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North Texas PC NEWS

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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2650 last month. Member distribution was 2230; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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

Meeting Dates:
March 26, 1994 - 4th Saturday
April 23, 1994 - 4th Saturday
May 21, 1994 - 3rd Saturday



Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PROGRAM FOR MARCH . . .

TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Borland C++ Version 4.0

Borland International, Inc.

Randy Haben

Come see the latest version of one of the best tools for developing Windows and DOS applications, Borland C++ Version 4.0. This software for 16/32 bit development has a visual Project Manager with multi-target capabilities, a Turbo Debugger GX, integrated C and C++ VBX control support, exception handling, Run-time Type Information, and includes ObjectWindows Library (OWL) 2.0. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

TurboTax and MacInTax Simplify Tax Return Preparation

ChipSoft, Inc.

Guy MacNeill, Product Manager for Personal Products Division

Come see the nation's best-selling tax preparation software. TurboTax and MacInTax guide users step-by-step through the entire tax return process — from selecting the necessary forms and performing necessary calculations to checking the return for any discrepancies or possible audit situations to printing an IRS-approved return, and even electronically filing the completed return. TurboTax's new CD-ROM deluxe for Windows offers all the benefits of TurboTax in an engaging multimedia environment with additional state tax software, tax guides, forecasting and analysis tools, and more. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

SmartSuite: Integrating Products and People

Lotus Development Corporation

Jim Ott, Area Sales Manager

SmartSuite 2.1 for Windows features a complete set of integrated desktop applications that maximizes user productivity: Approach 2.1, 1-2-3 Release 4 for Windows, Ami Pro Release 3.01, Freelance Graphics for Windows Release 2.01, and Lotus Organizer 1.1, the best-selling personal information manager. All of the SmartSuite applications are mail-enabled and 1-2-3, Freelance and Ami Pro also feature Notes/FX, the Lotus technology that enables users to share information more easily by distributing and organizing information with Lotus Notes. All attendees will receive a special user group coupon to purchase SmartSuite for only \$149, and there will be a drawing for two free retail units of SmartSuite. *

* 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 GROUPS SIGs MARCH MEETING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 8:00 - 8:55 Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning | 10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.) Networking PAF-Genalogy Paradox Personal Users WordPerfect/Windows UNIX | 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 (Cont.) BBS Business Apps./DAC Easy Middle C MS Word OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet |
| 9:00 - 9:55 BASIC Programming-Visual DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Personal Users Quicken Software Review StarText Visual BASIC Windows Applications WordPerfect | 11:00 - 11:55 BASIC Programming-Begin.. Assembler Brother's Keeper Genealogy Investors Micrografx (Cont.) MS Works Roots III/IV - Genealogy Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers | 1:00 - 1:55 Access ACTI APL | 2:00 - 2:55 Advanced Programmers Community Services |
| 10:00 - 10:55 BASIC - Classic CAD Fox Pro Database Micrografx | 11:30 - 11:55 Orientation | | |

In a Changing World ...

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.



I thought about rerunning the February column to see if anyone noticed. I am glad to be in Texas where it was 79 degrees yesterday and a -10 degree windchill factor today.

As I write my March column, prior to the February meeting, I start to remember the time warp that you have to live in to do some of the jobs in this group. **Reagan Andrews**, acting Publisher (and doing an Academy Award-winning job at acting) must keep up with deadlines months out while his wife **Connie** works to collect advertising revenue for previous months. **Claude McClure** is lining up volunteers to work the Information Booth, with reminders that March last year was the big DOS 6.0 rollout, so there will be more renewal activity (we hope). And **Kathryn Loafman's** DOM staff prepares diskettes for review and publication — with a bonus this month (READ ON).

Tax Time

Just wanted to see if you were awake.

Since you may not see the April PC NEWS before the April 15th extension-filing deadline, we want you to know about a special CD in the Disk of the Month area. Wait a second. They jumped from low-density 360K 5.25" floppies to CD's? What happened to 720K 3.5" disks or 1.2MB 5.25" disks or 1.44MB 3.5" disks? Well this is a special deal for all of you who have CD-equipped PC's. The program is *Laser Tax* at \$10 per CD.

Laser Tax includes, according to Mark Gruner, "every tax form you could ever want or need", along with a tax assistance program with all of the appropriate disclaimers. Check it out. Limited quantities available. Offer void where prohibited. Does not include dealer prep or TT&L. Tax advisors may be closer than they appear in the mirror.

It's Coming March 31

Look out for Microsoft. On or about March 31. Possibly at The Loew's Anatole hotel. And the subject could be a Technology Seminar on *Chicago*, the next operating system from Microsoft. At press time, that is as definite as I can be.

Software Review SIG

The Board of Directors have decided to implement changes in the Software Review Special Interest Group. These changes will guarantee that the other SIG leaders will have the first opportunity to review software related to their SIG's. Also, all software reviewed will remain the property of the NTPCUG and be used for club business or member giveaways. Reviews will have the version number being reviewed, the company's technical support phone number (if available) and the most recent street price of the product. A representative of the SIG will attend our Officer's meetings to give regular reports on SIG activity. Other regulars at the Officers meetings include the Program Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Director, Advertising Director, Publicity Chairman, Newsletter Publisher, Newsletter Editor, DOM Mom, Volunteer Coordinator, BBS Sysop, and the Board of Directors. We decided on these procedures to insure the fair treatment of SIG members, vendors, and the user group membership.

DCLP, NTPCUG, NTFN:

(With Guest Appearances by ORT and DISD.)

If we had any more initials at this February 1st meeting, we would have to change our name to International Business Machines Corporation, the king of acronyms. Board members of the North Texas PC Users Group met with BOD's from the Dallas Computer Literacy Program, and the North Texas FreeNet. The meeting, which should be-

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Paradox 4.5 for DOS — An Eventful Release

by Fred Williams

I believe that Borland is beginning to take this "event" thing seriously. The latest and greatest Paradox release has yet a bunch more events that can be recognized by the PAL developer. That is only a minor part of the new bells and whistles added to the premier database product.

Things in the new release that the interactive user will appreciate are:

- ❖ Full mouse support. The mouse now works in all of the Paradox modes and objects. The most enjoyable place is in both the forms and report design modes, where the user has complete point & shoot, and drag and drop ability.
- ❖ There is improved interactive control of the Paradox system configuration. One key Paradox configuration item that may be changed by the user is table block size. This gives the user the ability to increase the maximum table

size supported without resorting to Paradox PAL Programming.

- ❖ The Paradox system menu may now have custom menu options added by the user. This "open" menu architecture allows users to add their favorite third-party Paradox tools as menu selections on the Paradox system menu.

Additional features that benefit all Paradox users include an increase in the number of tables that may be opened at once from 24 to 60. Additional tables may now be added to the desk top while in the "Coedit" mode, using a new "Table Add" Coedit Menu choice. System file searching on start up has been improved to simplify network installation. User definable tab stops have even been added to the Paradox text file editor.

While the Paradox interactive users received some very significant enhancements, the Paradox PAL

PREZ SEZ...

come a quarterly event, was called so everyone could meet and be brought up-to-date on the operations of these interrelated organizations.

The overriding theme of this meeting, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. The Dallas Computer Literacy Program can use part-time instructors plus administration personnel. The North Texas FreeNet needs technical help in setting up and operating the FreeNet, along with administrative support, community relations, fund raising, planning, publicity and training. Both organizations can use monetary contributions to further their good works. You should know by now that the DCLP

uses donated PC's and volunteer teachers to set up accessible computer labs in the inner-city neighborhoods. The North Texas FreeNet, like FreeNet's across the country, is building a community access, community service, on-line system (like a BBS) to provide everyone in the Dallas area information and assistance for free. Not a small task.

Jeff Smith, On-Ramp Technologies, gave a short presentation on the Internet (a Reader's Digest version of what we saw at our January meeting). Jeri Hodges, Director of Instructional Applications for the Dallas Independent School District talked about where the DISD was with regard to computer technology and where they were headed. The DISD student to computer ratio is 19:1, but it is state-mandated to be at 4:1 by the year 2000 (6 years from now). The DISD Technology Services division has established technologists at each school to be the first source of help for computer-related problems. If you live near a DISD school, you might want to contact them and offer your services to these technologists. You could also introduce them to the NTPCUG as another source of assistance.

You will see FreeNet access in the future in homes, public libraries, DCLP labs, DISD schools, and any number of places. Join the fun on the ground floor. Volunteer to help the DCLP. Volunteer to help NTPCUG. The only way to make a difference in this world is to get involved in the mechanism to bring about change.

Andy Oliver

developer has been delivered 19 new "trigger events" to look for. More than 70 new PAL commands and functions have been added to play with. A much improved PAL debugger is ready to use when all those events and commands run amuck.

All this, plus many performance-enhancing command changes and several new and significant Paradox operational changes greatly simplify the PAL program development process. Also there is now a way to directly "port" Paradox 3.5 applications to release 4.5 without onerous amounts of conversion effort.

I've been porting most of my personal PAL tool kit over to release 4.5 and working on three Paradox-related projects for better than a month now. Though there have been some disappointments and many hours use of the new debugger, I am quite pleased with the "new" Paradox. Many things that PAL developers use to have to "roll their own" to accomplish are now imbedded in Paradox. The only real down side to migrating a tool set to the newer Paradox is that although the event driven environment has eliminated the need for many functions contained in your old private tool kit, switching those remaining needed functions can be a true challenge.

One really nice feature added to event-processing PAL commands is the ability to define dynamic arrays of events that the programmer wishes to proc-



REMODELING
(AND, REDESIGNING)

You may have noticed a few changes in the newsletter in the last two issues. These are mostly refinements, but some are major shifts in style.

Let us know what you think - like or dislike.

Paradox 4.5 for DOS An Eventful Release

Continued from Page 3

ess. This feature adds greatly to the ability to build more generalized event-processing functions.

A new feature that greatly simplifies and improves the performance of table management is the ability to open a "windowless" table in the workspace. This feature completely bypasses the Paradox menu system and table accesses do not carry the unnecessary window display baggage that accompanied any open table.

Many "new" commands and features implemented in Paradox look more than a little familiar to an "old" dBASE programmer. It is very encouraging to see having dBASE under the same roof appears to be influencing the Paradox PAL environment in a very positive way for the Paradox developer.

A couple of command sets I feel warrant direct mention are:

KEYDISABLE/KEYENABLE - No more listing and relisting all of the keys you wish to have ignored every time you use a WAIT command. Now only once is it required that you name the keys you wish to ignore within a script. No more sweating whether you overlooked disabling "DOS", "DOS BIG", and all of those other dreaded "no no" keys!

SPEEDBAR/CLEARSPPEEDBAR - Now you can define your very own speedbar to replace the Paradox default. A really super way to add "mouseable" keys to you PAL application.

An upgrade to Paradox 4.5 is well worth the cost and effort. There are many new and enhanced features that directly benefit the interactive paradox user. Having full mouse control in just the form and report designers is well worth the upgrade.

The time saved in both design and coding of PAL applications will provide the professional Paradox developer with almost immediate payback for any upgrade time and expense. By upgrading, all Paradox users can gain the benefit of the increased performance and configurability that comes with the latest release of our favorite PC database.

Fred Williams

THE EASIEST-TO-USE WINDOWS SPREADSHEET

| | |
|---|----------|
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"Quattro Pro—that's like being offered a Lexus for the price of a Hyundai."

—Los Angeles Times, September 23, 1993

Experts say Quattro Pro is better than 1-2-3 and Excel

New Quattro® Pro 5.0 for only \$49.95? Isn't this the spreadsheet that just outscored 1-2-3 in performance, ease of learning and use, and quality of output and presentations, in *PC Week's* critical "First Look" review? Isn't this the spreadsheet that just revolutionized ease of use with Spreadsheet Notebooks, Interactive Tutors, and Experts™? Isn't this the spreadsheet that *PC Computing* just voted Most Valuable Product in the spreadsheet category? And that just won *PC Magazine's* Editor's Choice award? Yes. Yes! YES!

"This program is hot!"
—InfoWorld, Nov. 1993

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THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by **JIM CARTER**

What is meant by "Extensibility" of Visual Basic?

What is a Visual Basic programmer going to do when there is no control in Visual Basic to accomplish the task that needs to be done? Where does a Visual Basic programmer go when spell checking is added to the specifications at the last hour? This is where Visual Basic demonstrates its most simple but powerful trait, extensibility.

Visual Basic contains a fundamental set of controls with functionality that will serve many applications. If, however, Visual Basic contained ALL of the controls/functionality that attempted to satisfy the requirements of ALL programmers; Visual Basic would sell for \$5000 a copy, occupy 250 MB of disk space, and take as long to learn as C++!! Fortunately, Microsoft designed Visual Basic to be extensible and has been most helpful to the developers of "Third Party Add-ons" to Visual Basic.

Component Objects and companion products for Visual Basic

A few days ago, I received a catalog entitled *Component Objects and Companion Products for Visual Basic*. It came from Fawcette Technical Publications, publisher of *Visual Basic Programmers Journal (VBPJ)*, and lists nearly 330 products that can be used to enhance the power and productivity of Visual Basic.

Listed products were categorized under titles like "Data Access and Report Writers," "Graphic Utilities and Clip Art," "LAN, Host Connectivity and Communications," "Multimedia" and "Other." Additional categories included "Pen," "Publications, Training and Services," and even a listing of all the User Groups with Visual Basic Special Interest Groups. NTPCUG was listed!

This catalog, in addition to the listings, contained over 100 pages of advertising which described most of the listed products in detail with addresses and phone numbers to obtain more information. If you are a serious Visual Basic programmer, you owe it to your productivity to keep yourself current on what is available in custom controls for Visual Basic. It could save you a substantial amount of programming time and could speed up your application significantly. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the contents of this catalog. I believe I got my copy just because I subscribe to the VBPJ. If you think you need this catalog, you also need to subscribe to VBPJ. Write Fawcette Technical Publications, 280 Second Street, Suite 200, Los Altos, CA 94022-

3603 to request a sample copy of the VBPJ and a copy of the catalog.

Another way to keep current on these products is to attend the Visual Basic SIG meetings. Once in a while, the creators of a Visual Basic custom control will furnish demonstration copies of their product along with literature and sometimes a copy of the real thing for a door prize. Woody Pewitt has featured presentations of custom controls and programming tools at several of his recent meetings. Recently, one of the Visual Basic SIG members distributed fifteen copies of a custom control that he had created and wanted to BETA test.

He found fifteen eager testers very quickly.

Custom controls can be fast and powerful

The creators of custom controls generally focus on a particular programming area. Some specialize in database controls, others in data acquisition controls, and still others focus on multimedia. Often, depending on the particular task, the custom control is quite fast because it is written in C/C++. The real speed gain is in programming time. The custom control can be incorporated into your application in minutes, usually. The power of the custom control comes from the specialist programmer's ability to focus on your specific need.

For those who want to "roll their own" controls

If you have the C/C++ or Pascal programming skills and are familiar with the fundamental programming concepts of the Windows Software Development Kit (SDK), you may want to try your hand at writing custom controls for yourself. The Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0 includes a Control Development Guide which describes the requirements and procedures for writing custom controls.

Windows API calls for smaller extensions of Visual Basic.

There is another procedure available to the Visual Basic programmer to extend the capabilities of Visual Basic. That is making direct calls to the Windows Application Programming Interface (API). Next month I will describe this process and give a few examples.

Jim Carter

PharmAssist for Windows

by Pat Henley

PharmAssist for Windows, The Family Guide to Health and Medicine, Software Marketing Corporation, 9830 S. 51st St., Phoenix AZ 85044. (602) 893-3377.

List: \$69.95. CompUSA: \$29.99.

Requires: PC/Compatible, 2MB RAM, 5MB storage, Windows 3.1, mouse, VGA.

PharmAssist is a very educational windows program which deals with all varieties of controlled substances. It starts with a disclaimer screen whose warning you must accept in order to proceed. You can learn about the maintenance drugs you need and the "recreational" variety you don't need with this program. The standard Windows File:Run procedure requires less than 10 minutes.

Four main topics are addressed: Prescription Drugs, Abused Drugs, First Aid and Travel Vaccines. Colorful displays of pills, capsules, caplets and tablets depict standard dosages of 500 covered medications. Proper color codes, where appropriate, tell you the dose size which you can compare with the units your pharmacist supplied. For the shopper: both brand and generic names are given for prescription items. How to use particular drugs, normal schedules, overdose symptoms, known adverse effects and general classifications are useful areas for each of the standard medicines.

Numerous caution alert icons appear throughout the encyclopedia. Some drugs are declared dangerous in combination with alcohol. Some are known dangerous to an expectant mother and/or her fetus. Others are specifically hazardous to heart patients, drivers and pilots or the elderly, as examples.

The thirteen body systems most affected by given drugs are shown, including among others: respiratory, circulatory, skin, nervous and eyes. All artwork is first-rate, color-rich and well-labeled.

First Aid is an especially useful section for hikers, campers, the home handyman and just about anybody else. Burns are dealt with according to type: electrical, chemical and fire, as well as whether first-, second- or third-degree in nature. A 2-to-7 frame slide show takes you through the remedy cycle for the given condition. Bites and stings, while virtually inconsequential to some people may be life-threatening to others due to differences in body chemistry.

The techniques and precautions shown are the same ones boy scouts, school nurses and paramedics have used and demonstrated for decades, some of which may have been forgotten by many of us who have not used them in those same decades. It is a great tutorial

NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

**BRIEF REVIEWS FROM THE NTPCUG
SOFTWARE REVIEW SIG**

for the uninitiated and a welcome reminder for those of us who don't see the symptoms of a given condition daily.

Illegal/Abused Drugs constitute a major health and economic risk to our society - a simplistic view of a very complex problem. How each substance affects the body is a fascinating discourse done extremely well in this program. Federal penalties, DEA office locations and abuse hotlines are among the references in the program.

"Designer drugs" are defined as substances combined to skirt existing regulations by creating new formulae not yet outlawed. The effects of the new concoction can be more powerful than the known predecessor, often lethal with a single dose. Why anyone would subject himself to these hazards is beyond my imagination. The text which accompanies the entries in this section should scare anyone who is still rational in this area permanently away from any of the described items.

Travelers can learn about potential health hazards nationally and worldwide with respect to the five "endemic" disease areas of the world. Endemic areas are those where a disease is more likely to occur than international averages for a given time period. Diseases covered by the charts and precautions include dengue fever, hepatitis B, malaria, meningitis and yellow fever.

As you view the world maps you note the continent of Africa to be the most likely place to suffer from all five of the dread diseases. Europe and Asia are at much higher risk for hepatitis B than North America with notable, contrasting exceptions. The coldest areas of Alaska and Canada are high-risk areas while their Scandinavian counterparts are virtually hepatitis-free. The level of health care and awareness in Sweden and Norway is obviously different from that in northern Canada.

Printing the information from the screen was a very pleasant surprise. The product looks a custom handout prepared by a Madison Avenue agency for a high school health class.

The program is informative, delightful to use and is a bargain at list price. The graphics should make it a \$299 program. The publishers are obviously philanthropic, wanting everyone to have access to this vital information.

Pat Henley



Stac Victory Stuns Microsoft — \$120 Million February Loss Clouds MS-DOS 6.X Future

Legal News Definitely at Top This Month

I originally wrote a general industry-trends overview for this *Variety Store* featuring the decisions users will face in the coming year viz. CPU's, busses, mass-storage interfaces, operating systems, etc.

February 24th blew that work away — with announcement of Stac's stunning \$120 million award by a federal jury in Los Angeles — at Microsoft's expense. This one is going to make massive PC-industry waves for the next few months and, we'll all be involved. Impact of the *Stac v. Microsoft* decision is two-fold and the smaller may be the most devastating in the long run.

But that wasn't only legal blockbuster recently. Almost as important, although with much smaller stakes, was the first Compaq win in a Carpal-Tunnel case. And, Apple is appealing the Windows decision(s) and the US Patent Office is holding some very critical hearings over computer software patents. It's getting ready to be a very busy year (or so.)

Stac v. Microsoft Microsoft v. Stac Both sides win, lose

Both sides won and lost in the *Stac Electronics v. Microsoft* (and vice-versa) decision handed down by a federal jury in Los Angeles on February 23. Results mean that (now) Microsoft will (may) pay Stac \$120 million for infringing two Stac-held patents in Microsoft's *DoubleSpace* disk compression technology.

Wasn't a total victory for Stac, however. Not only was part of their claim rejected that would have resulted in treble damages, but they also got nailed for trade-secret theft.

Other half of the late-February decision was that Stac stole Microsoft trade secrets by "reverse-engineering" MS-DOS and using undocumented DOS calls in Stac's own disk compression technology. The Los Angeles jury decided this was worth \$13.6 million Stac will (may) have to pay Microsoft.

Both Stac and Microsoft have vowed intention to appeal decision — Stac still wants treble damages — Microsoft wants the patent infringement aspects overturned. Both threaten injunctions to prevent distribution and sale of "offending" products.

If injunctions are granted, there's a good chance Stac will be the loser. Most MS-DOS 6.X users don't use *DoubleSpace* and won't miss it in future versions of MS-DOS. Microsoft also claims it could produce versions of *DoubleSpace* that don't infringe on Stac's patents relatively quickly.

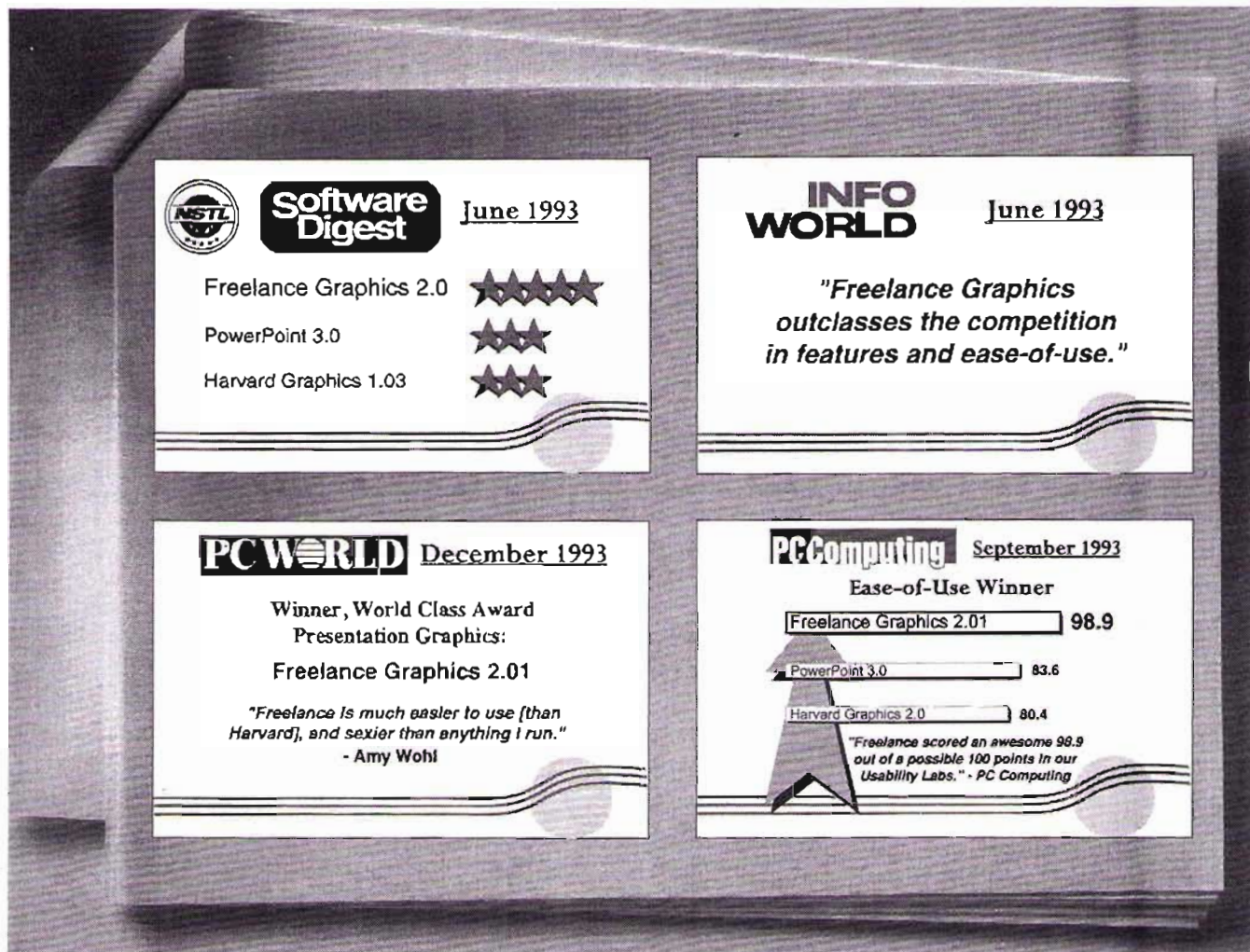
Stac, on the other hand, might find it much more difficult to produce disk-compression technology that "avoids" the undocumented MS-DOS calls. With \$120 million to salve the pain, Stac might not mind that much, though.

Software patent area Made more murky

Real impact of the decision is going to be much broader than the *Stac v. Microsoft* conflict. Although it looks like a *David v. Goliath* case, with "David" the clear winner, legal experts quoted by *The Wall Street Journal* in their February 24th article on the decision hint that this could establish some very far-reaching precedents.

One mentioned is the trade-secret aspect of undocumented calls in the operating system and consequent legal protections. This is one of the things supposedly (still) under investigation by the FTC and the Stac

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THE VARIETY STORE

decision may cloud the issue significantly.

Stac's patents have also been subject of some controversy in both the software development and mathematics community. The extent to which Stac "appropriated" public domain information and technology in its algorithms has been vigorously debated in the recent past. This may renew some of the discussion(s) and would imagine that several CompuServe forums and Internet conferences will be *very* interesting over the next several months.

Center of the controversy is issue of *prior art* — and what constitutes the difference between novel innovation and use of *prior art*, or known and commonly used techniques.

Apple v. Microsoft Redux Copyright infringement Decision appealed in brief

Here we go — again. Apple has filed a 45-page brief in first move to appeal the Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard victory in the case. Apparently, Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard prevailed and Apple lost, hence the move to appeal.

This is really strange — not that Apple has moved to appeal — but, that I missed the outcome of the original case. I've been expecting publication of the outcome of the *Apple v. Microsoft, et al.*, suit for months and can't believe it was so low-key that it was missed.

Somehow, it all seems anticlimactic.

Compaq wins this time — Carpal-Tunnel case called 'Only the first round ...'

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Compaq Computer Corp. "Has won what is believed to be the first jury verdict in a case attempting to link computer keyboards with crippling wrist injuries."

Case was filed in 1991 when a legal secretary claimed that the keyboard on the Compaq computer she used in her work was responsible for her injuries which have left her disabled. The Houston, TX, jury found in Compaq's favor, and not obligated to warn users about a possible condition it didn't know existed.

In the world of torts litigators, Carpal-Tunnel Syndrome has leapt forward as latest full-employment movement for attorneys with thousands of product-liability cases awaiting trial or settlement. Carpal-Tunnel Syndrome develops when tissues in the wrist swell from repetitive overuse. Result is often a pinched nerve in the hand and is frequently quite painful for the afflicted person.

Compaq's attorney described Carpal-Tunnel Syndrome in the *WSJ* story as "The disease du jour" and continued "There is no scientific or medical evidence to show that a keyboard causes carpal-tunnel syndrome."

Reagan v. Attorneys? Not really — unless Ambulances involved

I take a lot of shots at attorneys in this column. Actually, I take a lot of shots at *some* attorneys. I'm really "down" on attorneys who try to generate business by generating litigation where none is indicated.

Saw a recent *Business Week* article (November 15, 1993) highlighting litigation as an investment opportunity. Focus was on personal injury litigation — as in the Compaq story, above — and efforts by some attorneys to form investor-financed consortiums to press these and intellectual property suits. I guess that's where I draw the line and say "This is enough.."

I know — and respect — a number of attorneys. That list includes some criminal defense attorneys, corporate attorneys and prosecuting attorneys. These people are dedicated to the law and the appropriate practice of their craft. They don't chase after or create litigation simply for profit.

I'm not writing about them.

Patent Office hearings Begin in February

Compton's New Media patent for CD-ROM technology may have been the final blow.

Reeling from massive PC industry criticism after the patent was awarded in November, 1993, the US Patent and Trademark Office began a series of hearings on software patents. Specifically, the agency is asking for industry input and assistance in improving the methods used in evaluation and granting software patents.

Programmers and software publishers have complained that patents granted for computer software are often much too broad and frequently grant exclusive rights to individuals/companies for code based on commonly-used techniques and/or *prior art*. Critics of current patent granting practices feel that software innovation is being stifled and cost of publication is dramatically increased as a result of the above.

It's a very tricky question, with reasonable arguments on all sides of the issue(s) involved and definitely won't be easily or quickly resolved.

Sculley v. Spectrum Spectrum v. Sculley — The fun starts now

John Sculley doesn't seem to be having much luck these days. Taking the helm of Spectrum Technologies, Inc., three days after being forced out of Apple Computer, Sculley departed the much smaller company after four months on the job.

Sculley didn't just leave — he accused Spectrum President Peter Caserta of misleading him about Spectrum's financial status and accounting practices and filed a \$10 million suit against Spectrum. He's also seeking punitive damages.

Claims by both parties begin to sound like soap opera or the latest techno-thriller. Sculley's claims of a Spectrum "plot" against him by Caserta are a touch more hysterical than the usual corporate fare in the financial press. But, it's shaping up to be high drama and a lot of fun down the road.

One problem faced by Sculley is that much of the "dirt" he



claims was kept from him was actually available in the financial press. Several media sources reported surprise that Sculley "didn't do his homework" since Spectrum's reputation and problems were well known and widely discussed in the media prior to Sculley's move to the company.

Maybe we are getting some insight into Apple's move to force Sculley out?

Meanwhile, Clinton Continues press for Clipper code standard

Nobody's happy about *Clipper* — Only the FBI, Treasury Department, CIA and the NSA.

Rest of us are more than a little concerned about 'Big Brother' and unwarranted snooping in our private business. I guess a little paranoia goes a long way and may be the best policy when contemplating the organizations above as well as a number of state and local agencies.

That's one view of the *Clipper* dilemma.

Clipper is the chip-based, federally-approved data encryption standard that would place a "key" to encrypted data in "escrow" which would allow law enforcement and national security agencies ability to unscramble coded voice or data messages from *suspected* criminals. The government wants everybody to use this standard. According to federal arguments, the standard will guarantee con-

stitutional safeguards against illegal disclosure of data from legitimate users.

Sure. I believe in the Tooth Fairy, too.

Government's problem is that software-based data encryption is too good — and prevents easy data access to agencies whose lifeblood is ability to snoop in other folks' business. My problem is that low-level, government clerks will ultimately be people responsible for keeping the "key-escrow encryption keys" secret.

And, that's the problem. You'd be surprised how easily supposedly "secret" information can be obtained from "secure" databases by a variety of legal and illegal means.

Speaking of 'Security' Latest Internet news Disturbing to users

That great information 'super-highway', Internet, reported a recent security breach that's got lots of users worried. Target was on-line accounts of "thousands" of Internet users by a "handful of students" according to stories in *Computerworld*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other media sources.

Known as the *Posse*, according to *WSJ*, the group penetrates password security and enters systems connected to Internet to either take the systems down or deposit computer viruses in unsuspecting systems.

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Internet response was formation of a "Computer Emergency Response Team" and encouraging thousands of users to change their passwords to the system. Sources report that few organizations will admit to security breaches and resulting damage as a result of paranoia and embarrassment.

If it ain't security — It's a Game —Doom Causes LAN crashes

I thought LAN's were supposed to increase worker productivity. Seems a popular game found on Internet, *Doom*, is able to overload LAN's causing massive slowdowns or crashes.

Seems that *Doom* uses broadcast messages to players — up to 100 per second according to *Computerworld* — to link players across the LAN, setting-up "broadcast storms." Game doesn't cause any damage other than LAN slowdown according to experts.

Well, not for anything but Token Ring networks. Then, *Doom* can lock-up PC's on the LAN as well as saturating the network very rapidly.

I have a small problem here. Same one I have with Internet in general — who has time to play games on the LAN? And, what do all those people who daily leave hundreds of messages on Interlink do for a living? They can't have time to work ...

Another standard? SSA — Third disk Interface — Serial+?

IBM releases SSA — successor to the SCSI-X standard for peripherals. SSA stands for Serial Storage Architecture, and promises (according to IBM) to solve some of the SCSI limitations.

According to IBM, SSA will deliver high availability, high speed and extended cable lengths. That latter, extended cable lengths, means 20 meters (approximately 65 feet) and breaks the SCSI six (6) meter combined-length roadblock.

In addition, SSA isn't as "termination sensitive" as SCSI (ask anyone who has had to implement multiple devices on an SCSI interface if this is important) and features equivalent data transfer speeds.

SSA is a serial interface technology. That's similar to that used by the "older" ST-506 and ESDI interfaces. But, with a significant difference — speed.

Also, the SSA interface uses cables with only six (6) wires be-

tween devices instead of the SCSI interface's 31 active lines.

That means higher noise rejection as well as noise radiation, according to IBM. Think we'll hear/read more about SSA in the future.

Compaq drops printers? New Ink-jet technology Gets lots of attention

This is strange. Compaq is deserting the printer business. But, Compaq has developed some significant ink-jet technology. Will it go to waste?

No. Compaq is selling the technology which promises very high-speed, near photographic quality from ink-jet printers. *PC News* mentioned Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) and Polaroid Corporation as interested parties who'd like to grab the Compaq developments.

According to *PC News*, the new ink-jet technology was developed in conjunction with Micro-Fab Technologies, Inc., of Plano, TX, and incorporates multiple print heads and "variable-drop" technology that allows fractional-drops of ink to be deposited instead of whole drops used by alternative print technologies. This is particularly important in color printing and makes a much wider array of colors possible.

Estimated cost of the new technology is in the \$10,000 range, but is highly competitive with printers with similar capabilities costing approximately \$39,000.

Reagan Andrews

TODAY'S QUOTE:

"Any time you start to do something new with SCSI — you better have a nice, plump chicken on hand to sacrifice ..."

Leroy Tennison

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Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

ACCESS SIG

Jack Atkinson, our speaker for the March meeting, is one of the leaders of the Access SIG. Jack is a consultant who does a major portion of application development for his clients in Access. His topic is "Hints and tips," ranging from end-user functions, such as zooming in on fields and copying contents from the previous record, to application development techniques, including how to construct custom menus by adding and deleting menu items and linkages between macros. He will demonstrate using the methods and will have a

handout sheet for us to use later as a reminder.

We will also have a brief preview of our April speaker, **Joe Clark**, an independent consultant, along the same "Tips and hints" line, during our regular "Questions, Answers, Tips, and Hints" session.

Looking ahead to the April 23 meeting, Joe will present "Using Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) in Microsoft Access." Look for details in the April issue of North Texas PC News.

Larry Linson reviewed the Microsoft Access Distribution Kit in our February meeting. Thanks to

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

Changes 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]
- Quicken — Leader [Contact Billy Pitts @ (817) 430-8148 hM]
- Windows Applications — [Contact Rick Sivernell @ (214) 306-5422]

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)

NOTE: Please be sure to try other SIG's that you might have an interest in and **DON'T EVER FEEL YOU ARE TOO MUCH OF A BEGINNER** and wouldn't fit in. Remember — we all started out as beginners.

—Alex Lilley.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

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..... (214) 953-4970 w

ACT!

Jim Thompson (817) 261-6159 h

Access

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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 Applications/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

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..... (214) 521-6670 w
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..... (214) 953-4970 w

DOS

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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

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Ralph Logan (817) 498-9746 hM

Micrografx

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Microsoft Networking

Debbie Lenhart... (214) 714-6816 w

Networking

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..... (817) 461-4120 w

OS/2 Developer

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..... (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



Microsoft for providing a review copy of the ADK. It allows packaging an Access application with a run-time library for distribution to users who do not have the Access product; it also includes the Microsoft Windows Help Compiler and documentation on additional Access Basic instructions useful in constructing your own custom Access "Wizards".

A major part of Joe Clark's work is teaching Access classes throughout the U.S., for Softbite International, and he has arranged for our March giveaway free attendance at a Softbite Access class, in Dallas, scheduled for early April.

Please Note: Bring your membership card, receipt, or current issue of the North Texas PC News showing your membership number on the label, as this drawing is for NTPCUG members only!

A major subject of speculation in the SIG, lately, has been "When will we see the next release of Access and what will be included?" Articles in the trade press have stirred our anticipation of Microsoft's official announcement and release by "unofficially pronouncing" that Access 2.0 will be available in April and will have enhancements affecting virtually every area of the product: end user interface and interaction, programmability with Visual Basic for Applications, support for the Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) 2.0 standard for interoperability with other Windows applications, and database performance with inclusion of some of the "Rushmore" disk technology from FoxPro. If you follow the database news, you'll remember that Fox Software was acquired by Microsoft and FoxPro was released in a Windows version soon

after the introduction of Access; FoxPro is recognized for its speed and responsiveness in both the DOS and Windows environments.

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

At our February meeting, we enjoyed a rousing discussion of how to select, install, use and program CD-ROM devices.

In March, we will continue our survey of multimedia devices with a discussion of sound cards. Maybe you want to know what your SoundBlaster is capable of and how to program it, or perhaps you want to know how to make your PC talk to a MIDI device. If so, I think you will find the presentation interesting.

Come with your questions and share your experiences. Visitors are always welcome.

Glynn Brooks

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 handouts at each meeting. Questions and answers on any Basic Code subject at any time. This group does "No Windows Basic" (NOW Basic for short with a chuckle).

DOM #846 was released in August '93 with all the SIG material up to then covered. DOM #846 will be expanded about the first of each year. The #846 disk was inadvertently copied as a 360Kb, deleting all the shareware sub-di-

rectories. A new & revised #846, which is 1.2Mb, is now available. If you bought a 360Kb version, it will be exchanged for a 1.2Mb version at the NTPCUG Disk-Of-Month desk.

Recent SIG meetings have covered: Screen design & data input code, Compiling Basic language programs, Keyboard ASCII & Scan Codes, XREF program in Basic for NOWBasic (VC.ZIP), Alumni List Program set: Data input, sort, report, labels, screens us-



ing Ansipaint, Exploring RAM memory and Exploring the disk layout. And in Feb. 94 a program named INTEREST, which calculates interest problems of the six different types.

Also to be covered in 1994: Bit/hex/decimal conversion, FlashCard program to improve a student's arithmetic skills, payroll programs, general ledger programs, your own spread sheet program, inventory control, your own database program code (not necessarily in that order).

Charles Jacobus

C++ SIG

In February, Microsoft demonstrated their new version of *Visual C++*. Following a 9:00 presentation in the auditorium, the Microsoft representatives continued their demonstration in the combined Windows Developers /C++ SIGs.

In March, Randy Haben of Borland will be demonstrating the latest *Borland C++* compiler. Version 4.0 features AppExperts and ClassExperts to speed development of Windows applications, an updated version of the Object Windows Class Library, exception handling, and run-time type identification. The format for this month will be similar to February's, with a 9:00 auditorium presentation, and a 2-hour question-and-answer session from 11:00 to 1:00.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

Communications SIG

The February meeting was an open forum. We discussed

UART's and Windows communications programs. We discussed UART's and when you should upgrade to the 16550. The 16550 also needs to be activated by a software program.

This discussion on 16550 UART's will continue in March and we have some additional information to share with you concerning Windows and communications.

We are still passing out our yearly survey to determine topics of interest to our members. If you haven't completed a survey, stop by and give us a piece of your mind. We really need your input!

Doug Gorrie & Birl Smith

Community Service SIG

The DCLP held a joint meeting with the North Texas FreeNet and members of the North Texas PC Users' Group. Jeri Hodges, the Director of Instructional Technologies for the DISD, gave a 15 minute presentation on where the DISD was going by the year 2000.

The interesting thing is that the DISD plans on having 38,000, yes you read that correctly thirty-eight thousand!!!, computers located throughout the 180 DISD campuses. This represents a potential learning bonanza to the community if the parents who need to develop computer skills along with their children can come to the school after the school day ends and access these systems. This has the potential to make the school a central part of a neighborhood, if parents become involved in their own continuing education at these campuses.

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

Programmers

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Jim Hoisington.....(214) 416-3101 h

Quilcken

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.....(214) 630-1136 w
Jo Johnston.....(214) 699-9620 h

Software Review

Pat Henley.....(214) 271-4911 h
.....(214) 326-2528 w
Neal Berkowitz.....(214) 475-7463 h
.....(214) 475-3124 w

Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev

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Adam Peterson.....(214) 692-0725 h
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Startext

Jim Boughton.....(817) 478-6665 h
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Bill Jones.....(214) 423-8486 h

TI Pro

Jack McCurley.....(214) 348-9048 h
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Windows - Developers

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WordPerfect / DOS

Lori Quinn.....(817) 481-6453 h
.....(214) 255-0555 w
C J Bain.....(214) 492-9129 h
.....(214) 634-2104 w

WordPerfect / Windows

Mitch Milam.....(214) 406-9054 w



Genealogy SIG — General

Jeff Smith demonstrated the Internet and attending members of our affiliated computer labs watched some of the technology they will shortly be able to access.

On Saturday the 5th of February Tom Steinert-Threlkeld wrote an article in *The Dallas Morning News* on the FreeNet and how it will impact John Perricone's (John was a DCLP student and is now a technical volunteer) ability to communicate with others throughout the country. The significant thing of this article was the response that John Collins received (his name and number were published) with the FreeNet organizing committee. He received almost 200 e-mail, Internet mail, faxes and phone calls at his office in 3 days! I believe there is some interest out there in community computing.

Thanks for all your support and don't throw out that old computer!

Brian Mickel

DOS SIG

CPU's are focus for March. We took advantage of geography and Cyrix agreed to come to the

March DOS SIG meeting and talk about their DRx2 upgrade/replacement CPU series. There may be a word or two about Cyrix's M1 technology as well since Pentium-powered PC's are now being released by just about every maker.

Hardware Solutions SIG members will be joining the DOS SIG for the Cyrix presentation this month in our usual location.

Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President-elect, has been really excited about replacing his 386DX/25 with the new Cx486DRx2 25/50GP. If he's back from New Zealand in time for the meeting, he'll share his experiences with us. This should be a really important DOS SIG Meeting — especially for those members with "older" PC's who are faced with the decision to upgrade or replace.

I don't think there will be enough time to cover Microsoft's recent loss to Stac in the courts. But, this will certainly have a major impact on MS-DOS's future and we'll hear/read a lot about this in the next several months.

Reagan Andrews

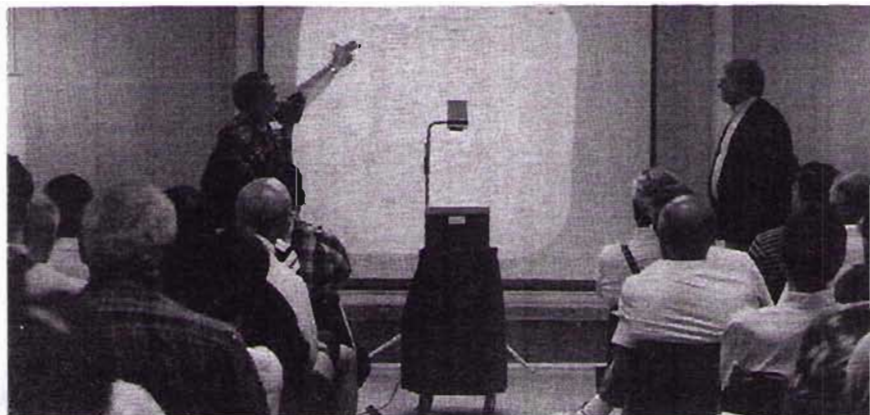
The General Genealogy SIG is one of 5 genealogy SIGs that meet on Xchange Saturdays and supports all genealogy hardware or software. It meets from 9 to 10 am. There is a meeting in the same room from 8:30 to 9 am for those computer genealogists who need the very basics.

This month's program will be on Video Director. This is a firmware (hardware and software) board that fits into a computer expansion slot. It can be used to make video tapes, edit video tapes, etc. It will be brought by A. C. Williams, a General Genealogy SIG member who has used the Video Director to put together a video tape from old pictures, etc. of the members of a roller skating group of the 1960s and 1970s.

Last month's program was on scanners and was written up in the February issue. The January program was on Roots 4 and the write-up will appear here.

I arbitrarily group the current genealogy software programs into three categories — those for the average user, those for more serious user, and those for the most discerning user.

The *average* user is interested in a program which will allow the entering of all genealogy data, the printing of charts, graphs, books, etc. The *more serious* user is concerned with a more challenging program which allows for insertion of photos, more source documentation, etc. The *most discerning* user wants a very complete program which will allow leeway to do some program software configuration (i.e. more than one death or birth date that cannot be verified), complete source docu-



mentation, etc. As examples, *PAF*, *Reunion*, and *Roots IV* fall in the first, second, and third categories, respectively.

Roots IV is a recent upgrade of the popular *Roots III* program. It is for use on MS DOS computers. It is written in *FoxPro 2.5* language. It is "windows-like" but does not run under Windows. A Windows version is in the works. It is menu driven, has hot keys to get to most features, allows setting up of macros, has a coding system, 52 different color combinations, linking functions that tie everything together, and 62 different screens.

Al Sanford

Genealogy — PAF SIG

PAF stands for Personal Ancestral File. The PAF SIG meets from 10 to 11 each Super Saturday. During the January meeting, two topics were discussed: a use of Focus report and the new (version 2.3) upgrade. When using the Focus Report, any line with over 80 characters will automatically go to the next line.

Several features of the just out upgrade version 2.3 were discussed



by Joe Waldrop, the SIG leader. This version is just an upgrade, it is not the long-awaited, totally-redone program now in the works that will be called *PAF 3.0* when finished. (There is no time set, at present, for finishing version 3.0, but it is at least a year away.)

PAF 2.3 has at least three features that the PAF user will like. The first is that during the configuration of the program, it can be set to always come up in the Pedigree Chart Mode. The second is that the user is allowed to make modifications to both individuals and marriages while in the Pedigree Search Mode (there are now two different sets of menus at the bottom screen that can be toggled by the user through the menu command switch). The third is that the Repair Mode can be run from the Pedigree Search Menu.

Also in Focus Report, there is a new Add/Remove command which shows both commands on

the screen at the same time. The user is also allowed to do a GEDCOM of the Focus List. Another new item is the allowance for a COM or Serial port for the printer. An autoexec.bat file can be used to give the PAF program directory - i.e. set pafcom:(give PAF program directory). A bad feature of version 2.3 is that the CONFIG program does not allow the RDF (Research Data Filer) to be a different file.

A couple of problems were reported by the PAF SIG members. One asked what to do with a husband who had two or three wives, especially when the wife's first name was changed several times. It was suggested that the last known name be used, also this information should be put in the notes. Another member said he has genealogy data of a person with a middle initial (with no period after it). He had already put the initial plus a period in his software genealogy database. Now he cannot get the software to remove the period. One suggestion was to use the Control-N command to look at the code #.

Al Sanford

Hardware Solutions SIG

This month our Hardware Solutions SIG will be joining with the DOS SIG to hear a special presentation of broad interest to both groups. For more details, see the notice under "DOS". Please remember to check the overhead in the Infomart lobby for the location of the meeting room in case there are late changes.

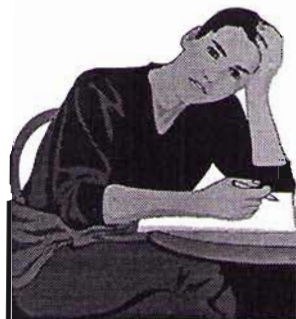
Charles Miller

WANTED!

A FEW GOOD WRITERS/EDITORS

The *North Texas PC NEWS* is seeking editorial assistance. We are looking for experienced writers/editors willing to give a few hours a month to the NTPCUG. We need people who can take raw copy and turn it into Pulitzer-worthy material, or at least catch some of the spelling and grammar errors you see all-too-frequently in these pages.

Actually, we're most interested in finding these before we go to press ... If you are interested, please contact Gerry Heine at (214) 938-7266, Reagan Andrews at (214) 828-0699, or, Andy Oliver at (214) 871-5750 w or (214) 223-4044 h.





Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

After much heated discussion, it was agreed that programmers, especially advanced programmers, cannot function without white boards. (It seems they have re-

placed their white boards with cards.) A petition was drawn up by those in attendance and given to Jim Hoisington to present to the (evil) Vice President of the DFW Xchange Corporation demanding equal and fair treatment. Yes — we want to have a white board present during our SIG.

Join us next month to see if Jim survives his audience with the evil Vice President.

Jim Hoisington

Quicken SIG

So Quicken and TurboTax now have the same owner...why not include TurboTax in the Quicken SIG? And all sorts of new products just beg to be discussed: QuickBooks (small business book-keeping); CheckFree (electronic banking); Tax Planner (investment planning.) Also, consider the exploration of upgrades and new features. Periodically, Intuit gives a presentation in the auditorium. This SIG has had a devoted following since it's inception and has always attracted a number of people just starting to use this software.

However, all of the SIGs are dependent upon leaders who volunteer their time each month so that you can have a forum for information and discussion. If you look at the last page of the newsletter, and you will see what will happen to the Quicken SIG without your effort. Almost 60 software applications— which a great many of us use and love—have

Micrografx SIG

Last month we advertised a face-off between the low-end and high-end Micrografx paint and draw programs. We only made it through the programs *Picture Publisher* and *PhotoMagic* so for March we will cover the drawing side.

The big face-off for March will pit *Draw* against *Designer*. *Draw* might appear to be a lightweight, but how does it really stack up? Come by and see.

On the positive note, we finally figured-out the projection panel so there should be no more delays in the future.

Neal Berkowitz

Paradox SIG

As I am writing this, Tom is checking with the local Borland Regional office. We are exploring the possibility of getting many of the key office personnel to show up at the March meeting. The idea is to get to know our local Borland staff better. They might also bring some insight into the future directions of Borland's products, particularly Paradox.

Should that all fail to materialize, I am certain that between Tom and myself we can come up with something. I have been thumping on PDoc/DOS 4.5 pretty hard lately. I am already accumulating quite a repertoire of war stories and PAL traps. I think that Tom is giving PDoc/WIN quite a workout or it is vice versa, judging from some of the tidbits Tom drops in conversations.

Anyway with two still "new" products on the agenda, there

tips, and tricks to share for the foreseeable future. One of these days we may even do that PDoc/Quattro Pro interoperability demonstration that we never pulled off last year! I'm going to try to load Quattro on the NTPCUG machine "real soon now". We should have the Pdoc/WIN 4.5 update loaded by the time March rolls around.

Come on by the SIG and share all your new discoveries and nagging questions with those of us who are also facing the challenges and savoring the victories that have come with the total new directions introduced with the new Paradoxes. I sure get to wondering if this is still Kansas, Toto!

Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

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

- ❖ 9:00 am — Class 1
Start Up
- ❖ 10:00 am—Class 2
Diskette Sizes &
Formatting of each
- ❖ 2:00 am Class 3
Copying & Backing Up Files
- ❖ 1:00 pm Class 4
Personal Computer
Hardware

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

no SIG because no one is willing to contribute the leadership. For the friendships and priceless advice I have received, I feel privileged to contribute a small amount of volunteer time where whatever talents and interests I have can keep the NTPCUG wheels turning.

Billy Pitts, with a lot of help from his friends, has given more than two years of his time and expertise to facilitate the exchange of information which helps us keep our sanity in a world of computers. And I have seen the method of demonstration move from white board to a sophisticated color overhead display which is directly linked to a portable computer generously loaned for each meeting.

It is time for you to offer your effort to provide leadership for this SIG, or the only place you will find it is in the last page of your newsletter.

Jo Johnston

Software Review SIG

Like always, we never know what we will be talking about. But the SIG is always interesting.

We have the opportunity to discuss and review the more interesting programs out there. So — while everything might not be of interest to everybody — there should be something to excite anybody.

Possibilities for March include B.A.B.Y., Armageddon, various CD's and some Symantec offerings.

Neal Berkowitz

Spreadsheet SIG

In March the Spreadsheet SIG will not meet in our normal SIG location because Lotus Development Corporation will be present-



ing *Lotus SmartSuite* at 1:00 in the Auditorium.

Lotus SmartSuite is a collection of several applications sold as a unit. The Suite includes *Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows* (Spreadsheet), *Ami Pro* (Word Processing), *Freelance Graphics for Windows* (Presentation), *Approach* (database), and *cc:Mail* (mail).

The presentation at 1:00 will emphasize how these programs work together and the similarities in form and design. Any and all should plan to attend the presentation at 1:00 in the Alexandria Auditorium.

Mark Gruner
Adam Peterson

Spreadsheet Developers

A special treat is scheduled for March. *Lotus Development* will be in town and will be presenting. What will be presented was not known at press time. But the plan is to demonstrate *Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows release 4.0 Multimedia Edition* on CD-ROM. This program comes with Multimedia tutorials and other learning tools. You can even record and play

your own customized "help movies". And all documentation is also in the CD. There is even a reader to help proof data by reading the data back to you.

Add to all of this the ability to add sound and annotations that add impact to your presentations. All of this and everything else in *1-2-3 for Windows*. You got to see it to believe it. All that is needed for this presentation to come off will be someone to present it.

Mark Gruner
Adam Peterson

StarSig

The January *StarSig* meeting introduced *StarText* Editorial Director Paul Harral to the group. He was the featured speaker February 19. After the columnists present introduced themselves, we had a lively presentation of *StarLink* by independent developers Dave Maxwell and Carl Perry.

StarLink is a program to access *StarText* from MS Windows. It does not have the blessing, endorsement, or backing of *StarText*. It does feature dropdown menus, a large database of keywords, a lotto numbers generator, and much, much more. Thirty final beta copies were passed out to an enthusiastic audience.

Drop in and meet Paul Harrel, right after the unsponsored breakfast March 26. Let him hear your ideas. *StarText* became famous listening to those ideas and adopting many of them.

William L. Jones





Visual Basic — Beginning

At this month's meeting on March 26, we will introduce two new topics, the Printer Object and the MDI (multiple document interface) form.

The Printer Object is used to control text and graphics printed on a page and to send output directly to the default system printer. The MDI forms are used for applications which allow the user to display multiple documents at the same time, with each document displayed in its own window. An example of an application with an MDI interface is the Windows File Manager. Those wanting to "warm-up" for this topic can read Chapter 10 of Gary Cornell's book, *The Visual Basic 3 for Windows Handbook*, starting on page 405 or Chapter 14 of the *Microsoft Programmer's Guide for Visual Basic 3.0*, starting on page 297.

Last month, I gave a "For Beginners Only" presentation to help those who are just beginning to use Visual Basic. The presentation emphasized resources available to beginning Visual Basic programmers, recommendations on books and magazines, and advantages of membership in the North Texas PC User Group (NTPCUG). I plan to repeat this presentation on a regular basis to keep our membership growing with new Visual Basic programmers. All attendees are encouraged to ask any question about problems they are having with Visual Basic. This is especially true during the Question & Answer period prior to the "Topic of the Day."

A brand new resource for beginning Visual Basic programmers is now available. Four members of NTPCUG have volunteered to assist beginning Visual Basic programmers with problems they run into between meetings of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG. They are:

- ❖ Jim Carter235-5968
- ❖ Woody Pewitt.....283-2292
- ❖ L J Johnson495-9067
- ❖ Gene Hamelman .495-6342

Feel free to call any evening between 7:00 and 9:30 PM with your questions about programming in Visual Basic.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic at 8:00 AM on March 26, 1994. See you then.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

During the March 26 meeting of the Visual Basic SIG, **Woody Pewitt** will cover the use of MDI (multiple-document interface) windows in your Visual Basic programs. MDI forms are used in applications requiring the use of multiple forms that are similar. Examples of these applications are word processors, spreadsheets, accounting packages, etc. **Woody** will illustrate a specific application utilizing the MDI form and the MDI Child forms. **Woody** also plans to describe proper use of the Printer Object in Visual Basic. Both of these topics will be introduced by **Jim Carter** in the Beginning Visual Basic SIG which meets during the previous hour (8:00-9:00 AM).

Last month's meeting (February 19) was scheduled as an "open line" session with topics as suggested by the attendees.

Woody would like to hear from the membership on some of the "neat" projects you have going. Take a few minutes to jot down some notes and present them to the group. You may get some suggestions for improving your code (run faster, smoother, or more reliably). Talk to **Woody** before or after the meeting and he will help you set it up.

As usual, there will be time for your Visual Basic questions. Bring them at 9:00 AM on March 26, 1994. See you there.

Jim Carter

Word SIG

Again, these SIG Happenings are being written in advance of the February meeting which calls for a bit of creativity on my part.

Having been without electric power for several days here, and thus without a computer, I have not given much thought to a program for this month. I am sure that by the time the March meeting arrives that the great ice storm of '94 will be but a memory and I will have had time to prepare something of more interest than what I am considering now; and that is how all of the problems associated with Windows go



away when you are without electricity for several days!

Seriously, since the planned topic for the February meeting is a beginning discussion of *Word* macros, it is very likely we will need and want to continue this subject into the March meeting. I am learning the new version of *Word* as fast as I can, so; come see how I am doing.

Charles Miller

WordPerfect (DOS) SIG

WordPerfect SIG BUSINESS Due to C.J. Bain's hectic schedule (when you're good, everyone wants your time), she has resigned as Assistant SIG Leader. But we're fortunate to have a choice of good people that are willing to give us their time and expertise. Dawn Hopkins and Charlene Traynor have volunteered to help with the group. One of them (I haven't spoken to either about this) will be handling the March meeting since I will be out of town. I think it's time to work with the Merge feature. Let's hope one of them agrees with me!

Lori Quinn

WordPerfect (DOS) Tip of the Month!

The five graphic categories (figure, text, table, user and equation) all work exactly alike. You can have text in the figure box, an equation in a user box, and graphic images in a text box. The distinction among them is that their default lines and spacing are different. The figure box has single lines on all sides; the user box has no lines; the equation box also has no lines but it's defaulted to be positioned from margin to margin and the contents of an equation box will be in the center from left to right and top to bot-



tom. Despite the defaults, you can make any box look like any other box.

To change the looks of any box, you change the options by pressing (Alt){F9} and choosing a category (let's use Figure for this example). Then select Options. Choose the Border Style and see all the choices (listed at the bottom of the screen) available for borders. Another option, Inside Border Space, refers to the margins inside the box (between the edges of the box and the box contents). The Outside Border Space refers to the margins between the box and the text outside the box. Even if there are no lines, there is still a box. If you're trying to anchor a box on the right margin and it doesn't appear to line up exactly with your justified text, that's because there's an Outside Border Space set.

Let's select a Thick Border for one side of your box, a dashed border for another, a double for a third side, and a single for the fourth. How thick is "Thick"? You can control that as well, but surprisingly, it's not in the Graphics Options menu. It's in Format. Position the cursor on the [Fig Opt] code (you may have to reveal codes to see it). Then press (Shift){F8} and select option 4-

Other. The 8th option is for borders. Here you can control the thickness of each border, the spacing between double lines, and the length of dashes. NOTE: Once you change these border options, there is no "default". You have to know the values to set them back. Print this screen and keep it as a reference.

Make changes for Thick, Dashed, Double and Single. Then exit out. You'll see the changes in Print Preview or when you print. These changes affect any box that has the Thick, Dashed, Double or Single borders, including Tables! Personally, I like to change the shading of all my lines to 50% for a table. It makes the text stand out better.

Once you've created a graphics box, you can retrieve a *WordPerfect* document (as long as it doesn't exceed a page) or a graphic image. You can resize the box as well. One of the most common mistakes users make is setting a size for both the width and the height. Let *WordPerfect* handle that for you. If you have a graphic image in the box, set only the width and *WordPerfect* will automatically sense the height of the graphic and set that measurement. You can tell if *WordPerfect* set the measurement because the size will be surrounded with parentheses.

One last tip. Let's say you've created a box, retrieved in an image, and resized the box. You now realize that this should have been a User Box instead of a Figure Box. Be sure you're in Definition: Figure menu (where you choose the Filename and sizing options). Then press (Alt){F9}. Voila!

Lori Quinn



LaserTAX for 1993 V2.0

by Mark Gruner

LaserTAX for 1993 is a Windows 3.1 tax preparation software package that is distributed on CD-ROM. LaserTAX includes two programs - a tax preparation program and a forms program. LaserTAX is a retail program and is being offered through a special offer that Datamax Research is making to user groups. Datamax Research suggests that user groups sell the CD for \$10.

The primary motivation for Datamax Research for making this offer is to pre-sell users on using the program next year by offering a special price of \$29.95 a year for an annual subscription to LaserTAX. Users that purchase LaserTAX are also encouraged to send in the registration form because Datamax is working on other products including a professional version of the program.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: LaserTAX requires a CD-ROM, Windows 3.1 and 4M of RAM. The program also requires approximately 2M of hard disk space. A mouse is not required, but is certainly recommended.

The tax preparation program, LaserTAX, appears to be designed for tax professionals since it holds up to 45 tax returns. Tax returns can also be archived. However, the program is also suitable for an individual. The program has many nice features including interfaces to several worksheets, input for W-2 information, places information in other forms to help assure calculations are correct, and when the forms are printed everything is in the right place including those pesky x's that you can't seem to get inside the box with your typewriter.

The tax preparation program includes input and support for Form 1040, Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, R, SE, EIC, Forms 2106, 2441, 3903, 4868, 8606, and most of the 1040 worksheets. You can also print out the instruction book for the 1040. All forms are printable and are acceptable output to send to the IRS.

There are only a few minor problems with the tax preparation program. One minor problem is that it does not print "0.00" where things really are "0.00". Another minor problem is that the program prints numbers when part of a form is not used such as the medical deduction part of Schedule A. Another minor issue is that no commas are used in the numbers. For instance, one thousand dollars will be displayed



and printed as "1000.00" instead of "1,000.00".

The forms program is called "Formsbook on CD Form Library" and includes bitmap images of practically all IRS forms (individual and business) which can be printed. For very large print jobs, the user should probably disable the Windows Print Manager so that the print job is sent directly to the printer. Some of these forms and instructions are quite large and may require more space than is available in the "TEMP" directory.

****WARNING**:** This and other tax preparation programs should be thought of as fast and semi-smart adding machines only. The IRS will hold you responsible for all errors in your return, whether mathematical or substantive. Reliance on a tax program will probably not save you from penalties (including fraud) or interest charges, if you claim some tax benefit you are not entitled to.

Use this and other tax programs for preliminary calculations and "what if" scenarios to check the tax effects of making or not making IRA contributions, etc. Thoroughly check the instructions that the IRS furnishes with each form to be sure that you are entitled to use the form, and that the data is properly entered and that all adjustments and limitations have been applied. Be sure that you are not required to fill out additional forms or schedules not included in this package.



And, manually check all calculations, and table lookups to be sure that the figures are correct. There could always be obscure errors that do not show up in trial runs with sample data.

The prudent user would also check with Datamax to be sure that errors have not been discovered and fixed after the date of this software release.

Mark Gruner

Disks of the Month for February, 1994

Disk 874. SpeedKit 4.60, 4-04-93 — Disk Accelerator Utility & More — HyperKey 4.16 — HyperScreen 2.30 — HyperDisk 4.60 HyperWare, 14460 Sycamore Avenue, San Martin, CA 95046 USA — Shareware Fee = \$49.50

Hyperdisk 4.60: What is a 'Disk Accelerator'? Exactly what it says! Hyperdisk speeds up access to your hard and floppy disks through a software mechanism known as disk caching. Disk caching allows the computer to access frequently-used data at the speed of memory instead of at the speed of the disk. What this means is that hard disk system performance increases by 300% to 1000%, and floppy disk system performance increases even more.

HyperDisk is the ultimate disk caching utility that increases your computer disk drive's performance by implementing advanced features including support for Conventional, Extended, and Expanded Memory usage, interrupt-driven I/O for both read and write caching, and support for PC, XT, AT, 80386, and 80486 type computers. It also features advanced options such as Shadow RAM loading of all overhead memory [Shadow RAM load available upon registration].

One of the major benefits found in this package is that the memory usage of the cache may be dynamically reconfigured so that you can use all of the available memory for caching while running normal applications, release it in order to run a memory hungry spreadsheet, then reclaim it for cache when that application is complete. The use of write cache is optional (default Off), however, additional speedup is available with this option On.

HyperKey 4.16: Customize keyboard functions including the type-ahead buffer size, key repeat rate, length of de-

lay before a key begins repeating, keyboard clicking sounds, and Touch Shifting for one-finger typing.

HyperScreen 2.30: Accelerates video output in all modes to the fastest display possible for your applications. Includes a screen blanker that supports all graphic modes.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS — HyperDisk requires DOS 2.x at a minimum, for TSR model, and DOS 3.x to be able to run as a Device Driver. Conventional RAM requirements vary from 10K to 35K depending on the model and size of cache selected.

The software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

Review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (2/94).

Disk 875. HyperText VSUM X9312, 12/16/93 — The Virus Information Summary List, Patricia M. Hoffman, 3333 Bowers Ave Suite 130, Santa Clara, CA 95054, (Voice) 1-408-988-3773 / (Fax) 1-408-988-2438, (BBS) 1-408-244-0813 (16.8 HST/V32), Shareware = \$30 (Site License Also Available)

Need to find out what a specific computer virus does, how it is activated, how it affects your system, and how to get rid of it? Interested in finding out more about computer viruses, but lacked the time or resources to do the research yourself?

HyperText VSUM is an encyclopedia, a reference work on computer viruses. The database is from ongoing research on the detection, identification and removal of MS-DOS viruses. The information is displayed in HyperText, which is a real time saver. You can move easily from topic to topic, rapidly accessing whatever topic is of interest at the moment. Once you

DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

have identified the entry (or entries) of interest, they can be individually selected and printed out.

It is really easy to use. On the other hand, it is REALLY, REALLY big. The ZIP file is 995,059 bytes; which unzips to 2,326,509 bytes in 6 files. (Translation: if you don't have a hard disk, forget it.)

Once the program is loaded, a menu appears. The selections include: Virus Index — The entries in alphabetical order; Relationship Chart — A sort of genealogy of the viruses; Using VSUM — An online tutorial for using the HyperText database. There are lists of the most common viruses, of activation dates and scan IDs, and of companies that sell Anti-Viral products. There are several cross-references: Common Names, Length, Origins, and Viral Type (for Boot Sector Infectors and Stealth & Sub-Stealth Viruses). There is also an explanation of the fields that make up the records.

Downloaded from McAfee Associates' Anonymous FTP Server by Kenneth Loafman.

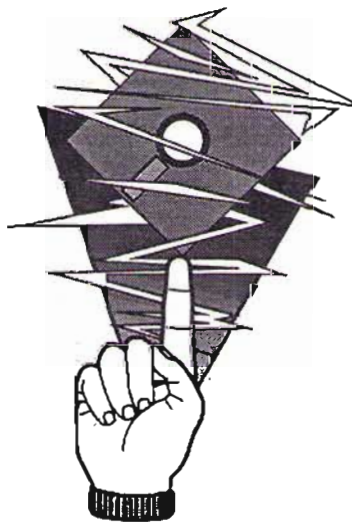
This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Kenneth Loafman (2/94).

Disk 876. ViruScan for DOS 9.21 V111, 1-14-94 — McAfee DOS Virus Scan

Copyright (C) 1989 - 1994 by McAfee Associates, (408) 988-3832 (office), (408) 970-9727 (fax) (408) 988-4004 BBS (25 lines) — USR HST/v.32/v.42bis/ MNP1 — 53350 Scott Blvd., Bldg. 14, Santa Clara, CA 95054-3107. CompuServe — GO MCAFEE; InterNet support@mcafee.com; America OnLine — MCAFEE; Registration Fee = \$25

Scan checks floppy, hard, CD-ROM, and compressed (SuperStor, Stacker, Doublespace, etc.) disks on both stand-alone and networked PC's as well as network file servers for pre-existing infections of known and unknown viruses; and disinfects all common viruses (file, boot sector, partition table infectors) with options to overwrite and delete infected files. This release adds detection of 45 new viruses and 61 variants, bringing the total number of known viruses to 1,814, or counting variants, 2,738 viruses. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS = SCAN requires 390Kb of free RAM and DOS 2.0 or above.

CLEAN111.ZIP (CLEAN-UP Virus Remover Version 111) — Registration Fee = \$35 This is what you use if a virus is found on your system. CLEAN-UP will search though the partition table, boot sector, or files of a PC and remove a virus specified by the user. In most instances CLEAN-UP is able to repair the infected area of the system and restore it to normal usage.



DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

VSHLD111.ZIP (VSHIELD Infection Blocker Version 111) — Registration Fee = \$25 When VSHIELD first loads, it will search for known computer viruses in memory, the partition table, boot sector, system files, and finally itself. Then it installs itself as a memory resident program to monitor program loads on all drives, scanning all programs before allowing the system to execute them. Prevents known viruses from becoming resident or spreading on systems.

Downloaded from McAfee Associates' Anonymous FTP Server by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (2/94).

Disk 877. ViruScan for WINDOWS 9.21 V111, 1-14-94 — McAfee Virus Scan

VIRUSCAN for Windows 3.0/3.1 Version 111, Copyright (C) 1989 - 1994 by McAfee Associates, Registration Fee = \$35 per copy

VirusScan for Windows provides a GUI interface for running the ViruScan program from a DOS box under Windows. Installation is easy (see the README.NOW file), and comes complete with its own icon!

VirusScan for Windows will scan the local and network drives for known and unknown computer viruses, disinfect all common viruses (file, boot sector, partition table infectors) with options to overwrite and delete infected files. This release adds detection of 45 new viruses and 61 variants, bringing the total number of known viruses to 1,814, or counting variants, 2,738 viruses.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS — Windows 3.0 or 3.1 and a mouse.

Downloaded from McAfee Associates' Anonymous FTP Server by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (2/94).

Disk 878. ViruScan for OS/2 9.21 V111, 1-14-94 — McAfee OS/2 Virus Scan

Copyright (C) 1989 - 1994 by McAfee Associates

OSCAN111.ZIP (OS2SCAN for OS/2 V2.0 Version 111), Registration Fee = \$35 Searches for computer viruses in memory, the master boot record (partition table), boot sector, and files. However, since OS/2 operates in a protected mode environment it can only check its own area of memory or "memory image" for viruses. Viruses in a DOS session or VDM will not be detected in memory by OS2SCAN. To protect against viruses in a DOS session or VDM, use VSHIELD (for DOS) virus prevention TSR.

OCN111.ZIP (CLEAN-UP for OS/2 V2.0 Version 111), Registration Fee = \$35 Searches through the partition table, boot sector, or files of a PC to remove any virus specified by the user. It will remove all viruses identified by OS2SCAN. In most instances, OS2CLEAN repairs infected areas of the system and restoring them to their pre-infected state. It can also remove unknown viruses from .COM and .EXE files, the partition table, and boot sector using recovery information stored by OS2SCAN (see the OS2SCAN documentation for more details).

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS — OS2SCAN and OS2CLEAN re-

quire IBM OS/2 Version 2.00(GA) or above. These programs will run on IBM PC and compatible computers with FAT or HPFS-formatted drives, as well as any local area network the PC is logged into.

Downloaded from McAfee Associates' Anonymous FTP Server by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (2/94).

Disk 879. ViruScan Novell 1.56 V109, 12-01-93 — McAfee LAN Virus Scan, Copyright (C) 1989 - 1993 by McAfee Associates

NETSHIELD 1.56 V109 — Registration Fee = \$35 NETShield watches as network users, the most likely source of infected files, copy files to the network. NETShield is Tested and Approved compatible as an NLM utility by Novell, Inc.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS — NETShield requires at least 718Kb of free server RAM. Novell NetWare v3.11 requires the SPXFIX2 patch from Novell.

Downloaded from McAfee Associates' Anonymous FTP Server by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (2/94).

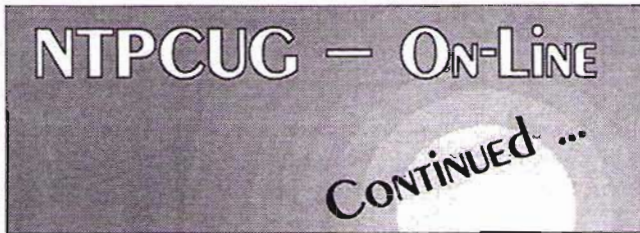
NTPCUG — ON-LINE

by **Fred Williams**
SYSOP, NTPCUG BBS

Last month I began our tour of the BBS by covering the "politics" and human organization responsible for the establishment and continued existence of the NTPCUG BBS. This month I promise to get into greater detail on how the BBS actually functions, and how easy it is for the average NTPCUG Member to join in on the latest industry fad, data communications.

The NTPCUG has various levels of access which are designed to make for easy communication between the members of various subgroups within our club. The most common level of access is "NTPCUG Member" level. This level gives any NTPCUG member access to local E-Mail, all public conference discussions, late-breaking news items related to the NTPCUG, and real-time "chat" with other members who are on-line at the same time.

As a public service to the general computer community of north Texas, the BBS has a "Public" access level. This access level provides anyone who logs on to the BBS read-only access to selected personal-computer-related BBS conference discussions. Pub-



lic users can also gain access to information displays and ASCII text files which describe the NTPCUG. Anyone who logs on to the BBS can download an ASCII text file which, when printed, can be used as a NTPCUG membership application.

The BBS also has a special use area for members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors and Officers, and an area for Special Interest Group (SIG) Leaders and Assistants. "NTPCUG PC News" Editors and Publisher have their own special use areas, as do the officers of the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP). Soon we will be adding a special area for the officers of the new DFW Xchange corporation.

These special message areas greatly enhance the various group members' efforts to insure the ongoing success of their particular functions. It is the efforts of these groups that contribute to the overall success and steady growth of the NTPCUG. The BBS provides a continuous, consistent, and highly efficient form of communications for all of our "movers and shakers".

First steps to going on-line

So one might ask, "What is my first step toward joining in with these astute pillars of the PC community?" Ah, one giant step would be to get "on-line" and let your voice be heard, so to speak. Besides that, it can even be fun and entertaining! If there is one thing that is not in short supply on the NTPCUG BBS, it is short and loud opinions. But I personally would not know anything about that.

The toughest part of getting on the BBS will be getting your personal computer, modem, and communications software all singing the same song. Once that hurdle has been overcome, the rest will seem a snap. If you have already got things percolating on your end you are well over half-way home. For the best help around at a price that can't be beat, I highly recommend Doug Gorrie and Birl Smith's Communications SIG on Super Saturday.

Now find your last issue of the *NTPCUG PC News*. Look on the inside back cover, where you will find the BBS access numbers. Pick a number and plug it in your communications software's dialing direc-

tory. Then have your communications software dial the BBS number. Oh, by the way, it is best if you set up your communications software to do "ANSI-BBS" terminal emulation.

Once you have connected with the NTPCUG BBS for the first time, you will be asked to enter your full name. You should enter the name that most people know you by, it does not have to be your full legal name at this point. This will be the name you use each time you sign on the BBS. It is also the name that those who wish to communicate with you on the BBS will use in their message address.

Once you have your name entered, you will be asked to select a password. Pick a word of eight characters or less.

No cats — Please ...

Many users obviously use the name of their "significant other", one of their kids names, the cat or dog's name or something of that nature. I will point out that us "professional" (please don't try this at home, crowd) communicators consider this "bad form", as those kinds of passwords are easily compromised by your devious and sly friends and in-laws.

Once you have reentered the cat's name, or whatever you chose, to verify your password choice, you will be presented with a lot of information. Please be patient and take your time to read all that is presented. Once you have read all of our "introduction" material, you will be presented with a series of requests for additional information.

This is where your *PC NEWS* mailing label becomes very important. To answer the BBS registration questions, please use the information found on your *PC NEWS* mailing label. The BBS registration system is fully automated and the information you enter here will be compared exactly with the information that was used to print your *PC NEWS* mailing label.

The mechanics of the automated registration system require that the registration information verification be done during the 2 AM, batch-processing run that occurs nightly. This means that you will not receive full NTPCUG Member BBS access privileges until the day following your first access to the BBS. Once the nightly process has run, your BBS access level will allow you to join in lively discussions with your fellow NTPCUG members, so "Welcome Aboard".

Fred Williams

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

The Ides of March

Be aware of the I-D-E-S of March:

- ❖ I-*n*-vestigate the many Special Interest Groups led by volunteers who discuss the most popular software and applications.
- ❖ D-*o*n't miss Disk Of the Month reviews and opportunities to get in on the development end of new shareware and critiques by group volunteers.
- ❖ E-*n*joy the many displays of equipment and services offered at the DFW Xchange Corp. basement vendor

area. (Volunteers who help in this area are named on this page.)

- ❖ S-*h*ow your appreciation to a volunteer with a thanks for the great service performed. The Information Booth is manned by several volunteers throughout Xchange Saturday.

Even though Shakespeare made the "Ides of March" rather famous, there are ides in every month of the year and they fall toward the end of each month. Since NTPCUG meets monthly on a third or fourth Saturday maybe we can be aware of the I-D-E-S of our meeting.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchor:
Mike Dumenko
Rod Rodolico (double)

Crew:
Jim Aragon
Russell Baker
Kenneth Berg
Jim Bourgeois
Hank Coleman
John Ivers
Doug Williams

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:
Andy Oliver

Scheduler:
Bob Wuller

Anchor:
Al Aston

Ralph Beaver
Judy Griffiths
Eugene Hamelman
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt
David Huckabee
Timothy Lanz
Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller

Booth Crew:
Mike Ashley
Roger Bopp
Eteta E. Eta
Tim Foster
Cheryl Hunter
Lynda Guerrero
John Ivers
Richard Kellerhouse
Claude McClure
Bob McNeil
Foy T. Mills
Martin Moomaw
Edward Moreland
Kristy Neblett
Michael Rogers

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:
James Donlon
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
Bob Post
Kathryn Loafman

DOM Desk Crew:
Joe Allen
Doug Athas

Berny Baars
Roy Bales
Norman Dang
Oliver Daniels
William Farris
Charles Fernandez
Judy Griffiths
Gene Hamelman
Jo Johnston
Arnold Krusemark
Duane Martin
Carlos McEvelly
Mac McKeethen
Jan Parkhill
William Powell
George Read
Ed Snuggs
Oscar Tyler

With Special Thanks to:

Setup Crew:
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
David Huckabee
Kathryn Loafman
Jerry Stone

Inventory and Take-down Crew:
Ralph Beaver
Zach Loafman
Timothy Crate

DOM Desk Scheduler:
Charles Cashion

Disk Production:
Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)283-9036 (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)661-4826 (w) |
| DOM Booth Scheduler Charles Cashion | (214)881-0952 (h) (214)519-2583 (w) |
| DOM Software Review Howard Hamilton | (214)644-5721 (h) |
| Information Booth and General Information Claude McClure | (214)867-0978 (h) |

NTPCUG User - To - User Program

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 | TurboVision | Howard Harkness | (817)267-6227 | Sun | 0900-1200 |
| Assembly language | Frank Cavallito | (214)423-9221 | 7 | 1800-2200 | UNIX | Doug Scott | (817)261-4653 | T&T | 1800-2030 |
| BASIC | Mike Firth | (214)827-7734 | 7 | 0800-2200 | WP 5.x /Windows | Georgene Harkness | | 7 | 1830-2200 |
| Brother's Keeper | Neil Sunderland | (214)272-2869 | 7 | 0900-2200 | | | (817)267-6227 | Sun | 0900-1200 |
| C (the language) | Howard Harkness | (817)267-6227 | Sun | 0900-1200 | Word for Windows | Beverly Kurtin | (817) 355-9594 | M-F | 1800-2030 |
| | | | T&T | 1800-2030 | Windows | Rick Sivemell | (214)306-5422 | 7 | 1830-2200 |
| C++ (the language) | Bob Adams | (214)328-1455 | M-Sa | 0900-1900 | XENIX | Doug Scott | (817)261-4653 | 7 | 1830-2200 |
| | Howard Harkness | (817)267-6227 | Sun | 0900-1200 | | | | | |
| | | | T&T | 1800-2030 | | | | | |
| Borland C++ | Bob Adams | (214)328-1455 | M-Sa | 0900-1900 | LEGEND: | | | | |
| | Howard Harkness | (817)267-6227 | Sun | 0900-1200 | 7 | All 7 days of each week | | | |
| | | | T&T | 1800-2030 | M-F | Monday through Friday | | | |
| Comm Software | Doug Gorrie | (214) 464-7942 | M-F | 0800-1700 | T&T | Tuesday and Thursday | | | |
| | | (214) 618-8002 | S-S | 1000-1900 | M-Sa | Monday through Saturday | | | |
| CompuServe | Bob Adams | (214)328-1455 | M-Sa | 0900-1900 | S&S | Saturday and Sunday | | | |
| DOS (all MS versions) | Rick Steffon | (214) 327-2728 | 7 | 1000-2400 | | | | | |
| MathCAD | Bob Adams | (214)328-1455 | M-Sa | 0900-1900 | | | | | |
| Paradox | Fred Williams | (214)442-1315 | 7 | 1300-2100 | | | | | |
| ProComm/ProComm + | Doug Gorrie | (214) 464-7942 | M-F | 0800-1700 | | | | | |
| | | (214) 618-8002 | S-S | 1000-1900 | | | | | |
| | Bill Green | (817) 731-1308 | | | | | | | |
| Quicken | Billy Pitts | (817)430-8148 | 7 | 1830-2100 | | | | | |
| | 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 | | | | | |

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: | \$ & Sense | Visual C++ |
| Beginners | Anti-Virus | CAD |
| Hardware Help | Borland Turbo C | Corel Draw |
| | Microsoft C | Dataflex |
| | Microsoft C++ | 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 a non-profit independent organization of individuals learning to apply personal computers to practical problems. For additional information, call (214) 746-4699.

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Work _____ (_____) (Ext) _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___

Occupation/Profession: _____

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Payment: | Membership | Application Status: |
| Cash _____ | Classification: | New Member _____ |
| Check _____ | Regular (\$24.00) _____ | Renewal _____ |
| Credit Card _____ | Student (\$16.00) _____ | Address Change _____ |

Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066 (Make checks payable to NTPCUG)

Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

North Texas PC Users Group

Officers AND PEOPLE  you should know

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

Andy Oliver, Chairman
 Reagan Andrews Timothy Carmichael
 Doug Gorrie Jim Hoisington
 Alex Lilley Fred Williams

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

NTPCUG Officers

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| President | Andy Oliver | (214) 223-4044 h (214) 871-5750 w |
| President-Elect | Jim Hoisington | (214) 416-3101 h |
| 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) 462-0552 |
| 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

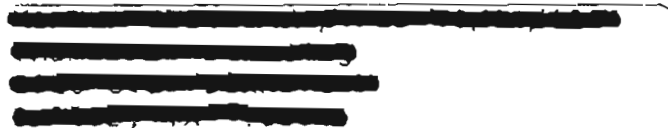


North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

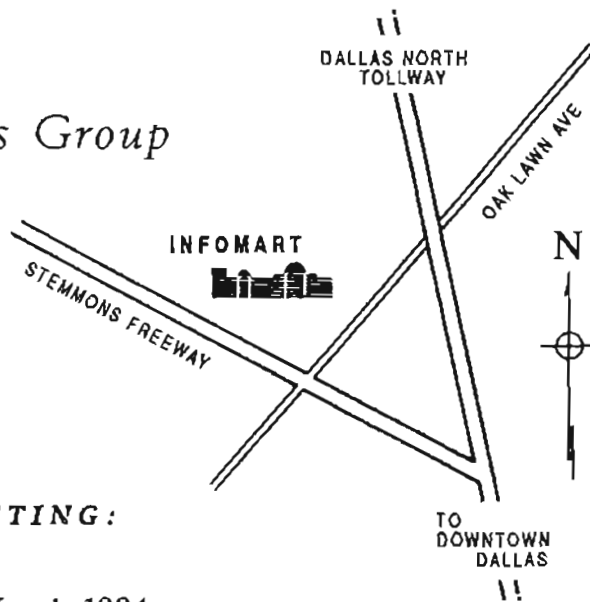
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Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.

13.3



North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

26 March 1994