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Publisher	Reagan Andrews (Acting) (214) 828-0699
Editor	Gerry Heine (214) 938-7266
Assistant Editors	Alan Lintel (214) 220-7829
	Doug McCoy (214) 475-2610
	Linda Moore (214) 369-8377
Newsletter Exchange	Lewis Graber
Advertising Director	Reagan Andrews, (Acting) - (214) 828-0699 Mail all advertising material and ad payments to North Texas PC NEWS c/o 3100 Lincoln Plaza 500 North Akard Dallas, TX 75201-3320

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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.

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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 June *North Texas PC NEWS:* Tuesday, May 10th

Meeting Dates:
May 21, 1994 - 3rd Saturday
June 18, 1994 - 3rd Saturday
July 16, 1994 - 3rd Saturday

Member

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 MAY . . . TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

A Unique On-Line Job Search and Resume Service

Opportunity Network...on line

Tim Armes, President

Opportunity Network...on line has become the nation's fastest growing on-line employment information service since it was launched in 1982. OpNet provides effective two-way communication between the professional and the hiring authorities of over 50 top corporations, and allows you free access for your job search via your PC and modem. Now a new Windows product, ResumE:Mail, helps you prepare your resume (with fill-in-the-blank fields, automatic formatting and on-screen tips), print it, auto-dial into OpNet and then E:Mail your resume directly to the electronic mailbox at the specific company of choice. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Mapping Power Made Easy

MapLinx Corporation

MapLinx for Windows is a powerful desktop mapping product which lets you see database information geographically on a U.S. map. Within seconds, you can display contacts from ACT!, Access, 1-2-3, Paradox, or any .DBF file format. You can then easily select those contacts within a 50-mile radius of a given point, and export them to a word processor or database file. MapLinx converts database records with zip code fields to symbols on the map. MapLinx is perfect for planning trips, analyzing sales territories, finding location of closest dealer, and much more. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Broderbund Software Review

Broderbund Software

Dave Hatchel, Sales Representative

Come see what is new from Broderbund. The company which produces Print Shop, Kid Text, Prince of Persia, Living Books and numerous other titles has many more offerings now. The newest ones to be demonstrated are Mist (a CD adventure game), Print Shop CD version, Automap, and Automap Street Atlas. There will be a drawing for free software. *

---

* Tickets for each drawing will be given out from 10 minutes before until 15 minutes after the start-time of the meeting to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIGs MAY MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

10:00 - 10:55
BASIC – Classic
CAD

10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.)
Fox Pro Database
Micrografx
Networking
PAF-Genealogy
Paradox
Personal Users
WordPerfect/Windows
UNIX

11:00 - 11:55
BASIC Programming--Begining
Assembler
Brother's Keeper Genealogy
CAD (Cont.)
Investors
Micrografx (Cont.)
MS Works
Roots III/IV - Genealogy

11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.)
Spreadsheet Developers
Windows Developers

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Desktop Publishing
Investors (Cont.)
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
Roots III/IV (Cont.)
TI Pro

1:00 - 1:55
Access
ACT!
APL

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

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers
Community Services
The Master Genealogist

Please consult the BBS and remember to check the overhead display in the INFOMART lobby for latest SIG schedules and room locations

Some Good

I am proud to report that our efforts in helping another user group get started have been met with great success. At a recent meeting, Rick Maxwell from Big Spring, Texas (out West, near Midland-Odessa) approached several of the officers of NTPCUG about getting a group started. We made sure that Rick got the in touch with Borland for the Borland User Group Starter Kit. The report came back to us at the March meeting that the Big Spring Users Group is going strong.

Keep it up Rick. Let us know if we can provide any other assistance.

Some Bad

In March, the DOS and Hardware SIG's combined for a special presentation by Cyrix on CPU technology. Cyrix was generous enough to provide the morning coffee. Now the bad news: they passed around several chips for the audience to see up close, and the one chip that the Cyrix rep said he wanted back was not returned.

A message to the THIEF: "You are not welcome at the NTPCUG. If we find out that you are a North Texas PCUG member, we will kick you out of the group. Our bylaws give us the authority. You may think you are clever, but you are nothing more than a common crook."

To Cyrix: "Reagan Andrews expressed this in his letter to you, but please accept this public apology. This action is not typical of our group. We hope this does not turn you off to presenting at user group meetings. User groups survive through the good work of volunteers, the generosity of vendors like you, and the close community of people helping others. Actions such as this disgust all of us."

Some Ugly

Keep an eye out at your favorite computer store. The last three times that I have purchased something there, I have had to correct the cashier on pricing irregularities. The price on the shelf was lower than the price rung at the register, or the price advertised in the paper was different than the price charged. Once is a mistake, twice is a poor computer system, three times in three visits borders on an investigation by the Attorney General's office on pricing practices.

A Fistful Of Dollars

You missed it. Or at least most of you missed it. On March 31st, Microsoft came to town on their User Group Technology Tour, cosponsored by Compaq Computer Corp. Two great presenters from Redmond, Washington, Dan Conde and Usef Mehti, showed us some of the features of *Windows for Workgroups 3.11* that we did not know were there. Then they cranked up a dual-*Pentium* Compaq and previewed *Daytona*, the super-charged follow-up to *Windows NT*.

Next, we were treated to a peek at *Chicago*, the soon-to-be-beta-tested version of the Windows interface. Treated is the correct word because a local Microsoft representative told me that they were not allowed to talk about what she saw presented, without an arm full of Non-Disclosure Agreements. Dan and Usef kept everyone awake by tossing T-shirts at the audience. Keeping us awake was not a problem—they were well versed and enthusiastic about their respective products.

The Question and Answer period continued until everyones' questions were answered. The fistful of dollars came in the products given away, including multiple copies of the Microsoft Sound System, *Encarta Encyclopedia*, DOS, *Golf*, *Windows NT*, and *Microsoft Office*.

Maybe the Thursday night before Good Friday is not a good time for a presentation, but for everyone who attended, they left satisfied that Microsoft, Compaq, and NTPCUG put on a good show.

Alex Lilley gave a short talk on the Dallas Computer Literacy Program that netted cash donations, volunteers, and 150 working PS/2 computers, software and licenses. Way to go, Alex. Truly a fistful for the literacy program.

Andy

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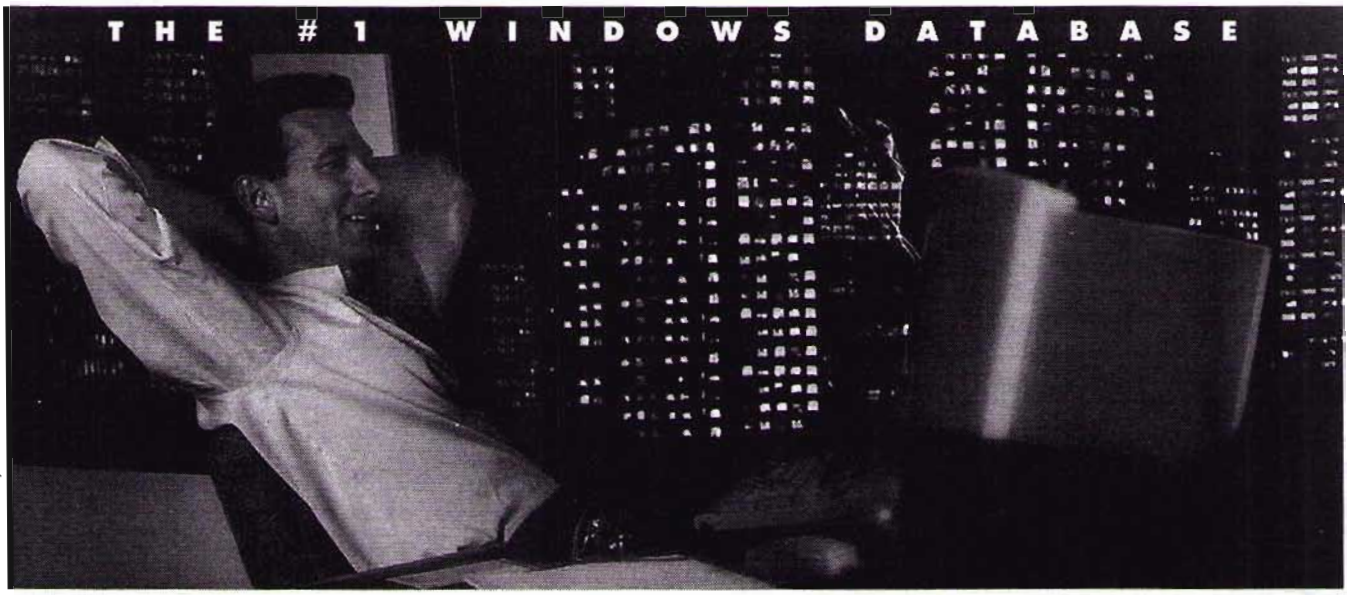

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The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

Making Calls to the *Windows* API From *Visual Basic*

In my March column, I discussed the extensibility of Visual Basic as one of the most powerful features in Visual Basic. The extensibility of Visual Basic is exemplified by (1) the many third-party controls offered by vendors, (2) custom controls created by developers themselves, and (3) calls to the Windows Application Program Interface (API) included in the Visual Basic application. I promised to cover this subject last month, but was side-tracked.

What is the Windows API?

Microsoft Windows contains three dynamic link libraries (DLL) that contain over 600 specialized functions. These are called Application Programming Interface (API) functions. For the most part, Visual Basic functions are sufficient to solve your programming needs.

Certain tasks, however, are too trivial to justify a custom control and are not supported by any of the built-in controls in Visual Basic. An example of such a task is the determination of the kind of microprocessor (80286, 80386, or 80486) a computer is using or if a computer has a numeric co-processor (80287, 80387, or 80486).

Another valid reason for calling API functions is to speed up your program. A selected API call within a loop may save considerable time over a built-in Visual Basic routine that does more than you need.

Warning: API Calls demand attention to detail

If you are careful, no harm will come to your program. However, API calls require exactness and have no tolerance for typographical errors. It is usual that the program will cause a General Protection Fault (GPF) if the transaction is not set up flawlessly. If you do not have the "Save before run" option set on your Visual Basic normally, you should set it when experimenting with API functions.

Setting up the API Function Call

The DLL functions of interest to Visual Basic programmers are included in three dynamic link libraries. They are KERNEL.EXE, GDI.EXE, AND USER.EXE. In order to use a DLL function within Visual Basic, you must place a Declare statement in the Declarations section of a form, module, or global module. For example, to determine the type of microprocessor being used in a computer, we would enter the following statement in the Declarations section:

```
Declare Function GetWinFlags Lib
"Kernel" () As Long
```

This identifies that we intend to use the API function GetWinFlags from the Kernel library and it will return a Long integer.

Next, we need to mask the long integer in order to determine which microprocessor the Long integer is indicating. We declare some constants for HEX masks in the Declarations section of our form as follows:

```
Const CPU286 = &H2&
Const CPU386 = &H4&
Const CPU486 = &H8&
Const 80x87 = &H400&
```

Add the following code into the Form_Click procedure and you can determine the microprocessor you have in your computer. Remember, each line of code in Visual Basic must be on a single line. If the newsletter editor splits up some of the lines, you must be sure to restore them to a single line. The Print statements may be a problem. Check them as you type them into your program.

Entering Code to make the API Call

```
Sub Form_Click

'This program invokes the API call
GetWinFlags to determine installed
CPU

    Dim CPUdata As Long

    CPUdata = GetWinFlags

    If CPUdata And CPU286 Then
        Print "Your computer contains an
         80286 microprocessor."

    ElseIf CPUdata And CPU386 Then
        Print "Your computer contains
        an 80386 microprocessor."

    ElseIf CPUdata And CPU486 Then
```

Winway Job Interview for Windows

by Andy Oliver

You may remember that I reviewed another WinWay product over a year ago. It was their Resume' for Windows program. They have a new 2.0 version of the Resume' program, but I am more intrigued by the Job Interview program. When you haven't been in the job marketplace for a while, you're apt to be apprehensive about interviewing. What questions will they ask? How can I respond without sounding like a complete dunce? This program is designed to help with the process.

The approach I took with this review was to use Windows as it was intended; I left my WordPerfect document open while I went through the installation and testing of the software.

WinWay Job Interview comes on three high density 3-1/2" disks and requires 2MB of hard disk space (5MB required to support sound). Also required are Windows 3.1 and a VGA/SVGA monitor. The installation went very cleanly. It asked to confirm the subdirectory where it was putting the files, and it asked to confirm that you want sound. If you do not have a sound card, it can be installed to "speak" over your computer's speaker. The program makes its own group and puts two icons in it: WinWay Job Interview and Other WinWay Products.

The Job Interview program includes over 200 of the mostcommonly asked questions in interviews. The program screen is divided into multiple scroll boxes including Topic,

Question, Your Answer, Hint (which can be turned off), Sample Answer (which can also be turned off), and a sketch of an interviewer that you can change. There are three male and three female interviewers; the voice changes between male and female.

The Topic area covers 64 topics from Interview Introduction ("How are you?"), to Interest, Knowledge of the Organization, Experience ("What previous work experiences do you think prepare you for this position?"), to Stressful ("What would make you leave us?"), and finally the Conclusion.

The Answer area is for you to put in your answers to the questions and then to rate yourself on how clear, motivated, credible, and confident you think you've answered. You can stop and save the interview and when you restart the program it asks if you want to continue a previous interview. A Sample Answer to the question "What would you consider to be a good annual salary increase?" is "It would depend on my performance and the performance of the company as a whole. But in general, I would like to at least keep up with the increase in the cost of living."

Interesting topics include Unlawful questions like "What does your spouse do for a living?", Possibly Unlawful questions such as questions to find out your prejudices, and Stressful questions.

➢

THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER
CONTINUED ...

```
        Print "Your computer contains
        an 80486 microprocessor."
    End If
    If CPUdata And 80x87 Then
        Print "Your computer contains
        a numeric co-processor."
    End If
End Sub
```

Remember to check the accuracy of your Declare statement, your Constant entries, and the code you placed in the Form_Click procedure.

For additional information

The *Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0* contains two help files on the Windows API. When you open the Visual Basic help menu, select Open under the File menu and select the WINAPI directory. The two files are in that directory and are of some assistance. If you are seriously into the use of the Windows API, the best resource, by far, is the *Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Windows API* by Daniel Appleman and published by Ziff-Davis Press.

Jim Carter

North Texas PC Reviews . . .

The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog — Second Edition

by Ed Krol

Published by O'Reilly & Associates

reviewed by Doug Gorrie

A few months ago, I found that I not only had full Internet access at work, but that I also had the necessary software (Netmanage's Chameleon) on my PC to make the Information Highway".

With some scrounging, I managed to find the appropriate IP (Internet Protocol) addresses needed to bridge my PC to the Internet. However, I was winging it the whole time, reading only the limited amount of information that I could find at that time.

However, if you are a generally experienced user, begin with Chapters 9 through 13 to learn about Archie, Gopher, Veronica, Jughead, WAIS (Wide Area Information Service), the World Wide Web (WWW, or W3), and Mosaic. Each of these eases the task of finding information and files within the Internet,. making it less of a "black art". Several Internet services are also covered, including Finger, Whois, X.500 , the Knowbot Information Service, and Netfind. These help you locate other Internet users and systems.

The remaining chapters and the four appendices cover "other applications", problem resolution,

Than I came upon *The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog*, and things started to make sense. There are numerous Internet books in print these days, and more coming, but I can sincerely say that *The Whole Internet* is one of the top choices.

The Whole Internet is designed for those who want to use the Internet, but don't want to become professional networkers in the process. The book assumes that the user is computer literate, but not a guru. In the networking environment, that's me !! Now in its second iteration, it has grown from 376 pages to 543, with the growth mostly in the last half of the book, where the real *meat* is.

The uninitiated will benefit from reading the entire book, cover to cover. It was well written back in 1992, but version two is even easier to read and it is more informative. Despite the UNIX orientation of other publications from O'Reilly & Associates, Ed Krol has done an outstanding job of spreading the discussion across most of the common platforms. UNIX still has a slight lead, but as a PC user, I rarely felt slighted.

For those already familiar with the Internet, Krol suggests starting with Chapter 5, where he begins chapter by chapter discussions on TELNET (for remote LOGIN to other systems), FTP (File Transfer Protocol, for moving files between systems), Electronic Mail, and Network News (also known as Usenet). These topics jointly cover 138 pages, and are thorough without being overly technical.

Winway Job Interview... Ctd.

The best way to handle yourself in an interview is to be prepared. This program helps.

The only problem I found with the program was that it locked up Windows when I tried to print a question. I thought I would test this function a second time, but I saved this review first. It did not lock up on further attempts, but be careful.

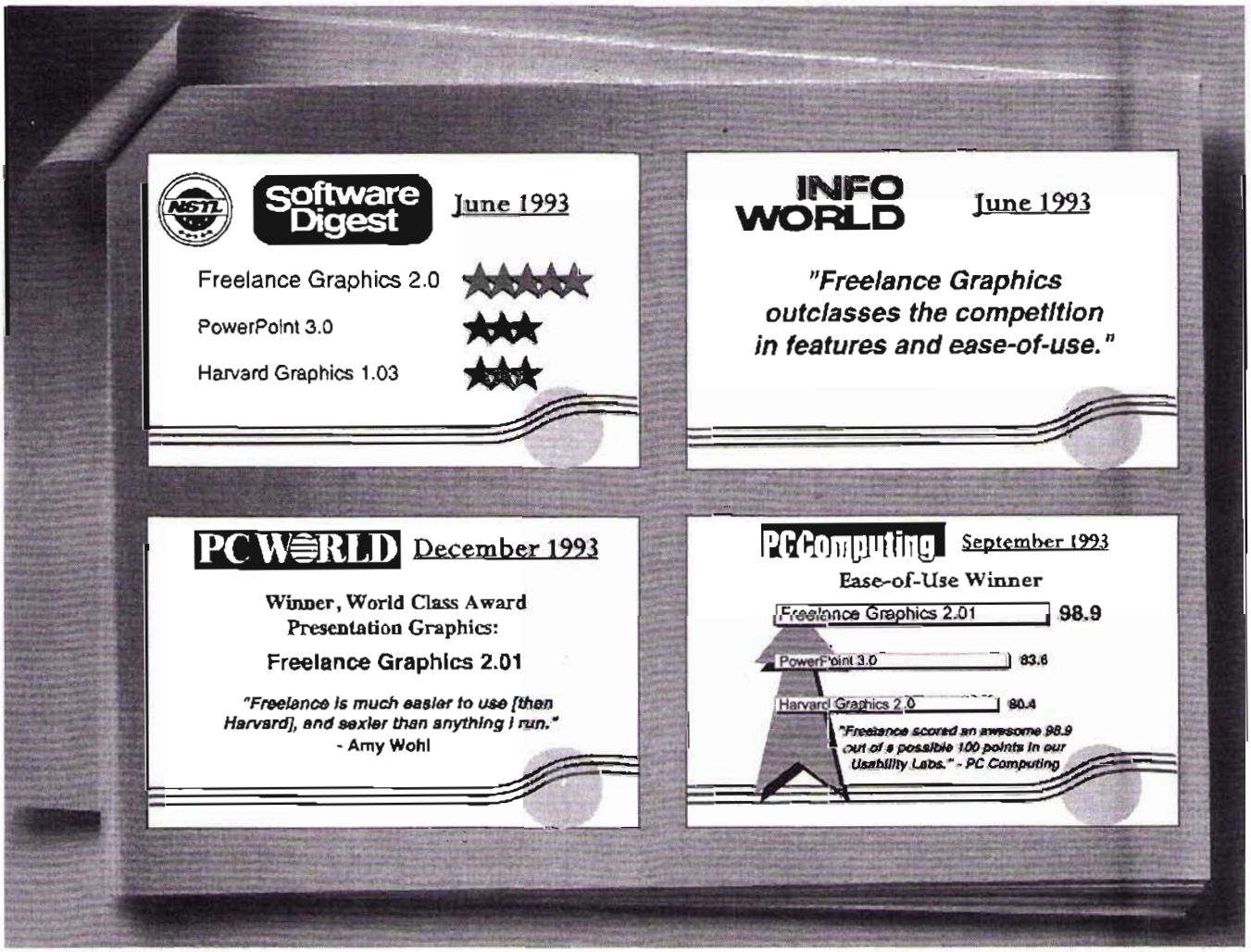
Other icons on the screen besides Print, include Sound On/Off, Help (in the way of Interview Strategy), and Windows Clipboard Cut, Copy, and Paste. Finally, WinWay has included sample Thank-You Notes in Windows Write format that you can use as guidelines for your thank-you's.

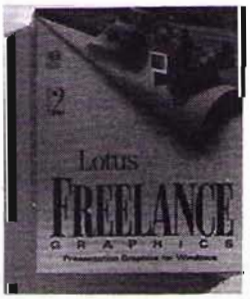
Companies are striving for a niche in the software market and I think WinWay Corporation is on their way.

Suggested Retail $69.95
Approximate Street Price $40.00
WinWay Corporation
5431 Auburn Blvd., Suite 398
Sacramento, CA 95841-2801
Tel. (916) 332-2671
Fax (916) 332-2529

Andy Oliver

THIS PRESENTATION MAY BE TOO GRAPHIC FOR POWERPOINT AND HARVARD GRAPHICS.





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Novell finds new leader — Frankenberg While Cyrix finds IBM chip foundry, *Chicago's* mythical power takes form

Such a month! We're getting questions answered, hearing lots of interesting new rumors and watching the media speculate on *Chicago's* final form for the upcoming beta round. The hardware side is moving just as quickly with reported *Power PC* sales running ahead of everybody's guesses, while Cyrix finds a chip foundry — at last.

Internet continues to show its "dark side" this month in media articles. *Clipper* keeps industry/users fuming except for a "bad boy" who may have our answer/salvation and CIA/FBI/NSA's worst nightmare. "Privacy" makes all these issues relatives under the silicon.

North Texas PC Reviews . . .

international connectivity, getting connected to the Internet, and a fairly extensive (72 pages) catalog of topics and resources available to search on, connect to and download from.

Other books address the Internet's resources in greater detail, or specialize in connectivity or other issues. A few of these books cover Internet in a fashion similar to Krol, and perhaps a couple *might* do a better job. But for now, consider *The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog* as one of the best, and one that I would recommend to anyone who wanted a basic yet solid understanding of the Internet

Doug Gorrie.

And, just for fun, I'll tie some of the above to "Health Reform" where "privacy" is a hidden monster lurking in wait for the unwary.

Frankenberg new Novell Top dog — Noorda Avers retirement

Novell answered one outstanding question this month. Ray Noorda will have a successor. Novell announced that Robert Frankenberg has been asked, and accepted, to take the top post at Novell.

Media saw the announcement as a very positive turn for Novell. Frankenberg, 46, is a former Hewlett-Packard Co. (H-P) senior executive and well-versed in personal computing, software and big information systems. He was described in articles by *The Wall Street Journal, PC Week* and *Computerworld* as one of a very few industry executives with the breadth and technical expertise to take the helm at Novell.

Frankenberg had been credited for taking the H-P PC business from a fair-to-poor performing unit to a solid, growing part of H-P.

The new Novell CEO was described by *PC NEWS* as an individual "with the temperament to fix what needs to be fixed without breaking Novell's back." He was seen as facing a formidable task in integrating the recent Novell acquisitions of WordPerfect Corp. and the *Quattro Pro* operation from Borland.

End-users may gain ...

One area of concern noted by a number of computer media columnists is that of corporate personalities, with Novell seen as a somewhat haughty, aloof and cold company in terms of end-user relations. WordPerfect and H-P, on the other hand, have achieved positive, enviable reputations for their efforts to work with end-users of their products.

Several columns have expressed their feelings that Frankenberg may give Novell a new persona in this critical area. Novell will need it since they've decided to enter the end-user market with acquisition of WordPerfect.

Cyrix scores big-time IBM to make silicon — After TI reins in

Cyrix and IBM announced that IBM will produce Cyrix-designed CPU's, thus ending one of the Richardson company's main bottlenecks. According to media arti-

cles, IBM, probably one of the largest IC makers in the world, will be producing Cyrix-designed CPU's in very large quantities for the next five years.

This also gives Cyrix' "M1" a CPU described by Cyrix as somewhat more efficient and faster than Intel's *Pentium*, some credibility as a potential threat to the Intel hegemony. Cyrix has described the new architecture extensively over the past several months, but hasn't had "real" silicon to show.

One question was raised by the Cyrix-IBM deal — just how many competing CPU's will IBM be backing? They (IBM) are a major partner in the IBM-Apple-Motorola *Power PC* effort, produce their own variant of the Intel 486 CPU chips, and now will be producing silicon for Cyrix. In addition, IBM continues talks with NexGen over possible production of their *Pentium* work-alike as well.

Cyrix wins anyway you look at it. Smarting after TI's snub, Cyrix has been unable to get enough silicon to market to really threaten Intel's lock on the 486 market, much less press their answer to the *Pentium* assault by Intel.

AMD Reports 38% Increase — after Win over Intel

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) reported a 38% jump in profits for their fiscal quarter. AMD reported significant sales of their 486 CPU chips, approximately 900,000 chips for the quarter.

According to *The Wall Street Journal* April 6 article, that compares with production of 350,000 CPU chips in the fourth quarter. Estimated AMD peak capacity is approximately 1 million chips, according to *WSJ*, and AMD expects to increase this potential via production of AMD chips by Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC) in the fourth quarter of this year.

AMD is also anticipating an increase in capacity when their new chip-making facility comes on line in 1995. This is seen as a major factor in combination with the victory in the Intel suit in assuring acceptance of the AMD chips by major vendors in the PC arena. Among major makers cited is Compaq, who agreed to produce AMD-powered PC's earlier in the month.

Power PC sales explode Other, 100 MHz shoe Will drop in 2nd Quarter

Apple Computer announced that their 60 MHz *Power PC*-equipped Mac's have exceeded internal expectations for sales following release of the new hardware. Media critics have been split on this issue, citing high prices and potential buyer-reluctance to adopt the new "standard."

According to Apple, early sales of the Motorola-IBM-Apple chip have surpassed their early estimates. Mac users quoted in the media have been enthusiastic about the new Quadra series, citing significant increases in speed and capability.

Apple may get an additional boost later this year when the 100 MHz Power PC 604 chip is shipped. The new chip is touted as a faster performer than the forthcoming 100 MHz *Pentium* CPU expected from Intel, and is seen as a match for the 150 MHz Intel CPU's.

Last CPU blurb IMS launches X86 Package for RISC's

On-chip emulation of the X86 CPU's is only a step away according to International Metasystems, Inc., of Torrence, CA. The IMS 3250 chip is a RISC processor that includes an on-chip module that emulates the 486 CPU.

IMS would like to license this emulation technology to other RISC makers as well. Quoted in *PC NEWS*, IMS CEO George Smith claimed the new chip running at 60 MHz runs Windows applications "nearly as fast as a 33/66 486DX2." IBM is taking a similar path with design of X86 emulation for their *Power PC 615* chip which is due to ship next year.

X486 software emulation has been a significant disappointment, so far, for RISC vendors who have sought the speed RISC allows while keeping ability to run PC software. Major issue cited by media stories is compatibility with existing standards and how this will work in complex environments.

Hungry Symantec grabs Central Point Software In April utility merger

In a move cited as a new direction for major utility vendors Symantec Corp. and Central Point Software, Symantec bid to acquire Central Point in April. The two largest vendors of DOS-based utility software, Symantec and Central Point are seen as defending

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against Microsoft Corp. in the merger.

According to media sources, Symantec moved swiftly to thwart a possible acquisition of Central Point by Microsoft. Sources imply that the combination will move into the PC network utilities market as the DOS desktop market shrinks. Symantec has been moving in this direction already, sources claim, as a result of Microsoft's incursions into the DOS utilities area.

Symantec supposedly bid between $60 million and $100 million to acquire Central Point. Some critics of the merger cite steady erosion of Central Point's share by Symantec as making the deal less than desirable, and others raise the issue of possible antitrust issues since the combination control the majority of the DOS utilities market already.

Microsoft v. Stac The story continues...

Well, like everybody promised, the requests for injunctions are flying. Microsoft recently filed a request for an injunction to prevent Stac Electronics from selling/shipping *Stacker 3.1* and *4.0*. Stac previously filed a similar request — to stop Microsoft from selling anything with *DoubleSpace* included.

Microsoft reports they have already pulled *DoubleSpace* from shipping and future products.

The Variety Store

On the Internet — *Clipper* redux foiled Software piracy raised & Privacy takes blow

Gee, this is a "fun" month for Internet news. If you haven't guessed by now, I'm not a fan of the "Information Superhighway" as exampled by Internet. But, Internet was in the news a lot this month and justifies the added exposure.

Most of my problems with Internet have to do with Internet "Junkies." These are the folks who appear in just about every conference/message area with hundreds of words/lines of nothing but personal conundrums, flames of other Internet Junkies, and a narcissistic need for public exposure. See some of the same names in various CIS (Compuserve Information Service) conferences as well, so I guess it's a universal trend.

On-line addicts — Growing problem

I used the word "junkie", a slang term originally used to describe a person addicted to heroin. Use spread to describe anybody with a focused, out of control craving for a particular object.

Tom Steinert-Threlkeld used it in a recent *Cybertalk* column as applied to people who have lost control of their on-line network use. In his April 2, 1994 column in *The Dallas Morning News*, he described a number of people with this condition, and the growing concern over the addictive potentials inherent to cyberspace.

People quoted by Steinert-Threldkeld spoke in terms of several *straight days* without pause spent on-line, or hundreds of hours on-line per month. One comment caught my eye in a quote from the general manager of Delphi Internet Services Corp., who used the key phrase "when hourly charges are not involved."

I would imagine most of these people aren't paying the freight themselves, i.e., cost of using the service, but are feeding their addictions via some public university or business account instead. Just as drug addicts discover, eventually the piper will be paid.

Internet — Conduit For espionage?

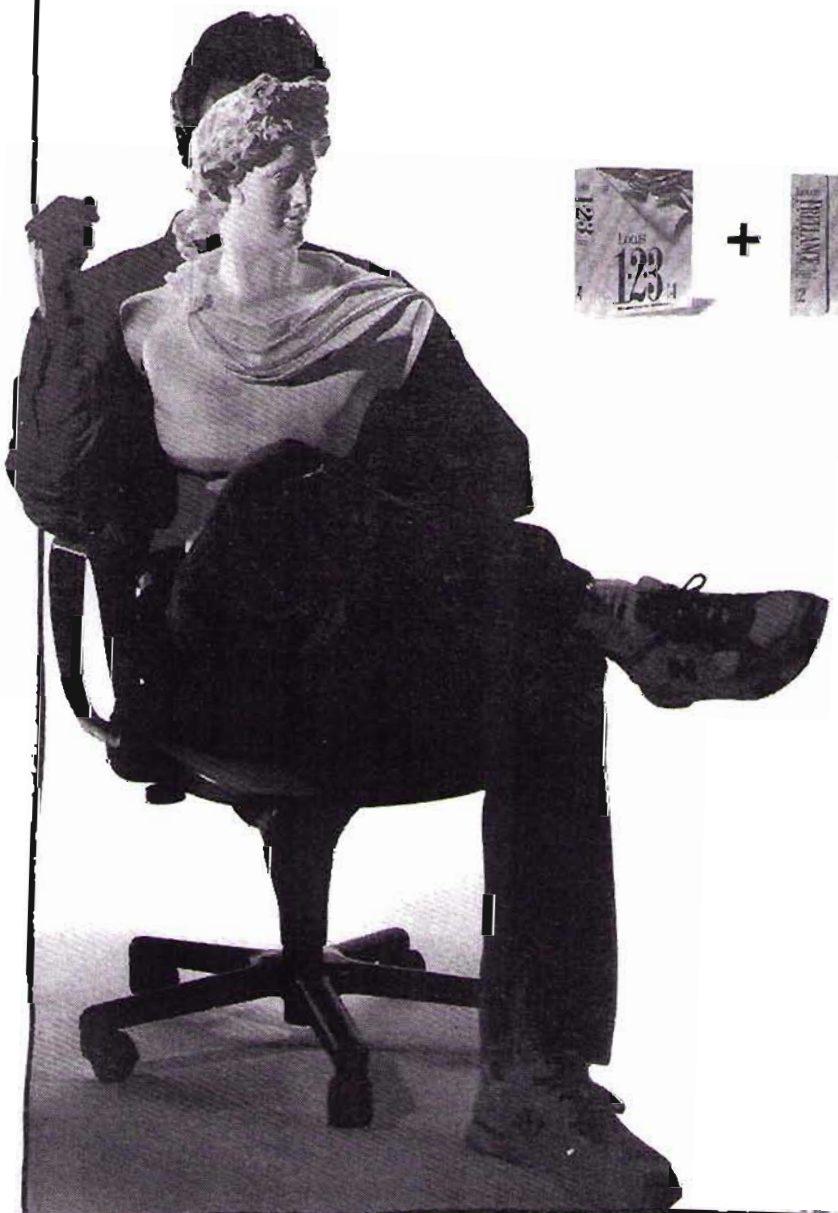
After all the furor over the government's proposed *Clipper* encryption system, turns out there's an alternative that's driving NSA's cryptographers and cryptanalysts crazy. PGP is the culprit and stands for "Pretty Good Privacy,"a PC-based data encryption system.

Supposedly spread abroad via the Internet, PGP is the child of Philp Zimmerman according to *The Wall Street Journal*. Zimmerman is the author of the relatively inexpensive data encryption system that is becoming increasingly popular both in the US and abroad. The *WSJ* article states that the code is, so far, unbroken by the agencies that desperately wanted to suppress such systems from private use.

Police not happy...

Police officials are sanctimoniously citing PGP use by drug dealers, pedophiles and child pornographers (the usual named-culprits when some sensationalism is needed for law-enforcement purposes) and decrying availability to private users on this basis. Federal agencies aren't being so vocal, but are considering charges against Zimmerman for exporting (via Internet) encryption codes.

So, you're a spreadsheet god. That's what you are, but that's not all you are. And since you need to work on all kinds of information and share it with all kinds of people, wouldn't it be nice if your software could help you out.



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The Variety Store

At home, Zimmerman is also accused of "piracy" by another security firm, RSA Data Security, Inc., who claim he stole their patented cryptographic algorithms to produce PGP.

Real "Piracy" On Internet

A trend that began on early BBS's has moved over to Internet — software piracy, or illegal distribution of software and other copyrighted materials. Two cases were cited recently in the media, one in Providence, RI, and a second in Boston.

Both cases resulted in computer fraud charges. One, the Boston case, also involves conspiracy charges.

Most "flagrant" piracy apparently was use of MIT computers to establish a BBS named "Cynosure", where an estimated $1 million worth of pirated software was illegally copied over Internet. Among programs illegally copied were *Sym City, Excel 5.0*, and *WordPerfect 6.0*. Interesting aspect cited in *The Wall Street Journal's* April 11 story on the Internet piracy was use of a "so-called 'anonymous server,' a computer in Finland" to preserve privacy by stripping senders' addresses off the uploaded and downloaded software

E-Mail not alone — Medical record Security questioned

This has got to raise everyone's paranoia level. We've seen numerous media warnings about lack of security/privacy in the E-Mail domain, particularly when the large data networks are involved. Internet has received a lot of attention in this area, but definitely isn't alone.

There's a new twist now. Medical record security is being questioned and issues related to Health Care Reform are being viewed with some alarm.

Reason is that medical data is quite sensitive to the individual, and consolidation of personal medical records into massive health-care databases is a sure bet for the future. Internet (or its successor) has been proposed as one medium capable of linking physicians, hospitals, insurance carriers, and regulatory bodies into one nation-wide "Universal Medical Network."

Benefits & risks

This has some major benefits at the individual-patient level, in that a person's medical history, including allergies, drug reactions, etc., would be instantly available anyplace they apply for treatment. Emergency medical treatment can be much safer and appropriate if physicians have this patient data at hand.

Privacy concerns may take a beating, though. Consolidation into easily-searched databases will result in much more patient data availability to a variety of non-medical individuals and agencies. The individual's right to privacy may become the first casualty in such a massive system.

Ending on — New Author and A "doggy" ad

Bill Gates isn't your usual struggling artist. He recently signed with Penguin USA to publish a book on the "Information Superhighway." Advance? $2.5 million was demanded by Microsoft's Chairman and agreed to by Penguin.

Gates will be assisted in the publication by Nathan Myhrvold, senior vice president of advanced technology at Microsoft, and Peter Rinearson. Rinearson has authored several books for Microsoft and is a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Gates and Myhrvold will donate their profits from the book to as yet unnamed charities.

WD *Caviar* Doggy drives?

I like dogs — at least those big enough not to be at risk underfoot. I also like Western Digital's *Caviar* series of hard disk drives. Even so, I wasn't too sure about the connection between the two in recent WD advertising.

Not sure of the pup's breed either, but there's a very friendly-looking dog prominently featured on the upper right-hand corner of the full-page ad. A picture of a *Caviar* is at bottom-left. Ad copy speaks to WD reliability as result of thorough testing. Even a bold statement that their drives don't crash. (Really?)

First question I had was "Is WD saying their drives are 'doggy'?" Or, for the dogs?

Reagan Andrews

TODAY'S QUOTE

"There's nothing to do. All the Windows software you need is already installed— just turn it on when you get home and start working..."

Anonymous

Hot Rod with a heat sink — Cyrix *Cx486DRx2* is fast

by Reagan Andrews

My first car was a '40 Ford coupe, purchased one-step away from a junkyard. Paid $100 for the Ford — which meant toting a lot of bags at the local supermarket.

Car ran well, stopped fairly well, but was 14 years-old and very slow.

New brakes and tires cured stopping problems (my parents' main concern). Dumping the ancient V8-85 for a full-house, 286 c.i. V8 with track-grind cam, 9:1 finned-aluminum heads and three Stromberg "97" carburetors* — addressed *my* main concern. It became a screamer. I loved it, even though it represented a lot *more* grocery bags carried and lawns mown.

Also, I never let my parents know how fast it really was.

Windows also spurs need for speed. Speed? *Windows* and speed are an oxymoron.

If you want "fast" *Windows*, you have to have a lot of PC speed from the start. If you don't, *Windows* will be an exercise in pain. Lots of people have made this discovery, especially in corporate settings with a lot of older PC's in service.

Cyrix has a solution.

NTPCUG DOS SIG members saw Cyrix' solution at the March meeting — the Cyrix Cx486DRx2/ Cx486SRx2 series of "doubled" 486 replacement CPU's for "older" PC's originally delivered with 16 - 33 MHz, 386DX /SX CPU's. Since I had been in on the early Cyrix "Beta" of the Cx486DLC replacement CPU's, the new series looked like a "natural" for several older PC's in the stable.

The Cyrix Cx486DRx2 is a single, clock-doubled CPU chip that provides 486SX compatibility when used alone. It provides 486DX capabilities when used in conjunction with a

Cyrix *FasMath* or other 80387 coprocessor.

We had two PC's that were ideal candidates for the upgrade. I decided to try Connie's PC first.

It was already equipped with a 33 MHz Cx486DLC purchased from a vendor in the Infomart basement and a Cyrix *FasMath* Cx83D87-33-GP coprocessor. On the negative/positive side, her PC also had a power supply fan making the kind of noises that indicated I'd soon be opening the case anyway.

Get CMOS settings and Backup data first...

First thing I did, before opening the case, was to backup data on Connie's hard disk, and make a copy of the PC's CMOS setup. Actual CPU switch took approximately 15 minutes.

Lot of that time was spent locating "Pin 1" since the old, TI-made DLC chip was a little different in logo layout than the examples in Cyrix' *Installation Manual* that came with the new Cx486DRx2 CPU.

Tools supplied by Cyrix and manual were first rate — more about the manual later. I even opted to use the Cyrix-supplied stick-on "arrow" to indicate Pin# 1 for any future CPU manipulation.

Heat a major CPU killer

A 33 MHz CPU running at 66 MHz generates a lot of heat. Easiest way to kill any integrated-circuit (IC) is to let it get too hot and Cyrix supplied a stick-on heat sink in the 33 MHz upgrade kit.

Cyrix suggests using the heat sinks on 20/40, 25/50 and the 33/66 CPU's — My inclination would be to use a heat sink on any of these chips, even the Cx486DLC's (the TI-made DLC's run very, very hot).

I used the Cyrix heat sink although I would have preferred a heat-sink & fan combination for even better CPU cooling. Tend to think of the problems everyone was having with the

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* If you don't know what these terms mean, find a "mature" mechanic who is familiar withearly Ford "Flat-heads."

Cyrix & Speed... Ctd.

early Intel 486DX2 33/66's and poorly ventilated cases.

However, I haven't found a source for 386 form-factor heat sinks and fans, yet. The case does have two fans with one positioned to direct air across the motherboard and this should be sufficient.

Lessons-learned — Turn-on a downer

After every thing was completed (I thought) and the case was buttoned-up, I booted the PC and almost everything worked, except *Windows* which wouldn't go beyond the opening screen. Re-opened the case, checked all the chips, wiring and cables, and tried again. No joy.

My initial thought was that the Cyrix cache manipulation had done something to the UMB's (upper memory blocks) between 640K and 1024K. Problem here was that I hadn't installed Cyrix' software and the cache wasn't activated.

Loose LAN line — guilty

Looked, disgustedly, at the case and noticed I'd forgotten to reconnect the network line and terminator to Connie's PC. Reconnected the "thin-net" RG-58 cable connecting Connie's PC to our *Windows for Workgroups 3.11* home network. That's all it took for Windows to pop-up and play.

There's a lesson here (actually two lessons) — always keep an "undo" and "redo" checklist when doing this kind of switch and make sure you've redone every thing that was undone while working. Second, un-terminated networks usually don't work.

I'm still not sure why the unterminated line would kill windows, though.

Software greatly improved

Went through Cyrix' suggested cache-software installation. Worked like a breeze although manual not as clear as it could have been.

Cyrix' new software is much better than previous versions, and I'd have to guess that they've made some significant improvements to chip internals as well. While Cyrix devoted a lot of manual space to working with UMB's in configuring the CPU - cache interaction(s), I didn't run into any of the problems I observed with my first Cyrix CPU chip. This "flew" with no modifications after the Cyrix cache software installation and reboot.

Performance gains

Performance was very impressive. Connie's PC went from *Norton SI* CPU speed of 38.5 with the DLC chip to a much more impressive 89.1. *Using Landmark's System Speed Test Version 2.00*, CPU/FPU ratings jumped from 70.7(CPU) 167.4 (FPU) to 189.5 (CPU) 193.3 (FPU) ratings.

Original Chips & Technology MIPS rating was 6.4, and (I think) went to 14.2. (MIPS really doesn't like the "doubled" processors and produces some quite strange results.)

Test numbers meaningless in day-to-day use

But, CPU test numbers are really meaningless. The single, best, measure is perception of the user concerning speed.

I didn't change the 64K secondary cache to a more reasonable (for a 486 CPU) 256K. However, perceived speed gains in Windows were impressive and-both *Windows for Workgroups 3.11* and MS *Word for Windows* loaded and scrolled much more quickly than before — the real goal of the switch.

This time I didn't need tech support, but Cyrix has excellent telephone support available as well as a BBS at (800) 462-9749.

I'll do it again...

I've got another PC, an "antique" Micronics 386DX/25, (at my VA office) which will receive the same treatment, even though I had been considering a 486 motherboard transplant. Reason is the economics and time involved.

A new 486DX/33 motherboard with CPU (Intel, AMD or Cyrix) will run in the $300 - 400 range. Replacing 8 M DRAM (necessary if PC used individual DIP's or was equipped with "slower" DRAM) will be approximately $275. That's approximately $600 - 700 — and about an hour+ of time per PC.

Price of the 33 MHz, Cyrix Cx486DRx2 is approximately $399 (from Cyrix). "Slower" chips range from $299 (16, 20 MHz) to $349 for the 25 MHz units. Prices are substantially lower from local retail sources and the vendors in the Infomart basement during NTPCUG meetings.

For more information, contact Cyrix at **(800) 462-9749** or (local) **994-8388.**

Reagan Andrews

Disks of the Month for April, 1994

Leading off with *4DOS 5.0e* — New shell enhances DOS

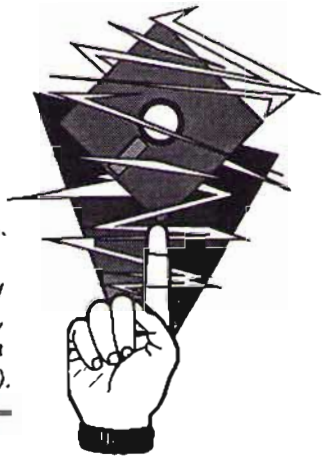
Disk 886. *4DOS 5.0e*, 4/94 — Replacement Shell for COMMAND.COM. JP Software Inc., PO Box 1470, East Arlington, MA 02174. Shareware Fee $69.

4DOS replaces the traditional DOS user interface with a more modern, friendly, and powerful user interface. 4DOS replaces COMMAND.COM, the command interpreter that comes with MS-DOS and PC-DOS. 4DOS is fully compatible with COMMAND.COM, but has a number of capabilities COMMAND.COM lacks; such as enhanced DIR command, point-and-shoot file selection for any command, and the ability to completely redefine your system's commands.

4DOS is a "DOS shell", but unlike most DOS shells it does not isolate the user from the DOS command line. 4DOS is intended to make DOS easier to use and provides enhancements to most of the DOS commands, as well as more than 40 new commands. These improvements make 4DOS a much richer and more powerful working environment than COMMAND.COM, without sacrificing the compatibility, flexibility and control you get from working at the command line. If you're tired of the limitations of COMMAND.COM, you'll love 4DOS!

4DOS is a complete computing environment that works with all versions of MS-DOS and PC-DOS from 2.0 to 6.2; with DR-DOS 3.4, 5.0, 6.0 and above; and in OS/2 1.x and 2.1 DOS sessions. It is compatible with virtually all application programs, with Microsoft Windows, and with task switching programs like DESQview and Back & Forth.

4DOS version 5.0 offers full support for the new features of Microsoft's latest DOS release, MS-DOS 6.2. It also includes support for the latest release of IBM OS/2, version 2.1.



Downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/94).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following description applies to DOM Disks 887 - 890.

These disks contain the programs presented in the "Utilities" section of *PC Magazine*, along with the source code. Each ZIPped file is an archive of all the files that were mentioned in the *PC Magazine* issue that is listed after the ZIPped file name. For instructions on how to use the programs, see the *PC Magazine* issue cited. These utilities are copyrighted to *PC Magazine* (upgrades can be found on the PCMagNet) and are made available by the NTPCUG as a service to our members.

Disk 887. *PC Magazine* Utilities 1993 Oct — Executables & Source Code.

V12N17.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 12, Number 17 (October 12, 1993 issue).

Features HK (HOTKEY Version 1.1), a Windows 3.1 utility that lets you assign hotkeys to your programs with a much wider range of possible keystrokes than Program Manager. Also included are CLOSPA.SCT, SLIM2.WPM, DATEMA.ZIP, JKEYDEMO.PRG and BIGJOB.ZIP. (Updated 11-11-93).

V12N18.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 12, Number 18 (October 26, 1993 issue).

Features FONEWORD, a Windows 3.1 utility that finds all the mnemonic words and phrases that can be made from ordinary seven-digit telephone numbers. Also included are ALTADD.WK1, ECHO.ZIP, and METER.ZIP.

Files downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/94).

Disk 888. PC Magazine Utilities 1993 Nov-1994 Jan — Executables & Source Code.

V12N19.ZIP — *PC Magazine*, Volume 12, Number 19 (November 9, 1993 issue).

Features DRVLOAD, a utility that lets you install MS-DOS device drivers from the DOS command prompt, eliminating the need to edit the CONFIG.SYS file to include device= statements and then reboot. Also included are LIST.ZIP, FILCDR.ZIP, UNI.ZIP, and BLINDE.BAS.

V12N20.ZIP — *PC Magazine*, Volume 12, Number 20 (November 23, 1993 issue).

Features AEDIT (Version 1.1), a small, menu-driven, line-oriented text editor that can be run from DOS, OS/2, Windows NT, or a Windows DOS box. Also included are ESCMEN.ZIP, MENUS.ZIP, EMAIL.ZIP, UNICHA.ZIP, and DELAYT.ZIP. (Updated 11-11-93.)

V12N21.ZIP — *PC Magazine*, Volume 12, Number 21 (December 7, 1993 issue).

Features MONTOR (Ver 1.1), a Windows 3.1 utility that "MDNM" tracks your system's available memory, free system resources, and disk

DOM DISKS ...Continued

space, and warns you if any one of them drops below preset warning points (updated 12-04-93). Also included are BOOTTIME.BAT and BOOTTIM2.BAT, PAGNUM.WPM, PNFOOT.WPM, & PNTARG.WPM, SEQPRT.WK1 & SEQPR1.WK1, and UNITYP.ZIP.

V12N22.ZIP — *PC Magazine*, Volume 12, Number 22 (December 21, 1993 issue).

Features QPATH.COM, a small TSR (Terminate and Stay Resident) utility that directs DOS to begin its search for a command with a given path rather than with the current directory, and which prevents DOS from executing specified commands. Also included are NUMPRN.ZIP, FONPIX.ZIP, D2JUL.ZIP, DLLACC.ZIP, and WINASM.ZIP.

V13N01.ZIP — *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 1 (January 11, 1994 issue).

Features PCDEZIP, a utility that extracts the contents of ZIP files downloaded from ZiffNet. PCDEZIP replaces the earlier PCUNZIP utility in order to achieve compatibility with Version 2.0 of PKZIP. Also included are CDD.BAT, SLOWIT.ZIP, NOREPE.ZIP, LN.ZIP and INTLOO.ZIP.

V13N02.ZIP — *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 1 (January 25, 1994 issue).

Features INFORMER, a utility that displays a report of the exact interrupt services a DOS program uses, as well as how often it calls them. Also included are UMB.ZIP, CK.ZIP, WINCLIP.BAS and COSUSE.ZIP.

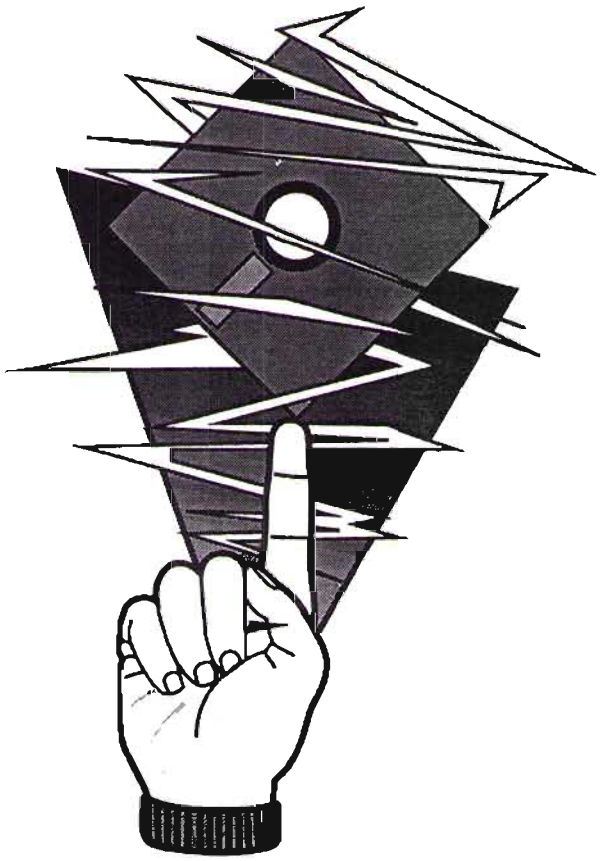
Files downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/94).

Disk 889. *PC Magazine* Utilities 1994 Feb-Mar — Executables & Source Code.

V13N03.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 3 (February 8, 1994 issue).

Features VULCAN, two Windows 3.1 utilities in one—a Trashcan and a Vault. In Trashcan mode, VULCAN provides a safe, reversible delete facility. In Vault mode, VULCAN lets you archive older versions of important documents as you work. Also included are INPUT.ZIP, TESTVA.ZIP, FORM.ZIP, ORDSUF.ZIP, INC.SC, and BRUSH.ZIP.



V13N04.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 4 (February 22, 1994 issue).

Features CONFIX, a device driver that lets you issue commands such as PAUSE or CLS early in the boot process. CONFIX's commands aid you in locating and fixing errors in your CONFIG.SYS file. Also included are DATER.ZIP, VIDTES.ZIP, NTPATH.ZIP and WINAPI.ZIP.

V13N05.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 5 (March 15, 1994 issue).

Features THINDISK (Version 1.1), a Windows utility that makes it easier to trim the fat from your hard disk by deleting unneeded files. Also included are COUNT.ZIP, TMTOGG.ZIP, SEVPAY.ZIP, NDY2.PRG, NEWMAC.ZIP and PATHOP.ZIP.

V13N06.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 6 (March 29, 1994 issue).

Features UPDATE, a utility that takes two file sources, such as a floppy disk and a hard disk subdirectory, and synchronizes them so both contain the latest version of your files. Also included are EXITWIN, and WINVER.

Files downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/94).

Disk 890. *PC Magazine* Utilities 1994 Apr-May — Executables & Source Code.

V13N07.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 7 (April 12, 1994 issue).

Features PERUSE, a TSR that captures and saves screen information as it scrolls off the top of the screen. Also included are DOCTRAK, TESTCM.ZIP, MEXPAND.BAT and PATHRG.ZIP.

V13N08.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 8 (April 26, 1994 issue).

Features DISKPIE, a Windows program that uses pie charts to give you a graphic view of what's taking up space on your hard disk (VBRUN3.ZIP is also required). Also included are NAME.ZIP, FONTSORT, and MAXWIN.SC. (Updated DISKPIE source code file 04-12-94.)

V13N09.ZIP - *PC Magazine*, Volume 13, Number 9 (May 17, 1994 issue).

Features INIBAK, a utility that automates the backup of selected Windows .INI files. (INIBAK requires VBRUN3.ZIP and CMDIAL.ZIP also.). Also included TSRMEM.ZIP, VM.EXE, CDXCOD.ZIP, NTXFOR.ZIP and MOVIEP.ZIP.

Files downloaded from Compuserve by Kenneth Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman (4/94).

6,500 ICONS!

Review by Robert Manalo

The Complete Icon Collection, Reasonable Solutions Inc., 503-776-5777

Price: $20.00 for 5, 360K disks $4.00 s&h,
$22.50 for 5, 1.44MB disks plus $4.00 s&h.
Requirements: *Windows 3.1*,
5.5MB hard disk space.

The Complete Icon Collection consists of five disks that carry five libraries of *Windows 3.1* icons in compressed format. Five separate directories are recommended at install time for two reasons. It is easier to work with the icons if they are in small groups. And, the file-viewing utility that is supplied with the collection can handle only 2048 icons in one directory and will crash if there are more than the limit.

Installation takes time...

It takes some time to install each directory of about 1200 icons. On a 386-40 machine, it took about 30 minutes to decompress the files. So the estimated total install time (I did not install all the files) would be about 2.5 hours.

The first directory took about 1.2MB of disk space with 1160 icons.

After installing the 1160-icon directory, I used LICO, the included file-viewing utility, to view the icons. This gave my hard disk a workout as it cranked away displaying each icon on the screen. LICO takes about 30 seconds to display about 54 icons on my full VGA screen.

If you swap to another screen and then swap back to the ICON screen, LICO will run through the icon reads from the beginning and cycle through the 30 seconds again.

When I paged to the next screen, the same 30 second cycle was required to display the next 54 icons. On some screens, the display would run faster — probably due to the buffers filled from disk reads. But this would eventually slow down to the one-icon-at-a-time read and display.

I estimated that to run through the entire 1160 icons would take me about 10-12 minutes depending on how fast I could page down.

Eyes into Icons?

I didn't want to view the next 1000 icons and turn my eyes into icons and rattle my brain with hearing the hard disk go rock and roll. However, I did blaze through a few hundred of those pictures. They are good! The color was sharp and the images were well drawn.

Some were eye-catching and amusing.

The next question I faced was what to do with these icons. I guess I could use them to replace the icons on my desktop. I then thought of Object Packager in the Accessories Group.

I brought up Object Packager and read in one of the icons. Great! I could then use these icons to represent various objects embedded in Word, for example. The icons are stored independently in single .ico files. This makes it easy to get at each one individually, but of course, you have a few thousand files.

Playing with Icons — Manipulation and Conversion

Playing with all these icons then gave me the idea of manipulating them and converting them to, for example, a .bmp file, or converting a .bmp file to an .ico file. Now I am thinking of an icon editor and converter program.

What do you do about it? Nothing — if you do not care about icons.

If you want to jazz up your desktop, your presentation, or documents, or you use Norton Desktop or some similar package, you may want to check out the Complete Icon Collection (6,500 icons only). You will need a good icon editor and hard disk space to spare

And, a fast CPU.

Robert Manalo

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

Our featured guest speaker for May, **Bobby Taylor**, is an independent consultant and client-server application designer and developer. His topic is "Information Modeling" and the Asymetrix "InfoModeler" software that assists in structuring databases. The software is available for Access and a number of other popular databases.

Thanks to **Joe Clark** for sharing his knowledge with us in April. Joe is an independent database consultant who spends much of his time developing and teaching Access classes around the world. He has amply demonstrated to us that he "knows his stuff" when it comes to Access.

Jim Sigle, winner of the March giveaway, and **Larry Linson** attended Joe Clark's Softbite International class, "Building Microsoft Access Applications" early in April and were most favorably impressed. We both recommend it! The next time it is given in Dallas, the class will have been updated for Access 2.0. Thanks for the comments and summary provided to the SIG at the April meeting.

Thanks to **Bobby Taylor** for arranging and to Asymetrix for pro-

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

New SIGs:

—**APL – Meets from 1:00 until 1:55** [Contact Frank Cavallitto for information]
—**The Master Genealogist** – Meets from 2:00 until 2:55
—**Internet** – Meets from 9:00 until 9:55 [Contact Doug Gorrie for information]

New SIG Leaders:

— **Quicken** – W.L. Harris [(214) 291-7616H, (214) 462-3676W]
Phil Faulkner [(214) 239-0561H, (214) 819-4446W]

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

—**Personal Users – Leader** [contact Alex Lilley @ (214) 517-7430]
—**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)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

Legend: h = Home #, w = Work # M = Metro #

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

ALPHABETICAL SIG LISTING:

ACT !
Jim Thompson .... (817) 261-6159 h

Access
Larry Linson ..... (817) 481-2350 hM
Jack Atkinson..... (817) 481-6623 h
Dianna DeCicco.. (214) 446-0639 h
Frank McCoy..... (817) 232-2483 h

Alpha 4
Ron Jackson ..... (214) 276-3661 h
Mac McKeethen.. (214) 556-1352 h

APL
Frank Cavallito .... (214) 423-9221 h

Assembler
Glynn Brooks ..... (214) 578-8737 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

Brother's Keeper
Neil Sunderland .. (214) 272-2869 h

Business Appications/*DAC*
Putt Shaw..... (214) 235-2559 h
..... (214) 669-9633 w
Bruce Schubert ... (214) 690-5848 h
..... (214) 233-8353 w

C++/Advanced
Kent Cobb..... (214) 343-3862 h
Tom Cook ..... (214) 871-8177 w

Middle C
Tom Cook ..... (214) 871-8177 w

CAD
Bill Sephton..... (214) 296-1799 h
..... (214) 641-7301 w

Communications
Doug Gorrie ..... (214) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-7942 w
Birl Smith..... (214) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 229-9388 w

SIG LEADER LISTINGS CONTINUED ...

Community Service
Brian Mickel ..... (214) 521-2938 h
..... (214) 521-6670 w
Alex Lilley ..... (214) 517-7430 h
..... (214) 953-4970 w

DOS
Jim Hoisington .... (214) 416-3101 h
Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h

Dataflex
David King ..... (817) 640-6130 hM
..... (214) 313-0408 w

Desktop Publishing
Deborah Bean .... (214) 475-7463 h
..... (214) 475-3124 w
Ray Hackney ..... (214) 437-2439 h

Fox Pro
Kevin White ..... (214) 644-5008 w

Genealogy - General
Al Sanford..... (214) 278-7888 h

Genealogy - *PAF*
Joe Waldrop ..... (817) 498-5856 h

Genealogy - *Roots III / IV*
John Wylie..... (214) 495-4410 h

Genealogy - The Master Genealogist
Jeri Steele..... (214) 306-1596 h
..... (214) 917-3917 w

Hardware Solutions
Charles Miller..... (903) 938-4220 h
Gary Johnson ..... (214) 938-0344 h

Internet
Doug Gorrie..... (214) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-7942 w

Investors
Dick Richtman .... (214) 437-0322 h

MS *Word*
Charles Miller..... (903) 938-4220 h
Janet Patton ..... (903) 886-6249 h

MS *Works*
Mike Firth..... (214) 827-7734 h
Ralph Logan..... (817) 498-9746 hM

Micrografx
Neal Berkowitz.... (214) 475-7463 h
..... (214) 475-3124 w

Microsoft Networking
Bruce Wynn..... (214) 335-2507 h
..... (214) 756-7832 w

Networking
Bernie Van Roekel
..... (817) 451-4540 h
..... (817) 461-4120 w

***OS/2* Developer**
James Dunn ..... (214) 279-5712 h
..... (214) 497-8978 w

***OS/2* for End Users**
Bob Fermier..... (817) 481-6625 h
..... (214) 444-2195 w

Paradox
Fred Williams..... (214) 492-1315 h
Tom Browning .... (214) 692-9784 h

SIG

viding a fully registerable copy of "InfoModeler" for Access as the giveaway for this month's meeting. It is really a valuable prize, both in terms of its usefulness to an Access developer and in financial terms.

Call for Volunteers: We are still in need of volunteers to speak at the Access SIG, demonstrate their Access applications, share their experience in exploring the use of Access, or contribute samples illustrating Access techniques for a freeware disk to be submitted to the Disk of the Month operation. If you have an answer, tip, or hint that you don't think is worth a full-blown presentation, bring a sample .MDB that you, or one of us, can show during the regular Q&A&T&H session.

See you at the Access SIG on May 21! It's going to be an interesting presentation and we also expect some good discussion of members' "first looks" at Access 2.0.

Larry Linson

ACT! SIG

I have received the ACT for Windows 2.0 upgrade and have begun playing with it. While the look is almost the same, there have been several changes in the feel of the program.

During the next few meetings we will begin at the beginning, i.e., setting up contacts, customizing templates, etc. Newcomers will be able to see how to begin using the program and those who are experienced will be able to see the changes in the program structure.

We will continue to discuss the ways to use the software to help you accomplish your daily tasks. We also set aside the last part of each meeting to answer your questions about ACT!.

See you at the next meeting.

Jim Thompson

ASSEMBLER SIG

At our April meeting, **Frank Cavallito** presented a review of Michael Abrash's new book, *The Zen of Optimization* published by Coriolis Press. It was great to see that Abrash still has the same patient and thorough style that made his earlier book, *The Zen of Assembler Language*, such a huge success. Best of luck to Abrash, and a big thank you to Frank for his review.

At press time, the focus for our May meeting has not been nailed down, but we will probably have reviews and a comparison of the latest versions of Borland's TASM 4.0 and Microsoft's MASM 6.11.

Whether you are a pro or a novice assembly language programmer or just want to know more about the tools of the trade, please join us — we are always happy to help and eager to meet new people.

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 each meeting. Questions and answers on any Basic code subject at any time. This group does "No Win-

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dows Basic" (NOW Basic for short).

DOM #846 was released in August '93 with all the SIG material covered up until that time. A few of these disks are available at each SIG meeting for $2, saving a trip to the basement. DOM #846 will be expanded about the first of each year. The #846 disk was inadvertently copied as a 360Kb, deleting all the shareware subdirectories. 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.

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

Personal Users
Alex Lilley.....(214) 517-7430 h
.....(214) 953-4970 w
Bob Russell.....(214) 422-4269 h

Programmers
Kent Kingery.....(214) 317-0125 h
Jim Hoisington.....(214) 416-3101 h

Quicken
W. L. Harris.....(214) 291-7616 h
.....(214) 462-3676 w
Phil Faulkner.....(214) 239-0561 h
.....(214) 819-4446 w

Software Review
Pat Henley.....(214) 271-4911 h
.....(214) 326-2526 w
Neal Berkowitz....(214) 475-7463 h
.....(214) 475-3124 w

Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev
Mark Gruner.....(214) 964-8174 h
.....(214) 605-8447 w
Adam Peterson...(214) 682-0725 h
.....(214) 864-2760 w

Startext
Jim Boughton.....(817) 478-6665 h
.....(817) 265-8044 w
Bill Jones.....(214) 423-8486 h

TI Pro
Walt Rice

UNIX
Jim Stallworth.....(214) 789-3787 h
.....(214) 604-2226 w
Doug Scott.....(817) 261-4653 hM
.....(817) 878-0367 wM

***Windows* - Applications**
Rick Sivernell.....(214) 306-5422 h
.....(214) 250-8146 w

***Windows* - Developers**
Art English.....(214) 618-1266 h
.....(214) 301-1203 w

***WordPerfect* / DOS**
Lori Quinn.....(817) 481-6453 h
.....(214) 255-0555 w

***WordPerfect* / Windows**
Mitch Milam.....(214) 406-9054 w

SIG

Subjects covered on DOM #846: Writing a program, Report program & String Variables, Sequential files, Random files, Math & Number Variables, Arrays explained, Sort & merge theory, Program editing, Debug & Testing, Error messages & Error Traps, CRT & printer code, and shareware utility gems.

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, and screens using Ansipaint, Exploring RAM memory, Exploring the disk layout. And, in Feb. 94, a program named INTEREST, which calculates interest problems of the six different types. March 94 showed a program, GW2QB.EXE, which converts a GWBasic program to QBasic. April SIG will be ..... hmm.

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

Charles Jacobus

Communications SIG

In April, the Communications SIG was privileged to have **Don Stoffel** of Factory Direct discuss Communications in the Workplace.

In May, **Dave Casey** of Westron Communications will join us to discuss Telecommuting, and Voice/Data Integration. This is a topic of significant interest to many corporations, given government pressure to reduce automotive related pollution. Come join us and see how you can benefit from telecommuting.

Doug Gorrie & Birl Smith

DOS SIG

May's DOS SIG meeting may actually get back to talking about DOS! We've had a number of requests to address *MEMMAKER* and other MS DOS utilities. Looks like May will be the time to get into these "knotty" subjects and begin looking like a real working SIG again.

That presupposes that no earth-shaking announcements will issue forth from Microsoft, Novell or IBM concerning their respective DOS's. In that event, we'll try to split our attention between "news" (and/or rumor) and a discussion of current versions of DOS and how to make them behave — and perform.

With any real luck, **Jim Hoisington**, NTPCUG President-Elect, (now) *UNIX* guru and bon-vivant world traveler will be with us for a second meeting in a row. We'll close with the usual open-ended, bare-knuckles Q&A session at the end of the SIG Meeting.

SIG

DOS Tip
— Ending Installation "Uglies"

One of the most frequent complaints we hear in the DOS SIG is laments over how some thrilling, new software package *SETUP* has re-written the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files, copied a bunch of files to one or more directories and even made changes to WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI files in the process. We usually hear this when (1.) the user finds one (or more) other programs no longer work, and/or (2.) when the software is less than stellar and the user wants to eliminate it from their system, but doesn't know what was intalled and/or changed.

You can protect yourself from most of this by backing-up CONFIG.SYS, AUTOEXEC.BAT, WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI in a separate directory, and/or making them read-only through DOS' ATTRIB command, i.e.,

```
ATTRIB +R (filename)
```

I would suggest making file listings of (1.) the DOS directory, (2.) the Windows directory, and (3.) the Windows\System directory. This is easy through DOS, using the enhanced DIR commands. Go to the directory in question, then use the following:

```
DIR /O:E-D (sp) >OLDDIR.TXT
```

What you've done is tell DOS to do a directory search, sorted by extension — in reverse-order by date, then write it to an ASCII file named "OLDDIR.TXT." Any name is OK for the file, but don't forget the space or the " > " — that redirects the directory search output from the screen to the file you've named.

After the new software is installed, do the same process, this time using a different name, i.e., NEWDIR.TXT and compare with the original. You sort by date in reverse order so that the newest files appear first by extension and you can find what the installation program has installed or changed.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG — General

The General Genealogy SIG supports all genealogy hardware or software. It meets in Room 1059 from 9 to 10 a.m. with approximately 60 to 70 attendees.

The March program showed how video editing can enhance your computer genealogy data files. It was brought by Digital Arts, a local company owed by **Garvin Tate** (214-524-8548) and **Keith McAdams** (214-535-8623,).

Although neither of these guys are genealogists they rigged up a genealogy-like tree and then showed where the names of the tree could be presented in slideshow (continual rotation) or by clicking on a name. When a name was selected, there was not only the pertinent genealogy (events, places, dates) but either pictures (with sound) of the older generations or animated video clips of the younger generations.

The program was shown by using video clips and a TV.

A computer could have been used but Digital Arts did not have a computer they could bring and the majority of the computers normally brought to the SIG do not have CD ROM's or sound cards, both of which are necessary for a multimedia presentation. In addition to the two clips, two types of video editing were demonstrated and there was a demonstration of a multimedia product.

Adobe Premier and *Director* were the two types of video editors demonstrated. This was an interesting presentation because it shows that motion, sound, and color can soon become a part of your genealogy program output.

The May 21 Topic will be "Millennium Maps Through Time". It will allow you to locate and follow your family through Europe as time marches on.

Al Sanford

Genealogy SIG— *PAF*

The PAF SIG meets in room 1059 from 10 to 11 a.m. on Super Saturdays with about 50 members present. The SIG leader is **Joe Waldrop.** PAF is the most popular genealogy software program in use. The March program was on some of the peripherals that can be used with PAF. Some of these were (those with * are available in the SIG disk library):

*AHNDES 1.7** - prints ahnentafel (dates/places 52 generations).

*Cascade 1.3** - Descendants charts, plus 6 generation collateral

*EditPAF** - Move notes to wordprocessor for editing; put back

*FRU** - Family Records Utilities. Has many options. There is also a commercial FRU program available that is very powerful.

FamilyPerfect - Commercial ($20 Steven Cannon, 1065 West 10210 South, South Jordan UT, 801-254-0160). A Windows program to take PAF data and put into book form using WordPerfect.

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FAMSORT 2.3* - Makes alphabetical listings from marriage file.

*Forest** - Finds unconnected individuals

*FR_PRINT** - Family Group Records without empty fields.

Gen-Book - Commercial ($59.95 Clement Custom Programming, 2105 Country Lane, Auburn CA 95603, 916-889-8801). Takes PAF data and puts in book form, with index, using WordPerfect.

*GENENUM** - RINs are put into ID fields. Original intent to preserve RIN numbers when gedcomming.

*GIPSI** - IGI and SSDI files in GEDCOM format from FamilySearch

*Henry 1.3** - Prints a sorted list giving Henry numbers

Hotnotes 2.2* Memory resident to aid in putting notes in PAF

*Import** - From wordprocessor ASCII to PAF note file

KinWrite - Commercial ($59.95 LDB Associates, 8305 E Morris, Wichita KS 67207-2435, 316-683-6200) Puts PAF data into wordprocessor for book form output (including generating indexes)

*NOTECLEAN** - Eliminates empty space occupied by deleted notes

*PAF2PAF** - Move individual (not relationships) to 2nd database

*PAFAbility** - Convert PAF data to book form, including index

*RDF Convert** - Convert RDF data to GEDCOM to use on PAF Family Records data files.

*RDF2GED** - Convert RDF data to GEDCOM or ASCII

*Reclaim** - Reuses deleted MRIMs

Bring your problems and/or questions to the next PAF SIG meeting. Everyone will help you with a solution or resolution.

Al Sanford

INTERNET SIG

In April, the Internet SIG discussed the World Wide Web (WWW), one of the new "friendly" tools available for searching out a variety of online resources. WWW is based on a technology known as hypertext, where words or characters within a document can be selected to invoke links to other documents, which in turn can contain additional links. Where WWW is a simple line oriented "browser" (a program for reading hypertext), Mosaic is a more intricate graphics-based browser that utilizes hypertext containing text, pictures, audio, movies, files, etc.

Browsers allow navigation throughout the Internet in a much more friendly fashion than previously available. Through use of hypertext "home pages", which act as menus, users can link from point to point within the Internet. And in Mosaic, when presented with a variety of icons representing different storage formats (directory, text, compressed file, movie, etc.), just click, and Mosaic invokes the appropriate software needed to display it. Mosaic can also link to and use FTP, WAIS (Wide Area Information Service), TELNET, and others.

The Internet SIG meets at 9:00 AM. Over time, we hope to address the interests of both rank beginners as well as proficient users. We will be pulling in experts from the Dallas area to help answer our questions on how to access the Internet, and what to look for once you are there. We'll also be accumulating lots of basic information about the Internet and making it available through the Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) desk in the Infomart basement.

Feel free to stop by. If you can contribute to the SIG, please give us a call.

Doug Gorrie and
Tom O'Keefe

Microsoft Networking

Microsoft Networking has had some exciting presentations for our early morning SIG. MS Networking meets at 8:00 and covers technical questions and topics with Microsoft Windows for Workgroups, Microsoft Mail, Windows NT, and Windows NT Advanced Server.

The month of February featured a discussion on "Practical Protocols", an integration-oriented

WANTED!

A FEW GOOD ARTISTS, WRITERS/EDITORS

The *North Texas PC NEWS* is seeking editorial assistance. We are looking for experienced artists/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.

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.

SIG

topic that contrasted the use of NetBEUI versus TCP/IP on the network. **Gene Hammelman** presented the second part of his excellent discussion on Schedule Plus in March. One of the regular SIG members requested that we do a WFW presentation to go over the types of "gotchas" to watch for with the installation and running of WFW - this was ably done this April by John McCrae, one of the co-SIG leaders.

May will bring **Peter Shirley** to talk about integration of Microsoft Mail into the networking environment. We are open to suggestions for SIG topics, so feel free to approach me, or one of the co-leaders, **Bruce Wynn** and **John McCrae** with your idea. There are so many interesting subjects that it seems once a month is not enough time to address all the great technical features with these products.

Future SIGs will include integration of X.25 with Microsoft RAS (Remote Access Service), an overview of RAS, Integrating Microsoft NT Advanced Server with Novell, and when other beta products hit the market, we will be presenting technical discussions of these, with demonstrations.

Join us at 8:00 on Saturday morning.

Debbie Lenhart

Paradox SIG Notes

Things are really happening in the Borland world, and lately nothing has been too positive. In April, Borland closed the southwest regional sales office here in Dallas. This put our sister/brother organization PUNT (Paradox Users Of North Texas) out on the street with no official place to meet.

Tom Browning, our Assistant NTPCUG Paradox SIG Leader and the current year's PUNT President has made other arrangements for future PUNT meetings. I wish Tom and PUNT continued success. If anyone can help, I would suggest touching base with Tom at the SIG this month.

As to Paradox's future, I think that Borland is making every effort to recover the company's momentum in the personal computer database marketplace. Borland just attempted to grow too fast and in too many directions. Philippe has stated that Borland intends to return to being the premier provider of software development tools and continue the leadership position in the emerging PC Client Server Database market.

This means that there should be even greater interest and company resources placed on continuing to evolve Paradox and dBASE. Borland is making strides to pare down the company to focus on the two market segments where the newly restructured Borland intends to aggressively compete.

So come on by, and check out the latest Paradox tricks and tips. We will also throw in a healthy dose of pure rumor and speculation, just to keep things lively. The question we will address this month is, "Will Philippe have to sell his vintage Corvette?" I know that he is trying very hard to control expenses. I was talking to one of the Borland corporate types, and he said he recently spotted Philippe pumping his own gas at a self service gas station!

Fred Williams

Personal Users

The Personal Users Series is in its third "set" of classes in May. These classes are:

- **9:00 am** ..... **Class 9** Genesis & Overview of Computer Languages
- **10:00 am** ..... **Class 10** NTPCUG Disk of the Month (DOM) Library
- **12:00 am** ..... **Class 11** Personal Computer Graphics
- **1:00 pm** ..... **Class 12** Fundamentals of PC Communications
- **2:00 pm** ..... **Class 12B** NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS)

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

Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

Still no Jim! We had an excellent meeting, all under non-disclosure agreement, discussing the merits

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of the upcoming release of the pre-pre-pre-Alpha version of the Tucumcari Operating System which as everyone knows implements 64-bit computing using a minimum of 24-bit kernel objects which are implemented as 6-bit, bit-sliced tokens. OOPS! I signed that non-disclosure agreement so you didn't read it here.

Next month's topic is "The road to Winnemucca." OOPS again!

Jim Hoisington

Quicken SIG

We want to issue a special thanks to **Billy Pitts** and his assistant **Jo Johnston** for their work with the Quicken SIG during the last two years. We hope they will come back to visit from time to time.

I have been a user of Quicken for the last several years. If fact, I bought it as a result of their demonstration in the Auditorium. More recently, I have been involved in starting a new company and I have set up the financial records on *Quick Books for Windows*. I plan to continue discussing a specific aspect of Quicken during the first part of each meeting followed by a question and answer session. Your input will make the meetings more productive.

Jim Thompson

*Star*SIG

StarSIG for March featured **Editor** and Mrs. **Paul Harral**. Editor Harral talked of his own blending of the newspaper and electronic information cultures, and of planned improvements to StarText, both in depth of existing features and addition of new ones. He stressed that StarText is an online newspaper, and that governs publishing policy. It is a family operation, featuring news on familiar and some very novel topics, with areas devoted to ideas, requests for help, and computer-related swap, sell, and ask. The type of flame-thrower made infamous by the Internet has no place here.

SIG

Dave Maxwell and **Carl Perry** told of a bug reported by beta testers of the StarLink program (a program for calling StarText from Windows). They stopped shipping commercial copies until the bug is fixed. Check the STARLINK keyword for news. Please do NOT ask StarText. They don't know or care.

StarSIG for 9AM April 23 will feature a salute to the late **Ed** and **Pat Jackson**, and Ed's prize-winner, Rad 14. SIG Leader **Jim Boughton** will explain all as we honor Mail Code 1125, one of the great pioneers of StarText.

Everyone is invited. StarText staff and columnists await your input. On StarText, fame and honor start with a user idea, brought to life with work and dedication.

William L. Jones

Beginning *Visual Basic* SIG

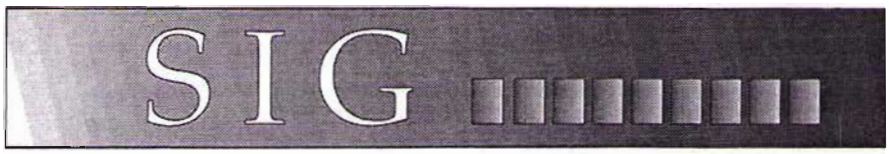
There are a number of "Beginning ....." SIG's at the NTPCUG meetings each month and I thought I might describe the purpose and function of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG. Our purpose is to assist newcomers to Microsoft's Visual Basic for Windows development tool. Whether you have no previous programming experience at all or are currently programming Windows applications using "C" and the Windows Software Development Kit, we will attempt to guide you to the most effective path for learning to use Visual Basic for Windows. Obviously, the more programming experience you have, the quicker you will progress in Visual Basic.

Our function is to familiarize members with the Visual Basic programming environment through sample programs, recommended reading, question and answer periods, and occasionally some door prizes from Microsoft. Our goal is to educate our members to the point they can participate in the regular Visual Basic SIG which meets in the same room during the following hour.

Every February and August we have a special program where we devote the entire hour to describing the process for getting started in Visual Basic for Windows. Everyone with an interest in Visual Basic for Windows is invited to attend our meetings.

During the May meeting. we will discuss the extensibility of Visual Basic and demonstrate this feature by creating some simple calls to API functions from a Visual Basic application. The examples I will use will come from Gary Cornell's *The Visual Basic 3 for Windows Handbook* starting on page 294 with the paragraph entitled "Accessing Windows Functions." **Woody Pewitt** will continue the discussion of API calls in the Visual Basic SIG meeting to follow at 9:00 AM.

Last month we discussed the use of individual drive, directory, and file list boxes versus the common dialog boxes. Reference was also made to the need to follow design guidelines for user interfaces in Windows applications.



The Beginning Visual Basic SIG will meet at 8:00 AM on Saturday, May 21. Check the screens in the Infomart lobby for the room assignment. They have been changing lately. See you there!

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

During the May 21 meeting of the Visual Basic SIG, **Woody Pewitt** will discuss the Windows Application Program Interface (API). A popular book on this subject is *Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Windows API* authored by Daniel Appleman and published by Ziff-Davis Press. Woody plans to discuss the proper use of API functions in Visual Basic programming and the cautions to be followed in using them.

NOTE: An introduction to the Windows API will be covered in the Beginning Visual Basic SIG during the previous hour (8:00 - 9:00 AM).

Last month, Woody discussed the proper design guidelines for a user interface in Visual Basic programs. The purpose of following these guidelines is to promote visual and functional consistency within and across Windows-based software. It was noted that Microsoft is revising the *User Interface Design Guide* to cover the new controls and dialog boxes being implemented in Chicago, the next version of Windows.

The success of any SIG is directly related to the value of the discussions that take place during the SIG meetings. Whether the discussion is related to the "designated" topic or results from the "Q & A" session is not important. In order to keep the Visual Basic SIG successful, Woody asks the members to consider making a presentation on some "cool code" they have written or found and make a short presentation to the SIG on it. You may find that someone else in the SIG can suggest ways to make the code "more cool!" See Woody for help in getting your presentation prepared and scheduled.

See you at the Visual Basic SIG meeting at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 21. Check the screens in the lobby for the room assignment.

Jim Carter

WordPerfect (DOS) SIG

ON TO BUSINESS: May is our annual Round Table month! This year, our concentration is exclusively 6.0 for DOS! We will have 8 different topics taught simultaneously in the BIG room (not sure which one so check the schedule when you arrive). You pick a topic you want to learn, sit in for 45 minutes or so, then move to another table when the whistle blows (yep, we're really going to have whistles this year). We'll start at our normal time of 9:00 and end at 12:00, so you get 3 hours of instruction! Let me say that the instructors are not only knowledgeable but entertaining as well. This is the meeting to announce to your co-workers and friends. It's the best free training you'll ever get!

See you there!

WordPerfect TIP OF THE MONTH!

With the Date code you can automatically insert the date into your document. Using the Date Format option, you can determine how the date looks. Do you want the date spelled out with words (May 15, 1994) or numbers (5/15/94)? Do you want the time included? How about the day of the week? These changes are all made with Date Format.

Press {Shift}{F5} and select the 3rd option Date Format. Examples are displayed at the bottom of the screen for you to follow. The entire screen is a menu and as you type, your new settings appear at the bottom of the screen. The display is probably 3 1, 4. The 3 represents the month as a word (May), the 1 represents the day of the month and the 4 represents the year.

You can also use special characters (% and $) to further affect how the date appears. Using the % in front of any option that's a number will cause a number less than 10 to have a zero in front of it. For instance, if you use %2 and it's May, the result will be 05. If it's October, the result will still be 10.

Using the % in front of a word will abbreviate it. Using %3 will cause April to be Apr and November to be Nov.

Using the $ will cause numbers less than 10 to have a space before the number. This is helpful when you're creating a list using the Date Code (or Date Format) and you don't want them to zigzag down the page just because some dates are in May and some are in November.

Lori Quinn

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Volunteers in Action

by Claude McClure

Special Interest Groups are REALLY SPECIAL

A while back I was thumbing through some old copies of our club newsletter and discovered some words worth remembering, written by Connie Andrews. "Have you looked at the Special Interest Group listings inside your newsletter lately? Seems like there's a SIG for everything but how to fix your kitchen sink.

The variety of topics covered by our SIG's is pretty impressive. So is the dedication of our SIG leaders and Co-leaders. Many hours go into planning for and presentation of our SIG's. I, for one, received several very good tips just at the last meeting which will save me hours of work in the future. Whether a SIG follows a Q&A format, instruction with handouts, presentations by vendors, or a combination, all have a dedicated following and do an outstanding job of keeping us up on the latest developments in our areas of interest.

SIG's are the very core of our group. They represent the knowledge base and forum that user groups are all about. We've all experienced the excitement and enjoyment of learning at SIG's. Take a minute to stop by after the next meeting and say thanks to your SIG leader..."

Be sure to thank our volunteers; they make meetings possible. The volunteers from our last meeting are recognized on this page.

Infomart Liaison
- Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
- Anchors:
  - John Ivers
  - Rod Rodolico (double)
  - David Slavik
- Crew:
  - Jim Aragon
  - Kenneth Berg
  - Jim Bourgeos
  - Hank Coleman
  - Doug Williams

Auditorium Presentations
- Timothy Carmichael
- Chris Jung
- Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth
- Statistician:
  - Connie Andrews
- Scheduler:
  - Bob Wuller
- Anchors:
  - Connie Andrews
  - Al Aston
  - Ralph Beaver
  - Judy Griffiths
  - Eugene Hamelman
  - Allan Harbaugh
  - David Huckabee
  - Cinda Lovil
  - David Martin
  - Raymond Reyes
  - Paul Williams
  - Bob Wuller
- Booth Crew:
  - William Aderhold
  - Alan Betucci
  - Roger Bopp
  - Jo Cannon
  - Lorin Cranford
  - Eteta E. Eta
  - Tim Foster
  - Hank Holt
  - Cheryl Hunter
  - John Ivers
  - Tim Lanz
  - Claude McClure
  - Foy T. Mills
  - Martin Moomaw
  - Liz Rittenhouse
  - Monica Straw
  - Fred Toulmin
  - Bill Wade

Disk of the Month (DOM)
- DOM Shift Supervisors:
  - Joe Allen
  - Roy Bales
  - James Donlon
  - M. Pat Henley(double)
- DOM Desk Crew:
  - Doug Athas
  - Berny Baars
  - Rob Bender
  - Gene Carleton
  - Don Chick
  - Norman Dang
  - William Farris
  - Judy Griffiths
  - Gene Hamelman
  - Kent Haven
  - Tom Jackson
  - Arnold Krusemark
  - Mac McKeethen
  - Jan Parkhill
  - Bob Post
  - Ron Stinson
  - Oscar Tyler
  - Robert Walton
  - Solomon Woldesenbet
  - Jerry Wooldridge

Special Thanks to:
- Set Up Crew:
  - Mark Gruner
  - Kent Haven
  - M. Pat Henley
  - Jerry Stone
  - Kathryn Loafman
  - Kenneth Loafman
- Inventory and Take-down Crew:
  - Charles Carter
  - Gil Brand
  - Roger Wick
  - William Powell
  - Jimmy Green
  - David Schell
  - Jim Yancey
- DOM Desk Scheduler:
  - Charles Cashion
- Disks for Review Manager:
  - Howard Hamilton
- Disk Production:
  - Kathryn Loafman
  - Kenneth Loafman

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

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

NTPCUG User – To – User Program

NTPCUG User-to-user program

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
Access				
.....	Larry Linson.....	(817)487-2350	M-Sa	1300-1500
Assembly language				
.....	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7	1800-2200
.....	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
BASIC				
.....	Mike Firth.....	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200
Brother's Keeper				
.....	Neil Sunderland....	(214)272-2869	7	0900-2200
C (the language)				
.....	Howard Harkness ..	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
.....			T&T	1800-2030
C++ (the language)				
.....	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
.....	Howard Harkness ..	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
.....			T&T	1800-2030
Borland C++				
.....	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
.....	Howard Harkness ..	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
.....			T&T	1800-2030
Comm Software				
.....	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
.....		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
CompuServe				
.....	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
DOS (all MS versions)				
.....	Rick Steffon.....	(214)327-2728	7	1000-2400
LANs - Novell				
.....	Joseph Beasley....	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
— *Lantastic*				
.....	Joseph Beasley....	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Managing Your Money				
.....	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
MathCAD				
.....	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
MIDI				
.....	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
PC Tools/Win				
.....	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
Paradox				
.....	Fred Williams.....	(214)492-1315	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		
.....	Joseph Beasley....	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
.....	Joseph Beasley....	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Quattro Pro/Win				
.....	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
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
TurboVision				
.....	Howard Harkness ..	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
.....			T&T	1800-2030
UNIX				
.....	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200

LEGEND:

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

(Continued on next page.)

NTPCUG User – To – User Program

***Visual Basic* - Advanced**

..... Woody Pewitt	(214)230-3485	M-F	0800-1800

***Visual Basic* - Beginning**

..... Jim Carter.....	(214)235-5968	7	1700-2130
..... L.J. Johnson.....	(214)495-9067	7	1700-2130
..... Gene Hamelman...	(214)495-6342	7	1700-2130

Windows

..... Rick Sivernell	(214)306-5422	7	1830-2200

Windows4Workgroups

..... Joseph Beasley ...	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
..... Joseph Beasley ...	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200

WP 5.x /Windows

..... Georgene Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
.....		M-F	1800-2030

Word for Windows

..... Beverly Kurtin	(817) 355-9594	7	??

XENIX

..... Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200

LEGEND:

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

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

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

Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____-_____

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

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

Occupation/Profession: _____

Payment:	Membership Classification:	Application Status:
Cash___	Regular ($24.00)___	New Member___
Check___	Student ($16.00)___	Rewnewal___
Credit Card___		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 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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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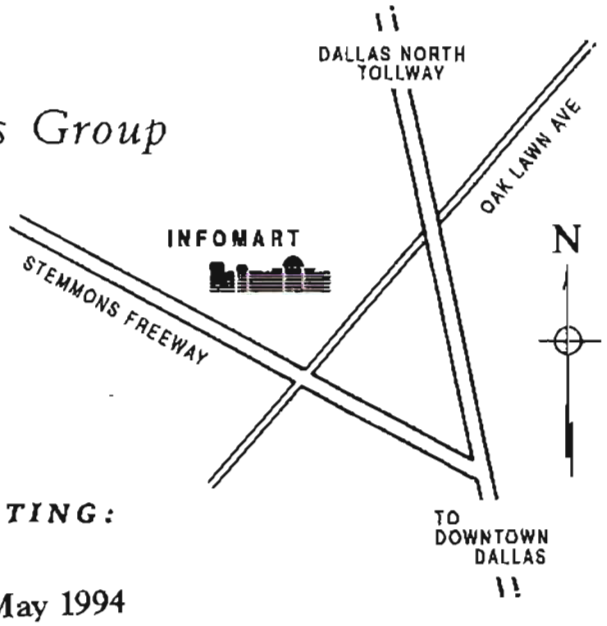
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.

13.5

[redacted]

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

21 May 1994