White .... (214) 644-5008 w
Genealogy - General
Al Sanford.......... (214) 278-7888 h
Genealogy - *PAF*
Joe Waldrop .... (817) 498-5856 h
Genealogy - *Roots III / IV*
John Wylie .... (214) 495-4410 h
Hardware Solutions
Charles Miller...... (903) 938-4220 h
Gary Johnson ..... (214) 938-0344 h
Investors
Dick Richtman .... (214) 437-0322 h
MS *Word*
Charles Miller...... (903) 938-4220 h
Janet Patton .... (903) 886-6249 h
MS *Works*

Mike Firth............ (214) 827 7734 h
Ralph Logan .... (817) 498-9746 hM
Micrografx
Neal Berkowitz.... (214) 475-3124 w
Microsoft Networking
Debbie Lenhart... (214) 714-6816 w
Networking
Bernie Van Roekel
.... (817) 451-4540 h
.... (817) 461-4120 w
OS/2 Developer
James Dunn .... (214) 279-5712 h
.... (214) 497-8978 w
OS/2 for End Users
Bob Fermier........ (817) 481-6625 h
.... (214) 444-2195 w
Paradox
Fred Williams...... (214) 492-1315 h
Tom Browning .... (214) 692-9784 h
Personal Users
Alex Lilley .... (214) 517-7430 h
.... (214) 953-4970 w
Bob Russell .... (214) 422-4269 h

SIG

also for messages with samples and examples attached as Access database (.MDB) files. Post a message and upload samples that you generate when you try out different techniques... we will all benefit.

Early in 1994, we'll have the (somewhat delayed) presentation on the ACCESS Distribution Kit, Microsoft's user support programs for ACCESS, and other topics requested by the attendees in our ongoing interest survey. Don't forget to request topics of interest to you. Copies of the interest survey forms will be available at the meetings.

Thanks again to all who contributed to a great 1993 for the ACCESS SIG. We think you will find 1994 another interesting year in the world of ACCESS.

Larry Linson

Beginners BASIC SIG

The Beginners BASIC SIG features *GW-Basic* & *QBasic* step-by-step program writing with small sample programs. Six to eight page instruction sheet each meeting. Questions and answers on any Basic Code subject at any time. This group has renamed itself the "No Windows Basic SIG" (NOW Basic for short with a chuckle). Subjects covered in 1993:

- ❖ January '93 — Sort & merge theory
- ❖ February — Errors & Error Traps
- ❖ March — Debug & Testing
- ❖ April — CRT & printer code
- ❖ May — Menus and shareware utility gems

- ❖ June — Screen design & data input code
- ❖ July — Compiling Basic language programs
- ❖ August — Keyboard Ascii & Scan Codes
- ❖ September — XREF program in Basic for NOWBasic (VC.ZIP)
- ❖ October — Alumni List Program set. Data input, sort, report, labels, screens using *Ansipaint*.
- ❖ November — Review and explanation of the #846 DOM.

DOM #846 was released in August with all the material thru August covered, including Basic code examples and extremely useful shareware utilities. This DOM will be expanded each six months. The #846 disk was inadvertantly copied as a 360Kb deleting all the shareware sub-directories. A new & revised #846, which is 1.2Mb, is now available. If you bought a 360Kb version, it will be exchanged by a 1.2Mb version at the NTPCUG DOM desk.

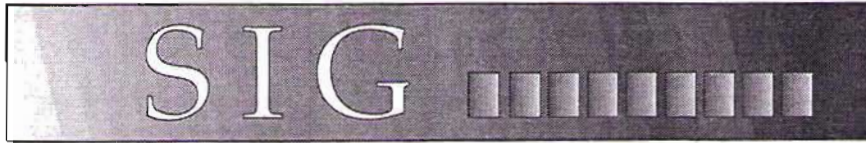Also to be covered in 1993: Bit/hex/decimal conversion, memory and disk exploration, payroll programs, general ledger programs, your own spread sheet program, inventory control—your own database program code (Not necessarily in that order).

Charles Jacobus

Classic *BASIC* SIG

Although we are still trying to get the name correct in the schedule (where it still says Advanced BASIC), our action was good Classic

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SIG

BASIC. We talked about the advantages of going from GWBASIC to QBASIC and then to Quick-BASIC/Visual BASIC for DOS.

Mike Firth

DOS SIG

January's DOS SIG Meeting will be focused on refining operation under DOS and discussion of the new DOS utility, *SCANDISK*, which appeared in *MS DOS 6.2*.

Both Jim Hoisington (partying in New Zealand for the last DOS SIG meeting) and Reagan Andrews will look at ways to debug and troubleshoot pesky installations of DOS.

One tip for users struggling with long, involved and "buggy" AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG .SYS files is to remember how useful [F5] and [F8] can be in the trouble-shooting process. PC's are so fast now that DOS error messages are almost impossible to catch on the fly and addition of the stepping power is about the only way users can get things under control.

Pressing [F5] immediately after POST (Power-On Self Test) phase is completed in the boot sequence will tell DOS to bypass the CON-FIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files and do a "clean" boot. If you do this, it will be helpful to have a small path-setting BAT in the root directory so that important utilities and disk editors will be available. An example might be called PATH.BAT and include a simple one-line command:

SET PATH = C:\;C:\DOS;C:\; ...

You don't need a BAT file, you can type in the path from the DOS prompt — but a BAT file will be helpful if its a long, long path. Remember to include the path to your editor so that all needed changes in the CONFIG .SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files are possible.

DOS 6 added increased power to [F8] by allowing users to step through the AUTOEXEC.BAT file as well as the CONFIG.SYS file during the boot process. This has significantly decreased the [Ctrl]+[Alt]+[Del] "Three-finger Sa-

lutes" typical in the debugging operation. [F8] is immensely helpful when configuring device drivers and cleaning up the clutter left by sloppy installation programs for new or updated software packages.

The January DOS SIG Meeting will end, as usual, on our free-for-all Q&A session covering members' problems and suggestions concerning use of DOS in day-to-day operation. This meeting should be a lot of fun for members and SIG leaders alike.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG -- General

Windows genealogy software programs were discussed and demonstrated at the December meeting. General genealogy meets from 9 to 10 a.m. in Room 6044 every Super Saturday. This SIG supports all genealogy hardware and software. There is usually an average of 65 present. An overlay was used in conjunction with an overhead projector to display the computer output onto a large screen.

There are several "windows like" programs on the market, *The Master Generator* (TMG) and *Roots IV* to name a couple, and other programs can be run under Windows to gain edge (*PAF* for instance, so two windows can be put on the screen and a word processor can then be used to input to the note file instead of having to use the PAF editor). But there are only about three genealogy programs that are designed to run under Windows. These are *Reunion*, *Gene Logic*, and *Family Treasures*. These three programs were the program for the November meeting. The discussion leader was Ralph Dosher, a local member.

Reunion software was probably the first Windows genealogy software program. There are numer-

SIG

ous "windows like" programs. Reunion has been available for the Macintosh for several years. One unique feature of Reunion is that it can be ported between Mac's and PC's. It color codes charts on the screen, therefore it is easy to determine by color which generation is which in a descendants chart. You can operate Reunion with either a mouse (preferred) or a keyboard.

Reunion was used in the September program to illustrate one form of 'imaging'. It is exciting that sound, color, graphics, and movement are all coming to computer genealogy. A color printer revolution is also beginning and color computer prices have already dropped and will do so even more in the near future.

The program allows pictures (or other graphics) that can be scanned into the computer and then transferred to Reunion, i.e. Reunion supports several types of graphic extensions. *Gene Logic* is newer than and doesn't seem as robust as Reunion. *Family Treasures* was originally primarily for pictures (graphics) but an expanded version has just been released.

Al Sanford

Genealogy -- *PAF*

PAF (Personal Ancestral File) meets in room 6044 from 10 to 11 a.m. on Super Saturdays. It is the most popular genealogy software program in terms of the number of users. It is relatively inexpensive ($35). The CIG (Computer Interest Group) leader is Joe Waldrop. PAF is *GEDCOM* (Genealogical Data Communications) compatible, which means the genealogy data can be ported

(copies) to any other genealogical software program that is also GEDCOM compatible.

The first thing on the November program was the presentation of three major problems of the PAF CIG members.

Problem 1: I have a mouse that works in windows and other places but not in PAF. I have loaded a mouse driver through the config.sys and autoexec.bat files when loading DOS, so it is not the fault of a mouse that works in windows only mode.

❖ Suggestion 1: Try changing color scheme. The mouse cursor may be hidden in the color scheme you are using.

❖ Suggestion 2: Try reloading the PAF software program. It may be that the PAF mouse driver originally loaded into your computer as a part of PAF 2.2 now has developed a 'glitch.'

Problem 2: I have a modem which has been working but now I have trouble accessing a BBS.

❖ Suggestion 1: Open up your computer and "reseat" the communications card in its slot.

❖ Suggestion 2: It may be noise on the phone line (i.e. suggestion 1 would cure one type of noise generation).

Problem 3: I used QDOS to copy PAF files from my hard disk to a floppy. Although the software said it did this, the data on the hard disk was "wiped out" and the file name on the floppy said 0 bites.

❖ Suggestion 1: Call the Church of the Latter Day Saints at Salt Lake City Utah and ask their opinion.

❖ Suggestion 2: It was determined that the files indicated on the hard disks were the original files that PAF generated when the program was first installed and was asked to create a Family Records data file. Therefore, the old data must be present somewhere.

Next, if 5 different ways to start up PAF were shown (using batch files). One of these is fr -m which disables the mouse. The rest of the time was spent on "how to merge two databases."

Al Sanford

Hardware Solutions SIG

Special thanks go this month to Assistant SIG Leader Gary Johnson who has been conducting the Hardware Solutions for the last two months while your SIG leader has been in absence.

Gary reports that attendance at the 9AM SIG meeting continues to grow as more and more people want to know what makes their computer work. As the computers, operating systems and software we use grows in complexity, it becomes more and more important to understand the part hardware plays in the overall picture.

At this writing, there is no special program planned for the next SIG meeting and so we should be able to devote the entire hour to the question- and-answer session for which there never seems to be enough time anyway.

Everyone is invited to bring their hardware questions to the meeting where you can always expect to get several answers to any

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problem, sometimes even a correct answer!

Charles Miller

Micrografx SIG

Last month the Micrografx SIG got a sneak preview of the new Charisma. Needless to say the product is impressive. Harvard Graphics, Microsoft, and Lotus are going to be hard pressed to say their presentation programs are the best any more!

For January things are still a bit up in the air. We will probably have a demonstration of Snap-Grafx. SnapGrafx is the perfect program for those who need to do drawings but who are not artistically inclined. In other words, this is the concept of cut-and-paste drawings taken to a new level. Another option might be to have a more in-depth presentation of ABC Flowcharter.

Regardless of what happens, the SIG is always informative and during the question and answer session, we try to answer any question about any of the Micrografx products. So, if you have any problems, questions, suggestions or comments, feel free to join us.

Neal Berkowitz

Microsoft Networking SIG

We have had quite an active SIG, even with meeting at 8:00 in the morning. As you know, the Microsoft Networking products range from Windows NT/NT Advanced Server, Windows for Workgroups, Microsoft LAN Manager, and Mail/Schedule+ Products.

The last few months had some outstanding presentations. Scott Suhy presented a technical overview of Windows NT Advanced Server in September. In October, Silvio Tuscarone and Mike Rosado led a session with commonly asked Windows NT questions. John McCrae discussed Windows for Workgroups in November, and December had Gene Hammelman leading a lively presentation on Schedule +.

Upcoming Microsoft Networking presentations will include:

- ❖ Part 2 of Gene's *Schedule+* demo. (probably March)

- ❖ Practical protocols - (January). Topical technical overview contrasting routable versus non-routable protocols and why you would choose one over another.

- ❖ RAS with Windows NTAS and Windows for Workgroups. Learn how you can access the network from a remote site via modem with this built-in software.

- ❖ SNA Server for NT.

If you have any specific topics you would like to see addressed, send me a message on the BBS or via internet to deborahl@microsoft.com.

Debbie Lenhart

OS/2 for Endusers

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

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

For the January meeting we will be covering chapters 7 - 9 from the book "OS/2 2.1 Unleashed" published by SAMS.

Bob Fermier

Paradox SIG Notes

I'm looking forward to the new year with great expectations of the Paradox SIG's chances to expand the SIG meeting format. It has become all too obvious that one hour just does not allow a sufficient amount of time to be devoted to the two Paradox products.

I also look back over the past year and realize what a positive contribution Tom Browning has made to our SIG since he volunteered to become the Assistant SIG Leader. Tom has gone beyond the call of duty with his "Introduction To Paradox" series of presentations.

I am certain that if someone would step forward with a presentation, Tom would be more than willing to "take the month off". We surly do not want to burn him out with presentation overload.

I noticed that Greg Kane, an Assistant SIG Leader from the past, has reactivated his membership in NTPCUG. It is good to see Greg back in the user's group. Let us hope that he will also renew old acquaintances in the Paradox SIG. Greg is one of those guys who generally has the answer for a question raised in the SIG meeting.

Our sister organization Paradox Users of North Texas (PUNT) has recently undergone some rather

SIG

unexpected, sudden, organizational changes. I am hopeful that the same high standards of the past administration of PUNT will carry over into the new officers future. I consider our organizations partners in our efforts to advance the users and developers of Paradox. I wish PUNT continued success.

See you all at the January SIG. Bring a friend, show him what he has been missing, then hand him a NTPCUG Application.

Fred Williams

Personal Users

The Personal Users will be presenting its 4th and last of this series of classes. These classes will include:

- ❖ 9:00 am— Class 13
  Printers for Personal Computers

- ❖ 10:00 am — Class 14
  Writing Spreadsheet Macros (Lotus 1-2-3)

- ❖ 12:00 am — Class 15
  Software for Personal Computers

- ❖ 1:00 pm — Class 16
  PCs to the End of the 20th & Into the 21st Century

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

Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

Due to the inclement weather, the Pro SIG adjourned early. During

the abbreviated session, John West gave an indepth presentation of 20 macros for each of the 10 most common text editors that he uses to program the 5 most popular desktop operating systems.

Join us next month for a code review of 210,000 lines of assembly language. The other half of the Pro SIG time has not been scheduled at this time.

Jim Hoisington

StarSIG

*Star*SIG for December, reported before the fact, featured a round-table introduction of columnists nd users. Discussion started with the use of the StarText keyword *NEWKEYS*.

A product introduction is planned for January. *Starcomm*, the StarText-provided communications program doesn't do multi-tasking. It causes timeouts in *Windows* and *OS/2*. Two StarTexans, Dave and Carl, have written a Windows-compatible program, and they will present it on Super Saturday. As with other presentations recently, this program is not a StarText product. Dave and Carl are independent programmers.

As always, we invite everyone to our meetings. It is our goal to make *Star*SIG as user-friendly as StarText.

William L. Jones

Visual Basic — Beginning

This month's meeting will feature a discussion of the conceptual changes involved in making the transition from programming in

DOS-based QuickBASIC, to programming in Windows-based Visual Basic for Windows. Gene Hamelman will discuss topics such as "top down program design versus event driven program design" and will demonstrate with examples. Gene is an active member of our SIG, a volunteer helper for beginners in Visual Basic and an employee of Microsoft locally.

Last month, we discussed the operation of Data Manager in modifying existing databases and creating databases from scratch in the Standard Edition of Visual Basic 3.0. Additional capabilities of Data Manager in working with various databases were also discussed.

Help comes in many forms. A special form of help for beginning Visual Basic programmers is available from four volunteer members of NTPCUG. The four volunteers and their phone numbers are:

- ❖ Jim Carter   235-5968
- ❖ Woody Pewitt   283-2292
- ❖ L J Johnson   495-9067
- ❖ Gene Hamelman 495-6342

Feel free to call any evening between 7:00 and 9:30 PM with your questions about Visual Basic. Also don't forget about our meeting at 8:00 AM on January 22. See you then.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

The January 22 meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will include a number of topics. Among them will be Visual Basic Version Control software, Multi-programmer project control, and a very preliminary discussion of VBA for Excel, if released. VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) is an application ori-

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ented language that will be provided by Microsoft with each of their major applications. It is said to be very consistent with the Visual Basic programming language and will play a large role in customizing applications for specific customers.

The December meeting completed the discussion of database management using the database capabilities of the Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0.

Our meeting follows the Beginning Visual Basic and will start at 9:00 A.M. See you there.

Jim Carter

Microsoft *Works* SIG

During the Works SIG meeting in November, we attempted to save a document in *MS Word* format and to load it bac. We continued to get an error message about a TMP file in use. I recalled that I had seen a note somewhere in the 10 pages of CompuServe Messages I brought on paper (and on diskette, but I forgot I had that) about the error message we got.

It turns out that DOS Works 3 gets upset if TEMP=C:\TEMP is not set, or if it is set, it must point to an actual directory. On my machine, TEMP=C:\WINDOWS \TEMP was SET, but that directory did not exist. I don't know whether Windows created one and destroyed it or I just didn't have a TEMP in Windows.

In any case, as soon as I made the directory, saving in Word format worked fine and recognition was automatic on reloading.

Mike Firth

MS *Word* SIG

Our January SIG meeting will feature a special presentation by representatives from Usability Sciences Corporation.

Usability Sciences Corporation is the leading independent usability testing company in the country specializing in the usability of Microsoft Windows programs. Usability Sciences has developed an online help and

training technology - QuickCards - that provides "just in time" learning to users of Microsoft Windows programs.

QuickCards are on-line help and a learning tool for Windows applications. They are graphical lists of step-by-step instructions that enable users to quickly learn how to perform tasks with Windows application. QuickCards for Word will be demonstrated so that you can see how they compare to on-line help and other forms of user assistance.

This program should be of special interest to new users of Word as well as all of us who are new to version 6.0. A drawing will be held for the complete set of *Microsoft Office QuickCards*.

Charles Miller

WP5.1 DOS
Tip Of The Month!

The directory where your Word-Perfect files are saved should be separate from the WP51 program directory. In fact, I wouldn't even put it under the WP51 directory. Because when you upgrade to a newer version, then you'll have to move all those files. I recommend that you create a directory as close to the root as you can (i.e. C:\DOCS). It makes for shorter path names and it is easily pointed to from any version of WordPerfect. Here are some tips

when dealing with lots of directories.

When saving a file to a subdirectory under the default directory, you can type a dot to represent your default instead of typing the entire path name. For instance, the default directory is DOCS, but you need to save a new document to the subdirectory under DOCS called TOM (the path is really C:\DOCS\TOM). When saving, just type TOM and a slash, then the filename.

Now let's say that you've changed your default directory to C:\DOCS\TOM by pressing {F5}, typing an = and typing c:\docs\tom. If you create a brand new document and just save it with a filename, it's going into the TOM directory. But you don't want it there. You want it in the DOCS directory which is the parent of TOM. When saving the file, instead of typing the full path name, type two dots and the filename. In DOS, two dots represent the parent. If you're on Novell, you can type three or four dots (depending on the version of Novell) to get two or three levels back.

On to business. In January, we're going to do kind of a show and tell. Wes Eckles is going to show us a great way to fax. It's some new fandangled equipment that is neither a true fax machine or a board in your peecee. There's going to be a couple of other people showing some things, but I haven't twisted their arms yet so I can't tell you their names.

See you there!!

Lori Quinn

NEW DISKS
...from the DOM Squad

DISK OF THE MONTH FOR
DECEMBER 1993

The following Disk is distributed on 1.2M floppy only:

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

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

Copies of each chapter have been given to the students at each monthly session. However, new students arrive each month and need to start at the beginning. And people miss sessions for various reasons. Also the question arises: when shall we start the cycle over? (I have not yet answered that question because there are at least as many more chapters/subjects to be taught.) So we have cre-

ated this disk, which is the text material and sample programs starting at the beginning. About every six months we will have a new disk with the added chapters we have lectured on in the meantime, with additional example programs (such as: Payroll, general ledger, special journal and aging reports, check book, inventory control program sets, screen control and graphics, etc.)

[NOTE: BASIC Language Programming was originally issued, due to an error, on low-density 5.25" disks Aug. 1993. The corrected version was reissued on the correct high-density 5.25" disks Dec. 1993.]

The source for this software was the author, Charles J. Jacobus.
Prepared by Charles J. Jacobus, edited by Kathryn Loafman (8/93) (rev. 12/93).

Disk 865. Morning Star 93, 11/93 – Play Carols on your PC by Arthur Epling Enterprises, P.O. Box 835956, Richardson, Texas 75083. Registration = $2.00.

Here is the perfect disk to give your PC the Christmas spirit! Morning Star is a collection of Christmas carols. It is charming simple and uncomplicated to use. Just the thing to provide a little atmosphere for the office Christmas party!

These tunes will play on your PC speaker, but you can also select Sound Blaster, MIDIA-TOR, or MIDI as output devices. I was playing the tunes on the PC speaker and it was very pleasant and Christmas-like. (Quite a change from the usual gotcha noises the

PC plays for me.) I am told that with a Sound Blaster or MIDI setup, the sound is more like a piano.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM or 100% IBM compatible, 80286 or later CPU is required, DOS 3.3 or higher, and a VGA or compatible adapter. Windows accessible; will also run from within OS/2 via the full screen DOS prompt option.

NOTE: The music on this disk was created with the STAR MUSIC EDITOR 3.2, which the author plans to release early in 1994.

Software donated by the author (and NTPCUG member), Arthur Epling.
This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis (12/93).

Disk 866. WordJournal 1.0, 10/93 – Journal Management Software by The Software Cobbler, P.O. Box 5743, Auburn, CA 95604. Phone: (916) 878-6062 FAX: (916) 878-7436 Registration = $20.

If you have to keep track of projects, then you have probably used a journal. There were some problems with the paper versions. You can't go back and expand the entries. If you have more than one project to keep track of, you have to keep separate notebooks. If the project spawns

into two or more projects, you have to figure where to break off the entries and start another notebook. When the time comes to report, you have to read the entries and type them up. Doing the journal in a word processor gives you flexibility, but then you have to devise systems for naming files, or using a different floppy disk for each journal. WordJournal deals with these time consuming administrative details. The program keeps track of the journals, date and time stamping each entry. You can edit the entries, and you can print out the journals. There is a directory display that displays the entries in date and time sequence, and you can add a comment or description to each entry. The program is run from a menu bar and pull-down menus. There are no commands to learn.
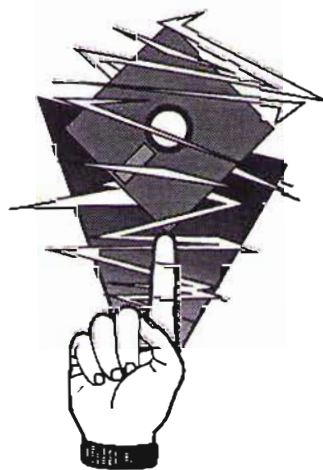
WordJournal can be used by anyone who needs to keep track of events: as a personal journal, for research notes, or for meeting minutes. Beyond being easy to use, it has two other attractive features: password protection and automatic encryption to keep entries completely private. Within the program, each member of the group can have their own separate private journal.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM compatible computer, 512K RAM minimum, DOS 3.3 or higher, hard drive recommended but not required, Microsoft compatible mouse recommended but not required.

Software donated by the publisher, Software Cobbler.
This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis (12/93).

Disk 867. Beginner's 6Pak 2.0, 2/93 – Help for Beginning Computer Users by Pat Ferro, 235 Lake Thomas Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Phone:

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(813) 299-1328. Shareware Fee = $11.00.

Are you just starting out as a computer user? Are you just thinking about getting a computer? This diskette is just for you.

Just insert the diskette in your drive and type GO. Then just follow the instructions and prompts to:

o Take Speed Courses in WordPerfect, Lotus, and dBase

o Learn the Secrets Of Batch Files, Color, and Macros

o Learn about Shareware

and much more. Included is Jeff Napier's Database of Fun extracted from his Almanac 1991, containing hundreds of very interesting facts. All this is in easy-to-understand non-computer-eze.

For WordPerfect, learn how to get started, use the 12 Function Keys, do page formatting, type a letter, retrieve a file and spell check, use the Help key and graphics, block operations, and WordPerfect macros. For Lotus, learn about the worksheet, ranges, macros, charting and graphing, and printing. For dBase, learn how to create, open, edit, modify, view, and print records.

Learn how to use Batch Files and Keyboard Macros.

You can register your Beginner's 6Pak, and get even more information on learning to use your computer.

The source of this disk is the author.

Review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Will Davis (12/93).

Disk 868. Ultimate Label Manager 1.0, 10/91 — Mailing Label Manager, Shareware version 1.0 by Jeff Napier, d.b.a ANOTHER COMPANY, P.O. Box 298, Applegate, OR 97530. Shareware Fee = $29.95.

The main purpose of this program is to keep track of information to be printed on la-bels. The most common application is for mailing labels, but many others come to mind, like using it to keep track of friends' phone numbers.

You can enter up to 5 lines of text per label. Additionally, you can enter a 'secret' note for each label, which is displayed on the computer screen, but not necessarily printed. Again, these notes can be for any purpose, but typical uses would be to track customers' account status, inventory levels, names of clients' family members, list of recent meetings, or research notes.

You can enter label and note information directly from the keyboard or use the included program called IMPORT to bring in information from an ASCII file.

You can keep multiple files of labels and search any one for any information. You can locate for a single occurrence of this search request or locate all occurrences. You can print the matching labels (or labels with matching notes) or you can create a new file, containing only the labels and notes that match the search request.
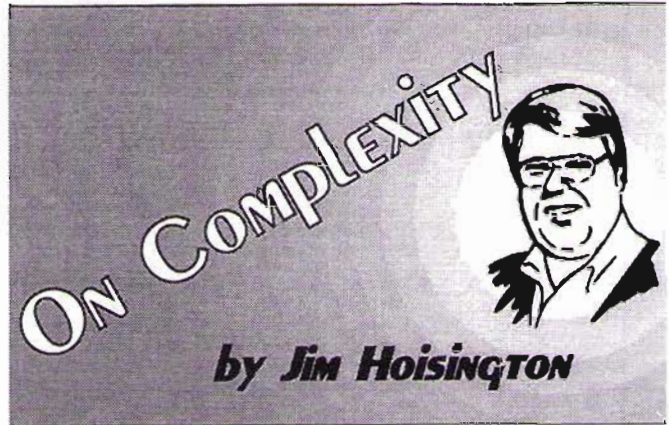
Files can be quickly sorted by zip code for bulk mailing, using ZIPSORT.

This program should work with any IBM-compatible printer, but is designed only for "one-across," 3.5" X 15/16" labels (sometimes called 3.5" X 1"). These are the standard mailing label size, available at almost all stationery stores.

Ultimate Label Manager is easy to use. You probably won't need to read the documentation file to experiment with it and understand it. With 10 minutes of practice, a beginner becomes an expert! Help screens are available at a touch of the [F1] key.

The source of this disk is the vendor.

Review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Will Davis (12/93).

On Complexity
by Jim Hoisington

No. 73 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

The leaders in the software industry are becoming very similar to some of our local televangelists. They spend more time asking for money than they do giving us a vision for the future.

There's Brother Phillipe. How many upgrades to *Paradox* does it take to get it bug free. Evidently something like four this year. We won't even mention Quattro Pro.

Deacon Jim (Manzi) has gotten religion. After years of coming out with meaningful upgrades 18 months to two years apart, Lotus is now rolling out something every six months.

And the prophet Bill from Mount Redmond sends down upgrade announcements on what seems to be a monthly rate.

Yes, I admit it. I own a lot of software. Each company I work for seems to prefer a different compiler vendor. And they want their documentation done with a specific word processor. All this comes with the territory for a consultant.

But, keeping up with the software upgrades is becoming expensive and annoying. I'm not really sure that 7.0 is really all that different than version 6.2a. And whatever happened to free bug fix updates. It seems that you not only pay for technical support to report the bugs, you also pay to get the corrected version.

Now all of this upgrading would be great if we really got some great improvements in the software. Recently all I've seen are bug fixes and features copied from competitors products. Where's the vision?

Let us pray ...

Jim

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community
Volunteers in Action   *by Claude McClure*

I Hereby Resolve

Another great year for NTPCUG has been completed. 1993 saw our membership exceed the 2000 mark!!! We were at ringside when *MS-DOS 6* and *OS/2 2.1* rolled out. Vendors and shoppers demonstrated their appreciation for computer merchandise made available at Infomart by the DFW Xchange, Inc. Success in every event was due to our great group of volunteers.

With a clear screen before us in 1994, I key in the few promises I make to myself for a productive new year.

My first resolution is to thank all our volunteers who make our user group possible. Resolution two is to do the job I promised I would perform. I will take a minute to look up a solution to some member's problem. I will make phone calls to "gel" a user's meeting. I will attend Visual Basic SIG and finish that business program.

Perhaps you are thinking of some resolutions; maybe to thank a volunteer SIG coordinator, guide, DOM rep., or Information Booth helper. You might dedicate your time or skill to teaching other members or showing them where to find help. 1994 is waiting, and the group needs your resolve to contribute your efforts.

Thank A Volunteer Today.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
Mike Griffin
Rod Rodolico (double)
David Slavik
Crew:
Jim Aragon
Kenneth Berg
Hank Coleman
Robert Hartner
John Ivers
Paul Weathers

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth
Statistician:
Andy Oliver
Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors:
Dianne Arnold (double)
John Arnold

Al Aston
Ralph Beaver
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
David Huckabee
David Martin
Raymond Reyes
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller
Booth Crew:
Mike Ashley
Eteta E. Eta
Tim Foster
Linda Guerrero
Cheryl Hunter
John Ivers
Ned Keig
Bob McNeil
Claude McClure
Foy T. Mills
Kristy Neblett
Thelda Opella
Fred Toulmin
Jim Wilson
Randy Wicks

Disk of the Month (DOM)
DOM Shift Supervisors
Joe Allen
Ralph Beaver
James Donlon
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley

DOM Desk Workers
Doug Athas
Bernie Baars
Gene Carleton

Don Chick
Norman Dang
Oliver Daniels
Charles Fernandez
Judy Griffiths
Steve Hay
Duane Martin
Larry Matzek
Mac McKeethen
Jan Parkhill
Bob Post
Ed Snuggs

With Special Thanks to:
Set Up Crew
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
Jerry Stone
Ken Loafman

Kathryn Loafman

Inventory and Packing
Gil Brand
Charles Carter
Jimmy Green
William Powell
Robert Wick

Disk-For-Review-Manager
Howard Hamilton

DOM Scheduler
Charles Cashion

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:**

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael — (214)661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler
Charles Cashion — (214)881-0952 (h) / (214)519-2583 (w)

DOM Software Review
Howard Hamilton — (214)644-5721 (h)

Information Booth and General Information
Claude McClure — (214)867-0978 (h)

North Texas PC Users Group -- 1994 Election Nominees

Nominee for President-Elect — Jim Hoisington

Jim is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. He and his family moved "up north" to Dallas in 1980. Jim joined the North Texas PC Users Group at its second meeting. Since then he has served 3 terms as President, two terms as a Director, and has been Membership Chairman for over four years.

Together with Reagan Andrews, Jim leads the DOS SIG and he has been the back-up leader for the Advanced Programmers SIG since the SIG began. In addition, Jim was on the first Board of Directors of the Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG), was the first treasurer of the Computer Council of Dallas, and is the current vice-president of DFW Xchange Corporation. Jim is also a member of the Metrocrest Amateur Radio Society (MARS). When he isn't attending meetings, Jim does a little consulting to pay for all the computer "stuff" that he buys.

Jim Hoisington

Nominees for North Texas PC Users Group Board of Directors

Reagan Andrews

Reagan is currently a member of the Board, and a past President.

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

Doug Gorrie

Doug is the 1993 President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG. He is the co-leader of the Communications and BBS SIG's and is involved in the day-to-day support of our Bulletin Board System. Doug's is the voice that you hear if you call the NTPCUG phone number, and he updates the message monthly as new information about our monthly meetings becomes available. He has spent the past 24 years with Southwestern Bell Telephone, 17 of those were working with IBM mainframes. The past four years he has worked as an Internal Auditor for SWBT.

Timothy Carmichael

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

Mark Gruner

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

North Texas PC Users Group -- 1994 Election Nominees

Alex Lilley

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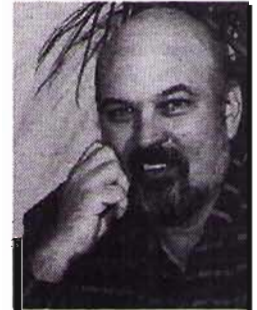
Linda Moore

While Linda is a new member to NTPCUG, she began her career in computers in the 60's. She has previously been active and served as an officer in the Association for Systems Management, Planning Executives Institute, and the Data Processing Management Association. Since 1983, Linda has been an independent computer consultant specializing in software systems, operational analysis and technical communication. Linda's diversity began with her academic double major of Mathematics and Journalism.

Woody Pewitt

Woody is currently the Visual Basic SIG leader. The SIG, a growing group within the NTPCUG, deals with Microsoft's Visual Basic and other Windows development concerns. Woody has been active with the board this year and continues to contribute his time and talents to help improve the NTPCUG.

Woody is married and is Vice-President of Development for Midstream Inc."

Fred Williams

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

Official 1994 Ballot
(Detach and use original ballot — Copies are not acceptable)

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

Nominees for President-Elect:
(Vote for 1 — at right)

❑ Jim Hoisington
❑ _____

Nominees for Board of Directors
(Vote for 5 — below)

❑ Reagan Andrews   ❑ Mark Gruner   ❑ Woody Pewitt
❑ Timothy Carmichael   ❑ Alex Lilley   ❑ Fred Williams
❑ Doug Gorrie   ❑ Linda Moore   ❑ _____

Mail ballot to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 78066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066, or bring to the January 22 Meeting. All ballots must be received by the secretary no later than January 25, 1994.

NTPCUG USER – TO – USER PROGRAM

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

These individuals are volunteering to assist NTPCUG members. NTPCUG is assisting in finding these volunteers for you, but cannot be responsible for unsatisfactory outcomes. Next to each subject, we will list the person's name, phone number and the times they are available. Please honor the wishes of our helpers by seeking help only during those hours.

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)487-2350	M-Sa	1300-1500
Assembly language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7	1800-2200
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869	7	0900-2200
C (the language)	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
Borland C++	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
CompuServe	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
DOS (all MS versions)	Rick Steffon	(214) 327-2728	7	1000-2400
MathCAD	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)442-1315	7	1300-2100
ProComm/ProComm +	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
	Bill Green	(817) 731-1308		
Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148	7	1830-2100
	Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7	1000-2100
SPFPC	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
TurboVision	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			T&T	1800-2030
UNIX	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200
WP 5.x /Windows	Georgene Harkness			
		(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
			M-F	1800-2030
Word for Windows	Beverly Kurtin	(817) 355-9594	7	??
Windows	Rick Sivernell	(214)306-5422	7	1830-2200
XENIX	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200

LEGEND:

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

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

Beginners
Hardware Help

S & Sense
Anti-Virus
Borland Turbo C
Microsoft C
Microsoft C++

Visual C++
CAD
Corel Draw
Dataflex
dBase, dBase III+

DeskLink
Desktop Publishing
MS/PC/DR DOS
Easy Text
First Choice
First Publisher
Fox Pro
Fund Watch Plus
Harvard Graphics
It's Legal
LAN's
LapLink
Managing Your Money
Mathematica
Modems
Money Counts
Money Plans
Microsoft Assembler
Microsoft Word
Microsoft Works
MIDI
MKS products
Norton Utilities
OS/2
PAF
Pagemaker
PC Hookup

PC Tools
Personal Tax Preparer
PKzip/PKUNzip
Portfolio Analyzer
Q&A File
Q & A
Quattro Pro
QuietWrite
RS-232
Communications
Roots
Smart
Smart Notes
Sound Blaster
Stacker
SuperCalc
Symphony
TurboTax
TurboVision
Ventura Publisher
Word (see Microsoft)
XTree

Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (Check Preferred No.) Home ____ (_____) _____ Metro? Y __ N __

Work ____ (_____) _____ (Ext) _____ Metro? Y __ N __

Occupation/Profession: _____

Payment:	Membership	Application
Cash____	Classification:	Status:

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.

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Phone (214) 746-4699 for recorded information about the North Texas PC Users Group and scheduled meeting date times and locations. Please leave a message if you would like specific information about the Group.

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

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Board of Directors

(Until election ballots are counted)
Doug Gorrie, Chairman
Reagan Andrews   Timothy Carmichael
Mark Gruner   Jim Hoisington
Andy Oliver   Fred Williams

NTPCUG Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(214) 223-4044 h
		(214) 871-5750 w
President-Elect	(To be decided in January election)	
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(214) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(214) 495-7071
Secretary	John West	(214) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Reagan Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214) 462-7980
Disk of the Month	Kathryn Loafman	(214) 596-2539
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(214) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(214) 492-1315

Members Emeritus

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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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.)*

Bulletin Board Settings: N — 8 — 1
(No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit)

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:
.... (214)387-2751
.... (214)387-2752
.... METRO (214)263-9036

SYSOP: .... Fred Williams
Assistant Sysop: .... Tom Prickett
Assistant Sysop: .... Doug Gorrie
Information Mgt:........................ Lewis Graber
User Relations:......................... Adam Peterson

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

TI PRO BULLETIN BOARD.......   (214)361-5275
SYSOP: ....Tom Blackwell

Address Changes, etc...
Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

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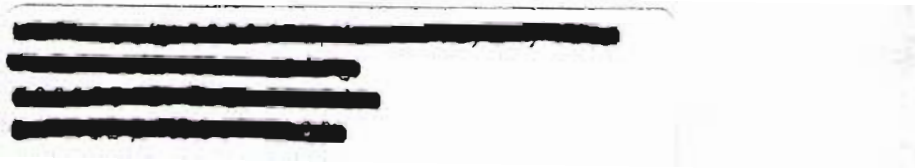**P.O. Box 780066**
Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

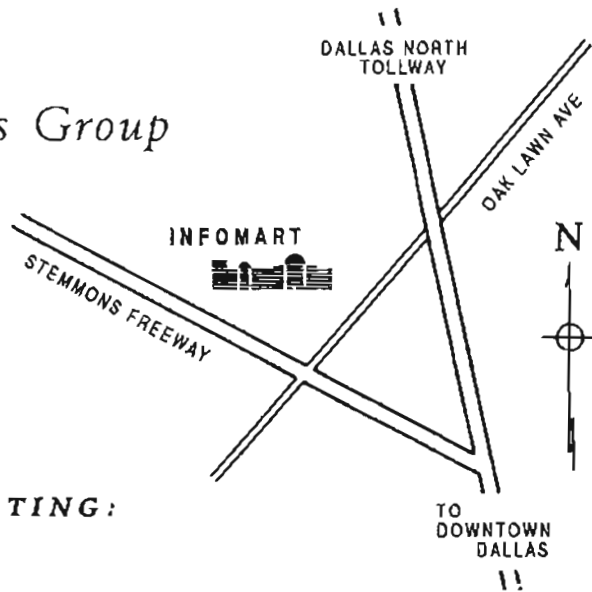North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Address Correction Requested.

13.1

North Texas PC Users Group

DALLAS NORTH
TOLLWAY

OAK LAWN AVE

INFOMART

STEMMONS FREEWAY

N

NEXT MEETING:

TO
DOWNTOWN
DALLAS

22 January 1994