

North Texas  NEWS

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*North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.*

*August 1994*  
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# North Texas PC NEWS

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### Deadline:

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

### Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 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 5.0, 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 September  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Wednesday, August 10th

### Meeting Dates:

August 20, 1994 - 3rd Saturday  
September 17, 1994 - 3rd Saturday  
October 29, 1994 - 5th 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 AUGUST . . .

**TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL**

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

**No Presentation.**

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

## **Increasing Your Productivity By Using Your Voice**

**Baylor Biomedical Services**

*Scott Childs, Technical Representative*

Could you imagine printing a document, transcribing reports, or switching applications just with your voice? Drop by and see the latest in speech recognition technology today. This demonstration includes the OfficeTalk and LawTalk software by Kolvox Communications for the IBM PC and PowerSecretary by Articulate Systems for the Macintosh. There will be a drawing for free products. \*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## **NTPCUG Business Meeting**

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

## **Cover Your Assets: Network Backup in the 90s**

**IBM Corporation**

*Tony Pearson*

Backup procedures for critical data on workstations have traditionally been error prone, time consuming, and costly. AD-STAR Distributed Storage Manager (ADSM) is a client/server product that backs up data from clients running on DOS, OS/2, Windows, AIX, Novell, Sun, Macintosh and more to a variety of server platforms. Come hear how ADSM automates this process, provides easy-to-use and powerful data recovery capabilities, and manages and balances storage resources.

There will be a drawing for a free one-gigabyte SCSI-2 hard disk drive. \*

\* 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**

### **AUGUST MEETING SCHEDULE**

<p><b>8:00 - 8:55</b> Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning</p> <p><b>9:00 - 9:55</b> BASIC Programming-Visual DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Internet Personal Users Quicken Software Review StarText Visual BASIC Windows Applications WordPerfect/DOS</p> <p><b>10:00 - 10:55</b> BASIC - Classic CAD</p>	<p><b>10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.)</b> Fox Pro Database Micrografx Networking PAF-Genealogy Paradox Personal Users WordPerfect/Windows UNIX</p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:55</b> BASIC Programming- -Beginning Assembler Brother's Keeper Genealogy CAD (Cont.) Investors Micrografx (Cont.) MS Works OS/2 - Q &amp; A Roots III/IV - Genealogy</p>	<p><b>11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.)</b> Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers</p> <p><b>11:30 - 11:55</b> Orientation</p> <p><b>12:00 - 12:55</b> Alpha Four C++/Advanced C Communications Desktop Publishing Investors (Cont.) OS/2 for End Users Personal Users Roots III/IV (Cont.) TI Pro</p> <p><b>1:00 - 1:55</b> Access ACT! BBS</p>	<p><b>1:00 - 1:55 (Cont.)</b> Business Apps./DAC Easy DATAFLEX Middle C Word for Windows OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet</p> <p><b>2:00 - 2:55</b> Advanced Programmers Community Services North Texas FreeNet The Master Genealogist</p> <p><b>Please consult the BBS and remember to check the overhead display in the INFOMART lobby for latest SIG schedules and room locations</b></p>
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## WE WON! Lotus - InfoWorld Award Goes to NTPCUG Again

The NTPCUG was honored again in July at the 1994 Intergalactic Users Group Officers Conference as the *PC NEWS* was named for Best User Group Coverage. This marks the second year in a row the NTPCUG newsletter has won this award.

Each year, the New York PC Users Group hosts a user group conference titled the "Intergalactic Users Group Officers Conference." For the past several years *InfoWorld* magazine and Lotus Development Corp. have co-sponsored a newsletter contest open to all user groups who are members of the Association of PC Users Group (APCUG). The Lotus - *InfoWorld* competition is organized by size of publication and has several categories. Now, for the second year in a row, and also the second year that I have sent 3 examples of our newsletter for entry, the *North Texas PC NEWS* has won the award in our class (17-32 pages) for Best User Group Coverage.

This award gives a clear indication of what we are trying to do with our newsletter, and that is to cover the club's events in North Texas. A very big congratulations to Reagan Andrews, Publisher, Gerry Heine, Editor, and the staff listed on the inside front cover of this newsletter. You can be proud of a consistently outstanding volunteer effort.

Plaques commemorating the award were presented to Reagan and Gerry at the July 16th Business Meeting. Other winners in our class are listed on Page 4 in this issue.

### Real Jobs

Most of us (excluding those who list their occupation in the database as "Retired") have jobs out-

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side of the NTPCUG. It's a good thing, since the User Group has no paid employees. I refer to the non-volunteer work as real jobs, because the financial compensation matches up with the Minimum Payment Due box on the Visa statement.

After almost eleven years at the same real job, I have changed employers. New opportunities await me every day when I walk in the door. Based on the previous statement, you become aware that I am already learning at this new job. What I am facing are not problems; they are not challenges; they are opportunities. Through opportunities, we find success, and that success is not just in achieving goals, it is also the attitude you take in pursuit of those goals. I'm having fun and learning every day.

### An Answer, Not Really

No JG, I have never had a modem come back and tell me that "only collect calls can be made from this phone". Has your husband been hooking up your phone to the booth at the Stop-n-Go? Don't tell Gorrie, he works for *Subyp's*.

*Andy Oliver*

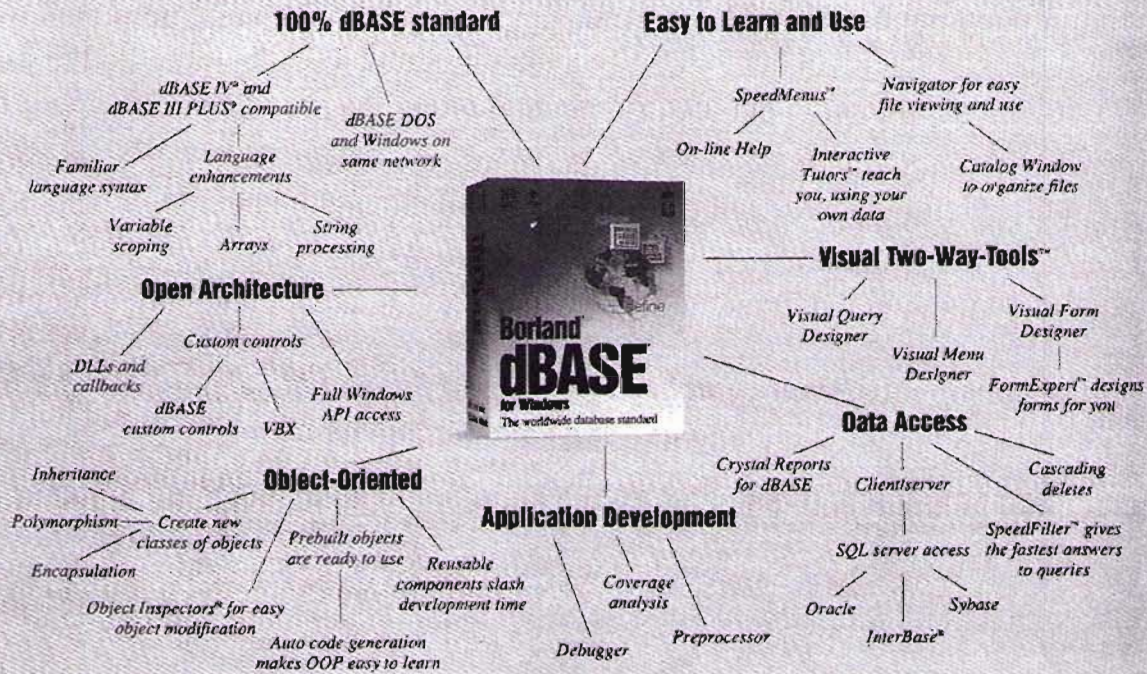
### Publisher's Note:

Andy gave a lot of credit to the *PC NEWS* Staff including the Assistant Editors, Alan Lintel, Doug McCoy, Linda Moore and John Gourd. I'd also like to add the SIG Leaders who submit SIG notes each month, the NTPCUG members who write articles for the newsletter and the NTPCUG officers and directors who support this effort.

We are building on the foundation left us by the late John Pribyl, winner of last year's award and original Publisher of the *North Texas PC NEWS* — it's still his award.

*Reagan Andrews*

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## 1994 Intergalactic User Group Officers Conference InfoWorld - Lotus Newsletter Contest Winners

InfoWorld - Lotus Newsletter Contest winners and first runners-up are listed below.

All publications were in the 17 -32 page category for PCUG newsletters. Categories not listed here are: 1-8 pages; 9-16 pages and over 32 pages.

Winners and first runner-up are listed here. Several categories had more than one runner-up, and are included where space allows.

### Winner: Best Features

The Paradox User Group  
London, England  
*The Paradox User Group Newsletter*  
Susan J. Bennett, Editor

Runner-up: Best Features  
Sacramento Macintosh Group  
Sacramento, CA

*Interface*  
Trish Miller and Marganne Meyer,  
Editors

### Winner: Best Columns

MacValley Users Group  
Los Angeles, CA  
*MacValley Voice*  
Tom Pitts

Runner-up: Best Columns  
Fresno PC Users Group  
Fresno, CA  
*RAMpage*  
Susy Ball, Editor

Runner-up: Best Columns  
The Central New York PC Users  
Group  
Syracuse, NY  
*News Bytes*  
Gary Bouton, Editor

Runner-up: Best Columns  
Madison Macintosh User Group  
Madison, WI  
*Mad Mac News*  
William Robinson, Editor

### Winner: User Group Coverage

North Texas PC Users Group  
Dallas, TX  
*North Texas PC News*  
Reagan Andrews, Publisher /  
Gerry Heine, Editor

Runner-up: User Group Coverage  
San Diego Computer Society  
San Diego, CA  
*Personal Systems*  
Dave Sichak, Managing Editor

Runner-up: User Group Coverage  
Fresno PC Users Group  
Fresno, CA  
*RAMpage*  
Susy Ball, Editor

### Winner: Best Design

Sacramento Macintosh Group  
Sacramento, CA  
*Interface*  
Trish Miller and Marganne Meyer,  
Editors

Runner-up: Best Design  
San Diego Computer Society  
San Diego, CA  
*Personal Systems*  
Dave Sichak, Managing Editor

Runner-up: Best Design  
Charlotte Apple Computer Club  
Charlotte, NC  
*Inside Apple*  
Mark Little, Editor

### Winner: Best Publication

Danbury Area Computer Society  
Danbury, CT  
*dacs.doc*  
Marc Cohen, Dick Sperry, Tom  
McIntyre - Editors

### Citation:

*San Diego OS/2 User Group Newsletter*

Dave Sichak, Editor  
Judges feel that the members of the group and any OS/2 user would be very happy with their publication because of the breadth of the articles and reviews it includes.

### Citation:

Ken Johnson of the Chicago Computer Society, for being probably the most reprinted author.

### Special Citation

For Keeping the Kaypro Alive  
The Creative Computing Club  
A SIG of the New York Amateur  
Computer Club  
New York  
*The Creative Computing Club News*  
Dennis Furbush, Editor

### Special Citation

For meeting Minutes in  
the Newsletter  
Maine DOS Users Group  
Gorham, ME  
*Maine DOS Users Group News*  
John Pineau, Editor

### Special Citation

For innovative use of color  
and paper  
Pasco Area Computer Users Group  
Dade City, FL  
*PACUG Newsletter*  
Barbara Berger, Editor



# NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

## BRIEF REVIEWS FROM THE NTPCUG SOFTWARE REVIEW SIG

### Colorado Jumbo Tape Backup for Windows

by Neal Berkowitz

The new Colorado Backup is different from other backup software. With their latest incarnation of backup software, Colorado has fully embraced the Windows' concepts of icons and drag and drop. Unfortunately it suffers the fate of most new products with a few rough edges.

The uniqueness of the program is a result of the number and usage of graphical icons. There is an icon for almost everything. For example, one Window contains icons for each of the hard drives available to the system. This includes all network drives. A second window contains the icon for the backup media with sub-icons representing the backup sets. A third window contains movie-camera-like representations for each macro. Clicking on the macro shows the major steps in the macro - also represented by icons. A final menu bar contains representations of basic commands including retensioning of the tape, tape formatting, scheduling of a macro, and running a macro.

#### 'Drag and Drop' Operation

The operations of the program can be summed up with the phrase "drag and drop." To back up a given hard drive, click on its icon and drop it on the tape icon. To restore a tape, drag one of the backup sets to one of the disk icons. To retension or format a tape, drag the tape icon into the appropriate symbol. While menu bars exist for those who wish to use them, most will find drag and drop far easier and more intuitive.

Naturally the ability exists to backup or restore a subset of the files on a drive or in a backup set. In these cases the more typical lists appear of the directory and file lists. By clicking on a directory, all files within that directory are selected or deselected. By clicking on a file, the specific file is selected for inclusion or exclusion. For those interested in an even more non-graphical format, files

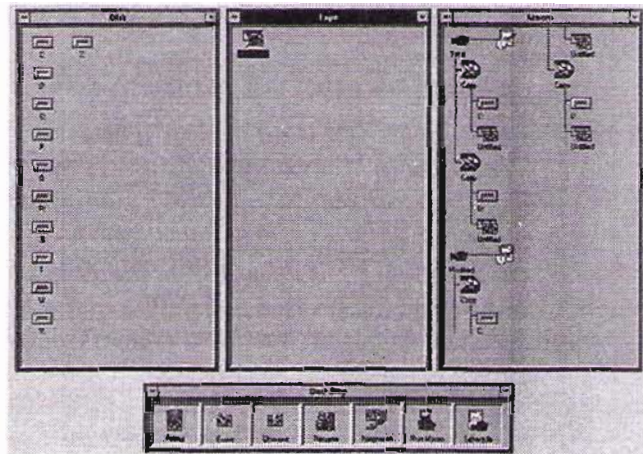
can be selected based on wildcard character patterns in the filenames.

While the drag and drop operations are simple, macros make repetitive operations even easier. Macros are reminiscent of the Window's recorder function. From the user's perspective the only difference between performing a standard action and building a macro is the turning on the macro recorder at the start of the actions and the turning off the recorder when complete. All functions are registered for subsequent playback. The user then names the macro. The program then adds the macro to its list in the macro window. To play the macro the user clicks on the symbol and drags it to either the play or schedule icons.

#### User Schedules Backup Time

A time scheduler is built into the program giving the operator the ability to delay backups to a future time. This scheduling can be set to be a one time event or periodic. It can be set up on a daily, weekly, monthly, or user-defined interval.

The scheduling feature is not as important in this program as it is in DOS-based backup programs. The big reason for this is because it supports multitasking. Unlike DOS programs that can hog the system for hours, Colorado Backup can work in the background, taking CPU time only as needed. It is possible to run - and actually productively use - a word processor or spreadsheet program



## Colorado Tape Backup for Windows ... Ctd.

while the backup is taking place. The amount of CPU time taken up by the program is not critical. It is possible to even play games without having an inordinate wait between actions.

There is one major problem with running a backup in a background mode. The user is entirely responsible for making sure all files in the backup set are available to the backup program when needed.

### No 'Retry' Possible

There are no provisions to retry a copy operation if a file is currently in use by some other program. Colorado Backup simply flags the file as being in use, places the information in the error log, and proceeds to the next file. An operator option to retry busy files would have been a nice addition.

Similar shortcomings exist in several other areas. It is easy to build macros but impossible to edit them. A simple change like modifying the name of the tape backup set requires the user to reenter the entire macro. To make the situation more frustrating, unlike the Window's recorder, macros cannot be chained together or merged to make larger macros. The end result is that there is a great deal of duplication in macros. Also, building all but the simplest ones generally takes more time than it should. A single error requires the operator to stop processing and restart from scratch.



Some problems were also encountered while attempting to back up a network drive. On one backup set the program had severe problems resulting eventually in a loss of the particular network connection and a loss of the backup information obtained prior to the crash. While the crash was more probably due to Windows for Workgroups rather than Colorado, the portion of the backup set obtained prior to the crash should have been maintained.

### Major Problem...

The worst problem encountered occurred when the program was run on a system without a tape backup. Since the software is designed to work with a tape drive attached to the floppy controller, the program repeatedly tried to access the nonexistent tape and instead repeatedly hit the floppy. This continued even after the program had decided that there was no tape in the system.

A second irritant was the time required for the program to process selecting or deselecting files from the hard disk. While no quantitative tests were taken, it seems that Colorado is noticeably slower than both Norton and PC Tools. On the other hand, the tape backup process is fast. Once again, no real measurements were taken, but the speed differential between Colorado and PC Tools was noticeable.

Overall, Colorado has an interesting product with several pros and a few unfortunate cons. While I like it and applaud the new interface, the unfriendliness of the macro function significantly reduces the benefits of the program. On the other hand I have taken the time to (slowly) build the needed macros. The benefits of multitasking outweigh most of the disadvantages of the program.

*Colorado Backup Version 1.01*

Colorado Memory Systems, Inc.

1-800-432-5858

Suggested retail price \$49.95

*Neal Berkowitz*



## Microsoft Office Professional 4.3 Part 2 — Microsoft Access 2.0

By Larry Linson

(Second Installment of Microsoft Office  
Pro 4.3 Review)

### Access 2.0 - Something for Everyone

Access 2.0, the database component of the Microsoft Office Professional 4.3 software suite, is a powerful database which addresses the needs of users at all skill levels. Access 1.0 and the 1.1 update, partially by virtue of being the first Windows database to market from one of the "big three" software suppliers, took a commanding lead. Although it's been outsold in some months since by Paradox, the keepers of market statistics say Access is still the most popular Windows database.

Access 2.0 has significant improvements over the earlier releases in every area. It can be used stand-alone on a user's personal computer, can be used to construct a database solution on a local area network, or can be used to build a "front end" for accessing "high end" relational databases in a client-server environment. Access connects to, imports, or simply reads *and updates*, "as is," more other products' database formats than any other popular database and does so without any "code" being required.

For the casual end user, Access provides a direct user interface making relational database technology as accessible and easy to use as most of the far less powerful and less efficient "flat file" databases. Example table "templates" for a number of common business and personal uses whose structure can be copied directly, tutorials, cue cards, Wizards, Builders, and excellent Help lead the casual or novice user through the process of building and using a database.

The "autoforms" option, for example, builds a complete "form" (or window) containing controls for every field in a table or query with one mouse

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

## NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

click. Even at this level, OLE objects can be used to integrate an Access application with other OLE-enabled software — a word-processor document, spreadsheet, or graphic can be included as a field in the database; clicking on that field will automatically invoke the word processor, spreadsheet, or graphics program which was originally used to prepare the document.

For the intermediate and advanced user, Access adds a macro capability in which macros are constructed, not by writing code, but primarily by pointing and clicking with the mouse on a list of choices. If the choices aren't obvious, Help is only a click away. Powerful applications, with menus and switchboards to direct the flow, can be prepared using database operations and macros, without a single line of program code.

For the power user and casual developer, Access adds the ability to write program code, which may be in the form of functions to be called from expressions or invoked from a macro, or subroutines to be called from functions or which may be automatically executed on the occurrence of an event such as clicking the mouse on a control on a form (called "Code Behind Forms" and similar to Visual Basic).

When it's time to write code, you don't have to learn YAPL (Yet Another Programming Language) — it's BASIC, the most familiar of all programming languages, because it's been bundled with the operating system on almost every PC-compatible computer ever sold. The language has extensions to accommodate Windows' event-driven model and for functions specific to manipulating database objects.

For the "serious" developer, Access has the capability of calling functions from Windows Dynamic



## NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

### ACCESS 2.0 — MS Office 4.3 Review ... Ctd.

Load Libraries (.DLLs), including the Windows Application Programming Interface (API) calls. This allows compute-intensive functions to be performed by compiled code, significantly increasing performance, or allows the developer to more closely control the user interface at a detail level. In addition, OLE automation allows functions in other appropriately-enabled Windows programs to be executed remotely.

As Access users work and learn at one of these skill levels, they often find that they have moved to the next level without really intending to. It's only a small step from defining and executing a query to using it as a filter attached to a form; it's only a small step from an "on event" macro to a little Access Basic code; it's only a small step from a calculated field using an expression to one using a function — such small steps that we often don't realize that we've done anything very different. Some have said that Access has produced more new programmers than anything since the introduction of computer classes in high schools and junior colleges. They may be right!

#### Getting Started with Access

On initial startup (until you check a box for it not to be displayed), Access will display a Startup Card which offers several options: Guided by Access' Cue Cards, you can see a quick introduction and overview, explore the included sample "Northwind Traders" database, or create a new database to learn about Access while doing your

Getting Started



own work. You can open the included Solutions database to see common types of forms, reports, and other application features along with step-by-step instructions on how to create them. Finally, you are referred to the *Getting Started* manual, a well-written introduction to Access and to Help for a summary of "What's New in 2.0."

#### Documentation Supplied

*Getting Started*, 168 pages long, describes concepts, the basics of relational database and Access, using access, and some automation of your database. The *User's Guide*, in 819 pages, has details for all levels of user, illustrated with examples from the "Northwind Traders" database included with Access. The 428 page *Building Applications* manual covers many "how to" subjects on building applications using the Access Basic language.

No longer included, as it was in earlier releases, is the *Language Reference* manual. This information, according to Microsoft, has all been included in the online Help. However, a printed copy of the language reference is available from Microsoft.

### 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 the 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

An order form is included in the package with the individual Access product, but was omitted from the Microsoft Office package. Alternatively, you can call Microsoft Sales at 800-426-9400 and order it for \$9.95 + \$5.00 freight + applicable sales tax. The same form lists the *Open Database Connectivity* kit, with ODBC drivers for Excel, Oracle (TM), and Text (\$9.95 + f&t).

## Videotape Offer

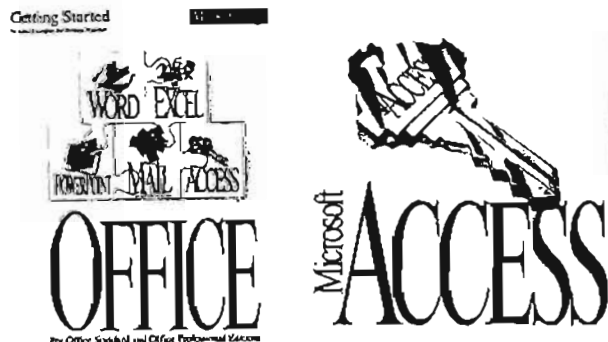
Also included in the package is an offer from Microsoft Press for a videotape, the "Microsoft Access Version 2.0 for Windows Introductory Skills Video", available for \$9.95 + f&t, only by phone order from Microsoft Press at 800-370-8956, Dep't 08P; the Microsoft Access Solutions Pack of four ready-to-run business applications, in source form, so they can be altered to meet your particular needs if you wish (\$49.94 + f&t); and the Microsoft Access Developer's Toolkit, with detailed technical information, a runtime version of Access so you can distribute applications to users who don't have Access installed, OLE custom controls and documentation, an *Advanced Topics* manual, and the *Language Reference* (\$495 + f&t). The latter two items are also available from some resellers (you may find them for a lesser "street price").

Not mentioned, but worth looking into, is the *Microsoft Access for Windows, Step by Step* self-study book from Microsoft Press. The Access 1.1 version of this book was excellent.

## What's New in "Access Two"

Access 2.0's enhancements are extensive and applicable to every level of Access user. They include the following:

- ❖ A good, but not exhaustive, selection of table templates for common business and personal applications — select and use in individual applications. Modify later, if necessary.



## NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

- ❖ A great many more Wizards and Builders to simplify creation of most types of database objects: tables, queries, forms, controls, expressions, and reports. Modify later, if necessary.
- ❖ Significant extensions to the "properties and methods" available, and more of them programmatically changeable at runtime.
- ❖ Extensions to the Access Basic language for programmatic creation of database objects and improved database manipulation.
- ❖ Additional database connectivity (Paradox 4.x databases) and improved support for previously included databases.
- ❖ Passthrough SQL capability allows execution of SQL commands at *and by* database servers and execution of predefined procedures by the server.
- ❖ "Rushmore disk technology" adapted from the FoxPro database engine gives modest to impressive performance improvement on larger databases.
- ❖ Access 2.0 is the first product to reach the marketplace which can use OLE Custom Controls (.OCX). OCXes are the "next generation" of custom controls, an open specification which will apply to both 16- and 32-bit environments. (Several OCX custom controls are included in the separately-priced Access Developer's Toolkit.)

## The "Down" Side

All those ease of use improvements and enhancements come "at a price" — larger executables and supporting .DLLs have discernibly increased program load time.

Microsoft states that Access 2.0 requires a minimum of 6 MB RAM and recommends 8 MB. Since many users are running Access 2.0 on Windows machines with only 4 MB, that is obviously a performance recommendation.

However, a number of Access users report in the Internet Access newsgroup that they find performance adequate on 4 MB machines. (Can you believe a software manufacturer erring on the pessimistic side?)

The omission of the printed *Language Reference* from the product manuals was a disappointment to many Access users.



## InfoNation

by Joe Holder

*InfoNation* by Software Marketing Corporation is a DOS-based Business/Personal Application that comes on 3, 3-1/2 Inch Diskettes.

Minimum Requirements: VGA Monitor, Mouse, At least 6.5 MB available Hard Disk Space, 512KB of available RAM, MS-DOS 3.3 or above.

List Price: \$49.95 — Street Price: \$20.00

Have you ever thought that you really don't fit in living in Dallas, Texas? Well now you can find where you really should be living with InfoNa-

tion. InfoNation allows you to rank states and metropolitan areas based on a variety of categories which you rank as being most important to you. You can also produce custom maps of the states and metropolitan areas. Most of the data within the application was derived from the 1990 Census although the metropolitan area data was updated in January 1993.

The main level of categories which you can rank are:

- |          |             |         |
|----------|-------------|---------|
| People   | Education   | Housing |
| The Arts | Money       | Sports  |
| Crime    | Transport   | Health  |
|          | Environment |         |

Within those 10 categories you can rank any combination of over 600 topics. By doing this you can contrast all 50 U.S. States and 303 metropolitan areas. Examples of some of the individual topics you can weigh and filter include:

# Museums, # Theme Parks, # Professional and college sports teams, # Golf Courses, #Family Income and Crime Levels, #Home Values, # High School

## Microsoft Office Professional 4.3 Microsoft Access 2.0 ... Ctd.

### Still on Access Users' Want List

Visual Basic includes as part of the basic product the ability to package a VB application for distribution to users, along with the necessary royalty-free runtime support. Access users *still* want a comparable capability, without having to purchase a developer's toolkit. (My prediction: Not in the foreseeable future.)

Access 2.0 is not a "32-bit enabled" application; neither are the "runtime executables and .DLLs" produced by the Developer's toolkit. Access users want a version which will optionally run in the 16-bit, Windows through 3.1, environment but which will be able to take advantage of a 32-bit environment of Windows NT or Chicago (Windows 4.0). (My prediction: You'll be seeing 32-bit Access support not too long after you see the release of "Chicago.")

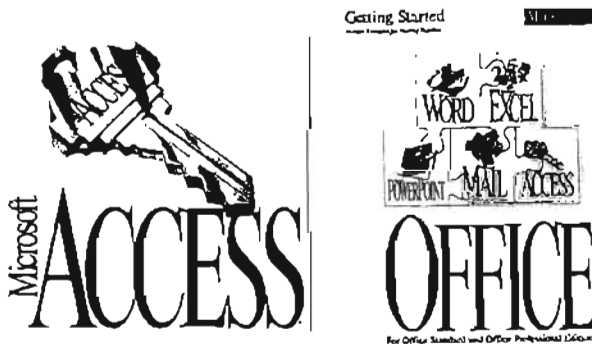
### Summary

Access 2.0 has enhancements over Access 1.1 which make life simpler and produce better database applications for everyone from the casual

user to the advanced developer. Fears that experts would soon tire of the extra steps of Wizards and Builders haven't proved to be true — experts, just like novices, have been happy to have the "grunt work" done on the basics and then modify the objects as they want. For me, Access alone would have justified moving to Microsoft Office.

NOTE: Members interested in developing applications with this and other Microsoft Office products should look for the announcement of the organizational meeting of a new Applications Developers SIG in this issue of the North Texas PC News.

Larry Linson



## North Texas PC Reviews . . .

Brief Reviews from the NTPCUG Software Review SIG

### InfoNation... Ctd.

Graduates by Race and #Cost of a McDonald's Quarter Pounder w/ Cheese

To select a city or state to view data, you can type or select the name from a drop down list box, or you can select the area by pointing to it on the map. The initial view of the map is the entire United States. By clicking on an area, you zoom in to see a closer view of that area. You can zoom in several levels, but the furthest you can go (Zoom 4) is the view of the metropolitan area and all of its surrounding cities.

You can customize the map by providing the level of detail you want to see. You can specify if you want to see major roads, railroad tracks, streams and lakes, national forests, military bases, etc. The map that you end up with can be printed. It should be noted that this application should not be bought if your main intention is for the maps. The maps are adequate, at best, in giving you a rough idea where the cities/landmarks are located within the United States.

One of the drawbacks to the application is that it is DOS-based. Once you are in the application though, you could be fooled into thinking it is a Windows application.

### Impressive DOS-based GUI

This application has a very impressive GUI front end to it that gives it a professional touch. Another drawback to the product is that it takes a very long time to print either the data sheet for a state/metropolitan area or a map. This could be caused by the fact that I ran this application on a LAN with networked printers.



Overall, I was very happy with the product and would recommend it to someone moving to a different part of the United States or a business person thinking about opening a new business elsewhere.

Just in case you wondered, here are the top 5 metropolitan areas as generated by InfoNation weighing all categories equally:

- 1) Orlando, FL
- 2) Sarasota, FL
- 3) San Francisco, CA
- 4) Raleigh, NC
- 5) Washington, DC

Dallas, TX ranked #61 on the list.

The product can be purchased in many local software shops or by calling Software Marketing Corporation at (602) 893-3377.

*by Joe Holder*

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### Are You a Voice Mail Expert ???

Many of you are aware that NTPCUG maintains a voice mailbox. It explains our user group to visiting callers, and if you have called it, you know that it is one loooong message. We would like to upgrade the system and need your assistance.

The ideal solution would include a system with multiple mailboxes, so callers could request just the portions of interest. This would also ease the monthly maintenance burden, for which I would be grateful. In addition, we would like to include a fax-back service so callers can request membership applications and other information by return fax.

Within our 2,100+ members, I know there is a wide range of capabilities and job interests. Some may even own or be employed with firms that manufacture or market voice mail systems. Would you be interested in having your voice mail/fax-back products demonstrated to our members and visiting callers? If so, I would appreciate a call so we might discuss it further.

Thanks for helping out!

*Doug Gorrie*

Director, North Texas PC Users Group

(214) 464-7942(W)

(214) 618-8002(H)



## Gig 'em Microsoft! DOJ/FTC fold in July Altsys shakes free, Micrografx sheds CEO IBM dumps Ambra, and PC prices will fall

### So, what's new in July - August?

Top news in July is of national/international scope, i.e., Microsoft agreement with DOJ. Just as much fun at the local level is the Altsys (Richardson) divorce from Aldus (Altsys presented to the NTPCUG in July) and potential that a local company may "take off" as a result of FTC decision in Adobe - Aldus merger.

Other local-interest news, also in the graphics arena, was sparked by the announcement that Micrografx shed another officer — Gordon Tucker, former CEO/President — in the continuing corporate turmoil at this Richardson-based outfit.

Meanwhile, IBM is getting out of the mailorder PC business (Ambra), but decides to sell its hard disks directly to consumers. Huh? All this while Quantum makes a bid for DEC's (Digital Equipment Corporation) mass storage business. DEC, meanwhile, has production contracts with AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) for 486 CPU's as Intel threatens significant price drops "across the board" on 486 and Pentium chips.

And, rumors suggest OS/2 ? delivery is slipping — again — with IBM's Power PC OS lagging behind promised shipping dates.

### Microsoft 'Settles' as DOJ Touts hollow 'victory' — Sharks will have to wait...

Microsoft slips it to FTC/DOJ — and a bunch of very unhappy sharks in July. Don't believe the headlines this time around, in spite of US Attorney General Janet Reno's lame declarations about "leveled playing fields," or Department of Justice Chief Counsel Arne Bingaman claims of "victory" in the matter.

Word around the media circuit is that the DOJ deal was a face-saving move for DOJ after aggressively taking the matter



from the FTC earlier and discovering that it couldn't win and also couldn't really understand the business well enough to make a good show.

What makes it even more fun is rumors of schism at top government levels over the Microsoft issue with one party aghast that one of the few American success stories (Microsoft) was being zapped by zealous agencies in quest of PR victories. Unfortunately, another party was (according to rumor) busy paying-back some campaign "debts" by pursuing destruction of Bill Gates and Microsoft.

### Not everyone's happy Over Microsoft win

Most unhappy of all are some PC industry exec's who bet heavily on the Feds to breakup Microsoft, emasculate Bill Gates, and funnel maybe a few \$ Billion their way. Most unhappy crowd does include Novell, Sun, Symantec, Apple, IBM and AutoDesk, all of whom had unhappy exec's quoted in the ensuing cornucopia of words from multiple media sources after the decision.

### No 'Doomsday' for MS

All they wanted was an "AT&T-Suicide-style" decision, i.e., Microsoft should be broken into a number (many, very small) of independent units with absolutely no communication be-



tween individuals associated with applications and operating systems. Ideally, none of the units would be large enough to interfere with the sharks' plans for dominance of the industry and eventual monopoly in some areas.

Sorry 'bout that, guys. Most of you wouldn't do that well under the FTC/DOJ lights either. Truth is that the sharks weren't invited to the expected feeding frenzy and are very disappointed. More on that later, much later.

Anybody remember how much service improved when AT&T was split? Or, how many \$\$\$ we all saved as a result? There's a lesson here for Microsoft watchers and the rest of the industry. Users would not have been the winners in a Microsoft break-up.

Obviously, I'm having a lot of fun writing this.

### **What really happened in July consent decree?**

Microsoft and the Department of Justice agreed to a consent decree to settle the four-year case. Industry experts are pretty-well agreed that the agreement will have minimal — if any — impact on Microsoft over the next several years, but does provide DOJ with some needed face-saving.

Meat of the accord lies in Microsoft's per-processor marketing practices/contracts and re-

stricting licensing agreements to one year's duration.

### **Non-disclosure issue**

Microsoft also agreed to lift some of the restrictions on its non-disclosure agreements that precluded working with Microsoft's competitors in the future. This latter has been subject of considerable media attention, but has very little bearing/impact on typical users.

### **'Per-processor' licenses Main DOJ target**

Microsoft's per-processor licensing agreement style was DOJ's main issue. In the past Microsoft has made licensing agreements with vendors that required them to pay Microsoft a license fee for every personal computer they shipped — regardless of operating system (OS) installed on the machines. In exchange for this agreement, makers paid much lower prices for MS DOS than would be otherwise available.

Microsoft's competitors (mostly IBM and Novell) see this as a major incentive for PC makers not to install OS's other than Microsoft's MS-DOS, and, there-



fore freeze them out of the OS market. This argument does have merit, but I remember when we bought our first PC and were offered several OS's in the \$400 range, and PC-DOS for \$30. Guess which OS we purchased with the PC?

Of course, the parallel between floppy-equipped PC's and hard-disk equipped PC's delivered with MS-DOS and Windows installed is stretching some. Most new PC buyers would have a difficult time doing an operating system installation from scratch. If the new OS is OS/2, even experienced users report problems with an initial installation. In contrast, MS-DOS is a cinch, but add Windows and the situation escalates toward confusion rapidly.

That's why this issue is/was important — users tend to stick with what the vendor installed and this precludes a lot of OS/2 and Novell DOS 7.0 sales in the after-market.

Media sources, however, think this is a "red herring" now since the popular standard is MS-DOS and Windows. They say, and are probably right, that new users will still go with this choice — and availability of help from friends later — over possibly-better, but less popular OS's that don't have the built-in help from coworkers, friends and neighbors.

### **Fight's for 'tomorrow'**

If the fight were for today's PC's, then Microsoft scored a decisive victory and left DOJ "sucking wind." That's undeniable.

Fight isn't just for today, though. Microsoft's competition knows, just as Microsoft

does, that there's a good chance that the 32-bit OS arena doesn't belong to MS yet. There are a lot of "maybe's" following this argument.

First is problems IBM has had convincing anybody that OS/2 can be a contender in the popular realm after stumbling so badly with early versions. UNIX is still there, but even the staunchest supporters have trouble seeing UNDX or some UNDX-clone as the home PC OS of choice at this stage of development.

Sadly, Novell's entry into the UNIX fray hasn't been very encouraging. What does it mean when Novell proposes to use a shareware UNIX (*Linux*) instead of its own product in a proposed *Chicago* competitor?

Justice did hold out some hope for the Sharks in all this — use of civil litigation against Microsoft. I won't say DOJ is encouraging this, but quotes from Chief Counsel Anne Bingaman sure sounded that way.

### **On the local scene... Altsys freed by FTC, Micrografx ousts Tucker**

Local PC news is always fun when somebody's winning. Altsys, who presented to the NTPCUG in July, came out a big winner in the FTC decision in the proposed Adobe - Aldus merger. Focus was Altsys-written *FreeHand* which was marketed by Aldus and in direct competition with Aldus' new partner/owner, Adobe who publishes *Illustrator*.

Adobe's *Illustrator* was called *FreeHand*'s main competition in the high-end graphics design/drawing market by a recent article in *The Dallas Morn-*

## THE VARIETY STORE

*ing News* on July 29, by John Kirkpatrick. I've got a small problem with that analysis which would appear to ignore competing products from other local publishers, Computer Supprt Corp. of Dallas, and Micrografx of Richardson.

Altsys now has the right to publish and market *FreeHand* unhindered by the Adobe-Aldus merger. Altsys' President and CEO, Jim R. Von Ehr, anticipates that they'll gross approximately \$30 million in 1995 according to *DMN* reporter Kirkpatrick, in contrast to estimated revenues of \$8.5 million in 1994.

### **Tucker's ouster Indicates continued Micrografx turmoil**

Gordon Tucker was president and CEO for Micrografx for 10 months. He got his walking papers in July. CEO turnovers aren't unusual, but Micrografx seems to be having a lot of difficulty settling down for some reason.

Tucker's firing was announced by Micrografx Chairman J. Paul Grayson who also re-assumed the CEO slot as well as his present position as vice president of product development. In October, 1993, Mr. Grayson's brother, George Grayson, was allowed to resign from the CEO role in what was termed by media as "a board revolution."

According to articles in *PC Week* and *the Dallas Morning News* over the ouster, Micrografx has experienced signifi-

cant reductions in product sales, delayed new product releases and subsequent losses over the past quarter ended June 30. Media hinted that Tucker, who came to Micrografx from the food industry, never gained the confidence of the board or completely understood the dynamics of the software industry.

Others quoted in media articles cited significant personal style differences between Tucker and the Micrografx director/management echelon.

### **IBM to dump Ambra, Mail-order PC's for Disappointing sales**

IBM will ditch the Ambra Computer Company by November according to the *Wall Street Journal*. A two-year experiment in low-cost mail-order PC sales, Ambra has been a significant non-performer with less than 75,000 PC's sold and delivered over the period.

Marketing and advertising expenses have been considerable and the product line has consistently shown significant losses since the inception of the mail-order company by IBM. *WSJ* contrasted the reported Ambra sales with those reported for Gateway of roughly 219,000 units in the last quarter.

According to IBM sources, the Ambra line duplicates new models IBM plans to release in the fall. This is also cited as a part of a major revamping of





IBM's PC operation which will also include elimination of about 20% of the jobs in the operation.

Ambra never really too-off media claimed. Although there was the IBM identification, consumers were unable to differentiate between the many variations in the line and too often opted to purchase competing, but less confusing competitors.

### **Decision to sell IBM Drives directly is 'About-face' for IBM**

Put this together with the above. IBM has decided to sell their fast, 3.5" SCSI-2 hard disks directly to end users.

IBM officials reported in July they would begin selling their drives to end users and announced availability of 270M-, 364M-, 540M- and 728M-byte drives ranging from \$255 to \$469 per unit. The drives are equipped with IBM's new magneto-resistant head technology and feature average access times of 12 milliseconds. According to IBM officials the drives also 10M-bps data transfer rates and MTBF (Mean Time Between Failure) rates of 300,000 hours.

In the past, IBM only sold to OEM vendors, but has reversed this stance in an effort to explore all possible sources of income, according to *PC Week*. The drives are described as "very reliable" and with performance in keeping with

IBM's reputation for excellent technical specifications.

### **Quantum moves to High-end with DEC Data storage business**

Quantum Corp. of Milpitas, CA, announced in July it will purchase a significant portion of Digital Equipment corporation (DEC)'s data storage business. Reported price of the acquisition is approximately \$400 million.

In the deal, Quantum will acquire DEC's magnetic disk drive, tape drive and solid-state disk business. Quantum will also get DEC's thin-film heads business. Already one of the leading suppliers with \$2.1 billion in sales, the purchase places Quantum squarely in the high-end data storage market. *The Wall Street Journal* article by Carrie Dolan reporting the sale described this move as moving Quantum into the same arena with IBM and Seagate Technology, Inc. at the high end.

Quantum acquired DEC units with \$750 million in revenues and approximately 5,000 employees. Quantum has approximately 3,300 employees and will also DEC's facilities in Shrewsbury, Conn., and Penang, Malaysia.

Media sources quoted described the DEC thin-film head technology as the major core of the DEC - Quantum deal. It's this technology that puts Quantum in the race with IBM and Seagate. Part of the acquisition

was Rocky Mountain Magnetics Inc., major developer of the magneto-resistive head technology viewed as the key to next-generation drive development.

### **What's it all mean? Will users benefit? What will PC's cost?**

If you've been watching the media, you know that there are lots of changes coming down the road. Falling prices for PC power seems to be a constant rumor over the summer months — sparked by announcements from Intel and others that CPU prices are going down rapidly.

That means much lower prices for PC's this fall. Reason is CPU price drops mentioned above. The CPU accounts for a substantial portion of the vendor cost to produce PC's and when these prices plummet, system prices won't be far behind.

We've already seen mass-storage prices drop by roughly 50% this year and the bottom isn't in sight yet. If you looked at the prices IBM quoted on its retail disk drives in the story above, figure these will cost even less on the street and the suggested retail price is about half of what similar drives cost last summer.

Fueling all this is a combination of two factors — massive increases in production capacity coupled with similar decreases in unit production costs, and a potential "saturation" of the PC market as a result.

I don't know where it's going, but I bet it will be fun getting there.

*Reagan*

# Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

## ACCESS SIG

Our August speaker is none other than our own Jack Atkinson, taking us on a "Tour of Some Uncommon Types of Queries." Most of us are familiar with the Access "select" query, which creates a "dynaset" of records from one or more tables. Updating a field in a record of the dynaset also updates the corresponding field in the table on which it is based. However, there are other types of queries, perhaps less well-known and lesser used, but extremely powerful tools for the Access user. Jack will explain how we can use these queries to enhance our Access applications and make life easier for the user.

Jack's wide experience in the computer business, from mighty mainframes to tiny micros, gives him a broad perspective. He's worked for a major computer manufacturer, been a successful consultant and contractor, and is now with Parkland Hospital in Dallas. He's been a leader of the Access SIG since it was organized in April 1993. We're looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to Jack's presentation.

Thanks to Joe Clark for his presentation in July, on the subject of "OLE Custom Controls with Access 2.0." Access 2.0 users have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of this exciting new

### 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:

- OS/2 Q & A - Meets from 11:00 until 11:55
- North Texas FreeNet - Meets from 2:00 until 2:55

#### Name Change:

- MS Word is now Word for Windows [Beverly Kurtin (817) 355-9594 H]

#### New SIG Leaders:

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

#### Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- Personal Users - Leader [contact Alex Lilley @ (214) 517-7430]
- Windows Applications - [Contact Rick Sivernell @ (214) 306-5422]
- Genealogy - PAF [Contact Al Sanford @ (214) 278-7888]

#### 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 #

### SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley.....(214) 517-7430 h

### ALPHABETICAL SIG LISTING:

#### ACT I

Jim Thompson ....(817) 261-6159 h  
.....(214) 953-0051 w

#### Access

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

#### Alpha 4

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

#### Assembler

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

#### BASIC - Beginning

Chuck Jacobus ... (817) 379-6840 h  
.....(817) 379-5287 w

#### BASIC - Classic

Mike Firth .....(214) 827-7734 h

#### BASIC Visual

Woody Pewitt.....(214) 283-2292 h  
.....(214) 230-3485 w  
Jim Carter .....(214) 235-5968 h

#### Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland ..(214) 272-2869 h

#### Business Applications/DAC

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

#### C++/Advanced

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

#### Middle C

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

#### CAD

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

#### Communications

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

## SIG LEADER LISTINGS CONTINUED ...

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

### Community Service

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

### DOS

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

### Dataflex

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

### Desktop Publishing

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

### Fox Pro

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

### Genealogy - General

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

### Genealogy - PAF

Joe Waldrop ..... (817) 498-5856 h

### Genealogy - Roots III / IV

John Wylie ..... (214) 495-4410 h

### Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

Jeri Steele ..... (214) 306-1596 h  
..... (214) 917-3917 w

### Hardware Solutions

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

### Internet

Tom O'Keefe ..... (214) 247-8812 h  
Doug Gorrie ..... (214) 618-8002 h  
..... (214) 464-7942 w

### Investors

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

### MS Word for Windows

Beverly Kurtin .... (817) 355-9594 h  
Janet Patton ..... (903) 886-6249 h

### MS Works

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

### Micrografx

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

### Microsoft Networking

Debbie Meaney .. (214) 625-9688 h  
..... (214) 716-2704 w  
Bruce Wynn ..... (214) 335-2507 h  
..... (214) 756-7832 w

### Networking

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

### OS/2 Developer

James Dunn ..... (214) 279-5712 h  
..... (214) 497-8978 w



development because Access 2.0 is the very first product to market which can use OLE Custom Controls. Joe's clear explanations are a big help to all of us.

We're still looking for samples, examples, applications, and explanations from you, our SIG members. Surely, you have done something interesting with our favorite database product, haven't you? How about presenting it at a SIG meeting in the months ahead, donating it to be included in an Access SIG DOM disk, or showing it in our regular Questions and Answers and Tips and Hints segment? Let us hear from you. We'll be happy to help you prepare your contribution for any of the above.

Don't Forget: Members of the North Texas PC User Group Access SIG have their own message conference on the North Texas PC User Group BBS. Every month, members ask some puzzling questions and get prompt responses. Use the BBS to expose your Access question to knowledgeable users by posting in the Access message conference (in the "Applications" message menu). You aren't guaranteed to find someone with an answer, but there's a high probability that someone will be able to help you. See the back cover for telephone numbers and other information about the BBS.

Feel free to bring questions and problems to the SIG meetings — we've seen a great many solutions from our attendees. Bring a sample .MDB database and you can show the problem. We have Access 1.1 installed on the demo machine and should have Access 2.0 installed by the August meeting.

See you at the Access SIG on August 20! Come prepared to share some of your experiences with Access 2.0 - good or bad - with the SIG members.

*Larry Linson*

## Application Developers (OLE & ODBC) SIG — Organizational Meeting

An exciting new evolution in application development is using several different products or other applications working together as one to provide a user solution. The approach is sometimes called "component applications." An excellent example was shown in the Microsoft DevCast earlier this year: it used Access 2.0 as the "glue" to hold together an application built with Excel, Word, SQL Server, and other components.

There are several competing technologies for accomplishing component applications. The one for the Windows environment which has made progress and gained the most support from other software vendors is Microsoft's vision of the "Component Object Model." In combination with Microsoft's Open Database Connection (ODBC) standard, it allows a wide range of custom and commercial applications to be blended "seamlessly\*" together for a business solution.

\* Your mileage may vary. That's why we need this SIG.

One technological advance that makes this a useful approach is version 2.0 of Object Linking and Embedding (OLE). Early imple-

## SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

### OS/2 for End Users

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

### Paradox

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

### Personal Users

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

### Programmers

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

### Quicken

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

### Software Review

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

### Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev

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

### Startext

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

### TI Pro

Walt Rice

### UNIX

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

### Windows - Applications

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

### Windows - Developers

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

### WordPerfect / DOS

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

### WordPerfect / Windows

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



mentations of OLE 2.0 were in Microsoft Visual Basic, Visio, Excel, and Word for Windows. Access 2.0 is enabled as an OLE 2.0 client which can interact with applications having OLE 2.0 server capabilities and is the first application to market with the ability to use OLE Custom Controls. Microsoft plans to extend OLE 2.0 capabilities to all its software packages and other vendors have announced plans to add OLE 2.0 to their products, as well. ODBC support is available not only for Microsoft databases, but for a significant range of other vendors' databases, on hardware platforms from personal computers to mainframes.

But "leaps ahead" are not without their challenges. There are so many very capable products which can be incorporated into a single solution that no one can be expert in all of them. To put together the best component applications, we'll have to cooperate and help each other.

We expect this to be a low-key SIG, with occasional guest speakers, but with high involvement by the attendees. This one's for "serious" application developers with application and "solution" development as the focus. No hoopla, no hullabaloo, just "developers helping developers" in the best NTPCUG tradition. We'll need one or more Co-Leaders or Assistant Leaders for the SIG, and a minimum of eight or more members who'll commit to attending on a more-or-less regular basis. We'd like every attendee to take an active part in directing, leading, and operating this SIG.

True, the "waters are a little choppy" at this point, but the

best way to "ride a wave" is to get on while it's building. If you think this would be a good "wave" to ride, would be willing to share your Microsoft Windows software experience with others, and would benefit from others sharing theirs, mark your calendar for the User Group Saturday in August, and join us to organize a new SIG. With this SIG, if we "wipe out" along the way, we'll have help "getting back on the board."

Tentative schedule is for 2:00 PM, immediately following the Access SIG, in the same room (but check the projected schedule in the lobby in case there has to be a last-minute change). Larry Linson will host the organizational meeting for the new SIG to address "component development." Because OLE 2.0 is now available in all the current versions of Microsoft Office software products, developers using Microsoft Office are especially invited, as are database developers for databases with ODBC support.

Larry Linson

### Assembler SIG

At the July meeting, we discussed hard drive I/O and the Enhanced IDE specification. We examined source code that shows how to interrogate an IDE drive to get the manufacturer's recommended setup parameters and how to get the hard drive setup information from the CMOS. We owe special thanks to R. J. Smith at Western Digital (huntr@a1.wdc.com) for supplying some of the material that was used, and to Doug Merrett of Stones Corner, Australia (dcm@mincom.oz.au) for the program code we looked at. The sample program and a compiled ver-



sion of it are still available on the BBS for those who missed the meeting.

In August, we'll take another look at Abrash's book, *Zen of Code Optimization*. I've had a chance to read it since Frank Cavalitto did his review in April, and see a lot of good material for consideration by the SIG.

As always, we invite and appreciate having new members and people who have hardware or software programming questions. Come join us at 11:00.

*Glynn Brooks*

### Beginners BASIC SIG

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

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

Recent SIG meetings (and soon to be released DOM disk #846B) 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. Also Feb. 94's program named INTEREST, which calculates interest problems of the six different types; March 94's program, GW2QB.EXE, which converts a GWBasic program to QBasic; April's SIG program called JAPCANQB.BAS, a Japanese candlestick graph maker using a sample stock market data file; May 94's arithmetic drill program for young students called FLASHCARD; June 94's SIG covered the use of Vernon Bueg's SORTF program; and July SIG's time clock program that featured the use of INKEY\$.

Also to be covered in 1994: 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*

### Classic BASIC SIG

Classic BASIC turned into a discussion of what Visual BASIC does and what DLL and OLE mean in terms of services as well as data engines and what purpose they serve.

*Mike Firth*

### Communications SIG

Metropolitan Computer will be the Communications SIG guest for the August meeting. They will demonstrate Intel ProShare Personal Conferencing software, which allows a user to connect with a colleague using a modem (9600 bps or higher) or LAN link, then share any Windows-based documents.

The Intel ProShare Video System adds video to the document-sharing features included in the Conferencing product. With it, the users can see and hear each other, in addition to seeing the document. This will be a demo you won't want to miss.



*CAD SIG Members listen as complex procedure is explained*

There will be a drawing for free prizes for NTPCUG members present.

*Birl Smith & Doug Gorrie*

## DOS SIG

What's it all mean? Novell gave up on "Noorda's Revenge" — the 32-bit GUI/DOS/UNIX *Exposé*, *Chicago/DOS 7* is delayed (according to media) until 1995, more delays are reported for OS/2 ?, and *Novell (DR) DOS 7* is finally getting some negative press. Meanwhile, some of us are still struggling with DOS 3.3. Must be August again.

DOS SIG will look at all these — and more — at the August Meeting. Mostly, though, we'll be looking at some of the more obscure and enigmatic aspects of DOS for the new user with an emphasis on when to use ... some of the more commonly *misused* DOS commands.

Good place to start will be the COPY family. That's right, *family*. Lots of confusion surrounds COPY, DISKCOPY and XCOPY for day-to-day tasks and when to use (or not to use) each is still a mystery for many DOS users. Since I almost never use DISKCOPY in DOS (I prefer the *Windows* version), that may be a good



place to start — when to use DISKCOPY and when to opt for COPY or XCOPY. With some luck, and not too much discussion about Microsoft's "win" over the FTC/DOJ, using the COPY family will be major topic for the DOS SIG.

We will have the usual Q & A session, and Jim Hoisington does plan to be in town unless he gets a contract job in Tahiti — or Pago-Pago. Plan to attend the DOS SIG at the August Meeting. It'll be a lot of fun and at least a little bit educational.

### DOS Tip

How to do a "minimalist" — and safe — backup

Last month I "nudged" folks into thinking about backups. This month, I'll make some suggestions. One of which is free (with DOS) the other is a shareware utility most of us have already — PKZIP 2.04g. But mostly, I'll harangue about what to do before backing-up.

I'm a great believer in backing-up from a "clean" DOS and disk. That means I'll usually run DEFRAG before starting, and I'll re-boot from a "minimalist" DOS configuration to do the actual backup. I.e., I re-boot using the [F8] key, selecting only those components from the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files that I actually need to do the backup. I never back-up from Windows!

I do install HIMEM.SYS, EMM386 .EXE, BUFFERS = 20, FILES = 60 and any other necessary drivers, etc. But, I don't load anything that isn't absolutely necessary to accomplish the backup.

When I'm backing-up across the *Windows for Workgroups* network, the target machines are running *Workgroups Connection for DOS*, not WFW. Reason is that WFW doesn't allow several critical Windows files to be "touched" by the backup program and you'll have to re-install Windows as a result if you experience a disk crash, etc., in spite of having a "complete" backup set.

I usually back-up to tape. But, when I want only a directory or so, I use 1.44M floppies and DOS's BACKUP or (lately) PKZIP's multi-disk capabilities. That's a feature in the latest version that solves many problems if you are maintaining several machines with multiple DOS combinations where BACKUP may not always be available. In a pinch, I'll use DOS's XCOPY multiple disk capability, but I do miss the compression available in either BACKUP or PKZIP 2.04g.

*Reagan Andrews*





## Genealogy SIG - General

The General Genealogy SIG June program was "How to use CD ROMs for research in genealogy" and was brought by John Wylie, the leader of the Roots IV group and a local professional genealogist. The General Genealogy SIG meets 9 - 10 a.m. in Room 1059 (check the overhead projectors downstairs for possible room changes), with about 60 members present.

CD ROMs (Compact Disk Read Only Memory) are revolutionizing the computer and multimedia world. Their first large introduction into the genealogy world was several years ago when the Jesus Christ Church of the Latter Day Saints (hereafter called LDS) obtained a computer and four groups of CDRoms (Family Search, International Genealogical Index (IGI), Social Security Death Index (SSDI), and War veterans (Korea and Vietnam). These are available at most LDS 'stake' center libraries free of charge and for

use by everyone. They are even available at the Dallas Public Libraries. These CD ROMs have software that is updated approximately every year or two.

Anyone who has used the census for genealogy and has been forced to go through microfilm by county can appreciate that if this information were available on CD ROM, the computer could be used to search for names and get "instant results". Some of this information is already available on CD ROM and can be purchased. Perhaps some day this information will be in a data bank that can be addressed by modem. What a blessing that would (will) be.

CD ROMs can store so much information that they are useful in multimedia presentations that can be shown on screen (or converted into video tape) with "living" color, sound, and action. The use of a scanner can be used to allow the computer to digitize photographs (including color), docu-

ments, drawings, etc. One major advantage of digitizing these items is that you no longer have to worry about them fading, yellowing, etc. with age.

The topic for 20 August will be "Citing Sources and Document Attributions."

*Al Sanford*

## Genealogy SIG - PAF

The data in the PAF data file is in machine language. At a previous meeting it was determined that when the PAF data is output to a file (i.e., it can be output to screen, file, or printer) it goes into the file in ASCII form. ASCII (American Standard Code for International Interchange) is a "text" language that can be transferred between computers that are ASCII-compatible. In its ASCII form, the data can be input into almost any word processor (or text editor) and edited easily and to your heart's content. But if you edit the notes extensively on a person in your PAF database, then you naturally want to put the edited notes back into the PAF database. But your word processor and your PAF database are each in their own "machine" language, so how can you do this? It is fairly easy and straightforward, as I am going to show you.

First, find out how to output an ASCII file from your word processor. Then output your word processor data in ASCII form to a file. Then import this ASCII file into a genealogy program that converts the ASCII data into the PAF data language (Import, EDITPAF), and finally import the output of this device into the database of your PAF. This import into PAF must be done a RIN at a time so it can be time-consuming.



Computer Support's Patrick Talty prepares presentation for Desktop Publishing SIG

EDITPAF is a freeware program. It can be ordered from Robert J. Scott, 4521 Morago Ave, San Diego CA 92117; 619-283-5908.

Import can handle up to 700 text lines. It can be ordered from Jack Chandler, 812 Vermillion Dr, Henderson NV 89015, 702-565-3158 who asks for \$10 donation and \$2.50 shipping.

PAF meets 10 - 11 a.m. in Room 1059 (check overheads downstairs for possible changes). Right now we are looking for a new leader. If you are interested, or know of someone who is, contact Al Sanford 214-278-7888. There are usually about 50 members present.

July topic was "How to Organize Your Genealogy Research Files". One series of topic suggestions was that the *PAF User Book* by Joan Lowrey be used by starting at the beginning and going to the end.

If you have problems, questions, suggestions, etc., please bring them to the next meeting.

*Al Sanford*

## Internet SIG

This month, John Wisniewski will present "Navigating the Internet with E-mail and News". Even with E-mail access alone, one can still accomplish amazing feats on the Internet, such as retrieving files through ftp mail servers and following usenet news groups through LISTSERV E-mail lists. John will discuss these techniques and others to help you get more out of your "cyber-surfing." Look for a hand-out with all the techniques AND addresses! Some of you may know John from his support of the DECUS/DFWLUG user group and its BBS, which is now directly connected to the Internet. (email to [system@fallout.lon-](mailto:system@fallout.lon-)



estar.org, or 8n1 214-270-3313, login as INFO)

Last month, Brent Chapman ([brent@GreatCircle.com](mailto:brent@GreatCircle.com)) discussed Internet security issues and firewall implementations. Brent was in town to present a tutorial on firewall implementations, and to our great fortune agreed to stay the extra day and talk to our group. Brent also runs the "firewalls" mailing list, one you'll want to follow if you're concerned with techniques to prevent the bad guys from getting into your network. Send the E-mail message SUBSCRIBE FIREWALLS to [majordomo@GreatCircle.com](mailto:majordomo@GreatCircle.com).

See you at the meeting!

*Tom O'Keefe & Doug Gorrie*

## Microsoft Works SIG

The Works SIG explored various things related to graphs and how Mike Firth is using them to plot



*Pat Henley (left) and Neal Berkowitz (right) at Software Review SIG critique at June SIG meeting*

out concrete needs for his garage, which has a varying dirt floor now.

*Mike Firth*

## Personal Users SIG

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.

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*

## StarSIG

StarSIG for June 18, 1994, was turned over to On Ramp Technology, who talked about and demonstrated Internet. While they were setting up the connection, Joe Busch of On Ramp Technology compared Internet and StarText in an introductory speech. He pointed out the similarities, such as constant change to reflect changing interests, flat rate pricing by StarText and On Ramp Technology, and the general feeling of community, including willingness to help the other users. He also pointed out some differences between the local, carefully administered StarText, always owned by the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and Internet, a set of protocols started by the military and academia for information interchange, evolving into an





informal and global net of nets, not really controlled by anyone.

After stating their company policies and philosophy, the connection to the Internet was completed. StarSIG attendees were treated to a display of text and graphics originating at a North Carolina university. Those interested in more were invited to contact On Ramp Technology, 5001 Infomart, (214)746-4710.

Come see us any User Group Saturday (check the overheads downstairs for time and room number). Meetings are seldom planned as much as a week in advance, but ideas flow freely, and a large number of them end up part of StarText. You may be our next successful columnist, and we want to get you started.

*William L. Jones*

### Visual Basic SIG-Beginning

At this month's meeting on August 20, we will feature a presentation entitled "For Beginner's Only" that will cover topics of interest to those just getting started in Visual Basic. This presentation will be repeated each February and August to assist newcomers to Visual Basic in getting started.

The major topics will include a brief history of Visual Basic, descriptions of resources available for beginners in Visual Basic, an introduction to the Windows environment, discussion of the features of Visual Basic 3.0, and demonstration of the Visual Basic integrated development environment (IDE). Sample programs will be run on the NTPCUG computer projection system. Everyone is welcome to attend, of course. If

you have a friend, relative, neighbor, etc., who would like to see what Visual Basic is about, bring them to this meeting.

The NTPCUG User-To-User Program is supported by both Visual Basic SIGs to provide assistance to Visual Basic programmers. For details, see the listings for this program near the back of this newsletter.

During the July meeting, I discussed the Help files that come with the Standard Edition of Visual Basic and demonstrated how they can be very useful during programming.

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 presentation date.

Attendance is still exceeding 65 members. The working computer and display is helping demonstrate the effectiveness of Visual Basic much better than overhead cells. This has been especially important in demonstrations for beginning programmers.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to the Infomart (Check the screens downstairs for room assignment) at 8:00 AM on August 20, 1994. See you then.

*Jim Carter*

### Word for Windows SIG

The MS Word SIG is now known as the *Word for Windows* SIG. The newly-named SIG also has a newly-named SIG leader — Beverly Kurtin. She is the former co-leader of the StarText SIG. Janet Patton, thank goodness, will remain the SIG's assistant leader.

Charles Miller, the immediate past SIG leader, will be moving on to other fun things. Thanks, Charles, for the great job you've done in the past. You've left a pair of shoes that's going to be hard to fill.

Some exciting programs have been planned through October. July's program centered around keyboard shortcuts in Winword. Some of the handier keyboard combinations appear in this month's Productivity Tips below.

Former WordPerfect users will want to be on hand this month (August) for a presentation that's full of techniques that make switching from WordPerfect to Word for Windows much easier. (Hey! Where's my F4 indent?)

September's program, "Macros for Rank Beginners and Other People," should be funny and fun. Word for Windows' built-in macro recorder is so easy to use that even a rank novice can use it. Hopefully, a rank novice will be at the September meeting so the point can be proved.

"Things That go Bump in the Night" will be October's offering. If you've wondered what treats (macros) ship with Word for Windows 6.x, this is the month to find out. The tricks we play this month will all turn out to be real treats!

#### Productivity Tips:

Using the mouse is okay most of the time, but when you really want to zing along in your work



try using some of these keyboard shortcuts:

CTRL+O = File Open, CTRL+P = Print, CTRL+N = New Document. You can change justification of a paragraph by pressing CTRL+E to Center it, CTRL+R to make it Right Justified, CTRL+J to force full justification, or CTRL+L to return to normal, left alignment.

Keep in mind that anytime you see an underlined item in any Windows menu you can press and release the Alt key, then press the underlined letter and the menu will open. Then it's a simple matter of pressing the next underlined letter to get that option to function or to move to the next menu letter. For example, if you want to do a quick print preview in Word for Windows, just tap the Alt key (don't forget to immediately release it!), then type FV. You'll be looking at a print preview.

Need to get out of a dialog box (virtually ANY dialog box, that is)? Just press the Esc key instead of always having to reach for the mouse.



WordPerfect SIG members sit raptly in the dark at the June SIG meeting presentation of version 6.0

Speaking about getting out, it's time to slap an Alt+FC on this month's SIG article. See 'ya around the SIG meetings!

*Beverly Kurtin*

### WordPerfect (DOS) SIG

August SIG will be on *WordPerfect 6 for DOS* and we'll show you the power packed feature of Merge. Creating a form file, a data file and merging the two together is the end result of this feature but it's only a small piece of this time-saving function. We'll show you how to create a data file WITHOUT merge codes, how you can select only some of the records to merge, and how to create envelopes automatically. You won't want to miss this! Even if you're relatively new to WordPerfect 6, you should have no problem understanding Merge.

#### WordPerfect 6.0 DOS Tip of the Month!

Creating borders around the page is easy to do with just a couple of keystrokes (or mouse clicks). Press [Alt](F9) or select the Graph-

ics pulldown menu. Select Borders, then Page. The default is set to a single border on all 4 sides and no background color (called "fill"). Just by selecting OK, you've got a border. If the cursor happened to be in the middle of the page when you created the border, no problemo! Because of the Auto Code Placement feature, the code is automatically positioned at the top of the current page. The great thing is, the page border stays in effect until you turn it off. To turn it off, repeat the steps above but select the OFF button instead of the OK button.

"The single border's too plain", you say. Get back into the Page Borders menu and select the first option. There's a list of common borders that you can choose from. "None of those fit my needs", you say. You can create your own border! This allows you to decide the thickness, style (dashed, dotted, thick, double, etc.), and color. You can even have different line styles for each side. Another option allows you to set rounded corners instead of square corners.

Once you create your own custom border style, it stays with the document. To share custom border styles with another document, you must save it to a style file, then retrieve that style file into the new document.

Of course there's a way to change your default styles so that your customized selections are listed automatically in every new document. And then there's the fill patterns and colors that we didn't talk about (cool things there, especially if you have a color printer). But we have limited space in this column. Guess you'll just have to come to a meeting to see the rest of the goodies!

*Lori Quinn*

## NTPCUG On-Line

By Fred Williams

Yep, the link with New Zealand still works! Jim Hoisington is back down there, drinking that nasty old New Zealand beer again. What some people have to do to make a living!

### IT'S HHHEEERRREEE!

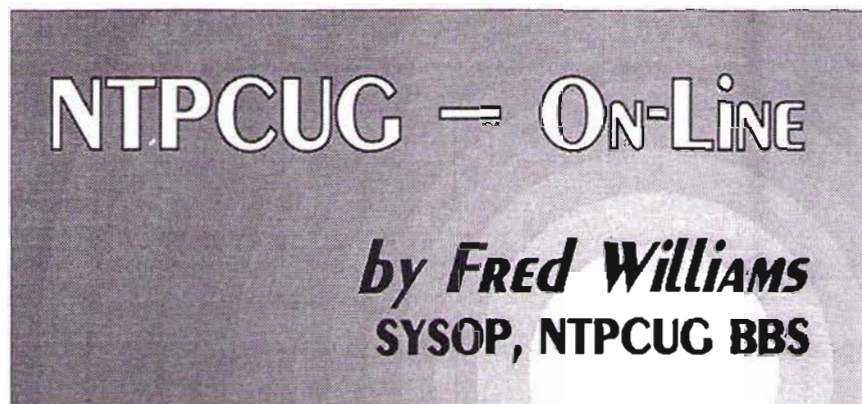
V.34 finally made it out of committee and is officially dispatched to get signed approval from all the participating bodies. Some feel this could take up to six months. But the formal approval process should not affect the actual specifications any more than the normal technical "adjustments" that will evolve as real world implementation proceeds.

I've already seen and heard of modems hitting the market that incorporate V.34. So far, all are "Flash" ROM upgradable, most for free, in the event the V.34 specifications are modified during the implementation process. I've been using an Intel modem with flash ROM for a couple of years now, and am very happy and comfortable with the whole Flash update bit.

### Compatibility Issues?

The somewhat, not totally unexpected, dead silence on backward compatibility with V.FC (V.Fast) is a bit of a concern for those who bought into the V.Fast spec. I just hope everyone who did, checked on the V.34 upgrade cost and procedure when they purchased their V.Fast modem. It certainly looks like all V.Fast's will require upgrade to V.34. Kind of a modern day US Robotics "Dual Standard" revisited situation. "Dèjà vu all over again."

I expect the BBS will have some form of V.34 capability before the



end of the year. We will naturally wait until the complaining about no "fast" modem support becomes deafening. That will just give V.34 that much longer to shake out.

### 60% Below 2400 Baud

The latest BBS user analysis still shows better than 60% of the users at 2400 baud or less. If we ever go above 14.4, Dennis Vandine will probably bury us all in posts anyway. At 14.4 Dennis is purt' near deadly! If he and Jan Parkhill don't start trimming their "quotes" I'm going to "Zap" their QSO access flags. Little wonder the BBS backup keeps running out of tape.

As usage of the BBS has steadily increased, I have had to resort to

reducing the number of incremental backups per backup cycle. I started at one full and four incrementals when we switched to TBBS. I just, last week, changed the procedure to one full backup each night. No more incrementals.

### Fred's 'Nanny'?

When and if the Internet thing actually happens, I'm bracing for a big jump in BBS usage. Most of the Internet stuff will be on what is commonly referred to by TBBS Sysops as a "nanny" machine, which is a second system connected through a peer-to-peer network.

We have also heard that Apple has been able to secure waivers from the phone company for special pricing on more than three lines. This appears to be a direct result of their being a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Guess what the NTPCUG is?

With the addition of a nanny and a potential for more phone lines, other BBS service possibilities open up. We also seem to have an almost unlimited supply of "old" PC's that come from other NTPCUG support areas. And the cost of double spin CD-ROM drives is "tanking." Stay tuned for more to come.

Fred Williams



# INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

### Membership Cards for All

Something is looking good parked between your Texaco and American Express cards. It is the new NTPCUG membership card with your name on it in large letters.

Volunteers have recorded, formatted, printed, and made this card available for us to pick up at the Information/Registration Booth. The cards which are not picked up are mailed to their owners by Judy Griffiths. Judy sends approximately 150 cards to members every

month and she thinks the new pressure sensitive stamps rank up there next to Windows' Solitaire game and the invention of the safety pin.

Judy pulls triple duty by volunteering at the Disk of the Month Desk, and the Information Booth. Thanks Judy. When you get your new card, think of the volunteers who work behind the scenes to make a successful club.

The Volunteers from our June meeting are recognized on this page.

#### 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:

Al Aston

Eteta Eta

Judy Griffiths

Allan Harbaugh

Hank Holt

David Huckabee

John Ivers

David Martin

Paul Williams

##### Booth Crew:

Chris Barnes

Jo Cannon

Lorin Cranford

Tim Foster

Ned Keig

Virginia Kerr

Tim Lanz

Claude McClure

Bob McNeil

Foy T. Mills

Martin Moomaw

Anthony Nagy

Xeita Nagy

Raymond Reyes

Fred Toulmin

Jean Waldrep

Gene Wuller

#### Disk of the Month (DOM)

##### DOM Shift Supervisors:

Gene Carleton

Norman Dang

James Donlon

Kent Haven

M. Pat Henley (double)

Kathryn Loafman

##### DOM Desk Crew:

Joe Allen

Chris Balthrop

Rob Bender

Philip Bridges

Wendy Bryson

William Farris

Charles Fernandez

Judy Griffiths

Kent Haven

Duane Martin

Mac McKeethen

Jan Parkhill

Bob Post

George Read

Ed Snuggs

Oscar Tyler

Solomon Woldesenbet

M Pat Henley

David Huckabee

Jerry Stone

Zach Loafman

Kathryn Loafman

#### Inventory and Take-down Crew:

Tom Jones

Ron Parker

Paul Prosek

Ralph Smejkal

#### DOM Desk Scheduler:

Charles Cashion

#### Disks for Review Manager:

Howard Hamilton

#### Disk Production:

Kathryn Loafman

Kenneth Loafman

#### With Special Thanks to:

##### Set Up Crew:

Mark Gruner

Kent Haven



### 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)887-0978 (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	DAYSHOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYSHOURS
<i>Access</i>	Larry Linson .....	(817)487-2350	M-Sa 1300-1500	<i>HyperAccess</i>	Woody Pewitt.....	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
<i>Assembly Language</i>	Frank Cavallito .....	(214)423-9221	7 1800-2200	<i>LANs — Novell</i>	Joseph Beasley .....	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1600	— <i>Lantastic</i>	Joseph Beasley .....	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
<i>BASIC</i>	Mike Firth .....	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	<i>Managing Your Money</i>	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1600
<i>Beginner Problems</i>	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	<i>MathCAD</i>	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(214)352-2800	7 0900-2000	<i>MIDI</i>	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1600
<i>Brother's Keeper</i>	Neil Sunderland.....	(214)272-2869	7 0900-2200	<i>OS/2</i>	Larry Truesdale .....	(214)442-7074	7 1000-2200
<i>C (the language)</i>	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200	<i>PC Tools/Win</i>	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1600
	.....	.....	T&T 1800-2030	<i>Paradox</i>	Fred Williams.....	(214)492-1315	7 1300-2100
<i>C++ (the language)</i>	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	<i>ProComm/ProComm+</i>	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	
<i>Batch Files</i>	Charles Miller .....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	Joseph Beasley .....	.....	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
<i>Borland C++</i>	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	<i>Quattro Pro/Win</i>	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1600
	.....	.....	T&T 1800-2030	<i>Quicken</i>	Billy Pitts.....	(817)430-8148	7 1830-2100
<i>Comm Software</i>	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700	Jim Hall.....	.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900	<i>Quickbooks</i>	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
<i>CompuServe</i>	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900				
<i>DOS (all MS versions)</i>	Rick Steffon.....	(214)327-2728	7 1000-2400				
<i>Hardware Help</i>	Charles Miller .....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400				

# NTPCUG User - To - User Program

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYSHOURS
<b>SPFPC</b>			
	Doug Gorrie .....	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
<b>TurboVision</b>			
	Howard Harkness .....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
	.....		T&T 1800-2030
<b>UNIX</b>			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
<b>Virus &amp; Anti-Virus</b>			
	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
<b>Visual Basic - Advanced</b>			
	Woody Pewitt.....	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
<b>Visual Basic - Beginning</b>			
	Jim Carter.....	(214)235-5968	7 1700-2130

L.J. Johnson .....	(214)495-9067	7	1700-2130
Gene Harmelma.....	(214)495-6342	7	1700-2130

**Windows**

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

**LEGEND:**

- 7 . . . . . All 7 days of each week    M-F . . . . . Monday through Friday
- T&T . . . . Tuesday and Thursday    M-Sa . . . . Monday through Saturday
- S&S . . . . Saturday and Sunday    (\*) . . . . . Caller should incur any Long Distance charges

**Areas Needing Helpers:**

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

## North Texas Users Group, Inc. Membership Application

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 Classification:	Application Status:
Cash _____	Regular (\$24.00) ____	New Member _____
Check _____	Student (\$12.00) ____	Renewal _____
Credit Card _____		Address Change _____

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

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

# North Texas PC Users Group, 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

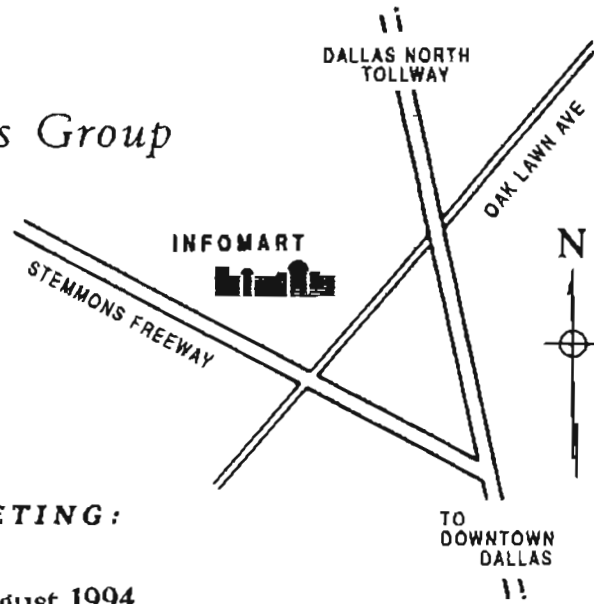
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*North Texas PC Users Group*



**NEXT MEETING :**

**20 August 1994**