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North Texas  NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.



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1994



North Texas PC NEWS

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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.

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2,500 last month. Member distribution was 2,200; 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 July
North Texas PC NEWS:
Friday, June 10th

Meeting Dates:
June 18, 1994 - 3rd Saturday
July 16, 1994 - 3rd Saturday
August 20, 1994 - 3rd Saturday



Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

What's New With Arts & Letters?

Computer Support Corporation

Patrick Talty and John Keith

Come see the latest in Windows graphics and multimedia creativity tools from Computer Support Corporation. Arts & Letters Express 4.0 includes over 10,000 clip-art images and 91 scalable typefaces, allows thumbnail image review of files, has a simplified tool bar with informative status bar, offers improved palettes of named fills and lines, has a new 3-D exclude feature, allows versatile color corrections, and more. Arts & Letters SpaceAGE combines multimedia, drawing, and clip-art with an encyclopedic database about the history of space exploration. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Dell Computer Products; Now and Future

Dell Computer Corporation

Dell has grown and evolved for years in response to our computer system needs. Their expert representatives will show us what is currently being marketed by Dell, and we will discuss the future evolution of our system hardware and software for personal and business applications. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Solve Windows Font Substitution and Printing Problems

ElseWare Corporation

Gregg Brown, VP of Marketing and OEM Sales

Font Works for Windows takes the hassles out of using fonts. It includes over 150 classic TrueType fonts (they use less than 2 Mb of disk space), WYSIWYG screen fonts for H-P LaserJet and PostScript printers, smart font substitutions for sharing documents without reformatting, powerful font management tools, and advice on how to create more effective documents. And, for the system administrator, Font Works provides centralized network font management and control. User group members can buy it for \$49.95 (list \$129.95), and 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

JUNE 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
ACTI
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

Andy Oliver PREZ SEZ . . .

A day at the beach

As I sit on the beach in St. John's, I contemplate the users group and why we do this month after month for the past 12 years. I use the term "we" loosely, because I haven't been here that long. However, many of the officers and SIG leaders have volunteered from the beginning. The main reason remains that we, the volunteers, keep showing up because we are helping. The people who are new to computers learn the basics in the Personal Users classes and everyone migrates to their own area of interest in the 50 different SIG meetings that occur on User Group Saturday.

Many people have heard me state that I do this (user group stuff) because it's fun, and when it ceases to be fun, I'll go find something else to do with my spare time. I have made lifelong friendships through the group, both here in the DFW area and around the country with user group leaders and vendor user group representatives. The reward remains in helping. I filled in as instructor at one of the Personal Users SIG classes a few months ago, and last month a member of the group came up to me and told me how informative my class was. That made it worthwhile. Remember to thank your SIG leader. They prepare and teach every month for nothing more than the satisfaction of helping you.

A Room on the 4th Floor

Actually there are a couple of rooms. The rooms

Position Available

Dallas manufacturer of industrial HVAC products has immediate opening for Inside Sales Administrator. Duties include: customer contact, preparing quotations for inside sales reps, processing orders, and assisting Sales Manager. Create spreadsheet applications, use word processor and DTP. Business experience required. Technical training and outgoing personality are pluses. Pre-hire physical required.

FAX resume to (214) 747-0812.



are full of donated computer hardware and software. One room has workbenches set up, and on certain Saturdays you will find volunteers testing, assembling, and preparing working PC's for the Dallas Computer Literacy Program. The first Saturday netted twenty-five computers ready for distribution. The nice thing about working on systems here is you get hands-on experience and if you mess up and fry a motherboard, they don't take it out of your paycheck.

The Dallas Computer Literacy Program continues to grow, expand in scope, yet stay focused on the mission of providing access to computer technology for those who would not ordinarily have that access. Keep monitoring the All Conference of the BBS for announcements of the next Saturday assembly session.

Behind the Scenes

Timothy Carmichael has been the Program Chairman since 1989, which means that the 9:00, 10:00, and 1:00 presentations in the Alexandria Auditorium at Infomart have been his responsibility. Timothy makes sure that we bring in a mixture of small and large vendors on a variety of topics along with trying to mix hardware and software. Hardware is a little harder to schedule, but Timothy and his staff manage. Chris Jung and Timothy's son, Christopher, assist in many of the jobs including handing out tickets before the presentations and presenting lucky winners with software.

If you hear from a vendor who would like to participate in one of our presentations, have them contact Timothy at the phone number in the back

T H E L E A D E R I N O B J E C T C O M P U T I N G

“Borland C++ 4.0 surpasses Microsoft Visual C++ . . . combining multiplatform support and new visual tools with state-of-the-art C++ features.”
PC Week, Jan. 1994

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Experts agree! There's only *one* C++ that makes moving to 32-bit development a snap. It's Borland® C++ 4.0 and it's the world-standard 16- and 32-bit compiler.

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Computer Shopper, Feb. 1994

Borland C++ gives you a single Integrated Development Environment to target DOS, Windows, NT and Chicago platforms. There's a Project Manager that will build 16- and 32-bit versions simultaneously, and a TargetExpert to make switching between platforms as easy as clicking a mouse. Plus you get a compiler that includes the

latest ANSI C++ features, such as reusable templates and robust exception handling. You want speed? *PC Week* says, “Borland's compile-link speed . . . was about twice that of Visual C++ 1.5.”

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create will run today on 16-bit and 32-bit Windows. That's code with the future built in. Get Borland C++ 4.0 and get a head start on tomorrow's projects today.

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Dallas Computer Literacy Project Continues growing —25 Affiliates Join DCLP over past six months

by *Brian Mickel*

The DCLP has been growing rapidly over the past six months. Some of the highlights include growing to 25 affiliated organizations. At this time, we have started a waiting list for organizations interested in affiliation so that our volunteer infrastructure can catch up with our growth.

Additionally, Jeff Smith with Onramp Technologies hosted a repair Saturday last month that

PREZ SEL.. Ctd.

of this newsletter. He has to schedule the presents ahead of the newsletter deadline, which is always the 10th of the month.

We elected Timothy to one of the newly created Board of Directors positions last year, and he was elected to a full term on the BOD this year. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

In Honor of Summer,

And our 50th state, we designate the June meeting every year as Hawaiian Shirt Month. Our attendance always slows during the summer months so we try to brighten the place up with our Hawaiian shirts. Besides, it drives some people crazy trying to figure out "Did I miss a memo or something?"

Software

A couple of times each year, we have a software giveaway at the 11:00 Business Meeting in the Auditorium. The two camps are divided between (1) let the winner pick the prize, and (2) let the selected prize go to the winning ticket. I've decided to compromise with "Let's Make a Software Deal". The winner with the number drawn can either accept their prize, or wait at the front. The next ticket drawn can accept their prize, or take the prize of the first person, if he/she stayed at the front.

We'll work out the rest of the rules before the June meeting. I'll play game show host and we will continue to have fun.

Andy

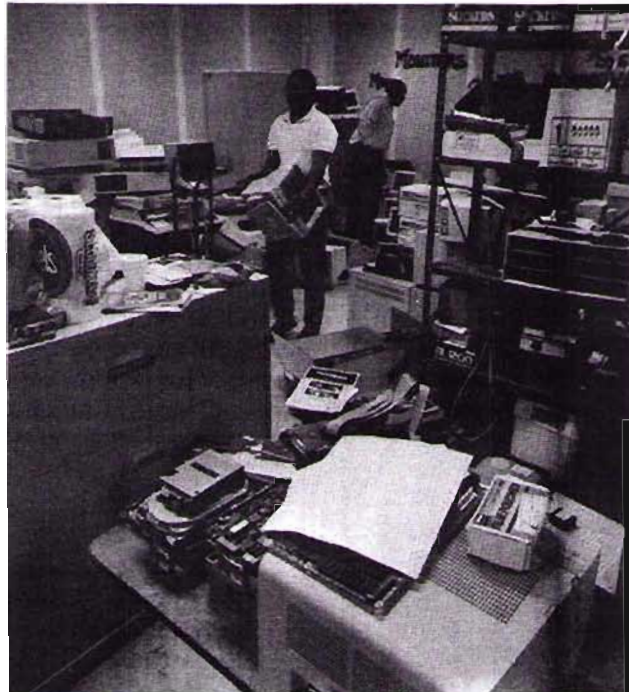
brought 25 PC's back to life for distribution in the community. Great job all those rampers who volunteered.

The Executive Director of the Wesley Rankin Center, a United Methodist Church sponsored outreach to West Dallas, is joining our Board (DCLP Board) as Secretary, and Hobbie Hukill of the Trinity River Mission is also joining our Board as co-chair of the Community Relations Committee. Our Board is bringing on more people working in social service areas in our community. That is a natural progression for the DCLP since that is where our mission takes us.

Most of the current 25 affiliated organizations have computer labs up and running. Those that do not will within a few months.

Apple Corp. of Dallas has also chosen to sponsor the DCLP. We have our first two corporate sponsors, Onramp Technologies and CyberProductions. Onramp will be providing communications support for our Board and affiliated computer labs and CyberProductions will be providing multimedia support. Exciting times! Thanks for all the NTPCUG support.

Brian Mickel



Above, Gerald Davis, one of DCLP's three original founders, inspects donated monitors in background as helper carries a unit ready for delivery.

The Adventures Of Pc Tech

Chapter 23

by Ben Thar

The message on her answering machine was from the Volunteer Coordinator of the users group, asking her to volunteer at next Saturday's meeting. Mary called him back, and he wanted to know if she would be an anchor. She asked if this was some kind of Mafia joke. "No," he said, "an anchor is someone who has worked the booth before. An anchor is someone the new people can turn to for guidance." Mary remarked that she had only worked there twice before. "Great, you're hired," he replied.

On the following Saturday, Mary Margaret arrived before her appointed time and pitched right in. The Volunteer Coordinator stopped by to see her and gave her some advice. "If someone stops by and complains, first ask their name and write it down. Next, ask if they are a member of the group. If they are not a member, ask them if they would like to join, because only members have grounds to complain to the VOLUNTEERS at the booth. If they are a member, check the membership roster at the desk to make sure their membership is current. When you are comfortable with their standing in the group, take down the complaint and assure them that it will be passed on to a member of the Board of Directors. As a closing, ask them when was the last time that they volunteered to help the group. That will usually shut them up."

The hour went by quickly. No complaints. MM directed one gentleman in a wheelchair to the PC meeting for the physically challenged. She took 5

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membership applications, and one of the new guys sent an inquiring member to her for the most difficult task of giving directions to the restroom.

BACK AT THE OFFICE A panicked user called to say her NEW computer quit working. Mary rushed over, touched the space bar and the system 'came to life.' Mary forgot to explain the screen saver that came with all of the new computers. On her way back to her office, six people stopped her to ask her computer questions.

She learned the value of documentation when her boss called her into his office to tell her that he was getting complaints that Mary's department was non-responsive. Mary fumed as she calmly inquired as to the source of the problems. "What," she quipped, "they called me yesterday with a relatively insignificant problem and I told them that as soon as we got the print server back up, someone would come by and fix it." Her boss said, "I understand your position, and I stand behind you. Please realize that there are some people who are not happy if they don't have something to complain about. Is the print server up?" "Yes, we just finished and I am going to take the consultant to lunch," she said.

At lunch she couldn't help but talk about the episode in her boss's office. He told Mary that she had better get a help desk software program to track the calls. "One company that I deal with encountered the same problem a few years ago, but the manager didn't stand behind his people. He would get a call from a vice president and immediately assume that someone in his group screwed up. The PC department lost two good people before someone decided to install tracking software in self defense." "I never thought of it that way," PC Tech said, "but you're right, I could have printed a log of the call with an explanation of the problem and the response. My boss could have returned the call and told his peer that the situation would be handled according to priority." The consultant concluded, "Don't forget that by logging calls, you can justify your job and additional help when it is needed."

The next phone message that Mary heard was, "Why do I always have to call you to get my computer to work? It seems like every time I turn it on, something doesn't work." Mary knew that this was a remote user connecting over the phone line, but she had not heard from this user in months.

The Adventures of PC Tech...: Ctd.

MM placed the call, writing down the time of the phone message and the time of the return call. It turns out that this user had not turned the PC on in the past two months and had simply forgotten what she was supposed to do. Mary talked her through (a) turning the PC on, (b) pressing "A" for the logon option, (c) after it connects, hit the Enter key twice, (d) your last name is your logon name, (e) "Did you write your password down?" queried MM. "Oh yes, it's on the post-it note on my tube."

Surprisingly, PC Tech's hardware vendor provided the most help in looking for help desk software. As it turned out, he recently did similar research for another client. He faxed MM the results. It made reviewing features and prices very easy. MM thought, "There's no need to spend \$7,500 for a program to do what I want. Also, I do not have time to write one in the Paranurses database. So I'll compromise with this \$695 program that includes most of the features that I want." She placed the order and the sales person very kindly told her that they were about to release a new version. The software was ready, but the documentation was not. Mary could relate to that. She said, "Send the new version, and send me the docs as soon as they're ready."

Mary thought the first call she logged into the software would be the last. The hysterical aide to the vice president called screaming, "The server is



down. The server is down. I have a contract that has to go out or the company will lose \$6 million." Mary turned to her console and everything looked normal. She said, "I'm on my way up." When she arrived, the PC screen said "THE SERVER IS DOWN. PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE..." Mary Margaret pressed the space bar and the message came up again. Some practical joker wrote a looping batch file that kept putting the same message on the screen. After pressing [CTRL][BREAK], the message went away. "One of these days," she thought, "I'll laugh about this." But until then, she vowed to catch the joker with his/her server down.

Ben

Flaming VGA Video? Dell Recalls 63,000 14" SVGA Monitors

A Warning to NTPCUG members who have Dell PC's with 14" SVGA color monitors. They may pose a fire risk.

If you recently bought a Dell PC with a 14" Super VGA monitor, you'd do well to check the model number carefully. It's on the back of the unit. Look for DL-1460NI.

Dell Computer Corp. has reported that the DL-1460NI 14-inch, Super VGA color monitors made in 1992-3 may overheat — and can catch on fire.

According to Dell, the suspect units were sold in 1982 and 1983. Dell said these units were sold directly by Dell, and through area and national retailers. Sams Club, Price Club, Costco and CompUSA were named in the Dell announcement as retail sources who carried the monitors.

Users who have purchased Dell PC's through other outlets such as store closings, auctions, etc., would also be advised to check their monitors as well.

Dell is anxious for users with these monitors, the DL-1460NI's, to unplug them immediately, call Dell at (800) 913-3355, and arrange for pickup and repair. Dell will repair the monitors at no charge. Users will find the monitor model-number on the rear of the unit.

Reagan

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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NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

Charles Schwab's *Street Smart*

By Fred Williams

Ever since I decided the only way to make enough money to retire was through investing, I've been using clones of a cobbled-up spreadsheet I mooched from a friend years ago to keep track of each of my security positions and have been verbally calling in each of my transactions to a broker.

My spreadsheet was OK, but I have "been going to" use the enhanced capabilities of Quattro Pro for Windows to link all of the individual security positions into a folder with a summary spreadsheet for quite some time now. Meanwhile, I have dutifully sat down at the computer, brought up each security's spreadsheet, and summed the current net value on a calculator in order to ascertain the current value of my holdings. Mister Technology himself!

Thinking about 10%

And every time I picked up the phone to call in yet another trade I thought of that ten percent commission discount I could be getting if I used some form of electronic trading. I had played around with the touch tone telephone based *Tele-Broker* when Schwab first introduced it, but immediately decided that this was not the future of on-line trading.

Then one User Group Saturday I was wandering around the basement when I literally bumped into a guy from Schwab. We chatted a bit, and he told me that I could arrange for a personal demo of *Street Smart* at the local North Dallas Charles Schwab office.

The first time I had to call on a downtown client, I stopped by the North Dallas Schwab office. I was hustled into the back room for a demo. When I left the office I had a copy of *Street Smart* tucked under my arm and an expectant smile on my face.

I dutifully followed the installation instructions and applied for a set of passwords required to access all of the on-line features of *Street Smart*. In a

couple of days, my personal passwords arrived by snail mail. I plugged them in the proper screen, clicked the "Connect to Schwab" icon and "Zap!" I was on-line, real-time, user-friendly, to the Schwab host on Montgomery Street in downtown San Francisco. *Street Smart* users trade electronically through the use of a CompuServe Host connection. This means that a *Street Smart* user does not need to be a registered user of CompuServe.

Street Smart well-designed

Street Smart is a well designed and written Windows package. I have yet to open the manual, and I've been using it for a couple of months. The interface to CompuServe is totally transparent to the user. There is a little connection monitoring box you can pop open. All it has in it are things like: "Connecting to the Schwab host...", "Connection complete...", and other highly technical terminology.

History...

That is pretty much the way the entire package is designed and written. It is very complete, and easy to use. The only difficulty I had was entering



Street Smart... Ctd.

the history for all of my Schwab accounts beginning from day one to current.

You can choose to just enter opening balances and short circuit all that extra data entry, but I decided I would like to have all that detail on file. It was also a good indication of how easy and accurate Street Smart was going to be. Other than having to manually do the data entry from my well organized files, bringing the account balances forward was a snap.

Balanced to the penny

When I was done with my historical data entry, everything balanced to the penny. The only "oops" was, I never have figured out how I managed to mangle up one of the Home Depot stock splits. But the total number of shares held is correct, so I can live with that.

Street Smart pretty much gives you all the functionality a fairly active individual investor needs. I doubt that full-time market traders would find it very useful, and the buy-and-hold-forever types really don't need to know how things are going any more often than is provided on their monthly paper account statements.

I have found Street Smart very convenient and useful in the short time I have been using it. It seems to be everything I had hoped for plus a lot more. There are three major on-line functions: Schwab account management, on-line research utilizing Dow Jones Information Services, and Quick Quotes.

On-line & Off-line Functions

The off-line (on your computer) functions include account monitoring and reporting, securities management, and a wealth of customizable reporting features. There are also some rather lame graphing capabilities for visual presentation of various aspects of your positions' performance.

The on-line account management provides an automated account transaction download, order status monitoring and maintenance, and Schwab E-Mail services. The on-line research allows you to sign on to the Dow Jones News service, S&P Market Scope, and you may also request selected company reports be delivered to your system.

All of the on-line research tools are extra cost per use services, which are billed to your controlling Schwab account. The Quick Quotes feature allows

you to request quotes on any number of individual securities and all the major market indicators. Schwab's standard quote fee structure applies to Street Smart quote requests.

The best off-line feature other than account monitoring and maintenance seems to be the IRS Schedule D information reports, which may be viewed on screen or directed to your printer. These Schedule D reports, like all the reports produced, may be customized to meet your individual desires.

If you're a Schwab customer, have a computer, and are not just a buy-and-hold-until-it-molds investor, you really ought to have a copy of Street Smart. Give your local Schwab office a call. I'm certain they will be more than happy to give you a demo.

If you have an account with Schwab and can't convince the Significant Other that you just can't live any longer without a computer or at least a computer that will run Windows, Street Smart may just be the killer app you need to justify that big upgrade.

Plus, remember you get a ten percent discount on every trade execution. You will get back your \$59.95 investment in Street Smart rather quickly if you do much trading at all. Might take a while to work off that new 486 though.

Fred Williams

HOW'S YOUR PC NEWS?

The PC NEWS staff has heard about (and seen) some quality problems with the NTPCUG newsletter. If you have noticed quality problems in your issue, we want to know about them.

Quality problems are: smudges, double-printed or blank pages, missing pages, wrinkled pages (beyond those attributable to US PO handling) type that's too light (or faded) or too heavy, blurred, and/or otherwise hard to read. Some of these are unavoidable, but some are avoidable, and we need to know howoften these occur.

Of course, I'm already aware of my spelling, grammar and syntax shortcomings, so you need not remind me of those. (It's not me — it's the software we're using.)

Let us know — drop me, Reagan Andrews, Andy Oliver or Gerry Heine a note in E-Mail on the BBS.

Reagan

POWER TRANSLATOR

Review by David P. Clauss

Power Translator - Spanish/English Version, 2.0, Globalink, Inc., 9302 Lee Hwy 12th Floor, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. List price: \$199.

Power Translator (SPANISH to/from ENGLISH) by Globalink is designed to translate written documents using common vocabulary. Text can be entered in English or Spanish directly and translated line by line in an interactive window. You can also create an ASCII text file with a word processor or text editor and translate the complete document.

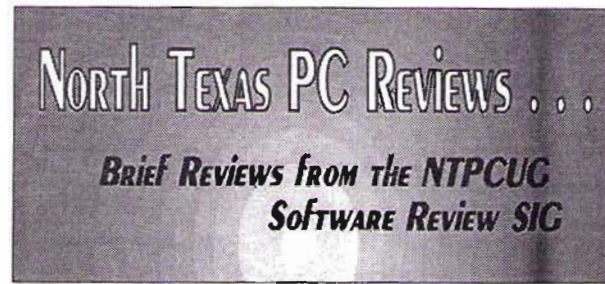
My Spanish is limited to, thank you, "taco," "burrito" and counting to six. I sought help in checking my work and would like to thank my friend Warren and his wife for participating in this review by checking the Spanish translations and providing Spanish text for translation.

Installation — First Exposure

My first exposure to Power Translator was installation. The program uses a copy protection system which makes the use of backup disks impossible. Once the program is installed, it must be uninstalled in the event you wish to put it on another system such as a laptop for use while traveling. The program as I installed it occupies approximately 11 Meg.

Not plug & play

This is not a plug it in and run program. My first attempts at translation were not very good. The program takes a very literal approach to translation and the result was not very close to South American Spanish. It must be remembered that there are variations of Spanish just as there are variations of English. For example, "muchas gracias" is commonly translated as "thank you". When translated from Spanish to English I got "Thank you very much." If you enter "thank you" in English you get a more formal phrase in translation. Another example would be the word for bean. The common translation would be frijole. Power Translator translated bean as "judja", which according to my dictionary is best used in conjunction with an adjective to give a more specific translation such as "string bean". Translating Bible passages from the New International Version varied considerably from the Spanish New Testament I checked with.



The translation of almost any word or phrase can be changed or modified to the user's needs. Translations can be made more or less specific as required. Specialized terms common in a particular business or field can be added. Translation can be suspended within the work for specific words or phrases. The translation can be rendered the same for both languages for things such as proper names or product names which should remain in their original form. The program works best using short sentences of common speech, but that is not always practical.

The dynamics of any language can be very complex. In my opinion you must have a good working knowledge of both languages or have someone who does configure the program for use.

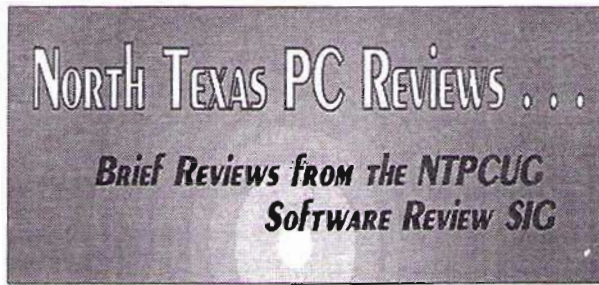
Tech support helpful

The technical support staff were very knowledgeable and helpful. They took time to answer my questions and offered helpful advice to improve my working with the program. Globalink has an 800 number and also offers call return and fax reply to questions. According to technical support there have been some problems running Power Translator with Stacker due to the security file necessary for the copy protection system. Super Store did not exhibit these problems, according to technical support. The problem with Stacker was expected to be resolved shortly and they are confident the program will work with DOS 6.0.

In the event of a hard disk failure or the failure of the security disk the company will replace it. One other important item. Do not expect to use this program as a stand alone to produce documents. It has no print capability. Power Translator interfaces directly with your word processor and provides access from within the program.

Don't be discouraged

Lest I discourage you let me say that Power Translator as a program is very easy to work with. Its strength is that it is very flexible and modifica-



About Stare-EO Workshop V1.21

By Raymond W. Polone

I received a framed poster, during the recent holidays, that depicts the Egyptian images of a pyramid and a profile view of the Sphinx in three dimensions. At least I am able to see the three dimensional images, other members of my family only see an orange colored pattern surrounded by a conventional two-dimensional border print of Egyptian figures. I have been astounded by similar posters from studios (such as the local NVision Grafix, Inc., 222 West Las Colinas Blvd., Suite 1840, Irving, TX 75038); however, I only recently acquired my own copy of the Stare-EO Workshop that permits me to generate images, view them on my VGA monitor, and print a hard copy on a variety of printers! Perhaps I will learn how to import the images for use as wallpaper or a screen saver on my monitor?

Stare-EO Workshop is available from N. E. Thing Enterprises, P.O. Box 1827, Cambridge, MA 02139 and is uniquely copy protected! The logo screen, at each startup, asks a random question that can only be answered if you have the Stare-EO Work-

Power Translator... Ctd.

tions to the libraries are easily accomplished. The major weakness, in my short experience, is that you must have a working understanding of both languages being used.

By analogy, if you used the strict interpretation offered by most English grammar checking programs, you could end up sounding like Commander Data of Star Trek The Next Generation. So it is with Power Translator. Taking every translation at face value you might be understood but your documents might not be easily read. With these points in mind only you can determine if Power Translator will work for you.

David P. Clauss

shop User Manual — and only if you are able to actually see the three-dimensional image on the referenced page of the manual! Be advised that if you are unable to see the three dimensional images on the available posters, then it is very unlikely that you can get past the startup screen of this program! (When you hold your finger in front of your face and stare at the wall across the room, do you see two images of your finger? If not, then it is likely your binocular vision is such that you cannot see these images.) Fortunately, the User Manual is printed with two 'fusion dots' at the top of each image that may be used as an aid in viewing the images. I find that when I am able to see three dots, I am also able to see the three dimensional images in the figures!

Stare-EO Workshop is able to import PCX files; however, there does not appear to be very many tools that are provided to manipulate components of the image — except the perception of depth according to a color palette. A variety of tools and effects are available to generate a new proprietary STW file containing both text and figures. Although only two fonts for text are available, there is provision to adjust the boldness, size and placement with specification of the perception of depth according to the assigned values of the color palette. A variety of lines, triangles, polygons, circles and ovals can be generated from the provided tool selection along with specification of associated three dimensional effects (spirals, domes, pyramids, stars, etc.) and projections (negative or positive from the background). I am able to construct a curved line by using a series of short, connected lines; however, I found no tool to generate or manipulate curves.

The fusion dots may be specified with a choice of three interocular spacings that seemed to affect the perception of depth; however, there is also a choice as to whether the fusion dots are displayed. There is support for a variety of hardcopy printers, from dot matrix and desk jet to laser; and file includes PCX, TIFF and pure bit map. Video adapter support for Hercules, EGA, CGA, MGA and VGA is provided.

I continue to be amazed by the ability to generate and print three dimensional pictures that pop out from what appears to be a random pattern, and I recommend the Stare-EO Workshop if you are interested in investigating and enjoying this phenomena.

Raymond W. Polone



The King is Dead! Long live the King! Compaq vanquishes IBM PC & Apple, Grabs #1 PC vendor spot in the quarter

And, Microsoft wants *Tiger* in your tank

And, it's still a long time 'til Comdex/FALL '94. Nonetheless, the PC pot is boiling with consolidations, acquisitions — and failed acquisitions — as we roll into the "summer doldrums" and prepare for slow news days. Lots of media speculation/SWAG* about Microsoft's *Chicago* (Windows 4.0/DOS 7.0) along with much comment, both positive and negative, prompted by the Novell - WordPerfect combo and what it all means.

Meanwhile (I use that a lot, don't I?) rumors are spreading that Intel intends to sabotage the 486 market now that there's some real 486 competition afoot, and that Apple isn't at all happy about Macintosh emulation in the new *Power PC 603* chips. Welcome to the wonderful world of emulation (says Intel).

Compaq rebounds with Stunning quarter sales — IBM no longer #1

Compaq (the Houston, TX,-based clone maker) had worldwide sales last quarter that placed them firmly in position of the top PC vendor, overthrowing IBM and Apple from long-held leadership roles. Figures are impressive, but called "only one quarter's results" by other vendors in media articles.

Worldwide PC shipments for Compaq totaled "about" 980,000 units for the quarter, according to *Wall Street Journal's* May 25th issue. IBM was #2

* SWAG - Scientific, Wild-A__d Guess - A holdover from Military Intelligence estimates during the Vietnam conflict.

with 955,000 units, and Apple sold 865,000 units. Figures quoted by *WSJ* are from Dataquest. Analysts estimated that Apple would have been stronger in the first quarter of 1994, but many potential buyers held off until the newer Macintoshes with *Power PC* CPU's were available.

That's a long, long jump for a company that seemed to be on the ropes only a couple of years back. One surprise — media accounts which continue to describe Compaq as an also-ran in terms of technology. Sorry fellows, but Compaq (and others) grabbed the technology lead away from IBM some time back, in 1986 — when Compaq released the first 80386DX-pow-

ered PC — months ahead of IBM.

The trial's over ... More Compaq — and An AMD 486 'Joke'

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) and Compaq announced this earlier, but I just received an AMD mailer with the following on the outside of the envelope. Gave me a neat excuse to quote a couple of magnificent AMD blurbs:

"Now that the trial is over..." refers to AMD's latest win over Intel in the 386/486 interminable series of legal actions. Compaq did announce they would be producing PC's with the AMD 486 CPU chips, Compaq's new *Presario CDS 860* and *660* models.

I really loved the AMD mailer subhead, though. "Lawyers don't design microprocessors, Engineers do." Enough said.

What goes around... IBM endorses EISA, — After seven years

Remember when IBM said MCA (Micro Channel Architecture) would be the bus standard of the future when the PC/2's were released in 1987? MCA was going to solve all our interconnection problems according to IBM.



Hmmm... Then, again, maybe not. IBM announced a family of "aggressively-priced" servers based on the EISA bus. EISA is a competing bus standard pioneered in 1987 by a consortium headed by Compaq and named the "Gang of Nine" in response to IBM's PS/2 (MCA) family of PC's. EISA has been very popular in non-IBM-produced servers and upper-end PC's.

PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) is no surprise since it appears to be gaining momentum among vendors — in spite of somewhat questionable status as a "standard." Again, IBM is looking at the market, and asking what users want (and will buy) instead of a former tendency to tell buyers what IBM will sell them.

The Microsoft front
—Tiger revealed,
—Chicago re-mystified
—Second Stac loss
—Bill reviled (again)

Get ready for *Tiger*. *Tiger* is a database — I guess, but mostly it's Microsoft's entrée into the Information Superhighway (ISH). Some media critics have been shooting at Microsoft as being too slow in jumping on the ISH bandwagon.

Not really. Microsoft has been playing to their strength, integrated operating systems, and doing a lot of behind-the-scenes wheeling & dealing to solidify their position in the new realm. According to *The Wall Street Journal* article by Don Clark

and G. Pascal Zachary, Microsoft has been spending — \$100 million — to develop a multimedia system from the cable/box up.

Media analysts report Microsoft is looking at the issue from top to bottom, incorporating programming technology as part of a comprehensive system rather than a piecemeal effort to tie disparate pieces together. According to Microsoft, the Advanced Consumer Technology Group, their efforts will begin bearing MS fruit in 1995.

Tiger will tie it all together. It's designed to "deliver streams of video at very low cost" *WSJ* said May 23, and "will rely on PC parts strung together into large systems." *WSJ* contrasted this approach with others that rely on mainframe or super computers to handle the interactive and video chores.

Chicago, Chicago ...
What will Chicago be?
The mystery continues

Chicago must be the most written-about OS in history. Rumored to be a combination of Microsoft's next *Windows* (4.0) and the much-lusted-after 32-bit *MS DOS* (??.0?), *Chicago* has been featured in 34 lead stories in *PC Media* (that I've seen) in the last two months. Everybody has an idea, and every writer seems to be in on the beta.

I can't believe I signed a non-disclosure agreement. Under pain of death (or, at least, no

more MS beta participation) ... Wonder if anyone else did?

Microsoft has been showing (some version of) *Chicago* for the last month. Each time, the MS demonstrators have assured audiences that "there's lots more we can't show you." Probably so. I've seen three (3) different versions demonstrated by Microsoft personnel, and each seems to have a somewhat different GUI (Graphical User Interface.)

What will *Chicago* be when it's released? Only time and Microsoft will know for sure. One thing is sure — *Chicago* can't possibly live up to its pre-beta mystery — or MS marketing hype.

Microsoft loses
Round two —
Stac prevails

This is getting to be fun for me, but definitely not for Microsoft. The Redmond Warriors (Microsoft) lost to Stac again — this time in the fight for injunctions to prevent Stac Electronics from using Microsoft's preload feature in *MS DOS* in *Stacker*.

Don't think I understand the logic (I rarely do in legal hassles) that prevents Microsoft from saying Stac can't sell products based on "theft of technical secrets", i.e., based on reverse engineering of *MS DOS*, but Stac can enjoin Microsoft from selling *MS DOS* with *DoubleSpace*, supposedly-based on Stac paradigms.

Stac (painting themselves as the "white-hat crew") must have some very good attorneys on their side. Problem is, relative hat color is very questionable, at best.

Time blasts Gates, Is 'Brother Bill' Too powerful?

Last of Microsoft for this month — I think. Knew that Apple's (former) Sculley was the Clinton's 'darling,' but what did Bill Gates do to *Time*?

Actually, this is "old" but worth a browse. *Time Magazine*, not normally one of the "liberal" media sources, did a piece April 4, 1994, quoting most of the "I hate Bill Gates" media sources. Major focus of the article was Microsoft's recent move(s) into multimedia and the ISH via agreements with a number of other conglomerates, McCaw, Nippon Telephone & Telegraph, and Mobile Telecommunications Technologies (Mtel).

So, what's new here? Gates certainly isn't first player in this game.

My biggest problem was the headline — "Is Bill Gates Getting Too Powerful." Although essentially factual, the *Time* article appeared somewhat "tabloid" in its slant. It was written by Janice Castro — who may not have been on Bill's wedding guest list.

Another 32-bit GUI? Novell said ready To release *Exposé*,

Novell may be anticipating *Chicago* with *Exposé*. Couple of media articles mention a new Novell DOS with 32-bit code based on a "Freeware" UNIX kernel.

Let's see, that would join *Exposé*, in the struggle against OS/2 2.X, *Windows NT*, (possibly) *MS-DOS 7.0* and *UNIX* itself.



Know the media has been playing to Novell's Ray Noorda's intense dislike of Bill Gates and Microsoft, but this seems a little much. It does, however, fit in with Novell's determination to grab a large piece of the DOS pie. New OS is rumored to be a combination of *Novell DOS 7.0* and *Linux*, a freeware-based UNIX clone that has gained some popularity among programmers.

Linux has been very well-received among UNIX fans. According to media, it's well-behaved and less "buggy" than Novell's own *UnixWare*, and would allow integration of *NetWare*, *UNIX* and *Windows* applications environments as a front end.

Named *Exposé*, the new system will be based on a graphical *X-Window System* environment. According to *PC Week's* April 25 article, Novell licensed the new environment, *Looking Glass*, from Visix Software of Reston, VA.

Internet News — Metered service Coming soon?

Has to happen. Internet may (probably will) go to "metered service" as the government bows out of Internet management.

Long the favored toy of university and research folks privy to access of the NSF (National Science Foundation) mega-network that spans across universities, other research sites and

countries, Internet may have to pay its own way in the future.

That means users will be expected to pay for access and use of Internet features. Since all the hoopla about the Information Superhighway and implication of Internet as "backbone" of the new service(s), there's been a slow, but steady questioning about financing. Cable TV companies have been accustomed to modified-metered-service charges for some years and this would be a "natural" extension for them.

Current users, accustomed to the "free ride" offered by business and university accounts, may find the concept of "pay as you go" a little frightening at first. There are already some pained screams from heavy Internet users when their usage is questioned by the folks toting the bills, and this will probably increase as accountants survey the use patterns of users vs. costs involved.

Mead bows out, Will concentrate On 'core' businesses

Mead Corp., parent of *Lexus/Nexus* and *Mead Data Central*, announced intention to desert the service-provider landscape according to PC media. Mead has provided legal, medical and business data/information for 20 years.

Mead may be best known for its paper products. However, the legal field has been heavily



invested in *Lexus* and *Nexus* services for years. Analysts cite the profusion of other data services and intense competition in the legal data arena. They cite the US Department of Justice as one cause — when Justice decided to release portions of the *Juris* electronic legal-research service to the public.

Most analysts quoted felt that Mead's information services value(s) have taken a beating by the growing competition in the on-line information arena.

Pentium delays Clog PC channels —Buyers wait weeks

Now, this is fun, but incomprehensible. Intel desperately wants the *Pentium* (586) CPU to be *The* standard for PC's in the future.

Vendors of 60 and 90 MHz Pentium-based PC's have been experiencing significant delays in deliveries of the new Intel chips. Same goes for the Intel DX4 series of tripled 486 upgrade chips incorporated in the "top" 486 lines. Delays to vendors mean bigger delays to prospective buyers of hardware based on the new chips.

Intel claims it will have production up to demand in the third quarter of 1994. Meanwhile, this has to give a boost to Motorola, AMD, IBM and Cyrix, all of whom either have or plan to have 586 chips "real soon now."

Blood bath coming... Video graphic adapter Wars heat up in May

In case you haven't been watching (pun), the video graphics adapter war is getting serious. Prices are plummeting faster than media can run the ads for the new, less-expensive adapter series being released. Part of this was inevitable, since price tends to be a function of scale, and fewer vendors are making many more cards.

I recently reviewed, and really liked, a Hercules *Graphite VL/Pro* card. Before I could finish the review, prices dropped and the card was superseded in the Hercules line. This month, I decided to look at the low end of the Hercules line and obtained a *Dynamite Power VL*.

The new *Dynamite* was in the PC less than a week when Hercules sent me a release announcing their new *Stingray PCI* card — at about half the price of the *Dynamite* I just installed. Since I don't have a PCI-bus PC, and am extremely happy with the *Dynamite* card, I think I'll pass this time around.

S3 hits 64 New accelerator Ups the ante — again

S3 Incorporated doesn't make graphics adapters — just the accelerator chips that make them popular. S3 announced their new *Vision864*, a 64-bit chip that features external and internal 64-bit operation and graphics acceleration by offloading graphics tasks from the PC's CPU.

The new *Vision864* engine supports both VL and PCI bus operation and features VESA-compatible Green PC support. S3 claims the chip will support frame-buffer memory bandwidth up to 240MB/sec (megabytes/second) and also sustains 220MB/sec of data bandwidth to the monitor screen.

According to S3, the high bandwidths are necessary to ensure greater color depths at high resolutions without compromising screen performance and image quality.

IMS scores big ... A PC catalogue Worth the trip

IMS COMPUTERS is a local computer retail chain. They have a catalogue. You probably need a copy.

Why? Cause it's very useful if you play with PC's. Look for *Volume 194* of the *IMS COMPUTERS Product Catalog*. Mine has a red cover.

Front section of the IMS catalogue is the story. They have listed the technical support and BBS telephone numbers of the major PC equipment and accessory manufacturers.

IMS followed that with a listing of the most popular hard disk drives, by maker, with details on size, cylinders, heads and sectors, along with appropriate PC/AT BIOS-type numbers of each drive.

Believe me, the information is worth a trip to IMS.

Reagan

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 June presentation is Part II of Bobby Taylor's "Information Modeling and Asymetrix' Info-Modeler" Bobby works for Mary Kay Cosmetics, in an advanced technology group, working with the user community and information systems to introduce new techniques and computer-assisted software engineering methods for client-server application development. We are looking forward to this continuation of his very interesting and informative May presentation on the same subject.

Special thanks to Joe Clark for sharing his knowledge with us on a continuing basis and particu-

larly for the "early" demonstration of the release version of Access 2.0 at the April meeting.

Speakers Needed: We are interested in hearing you tell us about your Access applications, share your techniques for getting the most out of Access, or discuss your experiences with related third-party products. We are especially looking for people to contribute samples of Access applications, databases, and code for free-ware disk to be submitted to the Disk of the Month operation. Shorter answers, tips, or hints are appreciated in the regular "Questions and Answers and Tips and Hints" session. Bring a sample

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 Cavallito 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 Sivemell @ (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 who might share your interests, please contact me at (214) 517-7430 (H) or (214) 953-4970 (W)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

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M = Metro #

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Jack Atkinson..... (817) 481-6623 h
Dianna DeCicco .. (214) 446-0639 h
Frank McCoy..... (817) 232-2483 h

Alpha 4

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

APL

Frank Cavallito (214) 423-9221 h

Assembler

Glynn Brooks (214) 578-8737 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) 272-2669 h

Business Applications/DAC

Putt Shaw..... (214) 235-2559 h
..... (214) 669-9633 w
Bruce Schubert ... (214) 690-5848 h
..... (214) 233-8353 w

C++/Advanced

Kent Cobb (214) 343-3862 h
Tom Cook (214) 871-8177 w

Middle C

Tom Cook (214) 871-8177 w
..... (214) 341-1890 h

CAD

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

Communications

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

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Communications SIG, Ctd.

Birl Smith (214) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 229-9388 w

Community Service

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..... (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

Tom O'Keefe (214) 247-8812 h
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

Debbie Lenhart ... (214) 625-9688 h
Debbie Meaney .. (214) 716-2704 w
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



.MDB to show. If you are shy about public speaking, talk to one of us about showing it for you.

NTPCUG's own Zach and Ken Loafman's "Bitwise BBS," (214) 964-2827 is in need of Access-related public domain and shareware files. Call up the BBS, take a look around, and upload files you can share with other users. If we get enough Access material, we can probably persuade them to set up a special Access file area.

Reminders: The "preferred method" for obtaining help with your Access questions between meetings, as well as just keeping up to date, is the Access message conference on the NTPCUG (electronic) Bulletin Board System. You can also bring questions and problems to the SIG meetings — our attendees have a wide variety of experience and have been very willing to offer help. If you can bring a simple sample .MDB database, you can provide a graphic illustration of what you are trying to do and the problems you've encountered; you may even take

home the solution in electronic form!

See you at the Access SIG on June 18! We're looking forward to hearing what our members' have to report about their early experiences with Access 2.0.

Larry Linson

APL SIG

I expect that at the May meeting, we will finally have finished the topic of "Programming with Idioms in APL." That assumes that enough people did show up in May to stave off certain extinction of the APL SIG.

We also discussed the upcoming APLTex III (October 1994). The agenda for this event is coming into focus and those of you interested in participating in this day-long event are urged to attend the APL SIG meetings or the SWAPL meetings (first Tuesday of each



Above, Larry Linson, Access SIG Leader, strikes a familiar pose at beginning of a presentation to a packed audience at the May Access SIG meeting.

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

OS/2 for End Users

Bob Fernier(817) 481-6625 h
.....(214) 444-2195 w

Paradox

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

Personal Users

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.....(214) 953-4970 w
Bob Russell(214) 422-4269 h

Programmers

Kent Kingery(214) 317-0125 h
Jim Holsington....(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
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Bill Jones(214) 423-8486 h

TI Pro

Walt Rice

UNIX

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.....(214) 604-2226 w
Doug Scott(817) 261-4653 hM
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Windows - Applications

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

Windows - Developers

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.....(214) 301-1203 w

WordPerfect / DOS

Lori Quinn(817) 481-6453 h
.....(214) 255-0555 w

WordPerfect / Windows

Mitch Milam(214) 406-9054 w



month, contact myself or Stuart Yarus for details).

As intended, copies of *TryAPL2* (free from IBM), along with pre-printed documentation, were available at the meeting and some copies are still available!

A number of books on APL, complete with a copy of a top quality interpreter, are being published. *APL Notes* (\$29), was available for review at the meeting. It is our plan to do a variety of presentations on APL, with topics ranging from introductory to advanced. We welcome all suggestions for presentations and hope to see you at future meetings. Come see how to shape, ravel and roll with APL!

Frank Cavallito

Assembler SIG

Our May meeting focused on DOS, BIOS and chip-level timer routines. We discussed timer chip programming using Abrash's *Zen Timer* as a code example, and discussed a way to use the clock to generate a delayed program interrupt using a technique that Stan Milam suggested. It turned out to be a lot more interesting than I am able to describe here.

In June we will be looking at things from a much loftier perspective when we consider The Future of Assembler Programming. What will *DOS 7* and *Windows 4.0* look like, and how will they affect the role Assembler language plays in system development? Just where should we be directing our efforts, and where can future performance improvements be made? I expect it to be a fascinating discussion.

Whether you are a pro, a novice, idly curious, or none of the above, do not hesitate to attend our meetings. Bring your programming and hardware questions and be prepared to share your experiences.

Glynn Brooks

Beginners BASIC SIG

The Beginners BASIC SIG features *GW-Basic* & *QBasic* step-by-step program writing with small sample programs. Four to ten page instruction sheets are available at each meeting. Questions and answers on any Basic code subject are welcome at any time. This group does "No Windows Basic" (NOW Basic for short).

DOM #846 was released in August '93 with all the previously presented SIG material. A few of these disks are available at each SIG meeting for \$2, saving a trip to the basement flea-market. DOM #846 will be expanded about the first of each year. The #846 disk was inadvertently copied as a 360Kb, deleting all the shareware sub-directories. A new & revised #846, which is 1.2Mb, is now available. If you bought a 360Kb version, it will be exchanged to a 1.2Mb version at the NTPCUG Disk-Of-Month desk.

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, 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, 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's SIG featured a graphic program called JAP-CANQB.BAS, a Japanese candlestick graph maker using a sample stock market data file.

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

Charles Jacobus

DOS SIG

June's DOS SIG will either be back to basics, i.e., looking at DOS utilities and commands — like I promised last month — or a trip to Utah, i.e., discuss some of the rumored features coming in the rumored Novell 32-bit, DOS-UNIX combination operating system.

Questions abound concerning Novell's "leaks" about the new DOS, not least of which is will there be room for one more

graphical standard? *X-Windows* running on *Linux* interfaced with DOS is a little mind-boggling in any neighborhood.

The June DOS SIG meeting should be fun. If **Jim Hoisington**, NTPCUG President-elect, potential Cambridge Don, UNIX guru, etc., isn't programming in New Zealand, teaching in China or hunting elk in Outer Mongolia, he'll have a lot to say about these (and many other) developments in the OS arena.

Plan to be here — it's Hawaiian-shirt month again.

DOS Tip

— Prepare for Emergencies!

Eventually, your PC is going to crash — or get zapped in a lightning strike — or "die" in any of a number of grisly scenarios. Count on it.

Are you ready? Do you have an "Emergency Disk" on hand — with the latest version of DOS and not an "old" DOS 5.0, 4.01 or 3.3? You would be surprised how many PC users don't.

Take a few minutes and create a new system (bootable) disk for your primary floppy drive. Use the DOS FORMAT/S switch and be sure COMMAND.COM was copied to the new disk.

Next, copy FDISK.EXE, FORMAT.COM, and your favorite disk maintenance utilities along with a small editor such as EDLIN to the new disk. An emergency disk usually won't need SMARTDRV.EXE, HIMEM.SYS or EMM386, but include them if there's room left on the disk.

Keyword is "small." You only have 1.2M or 1.4M space on the new emergency disk. Purpose here is to get at the data you can, and retrieve it if possible. That's what it's all about — saving your time and work.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG — General

The General Genealogy SIG program for June will be "How I Found Time To Do My Genealogy". It will be brought by **Leonard McCown**, a member of the SIG. None of us feel like we have the time to really do our own genealogy justice. Leonard thought about this and for the last year or two has instituted his own method of making sure his genealogy gets done. He will talk about how he accomplished this as well as showing the output of his work so far. He inputs his data into the PAF genealogy software program. His primary output data is from using PAFAbility, a shareware program that allows the manipulation of PAF data (without having to go through GEDCOM) in several ways, primarily in report, or book, form. Be sure to check the screens in the lobby for meeting time and location.

The April program topic was "Macintosh and Genealogy Software" and was brought by **Mike Fitzpartick**, a SIG member. Mike was able to use his Macintosh and an overlay to project the computer screen onto a large screen.

He reviewed the following programs: PAF 2.1 for the MAC, Reunion, Family Roots, GED Companion, and Family Events. He demonstrated how to use FR Convert software to convert Mac PAF to DOS PAF.

He found the Family Roots program was a lot faster in making a GEDCOM file than Reunion. Family Roots is a genealogy software program that was first used the Apple IIe computer. It is now available in both DOS and Mac form.

Reunion is a genealogy software program that was designed and used on the Macintosh for a year or two before a Windows version hit the market. Mike did say Reunion now has a new version and its GEDCOM operation may be faster. He demonstrated GED-companion. This is a genealogy program for the Mac to print out charts from existing computer file data. Family Events is a genealogy database that allows the user to look at individuals, but not families.

He showed MacPAF Utility, a photo repository which can link into the PAF database. He demonstrated MacPAF Report Utility, which is very fast and can also generate root families.

Al Sanford

Genealogy SIG — PAF

"Conversion of the RDF Output to GEDCOM Form" was the primary topic of the April meeting. This is a continuation of discussing PAF utilities as outlined in the last month's article. RDF is the Research Data Filer portion of the PAF genealogical software program. It is completely independent of the Family Records (FR) portion of PAF - in fact, data cannot be transferred between the PAF's FR or RDF. A peripheral program RDF Convert (file name RDFC) is a utility that will convert an RDF file to GEDCOM for import into the FR database, or it will convert the FR database file into GEDCOM for import into the RDF. It is a shareware program (\$10 registration fee). It is useful for both PAF and Family Search.



This makes it a useful tool for importing Family Search data into a database for further management of the data. RDFC is also a GEDCOM file editor for GEDCOM files from any source, including Family Search and the IGI.

The RDF has two file types, data and documents. RDFC will not support the .doc files. It converts RDF field event records of born, birth, blessed, blessing, christening, marriage, died, dead, death, buried or burial. Before exporting to RDF, it locates parents of each individual, groups them with their families and adds user selected records to the RDF database.

RDF2GED is another similar program. It will convert the RDF .dat and .doc files into GEDCOM format. It is also shareware program (registration fee \$20).

The PAF SIG meets in room 1059 from 10 to 11 am (check overheads in the lobby for last minute changes) on User Group Saturdays with about 50 members present. The SIG leader is Joe Waldrop. PAF is the most popular genealogy software program in use.

Family Search is the name given the Family Records (FR) portion of the Family History Centers of the local Church of the Latter Day Saint's libraries. These are on CD ROMs (Compact Disks, Read Only Memory). The FHC also includes the IGI (International Genealogical Interchange), the Social Security Index Records, Viet Nam War Veterans, and Korea War Veterans. This setup is also available at the genealogy section (7th

floor) of the Dallas Public Library).

Al Sanford

Internet SIG

It was standing room only again in April - and it was only our second meeting!

Steve Linebarger (srl@metronet.com) of Texas Metronet Inc (705-2900), an Internet access provider headquartered here in the metroplex, led an informative discussion on the World Wide Web. The Web is a standard method of organizing information with links to other information all over the net. This enables users to easily browse for resources without having to know all the names, addresses and paths. Some might describe it as a network hypertext improvement over gopher. *Mosaic* and *Cello* are two graphical interfaces to the Web providing the Internet user the ease of point-and-click access to the wealth of Internet information. There are a number of text interfaces as well.

This month (June 18) presents a discussion on the so called Information Superhighway. What it is (or more accurately, what it might be) and what the issues are will be presented by Dr. Harry Tennant (tennant@metronet.com) who lectures and holds seminars on this and other Internetworking topics. "Everyone wants it, but no one knows what it is" quipped Bob Lucky, Vice President, Bellcore, at a recent talk at University of Texas at Dallas. Join us this month and be the first on your net to find out!



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

A message from Jim washed up on the California coastline last week. He is being held captive by the evil Vice President of DFW Xchange on an island country in the South Pacific.

Jim said he is being forced to work/program on a team of programmers developing a new 32 bit release of a strategic operating system of a large computer company. He tried to write the code name but all that remained on the scrap of bark were the letters T and V.

Join the Pro SIG next month as we discuss the merits of clandestine class destructors in C—.

Jim Hoisington

Spreadsheet SIG

At the June meeting the Spreadsheet SIG will be discussing the financial functions of 1-2-3 for Windows and other spreadsheet programs. Many financial functions have been added to most spreadsheet packages and we will try to cover all of them. While the old standards of PMT, PV, FV, NPV, and IRR are still available, many others have been added like PRICE and ACCRUED for bond calculations, PPAYMT and PAYMT for loan calculations and a host of others.

The Spreadsheet SIG always takes time to answer questions that users have concerning their spreadsheet applications. If you have a question on financial functions, or anything else, come on by in June.

In this weeks mail, I just received ads for two new access services, one through a national on-line service, and another provider from California who is expanding into Texas. There is also a lively discussion on the dfw.general Usenet news group comparing and contrasting the access options in our area.

So, keep up with current happenings and new developments with the Internet SIG. Hope to see you at this month's meeting!

Tom O'Keefe

Paradox SIG

The dust is beginning to settle from the recent Borland "down sizing" moves. Paradox is still shipping, and by the time you read this *dBASE for Windows* should be on you local software shelves. It seems there may still be life at Borland after Quattro Pro!

I am anxiously looking forward to Borland's new "focused" direction. The proposed return to concentrating on software development tools and database products could prove to be very good for the future of the Borland products that fit those market niches.

I think that Borland had let the corporate direction run just a wee bit wild and were attempting to be, "all things to all men." This return to a focused direction should at least give a more limited scope for the allocation of precious development resources at Borland.

Everybody developing Windows products is becoming painfully

aware of the time to market and heavy resource demands that are required to get your average Windows product to market. Object-oriented programming or not, Windows is a much more complex and demanding development environment that DOS ever was.

Come on by the Paradox SIG for the latest Borland/Paradox news, views, tips, and tricks. Tom is still wowing the audience with, "Not So Stupid PdoxWIN tricks." Maybe I'll be able to talk on the difficulties encountered when a step back in time is attempted. Seems I've been working on this *Paradox 3.0* project with a "killer" deadline, and it has proved a rough and tumble trip! Sure has made me appreciate the current Paradox products.

Fred Williams

Personal Users

The Personal Users Series is in its fourth and last "set" of classes before its break in July and will start over in August. These classes are:

- ❖ 9:00 amClass 13
Printers for Personal Computers
- ❖ 10:00 amClass 14
Quicken - Personal Accounting Software
- ❖ 12:00 amClass 15
Software for Personal Computers
- ❖ 1:00 pmClass 16
PC's to the End of the 20th & Into the 21st Century

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

Mark Gruner

Spreadsheet Developers SIG

At the June meeting, the Spreadsheet Developers SIG will be discussing statistical functions and tools available in 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet programs. It has been said that you can justify anything through statistics - you just have to choose the right statistic. Well hopefully, we will be able to shed some light on the statistical functions and tools. The focus of the presentation will be on the statistical functions and tools and NOT a tutorial on statistics. Question: What do statisticians and economists have in common? Answer: They both spend half of their time making predictions and half of their time explaining why the predictions did not come true. Sorry, just had to get my joke in.

The Spreadsheet Developers SIG always takes time to answer questions that users have concerning their spreadsheet applications. If you have a question on statistical functions or tools, or anything else, come on by in June.

Mark Gruner

StarSIG

StarSIG for April 1994 was full of activities and surprises. SIG Leader Jim Boughton pulled writings by Ed Jackson from the StarText Reference Room, then used *Booklet* (a Freeloader program) to put them in booklet form. A printer friend made enough copies for all attendees.

The late Ed Jackson, StarText mail code 1125 and the first subscriber columnist, as well as the first person known to have met his future spouse through StarText, was due for more

At right, Charles Miller, MS Word SIG Leader, listens to a discussion on memory-use in Word for Windows



honor. Several subscriber columnists took up a collection to have two bricks embossed, one in honor of Ed and Pat Jackson and one to honor his fictional character Rad 14, and set in the sidewalk at the Fort Worth Library. The collection succeeded, and the bricks will be done.

Dave Maxwell and Carl Perry continue to improve their *StarLink* program, and have an update under the StarLink keyword. Jim Boughton has arranged with sysop Doris Riggs to post shareware Windows programs mentioned under the WOW keyword on the Sanctuary Bulletin Board, Metro (817)572-7194. Taking notes and pictures during all of this were visiting StarText Editors Paul Harral, Christy Jeter, and Dorothy Pomeroy.

Come to our next meeting. It, too, will be loosely organized and feature the unexpected. The only thing we haven't done is have a dull SIG meeting. Please join us.

William L. Jones

UNIX SIG



Over the last couple of months we have concentrated on some administrative and related issues within the group. Those tasks completed we are moving into the beginning of a (hopefully) recurring set of topics that will be interspersed with some useful demonstrations and discussions.

The topics over the next few months will cover areas such as a brief history of the operating system; the many different versions and flavors available on the market; how to select and purchase hardware and software; how to set up and install your system; free software and the Free Software Foundation; and connectivity to other systems.

Last month's SIG topic was the background and history of the UNIX operating system, to provide a perspective of where we have come from. This month Doug and I will be discussing the many variants of UNIX available on the market, with particular emphasis on SCO, SVR4, and the "free" versions such as NetBSD, FreeBSD, and Linux.



In July, we are going to move into the selection of a set of hardware and software that is appropriate for an individual user. I'm hoping to be able to provide some help for several of the people who have asked me recently how to select and purchase what they need.

In addition, we are working with the Internet SIG to schedule back to back or combined meetings that can be used for longer, more detailed discussions.

Please feel free to join us with your questions, or your suggestions.

Jim Stallworth

Beginning Visual Basic SIG

The June meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will include a discussion of graphics. We will compare the characteristics of and applications for the image, picture box, shape, and line controls. We will demonstrate these controls on the demonstration computer.

During the May meeting we discussed and demonstrated the extensibility of Visual Basic through the API calls.

Members of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG are encouraged to demonstrate a project (or portion of a project) at any of our meetings. See me if you need assistance in preparing your presentation.

The Beginning Visual Basic SIG will meet at 8:00 AM. Check the screens in the Infomart Lobby for the room assignment.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

The June meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will feature a discussion of how to write a PIM (Personal Information Manager) using Visual Basic and Access 2.0. **Woody Pewitt** will describe the development process, show the code, and demonstrate the completed project. Sounds very interesting!

Woody has also invited several members of the Visual Basic SIG to demonstrate their current projects. At least one member has agreed to a demonstration at the June meeting.

Last month, Woody discussed the proper use of calls to the Windows API as a method of expanding the capabilities of Visual Basic.

The Visual Basic SIG will meet at 9:00 AM. Check the screens in the Infomart lobby for room assignment.

Jim Carter

WordPerfect (DOS) SIG

I'll be on the road in June but have left the SIG in capable hands. **Diane Bentley** is the WordPerfect trainer for a law firm downtown and will be showing you how to create and use columns. She'll explain when to use tabs and when to use columns. The Labels feature often goes hand-in-hand with a column-type look and Diane will show you how to create your own label definitions and how to use them.

WordPerfect Tip of the Month

In a show of hands at the last meeting, it appears that more

than half of the attendees use 6.0 so we're going to switch back and forth between 5.1 and 6.0 tips in this column. As for the meetings, we will devote some sessions to 6.0 but promise not to leave the 5.1 users behind. So here's some tips for 6.0.

If you don't have 6.0B, get it. It's faster, uses less memory, has some neat features that 6.0 and 6.0A doesn't have, and fixes a lot of bugs. Contact the Orders Department at (801) 226-6800. It's about \$20 (just the cost of the diskettes and shipping).

Under the Help menu, you'll find two options that will help you get started: Coaches and the Tutorial. Take a look at both of them. The Tutorial will show you some beginning techniques of creating, editing, and saving documents. The Coach offers several topics and actually shows you how to perform tasks right in your own document.

If you've used {Ctrl}V to access the special characters like you did in 5.1, you've discovered that it's not the same. {Ctrl}V is now Paste (once you've copied or moved text, it can be pasted somewhere else). The new way to get special characters is {Ctrl}W, which displays a dialog box of all the characters. If you're looking for {Ctrl}V to perform literal functions (like really putting a tab in a table instead of moving to the next cell), you'll find that with {Ctrl}A. (Keep in mind that I did not write the program I merely teach it).

If you've attempted to run *Grammatik* and it's grayed out, that's because you're using WP.EXE to start the program. You should be using WP.COM. Another problem you may encounter by using the WP.EXE is when you're retrieving a 5.1 file. You'll get the prompt "Launcher Not Avail-

The great UART debate — Saga continues v.32bis & 16550 vs. the user

Since the recent message barrage of ranting and raving on the subject of high speed modems, UART's, and such, I'll just use this column to either further infuriate some and totally confuse the rest. Currently, things are happening very fast in the field of data communications. It is almost humanly impossible to accumulate a good understanding of all the details on the subject. Each new leap forward in technology seems to turn the entire field upside down.

Just because I've been deeply involved in the data communications segment of the computer industry for too many years, does not qualify me as the "know it all" expert on the subject of modern data communications. Actually, I think I can still read Hollerith code on a punched card, but that won't even buy me a cup of coffee any more.

What I do have is gray hair, and no hair, gained from my many years of experiencing the agony of defeat, while staring with bewilderment at a data communications, "Data Scope". Through all of this I have gained a fair level of insight into the inner workings of your average data communications session. In this article, I'll try to bring a little of this experi-



able". Again, this will not be a problem if you run WP.COM.

Each time you save a document, a QuickMark is automatically created where the cursor is in the document. The next time you open the document, press {Ctrl}F and the cursor will immediately be positioned where it last was in that document. If you want to set your own QuickMark, press

ence to the table, and also do my best not to stomp on anybody's pet frog.

Things were just rosy in the land of modems and data communications when the blinding speed of 2400 baud was reached. Then US Robotics got fancy, and decided they were big enough to force a protocol on the industry. All they managed to do was kick off an industry "horse race" toward a quest for higher and more reliable speeds.

By this time, almost all the hardware manufactures had switched to the 16450 UART. I never have figured out why. The old 8250 UART's could do a fine job of managing 2400 baud communications. Back in those days, I developed several PC based terminal emulators which I was able to directly connect PC's and PC/XT's to host systems at 19.2K baud using the old 8250's. But that was some of the last real serious Assembler code I wrote.

Actually nobody was really having any serious data communications problems until the new v.32bis modems hit the market. Using internal compression technology and some super-sophisticated modulation techniques these puppies can pump data at

{Ctrl}Q. Keep in mind that there's only one QuickMark and it is automatically created where the cursor is whenever you save a file, so it moves around a lot.

That's it for now. As you can see, we'll have LOTS to talk about with WP 6.0. Our May Round Table session was devoted entirely to 6.0 and we had a great time.

Lori Quinn

NTPCUG — On-Line

by Fred Williams
SYSOP, NTPCUG BBS

effective throughput speeds well in the excess of 38.8K baud. Couple these data speeds with good old Windows, or even "slow" CPU's running DOS, and the wheels come off

of your data communications at terminal velocity (pun intended.)

Immediately many "in the know" started shouting, "Get a 16550 UART and all your problems will disappear." As usual, those "in the know" were almost half right. It seems that National Semiconductor, owner and major supplier of the 16550 designator, had pulled a "Rockwell" and was shipping a "broken" product design of the initial chip. The early National Semi 16550 UART's did not work any differently than the 16450's.

What is humorous is that some of National Semi's competitors immediately rushed a competitive but also "flawed" design to market. Beware, some of the "bad" 16550's are still in the product pipelines. Even if you did end up with a functional 16550 UART, your problems were in no way solved. Seems that the design of a working 16550 UART requires special "bit fiddling" be done by 16550 aware communications software, before it would even switch into the 16550 mode. No bit fiddling, and you are still in 16450 land.

At the time of the high speed modem flood onto the market, you may have noticed a rash of upgrade announcements from most of the major communications software vendors, which touted their support of the faster modems.

NTPCUG - On-Line

CONTINUED ...

Actually what most of these upgrades did was add program code to go in and "tickle" your 16550 UART's bits every time you fired up your newly upgraded communications software. Unfortunately, most communications packages also require the user to configure the software for the 16550 UART's as a separate configuration step.

So now you've got your "Super Data Blaster" modem connected to your proper 16550 UART populated, I/O Card, your freshly updated and configured communications software installed, and the whole works almost appears to be glowing from throbbing speed locked in there. So, you dial the NTPCUG BBS and, BUMMER, you get a "CONNECT 1200" return code! �#^@#!&^%*!

So you leave the Sysop a message that goes something like this, "How come I can only connect to this BBS at 1200 baud, using my brand new "Super Data Blaster" modem? The guy that sold it to me out of his car trunk said it was the world's best modem." In your message you naturally imply that it has to be the BBS's fault. Failing to notice that you are the only one having any problems connecting above 1200 baud. All things being equal, it is most likely the fault of the modem "Initialization String" you are sending from your modem. All modems conform to the Hayes Command Set standard, up to a point. Almost every modem has their own private set of command "extensions" which are different from any other modem's. This means immediately that the Sysop does not have a clue as to how to "fix" your modem initialization string.

You should review your communications software documentation. Most good quality communications packages come with a utility used to configure the most common, and not so common, modems that are on the market. If you cannot find your modem listed in the modem setup utility's list of supported modems, pick the "Generic 14.4" selection. Once you get the proper initialization string setup, give the BBS a second try. If you still connect at 1200 baud, I might suggest tracking down that guy that sold you that high tech piece of work. Once you have located him, I can think of various novel, if not a bit

painful, things that you might do with the modem in relation to the guy who sold it to you. But, I leave that to your own imagination.

And, oh, by the way, take it from someone who has been there. When some well-intending soul approaches you and tells you that you really don't need a 16550 UART to use your new 14.4kbps modem, just act very thankful for the advice, and go find an I/O board with a 16550 UART installed.

Fred Williams

May Disk of the Month

Guide to the Internet 1.0

Disk 891. *Guide to Internet 1.0*, 10/93 — Beginner's Internet tutorial Release 1.0 by Patrick J. Suarez, Suarez Associates, P.O. Box 764, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343. Registration fee = \$25.00.

"The Beginner's Guide to the Internet" is a computer-based tutorial about the Internet that covers E-mail, ftp, telnet, gopher,archie, veronica, wais, www, USENET newsgroups, BITNET listservs, and Internet Relay Chat. This is a very useful item for anyone who would like to learn about the Internet. It is more useful than a



book on the Internet, in that it covers just what you really need to know to get started.

This is a text-based tutorial, not a hypertext or interactive application. The author did a very nice job with the screen displays: the text is not crowded on the screen, and color is used to highlight the key concepts. The most useful feature of this tutorial for the novice are the step-by-step instructions on how to use the Internet. There is also a comprehensive list of Internet providers for those who do not yet have Internet access.

Registered users receive the latest update at no charge, plus notification of future updates.

Donated by NTPCUG member Raymond T. Reyes.

Readme prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis (5/94).

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Time to Upgrade

Getting a postcard in the mail advising me of the latest upgrade to my program should be good news. The price is attractive and the new features should certainly make it quicker and more capable; but there is a down side. The problem is that while I have been hounding the company to get this revision to me, I have been trying to explore the benefits of my last update. The shipping container it came in is pretty close by. The only way I am ever going to get ahead of the power curve is

to lean pretty heavily on the brain trust at the next monthly NTPCUG meeting. Our club is fortunate to have some members who donate their time to help others with software and hardware questions. These members are User-to-User helpers and SIG leaders who seem to really know their stuff, but for me, I hope when I type the word INSTALL; I become an instant genius.

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)
Kenneth Berg

Crew:

Kenneth Berg
Hank Coleman
Ross Jones
Paul Weathers

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jurig
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration

Booth

Statistician:

Connie Andrews

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

Anchors:

Al Aston
Ralph Beaver
Judy Griffiths
Eugene Hamelman
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt

David Huckabee

Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Raymond Reyes
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller

Booth Crew:

William Aderhold
Nathan Bennette
Diane Bentley
Roger Bopp
Jim Boyce
D.J. Brouwer
Jo Cannon

Lorin Cranford

Cornell Derry
Tim Foster
Hank Holt
Cheryl Hunter
John Ivers
Ned Keig
Tim Lanz

Claude McClure

Foy T. Mills

Martin Moomaw
Liz Rittenhouse
Monica Straw
Bill Wade
Randy Wicks

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:

Norman Dang
Gene Carleton
James Donlon
M. Pat Henley (double)

DOM Desk Crew:

Joe Allen
Bery Baars

Roy Bales

Richard Beuner
Don Chick
William Farris
Charles Fernandez
Tuc Goodwin
Judy Griffiths
Tom Jackson
Duane Martin
Mac McKeethen
Jan Parkhill
Bob Post
George Read
David Struble
Oscar Tyler
Solomon Woldesenbet
Jerry Wooldridge

With Special Thanks to:

Set Up Crew:

Mark Gruner

Kent Haven

David Huckabee
Jerry Stone
Kathryn Loafman
Ken Loafman
Inventory and Take-down Crew:
Nathan Bennette
Tom Jones
Arnold Krusemark
Art Liang
Robert Walton
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)661-4628 (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	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)487-2350	M-Sa	1300-1500	MIDI	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1800
Assembly language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7	1800-2200	PC Tools/Win	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1800
	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600	Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315	7	1300-2100
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200	ProComm/ProComm +	Doug Gornie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869	7	0900-2200			(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
C (the language)	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200		Bill Green	(817) 731-1308		
			T&T	1800-2030		Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200	Quattro Pro/Win	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
			T&T	1800-2030	Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148	7	1830-2100
Borland C++	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900		Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7	1000-2100
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200	SPFPC	Doug Gornie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
			T&T	1800-2030			(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
Comm Software	Doug Gornie	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700	TurboVision	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
		(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900				T&T	1800-2030
CompuServe	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900	UNIX	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200
DOS (all MS versions)	Rick Steffon	(214)327-2728	7	1000-2400					
LANs - Novell	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400	LEGEND:	7	All 7 days of each week		
- <i>Lantastic</i>	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200	M-F	Monday through Friday			
Managing Your Money	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600	T&T	Tuesday and Thursday			
MathCAD	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900	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 Sivemell	(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	0800-1200
.....		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 | It's Legal |
| \$ & Sense | LapLink |
| Anti-Virus | Mathematica |
| Borland Turbo C | Modems |
| CAD | Money Counts |
| Corel Draw | Money Plans |
| Dataflex | Microsoft C |
| dBase, dBase III+/IV | Microsoft C++ |
| DeskLink | Microsoft Visual C++ |
| Desktop Publishing | Microsoft Word |
| DOS (MS) | Microsoft Works |
| DR DOS | MKS products |
| Easy Text | Norton Utilities |
| First Choice | OS/2 |
| First Publisher | PAF |
| Fox Pro | Pagemaker |
| Fund Watch Plus | PC Hookup |
| Hardware Help | Personal Tax Preparer |
| Harvard Graphics | 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 a non-profit independent organization of individuals learning to apply personal computers to practical problems. For additional information, call (214) 746-4699.

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

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

Occupation/Profession: _____

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

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

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

North Texas PC Users Group, 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 with \$24 membership dues to the Membership Director — address shown below. 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 OFFICERS AND PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW . . .

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG 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 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

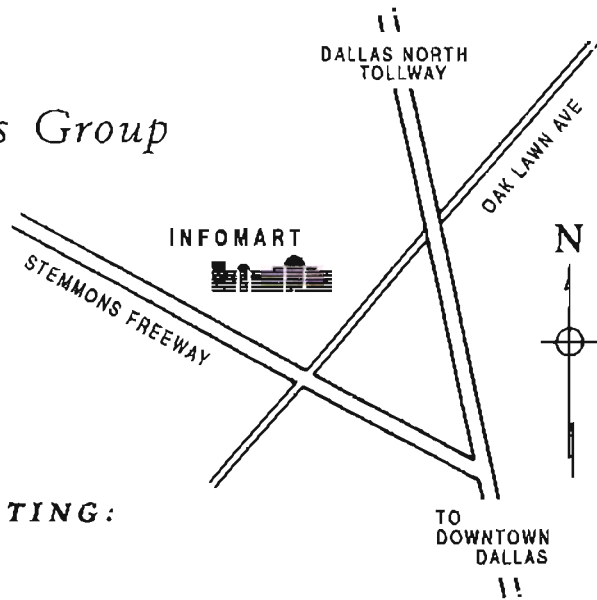
Non Profit Org.
 U. S. Postage
 Paid
 Arlington, TX
 Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.

13.6

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

18 June 1994