

Price \$2.00

North Texas  NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

July 1994

VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 7



North Texas PC NEWS

Published monthly by members of North Texas Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Members each receive a free subscription; for others, price of the NEWS is \$2 per copy. Members are requested to notify the Membership Director in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to: Editor, North Texas PC NEWS, 218 Virginia Ave., Waxahachie, TX, 75165-2418
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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2,450 last month.

Member distribution was 2,100; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Corel Ventura 4.2, Corel Draw 3.0, Arts & Letters 3.12 and HP Scanjet IIp. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, Lithos and Mistral.

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

Meeting Dates:
July 16, 1994 - 3rd Saturday
August 20, 1994 - 3rd Saturday
September 17, 1994 - 3rd Saturday

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PROGRAM FOR July . . .

TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

To Be Announced

Check the Meetings Conference of the BBS for updates. Possibly *ProComm Plus for Windows* from Datastorm.

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

Font-o-Matic and Fontographer 3.5 for Windows

Altsys Corporation

Altsys Corporation has developed some award-winning products for graphics design and font editing, including *Metamorphosis Professional*, *EPS Exchange*, and the highly acclaimed *Aldus FreeHand*.

Fontographer 3.5 for Windows is the ultimate font creation and editing program for both the novice and professional. With *Fontographer*, you can create logos, foreign characters, calligraphic text, and other graphics with precision drawing tools and assign them to a keystroke within any font. Superior auto-trace capabilities will turn PICTs or scanned images into editable PostScript language outlines. Change the weight of individual characters or entire fonts with one simple command; even interpolate (blend) fonts to create an unlimited number of variations from existing typefaces. Save type and graphics as TrueType or PostScript language Type 1 fonts.

Altsys Font-o-matic is an outrageous new Windows utility that creates wild and wacky TrueType fonts from any TrueType or PostScript language Type 1 font. Each crazy effect in *Font-o-matic* has tons of variations controllable with easy-to-use sliders and animated buttons. Choose from a list of zany effects including Cow Spots, Cactus, Swiss Cheese, and Warp, or mix them together for thousands more. Each font is easily installed and accessible from any Windows application. Special pricing for these products will be offered, and there will be a drawing for free items.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

To Be Announced

* 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

July 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-
-Beginning
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

The Heat

We complain when it is too cold, we complain when it is too hot, but two or three days each year we are happy with the temperature. So, we find something else to complain about on those days. As one of our 112 degree heat index and ozone alert days passed through last week, I wondered if I could blame my writer's block on the heat. You know, "brain cloud" or "this is your brain in the frying pan." My plea to the board and officers brought only "Gone Fishing" replies, save one.

Where We Are

At 2,100+ members, the NTPCUG is accomplishing our objective as a nonprofit educational organization providing technical support to computer users and potential computer owners. With over 50 special interest group meetings and auditorium presentations each month, it takes a lot (100 - 150) NTPCUG volunteers to make it all work. We've pushed, pulled, cajoled, and beseeched this all-volunteer corporation to encourage member participation and ensure continued success. It seems to be working — so far.

A concern of the Board of Directors for several years has been overnight explosive growth. New members are always welcome, but we want to ensure that the infrastructure to run the group remains intact. I do not believe the explosion will occur. Look at the DOS 6 roll-out that brought in over 500 new members with the inducement of \$10 off the \$24 annual dues. This year, approximately 350 of those "new" members did not renew their membership.

Another uncertainty that comes with growth is meeting space. Some Saturdays the user groups fill all available meeting space at Infomart during prime hours. The Officers and Board members

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try to anticipate these occurrences and shuffle the agenda accordingly.

Where We Want to Be

The NTPCUG remains committed to serving the public. As new ventures come along, we certainly will participate if it furthers our cause. An example, and dates to mark on your calendars, will be September 24-25 at the Infomart. This is the weekend after our User Group Saturday meeting, when we will see the national kick-off of America's Home Computer Show.

Watch the newsletter for announcements, discount coupons, and NTPCUG participation. As opposed to Networks Expo which focuses on the business marketplace, the home computer show will be an exposition for the consumer market.

Your ideas, comments, and participation in this group are welcomed. Leave a message on the BBS, or call a board member or officer.

We can not do everything or be everything, but we will listen and try new endeavors if the user group is there to back us up with volunteers.

Tell Your Friends, Co-Workers, Bosses

These categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Where in the city is computer help this inexpensive? Our monthly meetings, our on-line help via the BBS, this newsletter, and our User-to-User program provide assistance to all members. Spread the word. The North Texas PC Users Group's main growth has occurred through word-of-mouth.

Membership Director

A thank you for a thankless task. Each and every month, renewals and new membership cross the desk of the Membership Director. Each one has to be input or updated in the database. Mailing labels have to be produced for the newsletter. Mem-

A DAY AT THE NTPCUG BUSINESS MEETING . . .



NTPCUG President, **Andy Oliver**, presides over June Business Meeting.



NTPCUG "DOM MOM" **Kathryn Leafman** describes June's Disks of the Month to crowd

JUNE DRAWINGS — And, THE WINNERS WERE ...

At least one of the winners at the June drawings was a surprize —

Member **Julia Guyer**, 11, walked away with a copy of the PIM, *CrossTies*, at the June meeting. Julia, below, is daughter of member **William Guyer** and has her own NTPCUG membership as do her father and two brothers, **Daniel** and **James**, 7, who helped Julia collect her PIM.



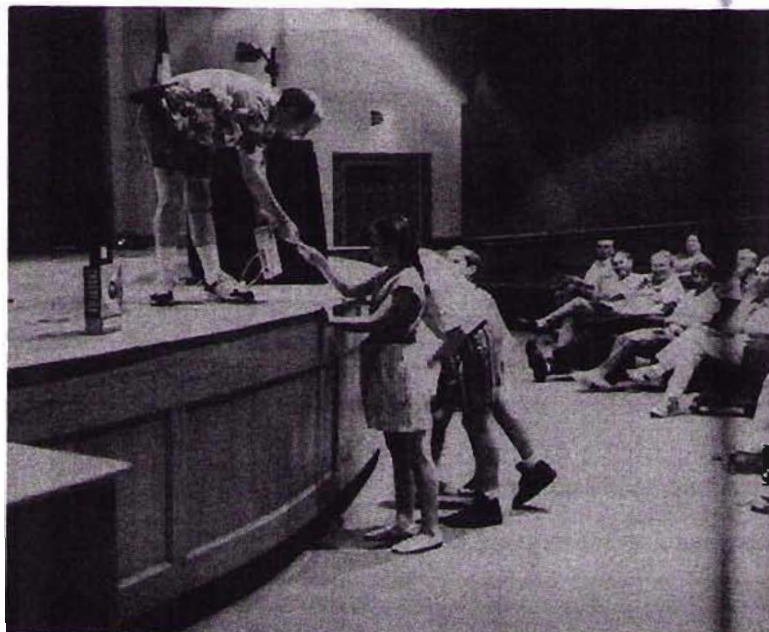
Above, (L-R) **David Huckabee**, **Charles Miller** and **Alex Lilley** wait for the meeting to begin.

PREZ SEZ ... Ctd.

Membership cards are printed from the database information. The BBS always need a current list of members. The mailing labels are occasionally sold for a one time use, under contract, and they have to be pulled from the database. The membership database is a very important asset of this corporation.

Please take time and express your appreciation for all of the hard work to President-Elect, Member Emeritus, DOS SIG co-leader, and Membership Director, **Jim Hoisington**.

Andy Oliver



A happy winner, member **Julia Guyer**, receives her copy of *CrossTies* from **Alex Lilley** during the June drawings

NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

Microsoft Office Professional 4.3

(First Installment)

by Larry Linson

(Larry Linson is the Microsoft Access SIG Leader & NTPCUG Microsoft Applications/Office Developers SIG Organizer.)

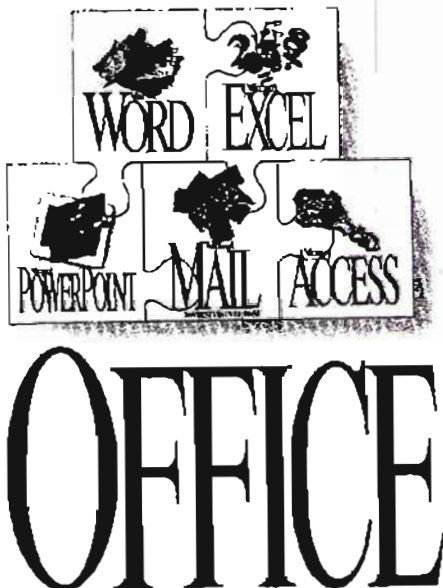
'Best of Breed' vs. Suite

Is it best to buy a suite, or is it best to buy 'best of breed' software in each category? Every major personal computer publication has asked those questions in comparative reviews of the major office software suites; none has answered it. Every article I've read concludes that you have to make your own decision based on your personal needs and circumstances. You won't find the answer here, either, but we'll look at factors to consider

Getting Started

Includes Examples for Working Together

Microsoft



For Office Standard and Office Professional Editions

and I'll tell you why I picked an office suite and some of the reasons why I picked this one.

Why Should I Buy a Suite?

The question is longer than the primary answer: money. Every suite is priced at a significant bargain over individual purchase of its component software. Unless you are a brand-new computer user, chances are you have *some* software which qualifies you for an even lower upgrade price.

For example, you qualify for the competitive upgrade for Microsoft Office if you own a competing individual software package or suite, or any of a surprisingly wide range of Microsoft's own software (some of which seems not to be connected at all to "offices"). If you own one item of qualifying software, you can often upgrade to a suite for as little as you can purchase a new copy of only one of the packages in the suite.

Secondary reasons include application integration (ease of using the applications together), consistency of user interface, and convenience of having only one source of technical support information for several programs (eliminating or reducing the possibility of finger pointing, the "It's *their* fault" ploy).

Factors to Consider in Choosing a Suite

Software packages in the suite:

All major manufacturers' suites include word-processing, spreadsheet, and at least a license for some kind of mail connection. Not all contain a database program or a separate presentation graphics package. Novell (*nee* Borland) Office's graphics capability is that provided by Quattro Pro — it's good, but anyone to whom you distribute it must also have Quattro Pro; Microsoft Office's PowerPoint, on the other hand, includes a viewer program which you may distribute royalty-free with your presentations.

The Access and Paradox databases, according to the reviews, have robust programming capability, while Lotus' Approach is more end-user oriented.

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

The world chooses Borland C++ for its 16/32-bit standard!

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.

“... it shows Borland's attention to developer's needs.”
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.”

And getting started is easy too. The AppExpert and ClassExpert will create your application for you. You simply plug together high-functionality components—like SpeedBars®, editors and status lines—from OWL 2.0. Perhaps that's why *Software Development* magazine proclaims, “Anything that MFC can do, OWL can do better.”



And since OWL 2.0 is platform-independent, the code you

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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1-800-336-6464, ext. 8909**
In Canada, call 1-800-461-3327.

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MS Office 4.3 Review ... Ctd.

If you intend to develop database applications for others, that may be the deciding factor.

End-user features of the software:

The "high-end" software included in today's suites is all so feature-rich that you can effectively ignore this issue. There is little that you can't do with the software in suites — it's more likely that most of us will never come close to using all the features in any of the included software.

Software ease of use:

"Ease of use," usability lab studies notwithstanding, is very much a matter of individual perception. I have an acquaintance to whom ease of use is primarily a matter of how few keystrokes it costs him to perform some action — never mind that, I'd find the abbreviations he uses cryptic and would have to continually be looking up just the right one to use.

Still, I find that consistency of menus, operations, and commands is a strong point for most of us who switch from one software package to another several times during the workday. I'm afraid the final test of this factor won't come until you install and use the software, unless you can try the packages on someone else's computer for several days. Demonstrations are not very useful; remember that the demonstrator is probably extremely experienced with the software, may be using a well-practiced script, or both.

Development capabilities: Even for our own use, we may find it helpful to develop "applications" for common tasks. If we prepare applications for others, we *must* have good development capabilities. We may also need the ability to distribute our applications to users who don't have the same software.

This is most applicable to the database component of suites, since there are few, if any, Windows spreadsheets or word processors for which there is a "runtime" package available (although there are some DOS spreadsheet compilers). While not strictly a "development" issue, PowerPoint's royalty-free "viewer" allows you to distribute Power-

Point presentations to others who don't own PowerPoint.

Time for a Change?

Why did I have to change anything? Microsoft released Access 2.0, with major improvements both in assistance for the end user and enhancements for the application developer. I wanted to stay up-to-date with this product, so was faced with an upgrade to the software that I use most.

Further, there had also been a new release of PowerPoint that reviewers gave high marks to — one more "must-have" upgrade. It seemed to make sense to look at the option of a suite, since these upgrades would amount to "half a suite or more" of new software, anyway.

Making the Decision

In the world of Windows, my software of choice was from all three of the major manufacturers: Microsoft's Access database and PowerPoint presentation graphics, Borland's (now Novell's) Quattro Pro spreadsheet, and Lotus Development's Ami-Pro word processor and Freelance presentation graphics.

I liked them all and found them easy, if not completely consistent, to use. Thus, until the advent of Microsoft Office 4.3 with all the latest versions of the software, I'd been an ardent "best of breed" software advocate.



What changed my mind? From an end-user view, my primary reason has to be consistency of operation across the individual packages. All the applications I used conformed to the basic Windows user interface guidelines, but, even so, the implementations were just different enough to be irritating at times. When you switch between the packages several times a day, it is very nice not to have to face subtle interface differences each time.

Applications development — Large factor

A larger factor in my decision was the aspect of applications development. When I moved from DOS to Windows, why had I moved from Paradox to Microsoft Access? There is a single, and simple, reason: it was easier for me to develop database applications in Access.

When end user capabilities aren't enough, I can add macros to automate function with little more than point-and-click; if macros aren't enough, the language I use is very nearly a subset of Visual Basic; further, if I *really* need to get down to the detail level, I can call functions from Windows Dynamic Load Libraries (.DLLs), even the Windows Application Programming Interface (API) functions from Windows' own libraries.

Even had I been a PAL practitioner with Paradox for DOS, I'd have had to learn a new programming language, ObjectPAL, for Paradox for Windows.

Language similarities important

In this version of Microsoft Office, both Excel and Word for Windows have a similar Visual Basic-like language, though they each also retain another, older macro language. If I should need to develop an application, or simply automate some functions, in Word or Excel, each has available a language with which I'm already familiar. As you might expect, there will be a few different "extensions" to the Basic language to handle spreadsheet and text processing functions.

All the applications are enabled for version 2.0 of Object Linking and Embedding (OLE 2.0), which is a significant enhancement to the older OLE 1.0 standard. In either a Visual Basic or an Access application, I could effectively include Excel's spreadsheet and graph functions or Word for Windows' text functions as part of my application.

Other vendors have begun to support the OLE 2.0 standard (Visio graphics was demonstrated with

MS Office 4.3 Review ... Ctd.



Visual Basic at one of our "auditorium meetings"). Finally, Access 2.0 is the first application to reach the market with the ability to use the new generation of "custom controls," the OLE Custom Controls (.OCX).

Twelve Pounds of Software

Microsoft Office Professional, I discovered when it was delivered and I had to carry it inside, is quite an armful - twelve pounds, according to the shipping label. Within a large slipcase, you find four smaller ones. Three contain the manuals for Microsoft Word for Windows 6.0, Microsoft Excel 5.0, Microsoft PowerPoint 4.0 and Microsoft Access 2.0. The fourth contains your license statement, the *Getting Started* manual and thirty-one diskettes (that's right, thirty-one; no wonder some are opting for the CD-ROM version).

DOM VISIONARY

The Disk Of the Month (DOM) leadership along with the Board of Directors are looking for a creative, people-centric, visionary to take the DOM into the future. Like all jobs in the NTPCUG, this is a volunteer position.

Kathryn Loafman, who administers (mothers) the DOM volunteers, would like to change the focus of her volunteer efforts and needs someone to not only take over, but to bring new ideas of ways to make and save money for the group.

Some questions to be considered are: Is the current DOM operation cost effective? Is there a better way to get the information to the members? Can we change to focus of the DOM to a SIG support status? Can we order more *PC-Write* manuals? How can we use technology in this labor-intensive operation?

Please contact Kathryn or one of the board members (numbers on the inside back cover) to discuss this further.

Andy Oliver

THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by **JIM CARTER**

More on Calling the Windows API

The last column discussed the process of making calls to the Windows API (Application Program Interface) from Visual Basic. At the end of that column, I recommended that those serious about making calls to the Windows API get the book *Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Windows API* by Daniel Appleman.

Dan has also authored an article in the August/September 1993 issue of the *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal* entitled "Ten Commandments

for Accessing the Windows API." The purpose of this article is to help us use the Windows API from within Visual Basic safely.

If you haven't purchased Dan's book on the Windows API, this article is full of excellent advice and will introduce you to Dan's easy style of writing. If you don't have that particular issue of the *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal*, you can order back issues by calling (800) 848-5523.

Dan Appleman Writes Another Book

Dan has written another book for Ziff-Davis Press called *How Computer Programming Works* and it should be on the bookshelves by the time you read this.

The book is not specifically about Visual Basic, but is applicable to any language. Dan says that he wrote the book to "...focus on those fundamental concepts of computing and computer science that are the foundation of what we do."

Dan's book is part of Ziff-Davis Press's "How It Works" series. I have not seen the book as yet, but if it is anywhere near as valuable as his Windows API book, it will be a "must have" book on our bookshelves. Check it out!

MS Office 4.3 Review ... Ctd.

You also get a workstation (or client) license for Microsoft Mail, but this must run in a network which has the Microsoft Mail Server installed, and that's where you pick up the workstation's Microsoft Mail software.

A couple of days of housecleaning my DBLSPACEd hard disk and I'd finally retrieved enough disk space for a full installation — 114 megabytes of disk space, as it turned out. I'd swear the *Getting Started* manual said only 82MB, but that manual is used with both the Standard and Professional versions of Microsoft Office.

The SETUP program has the up-to-date and accurate numbers. SETUP, by the way, allows you the option of loading any parts or all of the Microsoft Office software. I loaded it all, took the default choices, and faced no surprises. I did change the default directory names — if I have to add any to my DOS PATH statement, it's going to be a chore to keep it within the 127-byte limit, even with 2-character directory names.

The Microsoft Office Manager was added to my Startup program group, so as I start Windows, I see the splash screen for Microsoft Office. It places a small, polite, and unobtrusive button bar at the top of my screen and then returns to Program Manager.

That button bar stays on top, regardless of what I'm running, so whenever I need one of the Mi-

crosoft Office applications or to view the help, I am only one mouse move and a click away. It's positioned just to the left of the maximize/minimize buttons of a maximized screen, so isn't likely to interfere with anything except a long title on some application's title bar (or, alas, in my case, the initial unmaximized Solitaire window).

Look for more information on the individual software packages in the Microsoft Office Professional suite in subsequent issues of the North Texas PC News. Members interested in developing applications with these products should look for the announcement of the organizational meeting of a Microsoft Applications Developers SIG at the August 20, 1994 Computer Users Saturday gathering.

Larry Linson

Users and Messages continue to grow on the NTPCUG BBS

by Fred Williams Sysop, NTPCUG BBS

The number of BBS users and message activity just continues to steadily grow. It is encouraging to see so many new and old users increase their interaction about any and all subjects. Seems, no matter the topic, one can always scare up a spread of opinions by the mere mention of or question about: computers, software, communications, politics, and a myriad other controversial subjects. Occasionally a topic degrades down to a verbal free-for-all, but most times good answers and helpful opinions can be the result.

Alex Lilly has joined Timothy Carmichael in making timely postings of detailed information related to the upcoming User Group Saturday meetings. This is an invaluable resource for those wishing to

THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER CONTINUED ...

Get a Jump-Start on Visual Basic for Applications

By now, most of us have heard of Microsoft's plans to make Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) the common macro language for all the applications in Microsoft Office and more. The first application with VBA included is Excel 5.0. There is an excellent publication, *Microsoft Excel Visual Basic For Applications—Step by Step* that familiarizes you with VBA for Excel very quickly and effectively. If you have Excel 5.0, then I recommend that you get the book and become familiar with VBA. It will increase your ability to manipulate Excel 5.0 many times.

I recently used VBA to recreate a database from a Mail Merge document in Word by importing it to Excel, parsing the data, adding new records, and re-sorting the database. The database contained over 2500 records and I had less than 48 hours to produce the updated database. VBA came to the rescue for me. With your Visual Basic background, you will find VBA very easy to use.

Jim Carter

NTPCUG — ON-LINE

by Fred Williams
SYSOP, NTPCUG BBS

plan their meeting in advance. Actually, I prefer to drift in a fog, and stagger to and from whatever, between cups of coffee in the Infomart coffee shop. That way each User Group Saturday is a total surprise.

DOM back up to speed

I've got the DOM on-line search function back up to speed. We generally have the next meeting's DOM disk information included in the on-line search function at least a few days prior to the next meeting. The current DOM releases and a current DOM index are also attached to messages in the "DOM" Conference and are therefore available for download by NTPCUG members.

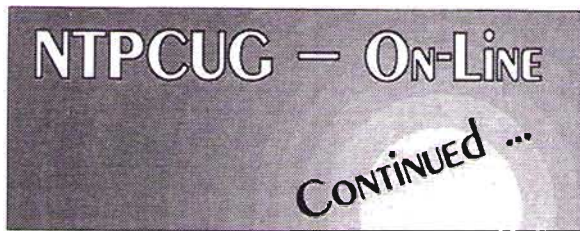
Doug Gorrie is slowly recovering from "Post Presidentitis" and I'm beginning to see him more often on the BBS and personally. Doug got bit pretty severely by the "Information Super Highway" (Internet) bug recently, and has been off E-mailing, FTPing, and Gophering like a wild man.

Been kinda wondering where and how Tom Prickett is doing. I have seen that he is checking the BBS regularly, so I guess he's just too busy puttering around the greenhouse.

'Wild men' and UARTS

Speaking of wild men, Dennis Vandine, mister silent and subtle hisself, did a fine job of lining up a one time only special purchase arrangement for those NTPCUG members who were in the market to upgrade their serial I/O cards.

A big "thank you" is due Dennis for this extra effort. I think this is another fine example of a member taking on a little extra load for the benefit of his fellow members.



Jim Hoisington currently holds the all time distance record on the BBS. He captured the record by placing several 14.4kbps calls from Auckland, New Zealand. After returning from his recent venture deep into the Red Chinese interior, he was somewhat upset that he was never able to pull together the hardware, software, and communications resources necessary to check his mail from darkest China.

No sweat, Jim, I think Auckland will stand for a while as the record.

The people who really give me great satisfaction to see on the BBS regularly are those who must place "local" long distance calls to reach our BBS. That to me, means that the BBS is really worth more than "free" to these individuals. One thing I have also noticed is that those guys and gals seem to be consistent good "contributors" to the ongoing discussions.

Some might be wondering where the Internet feed plan has gone, or is going. Well seems that, as I get the time, I push ahead with the project. I informally ran some initial numbers and administrative requirements past the NTPCUG Board of Directors, and got no overly loud cries of disdain, so I'm considering that a very qualified maybe.

I am now evaluating the various pieces and parts of both hardware and software that must be selected from in order to string together the two tin cans that are to be located at the, to be selected, Internet "feed" and our BBS system. Also there are some non-trivial technical issues that must be evaluated on our BBS system. I have been working on all of this as time permits. I'll try to keep everyone posted as to the progress, but I intend to not raise anyone's level of expectations above what will and will not happen and exactly when.

So y'all drop by and see us sometime on the BBS. You might actually find a new and interesting aspect of your computer that will further entertain and educate you for the next century.

Fred Williams

Summer heat spells death For unprotected CPU's Fans worth the effort ...

Summer means heat, and heat means death for unprotected PC's. Although we're air-conditioned, heat build-up can still "kill" our PC's.

Problem is the ambient temperature in the PC environment. Often, PC users don't notice the heat increase in their operating areas. A difference of 10 - 20 degrees farenheit can mean the difference between a "healthy" and a "dead" CPU chip. Just a few degrees above normal winter levels can make a difference — especially for DX2 chips that normally run very hot.

If you have a 486DX2 33/66-powered PC, keep this in mind. You may not be that uncomfortable in 80° farenheit, but your CPU may die, unless its equipped with a fan and heatsink.

The vendors in the Infomart basement can help, they usually have fans and heatsinks for 486DX formfactor chips at quite reasoable prices. Typical prices were below \$10 last month in the Infomart basement.

Your CPU will thank you for the consideration.

Etoine Shrdlu

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



Who said June is a "Slow news month?" Big announcements from Microsoft, Intel, Borland, Lotus & Comdex aren't 'slow!'

I was all prepared to look for "old" press releases to flesh-out this month's column. No need to dig out old stuff for July — lots of the major players/vendors saw to that. (Given Comdex's June "No Porn" announcement, maybe "flesh-out" wasn't that appropriate, come to think of it.) Major PC news events continue unabated this month following Spring Comdex in Atlanta, GA, and July doesn't look any "slower" if June was a harbinger.

Although I was most taken by the Comdex announcement, the Microsoft - Stac settlement, Intel-HP agreement, Borland & Lotus financial slides and V.FAST adoption are actually more important if less fun to write. And, I've not written about a lot of rumored/proposed mergers, acquisitions and take overs.

News at the top has to be the Microsoft - Stac Electronics agreement.

What'll it be? *DoubleDrive* Or *DoubleSpace* — Maybe *Stacker* in next MS-DOS?

Microsoft settles with Stac

This is what everyone thought should have happened in the first place. Microsoft and Stac Electronics announced a settlement (out of court) that gives MS license to Stac disk compression technology — and 15% of Stac Electronics in June.

This comes on the heels of Microsoft's new *DoubleDrive* to replace *DoubleSpace* in DOS. Just got the 6.22 version to replace the disk compression technology that didn't appear in DOS 6.21, which eliminated *DoubleSpace* as result of May *Stac vs.*

Microsoft decision. If that makes you dizzy, think what it did to the folks who have to report on PC technology news for a living.

Cost of the settlement is approximately \$43 million for Microsoft, payable as royalties at the rate of \$1 million/month over the next 43 months. MS gets 15% stake in Stac Electronics (for an additional \$39.9 million) as part of the deal hammered out by the two companies outside of the Los Angeles courts that awarded Stac \$120 million last month.

Industry experts think Stac came out ahead in this deal since MS agreed to cross-license their patents over the next five

years — and the cash involved, \$82.9 million, is actually more than estimates indicate Stac would have gotten as result of the settlement (and resulting attorneys' fees, taxes, etc.)

Surprise is that this occurred in spite of extremely vituperative and hostile post-trial comments by Stac's Gary Clow, chairman and CEO. Some media sources likened the agreement to a "cobra deciding to bed down with a mongoose."

Relative roles here were not assigned to either of the players.

COMDEX "Clean" MultiMedia Sex "Out" in '94 Shows

It ain't gonna be the same old COMDEX this year. Interface Group, organization that brings us COMDEX, sent out an announcement that they intend to "clean up" the giant computer show.

That means the Interactive Sex and other sexually explicit CD-ROM's won't be the major draw for Comdex crowds as they were last year. I'm not surprised, but am a little disappointed that I've lost that nugget to write about. Evidently, Interface Group got a lot of flak about the sexually-explicit programming that was a major draw in the MultiMedia section last year.

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Actually, from my view point, the "press" was a lot more salacious than the actual material presented at the press conference at Comdex/FALL '93.

Raises two issues. First, is Comdex trying (in spite of its very lurid history/reputation) for pretensions of a "family-oriented" event? That doesn't seem likely given the location and texture of the giant computer show. May indicate the continuing PC influence seen over the past several years, though.

Second, I wonder if the Multi-Media/Sex last year didn't take a few more spectators away from the main exhibit halls than Comdex anticipated? That would explain Interface's move — under pressure of the major exhibitors who just don't want to go up against this kind of competition next year in Las Vegas. Last viewpoint was emphasized by arrival of *Newsweek's* June 27 article "Porn File not Found." Microsoft was named by *Newsweek* as one of the exhibitors who complained at the November, 1993 show.

Comment was that sexually-explicit material "distracted from the software."

More Microsoft — 15,000 beta testers To receive Chicago

According to PC-oriented media (*PC Week* and *The Wall Street Journal*), Microsoft is ship-

ping Chicago's first beta version to 15,000(PCW) - 20,000(WS) aspiring beta testers in June and early July. Supposedly a combination of MS DOS 7.0 and Windows 4.0 by media accounts, distribution of the new OS/GUI beta has been anticipated for several months.

Number of testers (15,000 - 20,000) in a first beta round is the surprise. DOS 6.0 was distributed to approximately 4,000 testers in the final beta round and media speculated in June that the final round for Chicago would be even larger than the initial onslaught.

Generally, beta agreements include a free final (shipping) copy to product beta testers involved. Media estimate that the final Chicago will retail at \$100 - \$150. If there are two or more rounds in the Chicago beta, Microsoft may be in position of giving away somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3 - \$8 million of product just to beta testers when the new system is shipped to end users.

V.FAST gets chance As V.34 standard is Ratified in Geneva

V.FAST is real now. The V.34 standard for 28.8K-bps modems has been given an official vote via ratification in Geneva, Switzerland, in June.

Promising significant increases in modem data transmission speeds, the new standard was adopted amid a flurry of product pre-releases that may force

users with V.FAST modems (for sale for the last six months) to return their units for modification to meet the adopted standards. A number of vendors gambled on V.34 parameters with these units and will have to update their units to meet the "real" standard.

According to *PC Week*, this will include those units based on the Rockwell V.Fast Class chips. Other models using flash ROM coding may be upgradeable via new software.

ViaCrypt PGP — Sometimes the "Good guys" win

There is an alternative to *Clipper*. I received a phone call from Paul Uhlhorn, Director of Marketing for Via Crypt Products in Phoenix, AZ, shortly after the May issue of the *PC News* went out. One of our members had sent Paul a FAX of my ramblings about President Clinton, the NSA and PGP (*Pretty Good Privacy*), and he wanted to let me know about ViaCrypt.

ViaCrypt markets a commercial version of PGP that is available through ViaCrypt, and through a local distributor, Metropolitan Computer Products, Inc. (If you are reading this, you should have gotten a mailer from Metropolitan in June.)

PGP is the data encryption/decryption program that's definitely not a favorite of those federal agencies who want access to everybody's data. It was originally distributed via the Internet and is the work of Phil Zimmerman. ViaCrypt licensed PGP technology and is making it available to PC users who are concerned about data privacy.

Contact Metropolitan at (214) 702-9119 or Fax (214) 702-9168. ViaCrypt can be reached at (800) 536-2664.

Borland, Lotus Stocks decline — Poor June results

Both Borland International, Inc., and Lotus Development Corp. reported poorer than expected quarterly results in June, causing stock prices of both to fall further than analysts had expected.

Borland, plagued by delayed product deliveries (*dBase for Windows*) reported quarterly and annual results that emphasized the company's continuing fall. Borland reported a \$70 Million loss for Fiscal Year (FY) 94, a 15.2% decline in revenue for the fiscal year. Borland continued the bad news with announcement that they anticipate an operating loss for the first quarter of FY-95.

Computerworld reported the Borland financials June 6, and estimated that Borland would experience some difficulty with its push into higher-level client/server markets as a result. Several IS managers quoted indicated they were re-evaluating their software acquisition plans in the wake of the poor results.

Unanswered was the question of the Lotus \$120 Million judgment against Borland coming out of the Lotus decision on *Quattro Pro*. This is seen by sources quoted as pivotal in terms of Borland's future.

Lotus Development Corp.'s stock took a major tumble when Lotus revealed "softness" in their core desktop software business. Reported by *The Wall Street Journal* June 22, the Lotus



stock slide reached 28% after Lotus announced a sales slowdown for their current quarter.

WSJ quoted analysts who saw the Lotus decline as a product of the cyclical nature of the software business, and others who feared that the Lotus results were indicative of general softening of the PC market. Lotus sources quoted reminded that delays of key products and product cycles were at root of the poorer than expected result.

Lost share to Microsoft appeared to be key to both views. Lotus described the situation as timing — Lotus products are at the end of their cycle while Microsoft (and others) have announced new, competing products this quarter. Lotus expects this situation to reverse when their new cycle begins next quarter while Microsoft's products are mid-cycle.

Lotus ups the ante, Grabs SoftSwitch And EMX technology

In spite of the gloomy news above, Lotus Development Corp. is expanding their messaging technology rapidly. Major push comes with the acquisition of SoftSwitch, Inc. and its EMX (Enterprise Mail Exchange) platform in June.

Seen by some media as a direct assault in the battle with Microsoft, acquisition will cost Lotus between \$64 million to \$73 million. *PC Week* reported that the deal will give Lotus "a robust tool for linking the forth-

coming LCS (Lotus Communications Server) with legacy data and mainframe E-mail backbone environments."

If all the acronyms are a little confusing, meat of the merger is in enhancing Lotus *Notes* capabilities and ensuring progress across a number of important platforms — making Lotus a major player from the desktop to enterprise-wide arenas.

Intel rattles CPU Cages as June News cascades

Intel may be finessing the RISC field with its agreement to develop CPU chips with Hewlett-Packard. Announced in June, the Intel-HP deal places the industry's giants in the same yoke in developing the next generation of microprocessors.

The pair hope to develop CPU chip and compiler technologies aimed at a 10X increase in speed compared to current Intel *Pentium* chips.

According to *PC Week*, the consortium will invent processors that are X86 compatible, and also "binary-compatible with software that runs on PA-RISC-based workstations and mid-range computers." The new chips are due in 1998.

Intel's agreement with HP falls closely on the heels of another Intel announcement concerning the P6 processor and possible 200 MHz (?*Sextiums?*) by 1996. These are seen as a direct re-

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sponse to the higher-speed *Power PC* chips forecast by Motorola, IBM and Apple.

The Intel-HP announcement may be a pre-emptive strike against everybody in the RISC camp.

More speed — Cyrix, IBM, AMD & MIPS Announce faster CPUs

Spring Comdex in Atlanta brought speed to the rest of us. Cyrix/IBM, AMD and MIPS all announced new, faster chips at the show.

Cyrix was showing its new 40/80 MHz 486 chips at Atlanta, and use of IBM's 0.5-micron technology would make a 150 MHz version possible by next year, according to analysts at the show. Media credited IBM's Microelectronics Division with manufacturing capability making the current 40/80 MHz 486's possible after Cyrix experienced difficulty with the 33/66 MHz chips made by another silicon foundry.

AMD was also showing a power-saving line of 486 chips at Comdex. Versions shown included 40 MHz DX, 25/50 MHz and 33/66 MHz DX2 chips. Estimated prices ranged from \$247 - \$357 in 1000-unit quantities for the new series.

MIPS Technologies, Inc. announced, and showed, their 200 MHz R4400 RISC processor. The new R4400 was running *Windows NT* applications three times faster than a 90 MHz *Pen-*

tium, according to MIPS officials who said the new chips would be available in sample quantities in June.

BIG? Try 64M — IBM, Siemens AG & Toshiba Develop Mega-DRAM

Memory is the name of the speed game. IBM, Siemens AG and Toshiba plan to develop a 64M-byte DRAM chip based on 64-bit technology and much faster than "older" DRAM technologies.

Although IBM's "1st-generation" 64M-byte chips are now shipping in sample quantities, subsequent generations are planned to enhance speed and are expected to appear in workstations initially. However, analysts are certain that the new technology will find its way into the desktop, *Pentium*-powered PC as a result of the demands MultiMedia video and

audio applications place on these systems.

New chips will be designed and developed at the IBM's East Fishkill, NY, and Essex Junction, VT facilities. Toshiba reported they expect samples will be available by September.

Rambus is NEC's Answer for faster DRAM demands

NEC, in a similar announcement, reported new, 16M- and 18M-bit DRAM chips. NEC will use a new technology from Rambus, Inc., that *Computerworld* reported is claimed to push DRAM throughput to 500M-byte/sec levels.

That's roughly 10 times faster than current DRAM technology. NEC reports it will be supporting three DRAM technologies — the Rambus DRAM, traditional DRAM and "Synchronous DRAM." This latter is a DRAM that supports a burst-through mode of operation. Rambus DRAM is really a hardware-level interface that uses 250 MHz clock rates.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Software copyright case ends in fines, probation

LUBBOCK — International Business College-Lubbock, Inc. was sentenced to five years' probation and fined \$30,000 for a software copyright violation, federal officials announced Friday. College president Kirk Williams also received two years' probation and was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and perform 100 hours of community service. IBC and Mr. Williams pleaded guilty to criminal copyright violations for the illegal use and sale of copyrighted software. IBC paid about \$14,000 in restitution to various holders of the copyrights, officials said. The school was also ordered to teach a one-hour class in computer ethics and computer copyright law to IBC students in Lubbock, Sherman or Denton. [Ed. note: Does this last mean that only students at one of the campuses will need ethical training? Or, was this a misprint?]

From *The Dallas Morning News*, June 25, Page 15 F

Analysts feel that the technology will become widespread since current DRAM, even cached, is hobbling the faster CISC and RISC machines.

Adobe announces ATM 3.0 for Windows, Multiple-master support

Adobe Systems released the latest version of *Adobe Type Manager (3.0) for Windows* and said it will include support for Adobe's multiple master type font technology. According to the Adobe press release, the multiple master technology will allow PC users to "create the perfect typeface variation for any design or layout."

Adobe also reported that *ATM* will be much more LAN-friendly than previous versions and can be installed on any Windows-supported network with no dependency on network protocol installed.

The new Adobe *ATM* package will include 30 typefaces: *Berthold Baskerville*, *Boton*, and *Poppl-Laudatio* in regular, italic, medium and medium-italic weights; *Courier* and *Helvetica* in regular, oblique (italic), bold and bold-oblique; *Times* in roman, italic, bold and bold-italic, *ITC Anna*, *Boulevard*, *Giddyup*, *Giddyup Thangs*, *Tekton* multiple master and *Symbol* typefaces.

Corel SCSI, Version 2 Answer to a prayer — Or incantation ...

So you're a full-bore MultiMedia junkie? Got all the latest sound, video and CD hardware, and just itching to add a little more next month? Lots of luck.

I didn't add Leroy's comment about needing chickens to sac-



rafice just for the macabre humor in April. SCSI is one of the more daunting and sometimes mystical interfaces users can face in their attempts to make a system "perfect."

Solution, software-based.

First of these comes from Canada via Corel. This is a short review of the first, Corel, solution of the SCSI puzzle — *Corel SCSI 2*. Yes, it's another driver/manager kit, and yes, it will eat a little/lot of your hard-disk landscape. Although Corel is best known for its *CorelDRAW* graphics editor, in this area, Corel actually has considerable expertise in the SCSI arena and has written the SCSI software masquerading under a number of other labels.

Corel's SCSI 2 package simply organizes and implements the various SCSI devices on the user's system. And, that's a lot. Anything that can make sense of SCSI from multiple vendors

is worth its weight in gold if it works.

It does.

My problem began with an SCSI disk (Maxtor) and a CD-ROM (Toshiba) player. They were easy enough to make work — after several hours. When I decided to add a Hewlett-Packard ScanJet IIP scanner to the combination, all sorts of interesting things happened. Notice I said "interesting" and not neat, great or easy. The HP SJ IIP scanner had its own SCSI (kinda) TWAIN compatible interface board. It sure didn't want to work from the Adaptec 1542B board already in the PC as configured.

Problem is the ASPI driver in the original configuration wouldn't work with the SJ IIP driver. (That's changed with a new HP driver that does recognize ASPI managers and will work with newer Adaptec driver.)

I installed/loaded the entire Corel SCSI 2 kit and wound up with an 8M directory. Installation was easy and direct. Most important, it worked seamlessly after installation.

Most impressive was the array of tools Corel provided with this kit. Or, perhaps, the CD Music utility. Either way, I do recommend this package for anyone with SCSI problems.

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

Joe Clark will speak in July on the subject of "OLE Custom Controls with Access 2.0." I'm told that rather late in the beta test, Microsoft included the ability to use the new OLE 2.0 custom controls. (Rumor has it that it was added at the personal direction of Bill Gates. If so, thanks to Bill for making Access 2.0 the very first product to market which can use OLE Custom Controls.) Three OLE custom controls are included in the Access Development Toolkit.

Regular attendees know Joe Clark as a very knowledgeable Access consultant who has a remarkable ability to explain complex sub-

jects in simple and understandable terms. These qualities have made Joe a successful teacher of Access for developers, a frequent speaker at database conferences, and a writer who contributes to national publications. He teaches Access developer classes all over the U.S. for Softbite International. (Note: look at the picture of "Access experts" on page 6 of the June/July issue of *Access Advisor* magazine and see who's at the left of the front row!)

Thanks to Bobby Taylor for his two-part presentation in May and June on "Information Modeling and Asymetrix' InfoModeler."

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

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

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Jack Atkinson (817) 481-623 h
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Frank McCoy (817) 232-4483 h

Alpha 4

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

APL

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Assembler

Glynn Brooks (214) 578-6737 h

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..... (817) 379-5287 w

BASIC - Classic

Mike Firth (214) 827-7734 h

BASIC Visual

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..... (214) 230-5485 w
Jim Carter (214) 235-5968 h

Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland .. (214) 272-2369 h

Business Applications/DAC

Putt Shaw (214) 235-2559 h
..... (214) 669-8333 w
Bruce Schubert ... (214) 690-5348 h
..... (214) 233-6353 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

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..... (214) 313-0408 w

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..... (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
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Gary Johnson (214) 938-0344 h

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Ralph Logan (817) 498-9746 hM

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Debbie Meaney .. (214) 716-2704 w
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Networking

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

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SIG

We're looking forward to Bobby becoming a regular participant in the Access SIG. Maybe we can persuade him to speak again sometime.

Do you have some examples of Access applications or of databases illustrating some feature of Access that you would share? Please don't feel that you have to make a startling breakthrough or climb a mountain never before climbed — we need examples at all levels if we are to put together a freeware disk for the Disk of the Month. Wouldn't it be nice if you had examples with descriptions that you could look at before tackling some new feature? I'm working on some now, but this can't be a "one-man show."

New BBS news: "Bitwise BBS," (214) 964-2827, a strictly programming-only free BBS, operated by NTPCUG's own Zach and Ken Loafman, now carries the Fi-doNet national/international message echoes on Visual Basic and Microsoft Access. Give them a call, take a look around, and leave me a short message.

There's more traffic on the VISUALBASIC message conference, but good information in MICROACCESS, too. They support up to 14,400 KBPS communication, use the same TBBS software as the NTPCUG BBS, and have the QWK Support Option so you can download messages for your favorite off-line reader.

See you at the Access SIG on July 16! We're still interested in hearing about your experience with Access 2.0 — pros and cons.

Larry Linson

APL SIG

Well, the pundits were right — there was not enough interest in the APL community to support an APL SIG in the NTPCUG. After a number of months of negligible attendance, the APL SIG was canceled and did not meet at the June, 1994 meeting.

Frank Cavallito

Assembler SIG

In June, we looked at The Future of Assembler Programming and found enough niches (even in a Windows world) to assure continued prosperity and employment for Assembler programmers for some time to come. It was a very good, thought-provoking group discussion.

In July, we'll be discussing the Enhanced IDE specification and some of its programming details. I'll be presenting some sample code that shows how to interrogate your IDE drive to get the manufacturer's recommended setup parameters and how they compare to what is in the CMOS. We'll also discuss IDE cache schemes and how well they work.

As always, we encourage you to come to the 11:00 o'clock meeting. 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

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

Legend: h = Home #, W = Work #
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WordPerfect / DOS

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

WordPerfect / Windows

Mitch Milam(214) 406-9054 w

SIG

page instruction sheets each meeting and Q&A on any Basic code subject. This group does "No Windows Basic" (NOW Basic for short).

DOM #846 was released in August '93 with all the SIG material covered until then. 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 soon. Subjects covered include Writing a program, Report program & String Variables, Sequential files, Random files, Math & Number Variables, Arrays explained, Sort & merge theory, Program editing, Debug & Testing, Error messages & Error Traps, CRT & printer code and shareware utility gems.

Recent SIG meetings (and the new DOM disk) cover: 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 JAPANQB.BAS, a Japanese candlestick graph maker using a sample stock market data file. May 94 covered an arithmetic drill program for young students called FLASH-CARD. June 94 covered the use of Vernon Bueg's SORTF program.

The remainder of 1994 will cover: Bit/hex/decimal conversion,

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

Communications SIG

The Communications SIG in May hosted Dave Casey from Westron Communications. Dave discussed voice data integration, and the application of networking solutions. The MICON products allow a company to use the same line for voice, data and fax which reduces telecommunication cost. We were given examples of how companies in the Dallas area are using these technologies to increase their efficiency and reduce their cost.

The group was given overview of current voice/data transmission characteristics (cost and transmission quality) through satellite, fiber optic, and cellular transmission. Also, the current advantages of using T1, 64kbps, 56kbps, and ISDN.

Our discussion also included V. Fast modems and the problems associated with high-speed transmission. We discussed using Windows with high-speed modems, the 16550 UARTS, high-speed accelerator cards, and an innovative solution from Microcom that achieves true V. Fast throughput using a PC's parallel port. The parallel port receives 8 data bits at a time versus a serial port's one bit at a time. Also by transferring bursts of data per each interrupt the CPU spends less time servicing the modem. Microcom's Windows drivers and V.

SIG

Fast modems negotiate throughput speed based on the size of each burst packet that eliminates the problems of overruns.

Don Stoffel, from Factory Direct, was our guest speaker for the June meeting. He discussed PCMCIA Fax Modems, notebook computers, multimedia and computer generated presentations.

Doug Gorrie & Birl Smith

DOS SIG

July's DOS SIG will be looking at Microsoft — and all the various permutations of disk compression available to DOS users with the recent accord between Stac Electronics and Microsoft. We were just becoming used to saying "DriveSpace" rather than "DoubleSpace" and really don't know what we'll call the next MS disk compression utility, unless it's "Stacker."

This does present problems for DOS users. Should they go with the 85% non-MS utility, or settle on one of the two (mostly MS) compression utilities. More than likely, the best answer will remain "None of the above."

One reason is that disk prices continue to slide — and are forecast to get a lot lower/M-byte by year's end. Think by that time, we'll probably call the 500+M-byte IDE drives "medium-sized" and think that 1 G-byte isn't that unreasonable.

In a professional setting, a larger drive still makes more sense than disk compression.

When really reliable DOS or third-party data recovery tools are available to deal with the huge compressed files once they become corrupted, I may reconsider. Until then, I'll still go with bigger disks rather than compression when the user's time (for data recovery) is more valuable than cost of a bigger disk.

DOS SIG will terminate on the usual Q & A session devoted to assisting DOS users solve problems in their day-to-day operations with DOS. Plan to make the meeting, it'll be worth your time and should be a lot of fun.

DOS Tip

A short quiz (circle one):

- ❖ A. I backed up my system(s) today before coming to the DOS SIG meeting
- ❖ B. I backed up last week
- ❖ C. I backed up last month
- ❖ D. I backed up on New Years (this year)

- ❖ E. I think I backed up — sometime last year.
- ❖ F. What's a "back up"?

There's a message here — eventually, any hard disk will fail. Frequent backups are the best insurance a PC user can employ to assure continued happiness. If you circled anything except A, B or C, your at some risk for data loss. Enough said.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG - General

The General Genealogy SIG June program was "How I Found Time To Do My Genealogy." It was brought by Leonard McCown, a member of the SIG. More than a year ago, Leonard made a positive decision to "concentrate on doing my genealogy" and keep after it until he had accomplished his goals. Since that time he has used a program called PAFability to finish his first major goal (on schedule) a book on one of his ancestral lines.

The talk did not concentrate on the finished book but on how it is just one goal in "the big picture." It is easy to say you just have to set your priorities, but it involves more than just a "setting of priori-



Al Sanford leads as Genealogy SIG members listen intently at June meeting.

ties"; it must include a reasonably long-range plan that is feasible and reachable.

The May program topic was "AniMap" (just released version 1.12) a Windows program. The software was demonstrated by **John Wiley**. This is the first AniMap software of this type to be released. It is a U.S. mapping program and allows the boundaries of the various states to be shown as they were at each year. The graphic format is PCX. John used a program called Hijack to convert the PCX to TIF in order to manipulate and work on it more readily. It allows the showing of about 3,000 U.S. counties from millenrrium year 1000.

John pointed out it is a very helpful tool in that it helped him explain historical geography, as related to his genealogy research and helped him learn more about historical geography. AniMap allows the display of over 2,000 maps in color since colonial times. The maps may be viewed separately or they can be programmed to be viewed in motion, in ascending time, so the boundary changes can be seen as they are made. The program allows the printing and the exporting of data.

The program can be ordered from The Gold Bug, P. O. Box 588, Alamo CA 94507, phone 510-838-MAPS. The cost is \$95 for all 6 state regions and the U.S. Map.

The July meeting should be in Room 1059 from 9 to 10 am, but check the screens in the lobby to be sure.

Al Sanford

Genealogy SIG- PAF

The PAF SIG meets in room 1059 from 10 to 11 am on User Group Saturdays with about 50 members present. PAF is the most popular genealogy software program in



use. We are looking for a new SIG leader. **Joe Waldrop**, the present SIG leader will have to step down because of other commitments.

The major topic of discussion at the last meeting was printer problems with PAF 2.3 and how to convert PAF data to ASCII. These problems are primarily with dot matrix printers and mostly occur when installing version 2.3 over version 2.2. PAF recommends turning off your printer while installing version 2.3. If you still have a problem after installing version 2.3, run CONFIG. From the SELECT A PRINTER FROM LIST menu, select 20 CREATE/MODIFY ENTRY. From the PRINTER SET-UP menu, choose 3 MODIFY AN EXISTING PRINTER ENTRY. Select your printer (most probably number 5 EPSON/PANASONIC/CITIZEN and compatible). Then from the printer driver CONFIGURATION SCREEN modify the first item 'Compressed Printing' and the last item 'Normal Printing', to read as follows:

Compressed printing
ON: 15 27 116 1
OFF: 18 27 50

Normal printing
ON: 27 116 1
OFF:

Genealogical data can be transferred on disk in several major ways: genealogy program data format, GEDCOM, ASCII, or in a particular word processor format. If someone requests a disk of your data and he has a computer but not a genealogy program or the same word processor program that you do, then you send

him the data in ASCII form. PAF allows you to do this rather easily. When you go to the PRINT FORMS AND REPORTS MENU and select 1, the SELECT PRINTING OPTION menu will appear on the screen. These printing options are print to screen, disk, or printer. If you select the print to disk option the data will be in ASCII form. After selecting the print to disk option, then proceed just as if you were going to the printer. Your final product will then be in a useful form for anyone with a genealogy or word processor program that is compatible with yours.

Al Sanford

Networking SIG

During the June meeting of the Networking SIG we began the Networking Seminar. The seminar is intended to provide a basic understanding of networking without going into great detail on any particular subject. It begins with the question "How do I spell LAN, MAN, and WAN?" and builds from there. Whether you are a beginner curious about networking, a seasoned veteran with plenty of networking experience, or somewhere in between, you are invited to come join us for the remainder of the seminar series.

Here is the tentative schedule for the Networking SIG and the remaining seminar sessions:

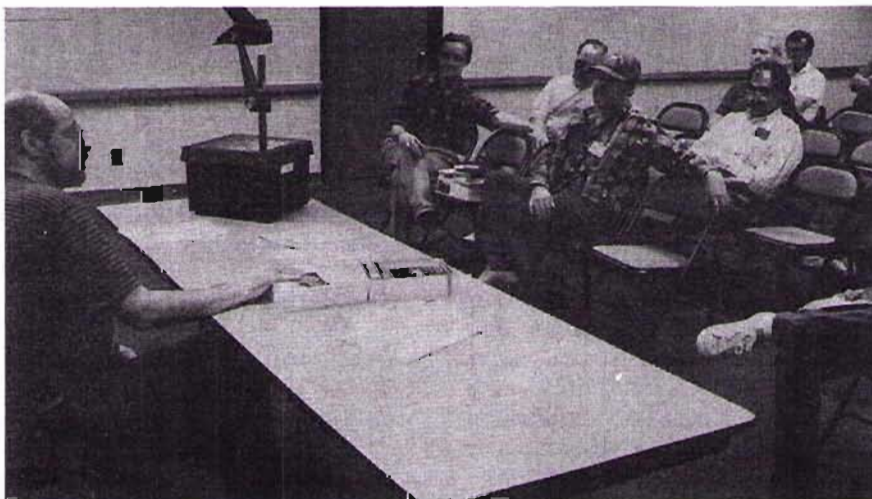
- JUN '94 Networking Introduction
- JUL '94 Example Applications and Alternatives
- AUG '94 Open Q/A Session

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- SEP '94 Network Access Methods and Topologies
- OCT '94 Network Needs Analysis Considerations
- NOV '94 Open Q/A Session
- DEC '94 *** Merry Christmas! ***
- JAN '95 Network Design Considerations
- FEB '95 Network Installation Considerations
- MAR '95 Open Q/A Session
- APR '95 Network Administration Considerations
- MAY '95 Network Case Studies

This schedule is flexible and will change as needed. Please watch this newsletter column and the NTPCUG BBS for changes throughout the coming year.

Bernie VanRoekel



Networking SIG members at June Meeting led by Bernie Van Roekel

Paradox SIG

I've had occasion to utilize, "R & R Report Writer," a report generator for Paradox and other database engines. I'm planing on doing a "show and tell" on the product at the July meeting. I have only gotten some initial impressions so far, but figure I'll have a pretty good handle on things by July.

We will also plan on devoting a part of the meeting to general discussion and Q&A, and Tom, freshly back from vacation, will probably have yet another handful of PdoxWin tricks up his sleeve.

Tom and I are actively seeking presenters for future meetings. If you are doing something you would like to show off, er ah, share with the rest of us, see Tom or me before or after the meeting to discuss the details.

Fred Williams

Personal Users

The Personal Users Series is taking the month of July off and will start over in August. Please be sure to look for the schedule in next month's issue.

Certificates of Completion have been mailed out to everyone who has completed the series, but if you have not received yours, please contact me at (214) 517-7430.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who have given their time to help teach the Personal Users classes over the last several months. Most of our instructors lead other SIG groups during the day and are considered to be "expert practitioners" in the classes they teach thereby giving real world experience to their presentations.

Please join us (and bring a friend) when we start over in August, if you are interested in learning more about the basics of computers. The classes are open to the public and membership in NTPCUG is not a requirement (although you miss a lot of other benefits if you are not a member).

Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

A team of Advanced Programmers left Dallas after the meeting last month to search the South Pacific until they discovered the location where the evil Vice President of DFW Xchange was holding Jim.

Things went well until they decided to stop overnight on the West Coast. An argument broke out among the programmers. Some wanted to overnite in Scott's Valley and others wanted to spend the night in Redmond. Ever the eloquent spokesman,

Reagan Andrews arranged a compromise and the group spent the night on Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica.

Join the Pro SIG next month as we discuss a program to predict the best surf on the North Shore of Hawaii.

Jim Hoisington

Spreadsheet SIG

At the July meeting, the Spreadsheet SIG will be discussing macro recorders that remember keystrokes that the user is typing and then store the keystrokes for use in a macro. Macro recorders are a great way to learn how to create and edit macros. The great thing about the recorders is that they remember what you are doing so you can edit the commands. With any luck, the macro recorders for both 1-2-3 for Windows and Excel will be presented in July.

The Spreadsheet SIG always takes time to answer questions that users have with their spreadsheet program. If you have a question, come on by in July, or leave a message in the Spreadsheet conference on the NTPCUG BBS.

Mark Gruner

Spreadsheet Developers SIG

At the July meeting, the Spreadsheet Developers SIG will be discussing 1-2-3 for Windows macro commands that add dialog boxes, input boxes, and other graphical interface objects. These commands were added in 1-2-3 for Windows to enable users to make their spreadsheet models more Windows-like. Come on by and check this out in July.

The Spreadsheet Developers SIG always takes time to answer questions that users have with their

spreadsheet program. If you have a question, come on by in July, or leave a message in the Spreadsheet conference on the NTPCUG BBS.

Mark Gruner

StarSIG

StarSIG for May, started with celebrating the twelfth anniversary of StarText. Jack Kishpaugh of C-CAD provided a VCR, allowing us to look at a tape of StarText in the past, while Marketing Director Gerry Barker provided the commentary. Editor Christy Jeter talked about StarText today, including the recent changes, and News Director Paul Harral spoke of StarText in the future, including faster modems.

The columnists also contributed to the festivities. Dennis Brand put up a banner honoring the contributors to the brick fund. The two bricks will be mounted in the sidewalk in front of the Fort Worth Library, and are in mem-



StarSIG members hear presentation on Internet at June meeting

ory of columnist Ed Jackson and his fictional character, RAD14. SIG leader Jim Boughton went artistic, giving tee shirts to Free-loader and StarLink, as if these extroverts were trying to slip by unnoticed. The FL and WOW columns are both posting software to Doris Riggs' Sanctuary BBS at Metro 817-572-7194. Check the columns for details.

The next meeting is still unscheduled, but the merry mix of users, columnists, and staff has yet to come up short. Drop in and see us at 9 AM any User Group Saturday.

William L. Jones

UNIX SIG

Well! I hope that the bright colors from everyone's shirts livened up the summer doldrums somewhat.

Last month we talked about the various flavors of UNIX on the market today. There are several commercial versions of UNIX available from different vendors including: SCO UNIX from The Santa Cruz Operation, Unixware from Novell, Solaris from Sun Microsystems, and several System V Release 4 versions from various third parties. All of these systems provide sales and support services necessary for professional programmers, small businesses, and personal users.

The unfortunate fact is that these services increase the cost of the system rather dramatically. A commercial UNIX can cost anywhere from about \$300 to over \$3,000 with all of the options. These systems are fully supported by the vendors and are

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usually the best choice for systems used in most businesses. This is substantially more than many people can afford or are willing to pay, so they must search out other options.

Several low cost or "free" versions of UNIX are available. There are Linux, 386bsd, NetBSD, and FreeBSD to name a few. These systems are all available for a much lower price than the commercial versions, usually anywhere from \$20 to about \$100. Most of these systems ship with all of the utilities, tools, and "goodies" you could hope to have. Unfortunately there are not usually any sales or support staffs available to help users with questions or problems.

Recently a few start up companies have been formed to provide basic support services for some of these systems and tools, but those are few and limited. The good news is that major improvements have been made in the last year or two in the areas of ease of installation, ease of use, and ease of maintenance. These versions are usually good choices for anyone who is just trying to learn the UNIX program or is on a limited budget.

The "REAL" UNIX SIG In June



This month we will discuss how to go about making the right choice UNIX for your use. We'll talk about the necessary hardware to buy and how to plan for your installation. Over the next couple of months we will be moving into installing your new system, basic concepts and commands, shell basics and utilities, free software & the Free Software Foundation, and more! This is an exciting time in the world of UNIX; come join in on the fun!

Jim Stallworth

Beginning Visual Basic SIG

The July meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will focus on the Help files that are a part of Visual Basic 3.0 Standard Edition. We will demonstrate proper techniques for using the Help files and discuss some of the Help files from the Professional Edition (as time permits) and will also describe some of the application for Help files as deliverable information sources.

During the June meeting we discussed and demonstrated the Visual Basic controls for graphics. We compared the image, picture box, shape and line controls.

Remember, anyone can (and should) take the opportunity to lead a discussion at the SIG meeting on whatever topic suits them. I would especially like to hear from those who have written a small application and would like a review of their programming techniques. Give me a call and we can arrange a date.

The Beginning Visual Basic SIG will meet on Saturday, July 16 at 8:00 AM. Check the screens in the Infomart Lobby for the room assignment.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

The July 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 (this presentation was scheduled for the June meeting, but project demonstrations took up the entire hour).

Several members of the Visual Basic SIG demonstrated their current projects and we are attempting to get review material of these projects for a future newsletter. We encourage other SIG members to demonstrate their projects at future meetings.

In future months, Woody is considering demonstrating the techniques for developing Help files for specific applications. Is this a topic you would be interested in hearing about? See Woody with your comments.

The Visual Basic SIG will meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, July 16. Check the screens in the Infomart lobby for room assignment.

Jim Carter

Disks of the Month (DOM) for June

Disk 892AB. *DOOM 1.2, 2/94* — A Fast 3D Virtual Reality Game by iD Software, Software Creations BBS, (508) 368-4137 any speed modem or USA Voice Order: 1-800-idgames (1-800-434-2637). Registration Fee = \$40. NOTE: 1.2M DISK ONLY.

DOOM is a fast-paced three-dimensional computer game, with awesome high speed graphics and realistic motion. It has gotten much press coverage since its initial release, with much made of the level of violence and the gory special effects. Which is why we have the following User Advisory:

USER ADVISORY: DOOM portrays graphic violence and may not be suitable for younger children.

However, it doesn't have a constant level of blood and carnage. There are actually five levels of play, ranging from "I'm too young to die" to "Nightmare." You start with a pistol, then along the way can acquire five other implements of destruction such as a shotgun and a chainsaw. At the lower levels of carnage, it can be played as a traditional adventure game with a maze, secret passages, enemies to be destroyed, and loot to be picked up for points.

Of course, the chainsaw can be very relaxing after a hard day at the office.

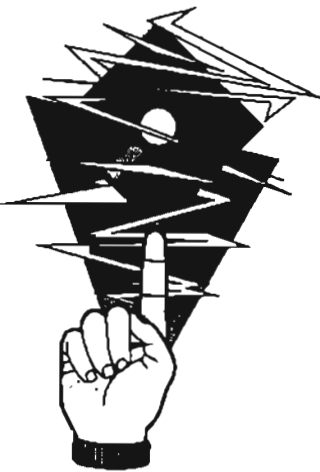
There are three episodes: Knee-Deep in the Dead, The Shores of Hell, and Inferno. The shareware version is the first episode, Knee-Deep in the Dead.

The plot line (as if you needed one) can be found on pp. 1-3 of the User's Manual. In summary, you are a marine sent to Mars' Phobos Base and your job is to root out the monstrosities that invaded it. With only your wits and your trusty pistol, you must save the moon base, and Earth from certain demise.

DOOM can be played on certain types of networks, with your fellow players being with you or against you.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: *DOOM* requires an IBM compatible 386 or better with 4 megs of RAM, a VGA monitor, and a hard disk drive. A 486 and a Soundblaster Pro or compatible soundcard are recommended. Network play requires a network that uses the IPX networking protocol, such as Novell.

Software downloaded from Software Creations BBS by Zachary Loafman.



SIG's ... Ctd. Word SIG

At our June meeting Glynn Brooks demonstrated Shapeware's Visio. Visio is a nifty Windows package that can be used to produce and print any type of drawing or chart. It is better than most other packages because it

comes with hundreds of shapes (organized into templates) that you can drag and drop onto the drawing. This greatly reduces the time needed to create a drawing, and gives highly professional results.

Glynn showed the basics of creating a drawing and how to embed it into

a Word document. Following that, we had a drawing for a free copy of Visio and handed out demo copies to 20 other members. Many thanks to Shapeware for providing all the neat-goodies!

Glynn Brooks

NEW DISKS FROM THE DOM SQUAD by MARK GRUNER

Review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis (6/94).

Disk 893. *Ms. Chomp* for Windows 1.1, 10/92 — Classic PacGal Game, Oct. 22, 1992, by Peter Siamidis, 11423 Tardivel, Montreal, Quebec H3M 2L3. Registration = \$5.00.

Credits: Programmed by Peter Siamidis with Graphics by Peter Siamidis and Dino Tzimopoulos and Sounds courtesy of the Internet via FTP sites.

This game runs under windows, but looks just like the classic arcade game you and I invested SO many quarters on in years past. Now, finally, in the privacy of your own home you can spend obsessive hours chomping through the mazes.

A joystick is not required, you will be using the arrow keys. This leads to new complications as I discover I am holding down the Page Up, Page Down, OMNI, Home, or End key instead of the Arrow Key and I lose another player.

Under the Options, you can select the speed, 0 to 100000, at which you want the game to run. On a 486/50, selecting 1000 results in a real slow game; 500 is a slow speed game for dyslectic people with slow reflexes (that's me!); 100 looks like the old arcade game, and 0 is a fast game. You can also turn off the sound, but I feel that takes away some of the charm.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows.

Downloaded from BroadBoard by Zachary Loafman.

Readme prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Will Davis (6/94).

Disk 894. *Federal Zone, 7/93* — An Electronic Book on the IRS: Cracking the Code of Internal Revenue 4th edition: electronic version July 4, 1993 by Mitch Modeleski. Published by Account for Better Citizenship c/o USPS Post Office Box 5189, San Rafael, California Republic, Postal Code 94903-0189/TDC. Registration = \$25.00. NOTE: 1.2M DISK ONLY.

DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

Disclaimer from the Publisher: "This book is designed to educate you about federal income tax law, the Treasury regulations which promulgate that law, and the various court decisions which have interpreted both ... with the understanding that the Author and Publisher are not engaged in rendering legal services of any kind."

Author's statement of intent: "One of the main purposes of this book is to explain how we, the American People, have been deliberately deceived by government officials who have systematically exploited this deception to defraud us of our wealth and our freedom."

Disclaimer from the DOM: The views expressed in this work are not necessarily those of the North Texas PC User Group membership, officers, or Board of Directors of the North Texas PC User Group.

Donated by NTPCUG member D.L. Graber.

Readme prepared by D.L. Graber, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/94).

Disk 895. Time Set — Programs to set your PC's clocks.

This is a package of time-setting programs assembled by NTPCUG member Arnold Krusemark.

The main program is: TimeSet v7.21, 6/93. Registration = \$40.00. This program sets your computer's clocks (both of them) by calling the National Bureau of Standards via your modem. It will get your computer to within 0.01 second of the NBS. The NTPCUG had a prior timesetting program which I could not get to work. This program, after setting the modem configuration files according

to directions, works well. The one minute call costs about 26 cents (after hours) plus tax. TimeSet is a worldwide program, getting accurate time by phone from 5 atomic time services on 2 continents, also from computers running TimeGen (included) which generates time signals in USNO format from any computer. TimeSet is interactive with RighTime v2.5+, Tom Becker's precision learning CMOS and DOS clock corrector. It can automatically reconfigure itself for time season changes in North America, Britain, or Europe.

Program two, IF2DAY.COM (1/91), is a batch keyer program which will trigger a batch program given a special event (such as on TUESDAY, or the 2ND of the month, and yes, even FRIDAY the 13TH.).

Program three, DLTSTD.COM version 2.2, predicts beginning and end of Daylight Savings Time.

Program four, AUTO-DIAL.COM, is a memory resident program to call at a preset time each day.

Downloaded from Bitwise (formerly RingWorld) BBS by Arnold Krusemark.

Readme prepared by Arnold Krusemark, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/94).

Disk 896. Telix 3.22, 1/94 — DOS Communication Utility by deltaCom Development, Post Office Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

Release 3.22 is a maintenance release of Telix, the popular DOS based communications software. This is a no cost update for registered users of Telix. Registered users are warned NOT TO USE this DOM diskette for updating their registered copy of Telix.

A special "patch" file is available on most local bulletin boards specifically designed and required to properly update older registered versions of Telix.

All other users and potential users of Telix must use this diskette for updating and or evaluation purposes. There are no major feature announcements for release 3.22, this is considered a bug fix release.

As DeltaComm has announced and is currently shipping Telix for Windows release 1.0, DOS users can expect this release to be the final Telix DOS release. I expect future Telix development efforts and resources to be directed toward the Windows product. DeltaComm may currently state otherwise, but market realities will soon prevail.

Downloaded from DeltaCom (Telix BBS) by Arnold Krusemark.

Review prepared by Fred Williams, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/94).

Disk 897. Speed Reader 1.40, 2/94 — Off-Line Mail Reader by Jim E. Smith, 344 Observatory Drive, Birmingham, AL 35206. Registration Fee = \$25.

Speed 1.40 is the most current release of a popular DOS based Off-Line Mail Reader. Release 1.40 adds a multitude of enhancements, improvements, and bug fixes.

Using SPEED, the user can read, delete, retain, forward



or reply to any mail message, or create new ones addressed to individuals or to conferences. Once these have been "packetized", the user reconnects to the BBS, and uploads the packet, where it is distributed out to the appropriate recipients and/or conferences. Using this technique, a user can perform all the above while being online less than 5 minutes, perhaps less if a log-on script is utilized.

There are numerous variations of OLMR software out there, SPEED is for those who want a DOS based reader. SPEED also allows the user to maintain a message base of selected retained messages on his own machine.

Version 1.40 New Features:

- Cross-post any type message to any active BBS/conference.
- Folders to allow grouping and storage of related messages.
- Quote now allows including of text from multiple messages.
- Multiple instances of SPEED may be initiated in "View" mode.
- BBS specific settings for tag file, Fido mode, user signature, & etc.
- Direct support of 25/28/43/50. Can autodetect non-standard modes.
- Bulk message marking for batch message handling and processing.
- Address book for extended BBS user data.
- Mailing list support.
- First line field in the message header for network routing.
- Auto Signature option.
- Limited mouse support.
- Many more additional and enhanced features.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC compatible; 640K; DOS 3.0 or later, Hard Disk recommended.

Downloaded from Lunatic Fringe, Richardson, TX.

Readme prepared by Fred Williams, edited by Kathryn Loafman (6/94).

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The NTPCUG is planning another scheduled monthly meeting, but the only way the meeting can be a success is for prior contact to be made with the many volunteers who are needed. The time for most of these volunteers to serve is arranged by our Schedulers.

Charles Cashion and Bob Wuller are the Schedulers who call asking for an hour of your time on NTPCUG meeting day, or perhaps during the month. They call

from a list of super helpers who volunteered at a previous meeting or showed their interest when filling out the annual renewal membership form. When Charles or Bob call to remind you of a scheduled time, be sure to thank them for the job they are doing to provide help for the Disk of the Month, the Information Booth, and the Vendor Area. The best thanks you can give them is your willingness to be there for the NTPCUG.

The Volunteers from our last meeting are recognized on this page. Thank you all.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchors:

John Ivers
Rod Rodolico
Kenneth Berg

Crew:

Hank Coleman
Ross Jones
Paul Weathers

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:

Connie Andrews

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

Anchors:

Dianne Arnold
John Arnold
Al Aston

Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
David Huckabee
John Ivers
Cinda Lovil
Rex McAnelly
David Martin
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller

Booth Crew:

Serge Blain
Roger Bopp
Jim Boyce
D.J. Brouwer
Jo Cannon
Jay Cash
Al Champon
Lorin Cranford
Tim Foster
Jackie Guion
Cheryl Hunter
Ned Keig
Tim Lanz
Claude McClure
Foy T. Mills
George Miner
Martin Moomaw
Monica Straw
Fred Toulmin
Jean Waldrep
Bill Wade

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:

Gene Carleton
Norman Dang
Judy Griffiths
DOM Desk Crew:

Joe Allen
Doug Athas
Beryn Baars
Roy Bales
Rob Bender
Don Chick
William Farris
Charles Fernandez
Tom Jackson
Tom Jones
Arnold Krusemark
Duane Martin
Mac McKeethen
Jan Parkhill
Bob Post
Paul Prosek
George Read
Ralph Smejkal
Ed Snuggs
Ron Stinson
Oscar Tyler
Solomon Woldesenbet
Jerry Wooldridge

With Special Thanks to:

Set Up Crew:

Mark Gruner

David Huckabee
Jerry Stone
Kathryn Loafman
Ken Loafman

Inventory and Take-down Crew:

Tom Jones
Paul Prosek
Ralph Smejkal

DOM Desk Scheduler:

Charles Cashion

Disks for Review Manager:

Howard Hamilton

Disk Production:

Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael (214)661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler

Charles Cashion (214)881-0952 (h)
(214)519-2583 (w)

DOM Software Review

Howard Hamilton (214)644-5721 (h)

Information Booth and General Information

Claude McClure (214)867-0978 (h)



NTPCUG User - To - User Program

NTPCUG User-to-user program

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)487-2350	M-Sa	1300-1500	HyperAccess	Woody Pewitt.....	(214)230-3485	M-F	0800-1800
Assembly Language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7	1800-2200	LANs — Novell	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600	— Lantastic	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200	Managing Your Money	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
Beginner Problems	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa	0900-1700	MathCAD	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland.....	(214)272-2869	7	0900-2200	MIDI	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
C (the language)	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200	PC Tools/Win	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F	0800-1600
	.....	.....	T&T	1800-2030	Paradox	Fred Williams.....	(214)492-1315	7	1300-2100
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900	ProComm/ProComm+	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200		.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
	.....	.....	T&T	1800-2030		Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308		
Batch Files	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7	1900-2400		Joseph Beasley.....	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
Borland C++	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
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700		Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7	1000-2100
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900	SPFPC	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F	0800-1700
CompuServe	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1800		.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
DOS (all MS versions)	Rick Steffon.....	(214)327-2728	7	1000-2400	TurboVision	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
Hardware Help	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7	1900-2400		.....	.....	T&T	1800-2030

NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
UNIX	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7	1900-2400
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)495-8067	7	1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman.....	(214)495-6342	7	1700-2130
Windows	Rick Sivemell.....	(214)306-5422	7	1830-2200
Windows for Workgroups	Joseph Beasley.....	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley.....	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Word for Windows	Beverly Kurtin.....	(817) 355-9594	7	

LEGEND:

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

WordPerfect 5.x /Win

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

XENIX

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

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



Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

The NTPCUG is 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 ____ (____) _____

Work ____ (____) _____ (Ext) _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column

below: 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

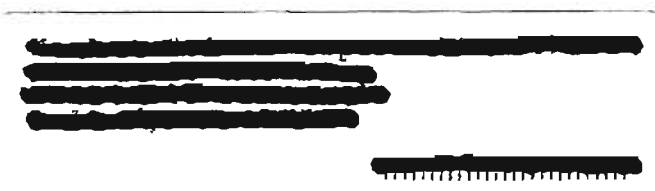


North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

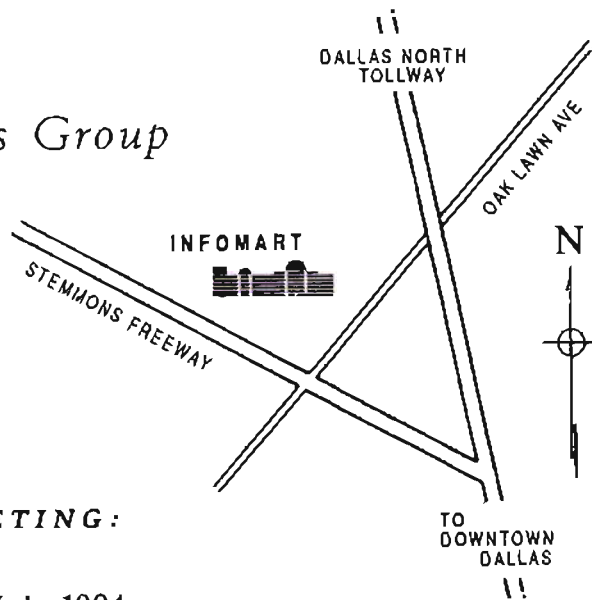
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13.7



North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

16 July 1994