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Send address changes to: Membership Director, NTPCUG, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066.

- Publisher** Reagan Andrews (Acting)
(214) 828-0699
- Editor** Gerry Helms
(214) 938-7268
- Assistant Editors**
 - Alan Lintel
(214) 220-7829
 - Doug McCoy
(214) 496-0386
 - Linda Moore
(214) 369-8377
 - John Gourd
(214) 783-9829
- Newsletter Exchange** Lewis Graber
- Advertising Director** Connie Andrews, (Acting) -
(214) 828-0699
Mail all advertising material and ad payments to:
North Texas PC NEWS
c/o 3100 Lincoln Plaza
500 North Akard
Dallas, TX 75201-9320

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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 2,675 last month. Member distribution was 2,133; 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 Dp. 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 January
North Texas PC NEWS:
Saturday, December 10th

Meeting Dates:
December 17, 1994 – 3rd Saturday
January 21, 1995 – 3rd Saturday
February 18, 1995 – 3rd Saturday



Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

President's Message	2-4
Andy Oliver	
Pentium Bug Warning	4
Etoine Shrdlu	
On Complexity No. 75...	5
Jim Hoisington	
The Visual Basic Corner	6
Jim Carter	
Word 6.0A for Windows A Review	8-10
Larry Linson	
Who is Running...	10-11
NTPCUG	
Variety Store	12-14
Reagan Andrews	
BBS - On-line	25
Fred Williams	
The Modem Challenge...	26
Judy Griffiths	
"Old" computer software?	29
Mike Firth	

<i>Special Items:</i>	
Agenda, Meetings & Times	1
SIG Reports	15-24
New Disks from the DOM Squad	27-29
Volunteer Guide	30
User-to-User	31-32
Membership Application	32
Officers & People You should know	33

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER . . . TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

Multimedia Blitz Month — Multimedia Blitz Month

Multimedia and games software are everywhere. You have seen them in the stores, and now you can see them demonstrated on a large high-resolution screen with full multimedia PA sound. We have also arranged for some great discounts for NTPCUG members.

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

Broderbund Software Review

Broderbund Software

David Hatchell, South Central Sales Rep.

Come see the latest releases from Broderbund. David will be showing *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego Jr.*, based on the popular TV show for children ages 5 to 8. He will also show *Math Workshop*, a math program for children ages 8 to 12, and *Harry and the Haunted House*, the latest in the Living Books series of products. Be prepared for a fun show! There will be special pricing for NTPCUG members & there will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

Knowledge Adventure Returns

Knowledge Adventure Inc.

Lynda Orban, Director of Corporate Communications

Once again we bring you one of your most favorite companies to present their most recent releases and newest products. Come see demonstrations of *Random House Kid's Encyclopedia*, *Aviation Adventure*, *Space Adventure II*, *JumpStart KINDERGARTEN*, *Magic Theater*, *Science Adventure II*, *3-D Dinosaur Adventure*, *3-D Body Adventure*, *Bug Adventure*, and more. There will be special pricing for NTPCUG members & there will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

There will be a drawing for free products — (Yes, really). *

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

Microsoft Home Products

Microsoft Corporation

Come see the grand tour of the Microsoft Home products, including *Microsoft Encarta '95*, *Scholastic's The Magic School Bus Explores the Human Body*, *Microsoft Space Simulator*, and more. There will also be a room open from 11 AM to 3 PM where you can try them out yourself on ten multimedia PCs, and purchase them at special discount pricing for NTPCUG members. There will be a drawing for free products. *

* 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 DECEMBER MEETING Schedule

<p>8:00 - 8:55 Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning</p> <p>9:00 - 9:55 BASIC Programming-Visual DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Internet Personal Users Quicken Software Review StarText Visual BASIC Windows Applications WordPerfect/DOS</p> <p>10:00 - 10:55 BASIC - Classic CAD</p>	<p>10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.) Fox Pro Database Micrografx Networking PAF-Genealogy Paradox Personal Users WordPerfect/Windows UNIX</p> <p>11:00 - 11:55 BASIC Programming- -Beginning Assembler Brother's Keeper Genealogy CAD (Cont.) Investors Micrografx (Cont.) MS Works OS/2 — Q & A Roots III/IV - Genealogy</p>	<p>11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.) Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers</p> <p>11:30 - 11:55 Orientation</p> <p>12:00 - 12:55 Alpha Four C++/Advanced C Communications Desktop Publishing Investors (Cont.) OS/2 for End Users Personal Users Roots III/IV (Cont.) TI Pro</p> <p>1:00 - 1:55 Access ACTI BBS</p>	<p>1:00 - 1:55 (Cont.) Business Apps./DAC Easy DATAFLEX Middle C Word for Windows OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet</p> <p>2:00 - 2:55 Advanced Programmers Community Services North Texas FreeNet The Master Genealogist</p> <p>Please consult the BBS and remember to check the overhead display in the INFOMART lobby for latest SIG schedules and room locations</p>
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Cheers Not Jeers

When you attend an auditorium presentation, and one of the NTPCUG officers wins the prize drawing, cheer extra for them. The rules are that the drawings are for members, and these members go above and beyond the term "volunteer" to make this group function.

Why North Texas?

As I meet with other user group officers from around the country, I am often asked why the group is named the North Texas PC Users Group instead of the Dallas PC Users Group or the DFW PC Users Group. Maybe the following will help explain. Jim "Membership Director" Hoisington gave me another database dump of the City and State information for all active members.

The top cities for members are:

Dallas	689
Plano	174
Richardson	144
Garland	122
Irving	115
Arlington	102
Carrollton	85
Fort Worth	67
Mesquite	56
Grand Prairie	41
Duncanville	33
Bedford	28
Coppell	24
Lewisville	23
Denton	21



DeSoto	21
Grapevine	20
Eules	19
Flower Mound	16
Rowlett	16
Hurst	15
The Colony	15
Allen	14
Farmers Branch	13
Cedar Hill	10
Frisco	10
Rockwall	10

Other Texas cities with 1-9 active members include the following:

Abilene, Addison, Anna, Argyle, Athens, Austin, Balch Springs, Beaumont, Bee Cave, Benbrook, Big Spring, Bowie, Campbell, Celeste, China Spring, Colleyville, Commerce, Copperas Cove, Corinth, Corsicana, Covington, Decatur, Denison, DFW Airport, Edgewood, Ennis,

Farmersville, Ferris, Forney, Gainesville, Gilmer, Glenn Heights, Gorbenville, Granbury, Greenville, Haltom City, Haslet, Hewitt, Hickory Creek, Highland Village, Hoslet, Houston, Keller, Kennedale, Kerrville, Krum, Lake Kiowa, LaMesa, Lancaster, Little Elm, Lone Oak, Longview, Lubbock, Lucas,

Mabank, Mansfield, Marshall, McGregor, McKinney, Midlothian, Mineola, Muenster, N. Richland Hills, Nacogdoches, New London, Nocona, Palestine, Ponder, Quinlan, Red Oak, Roanoke, Royse City, Sachse, San Antonio, Sanger, Sealy, Sherman, Southlake, Spring, Stephenville, Sunnyvale, [Ed. Note: Bolding is added to ease reading — not to imply relative community importance.]

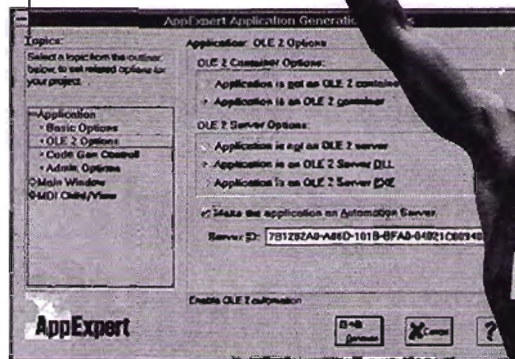
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Andy Oliver
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Terrell, Trophy Club, Tyler, University Park, Van Alstyne, Waco, Watauga, Waxahachie, Weatherford, Wichita Falls, Wills Point, and Wylie.

Foreign cities (those located in adjacent and other states) include:

Ft. Huachuca, AZ; Tempe, AZ; Solana Beach, CA; Pagosa Springs, CO; Westminster, CO; Atlantic Beach, FL; Tallahassee, FL; Brookfield, IL; Lafayette, IN; Warsaw, IN; Pittsburg, KS; Grambling, LA; Shreveport, LA; West Monroe, LA; West Bloomfield, MI; Santa Fe, NM; Carmel, NY; Ardmore, OK; Oklahoma City, OK; Clearfield, PA; Dakota Dunes, SD; Sioux Falls, SD; Arlington, VA; Seattle, WA; and Casper, WY.

Truly, we are the NORTH TEXAS group and then some.

Turn Out the Lights

Jim Hoisington chanted "ONE MORE, ONE MORE" in Spanish to me several years ago as any outgoing President of NTPCUG should, to encour-



age the incoming President. Well, "BACK AT YOU, JIM." As my 4-year tenure closes (2 as President-Elect each followed by a term as President), I want to say that I have made lifelong friends and enjoyed most of this volunteer job.

The responsibility, the frustrations, and the hours have been far outweighed by the fun that I have had as the leader of this group.

Andy Oliver

Warning — some Pentium "bugs" Plague high level math operations Internet scientific users claim

Pentium users beware if you are using your PC to do high-level mathematics. Several sources have described problems with the Intel Pentium chips in floating-point division.

According to JPL scientists and others, the Pentium gives the wrong answer when certain types of floating-point division are accomplished by various programs. Example given is from Cleve Moler at The Mathworks, Inc.:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 4195835 \\ y &= 3145727 \\ z &= x - (x/y)*y \end{aligned}$$

Correct answer should be "0" and is with 286, 386 and 486 chips. Moler stated that "Even with roundoff error, z should not be much larger than eps*x, which is about 9.3e-10. But, on the Pentium, z = 256.

Moler said that he got the news from an article in *Electronic Engineering Times* by Prof. Thomas Nicely of Lynchburg College in Virginia. Professor Moler wrote that the Pentium division bug has been noted by a number of other scientists participating in the Internet conference as well.

Intel reportedly has commented that the error has been known since June, 1994, and shouldn't affect most users. According to users in the Internet @ netline-fddi.jpl.nasa.gov conference, Intel is currently producing chips without the error, but doesn't plan to replace the faulty chips.

However, Moler also reported that he was told by Intel sources that users having problems with the Pentium chips should contact Intel Customer Service at (800) 628-8686.

Etoine Shrdu

On Complexity

No. 75 in a Series

What you read is not always true, especially in the computer trade publications. I recently had occasion to question the "news" column of a trade journal that I have read for 25 years.

The computer industry in general and the PC computer industry specifically change rapidly. We no longer go five years between new model announcements. Software upgrades come out more than once every two years. Reporting these changes is difficult but not impossible.

The difference, I think, is that there are a lot of publications competing in the computer industry market and there is a lot of pressure to be the first with some late-breaking news. Sometimes that pressure causes reporters to "create" some news in anticipation that it will happen.

I think that is what happened with this particular column.

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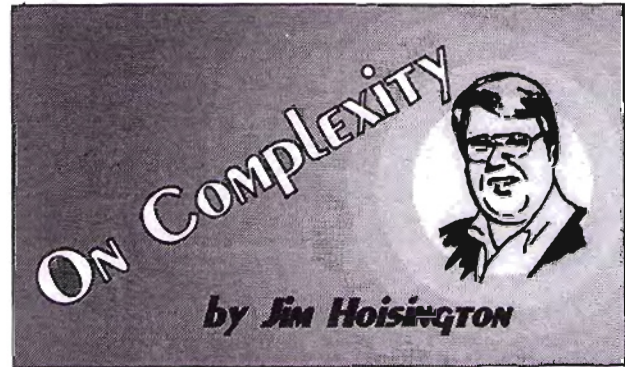
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Borland stories good example

I was at the Borland User Group Conference in California. After a long day of product briefings, I was relaxing poolside with a trade publication when a couple of paragraphs in the news section caught my eye. The new event that attracted the reporter's attention was that Borland had sold Quattro Pro to WordPerfect. That's fine, we all know it happened.

But, the reporter went on to suggest that certain other Borland products were also for sale.

At one of these User Group Conferences, after you sign the non-disclosure agreement, the companies, Borland included, are pretty frank about what they did, are doing, will be doing, and why. This reporting of the sale of these other products just didn't fit with anything that I had been told in the last 48 hours.

So, the next day, I asked a couple of Borland officers if it was true that they had been willing to sell these products at any time in the recent past. All of them answered no.

Does the editor care?

I wrote the editor of the magazine, sharing the above information with him and asking him if the reporter had information to back up his story. After all, I'd like to know if the officers of these companies aren't being straight with us at these conferences.

That was three months ago. The editor neither replied nor did he publish my letter in the "Letters to the Editor" column. I think his silence answers my question.

Be careful what you read in the trade press. It may not be totally founded in fact.

Jim...

THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by **JIM CARTER**

Want to Participate in a Visual Basic Workshop?

Are you getting your hands into the actual process of coding a Visual Basic program yet? Are you becoming tired of keyboarding someone else's program into your computer and watching it run? Would you like to be part of a project that develops a complete application, including Help files, User Manual, Setup disk, and all the other details required to produce a finished product?

Consider starting or joining a Visual Basic Workshop. The concept is a new one and we may have some kinks to work out; but thanks to **Charlie Uhl**, the first one is launched and is reporting great results thus far. Here is the concept:

What is a Visual Basic Workshop?

A Visual Basic Workshop is a group of four to six individuals who have agreed to work together to produce a complete Visual Basic application on a project basis. The primary goal of the group is to become better, more proficient Visual Basic programmers.

With this goal in mind, the group: 1) identifies the application to be created, 2) collectively defines the application's requirements and architecture, and 3) divides up the work amongst the group to facilitate parallel effort. These first three steps would be accomplished in a series of face-

to-face meetings of the group with homework assignments between meetings.

The first Visual Basic Workshop, under the leadership of **Charlie Uhl**, has been meeting one evening per week for approximately two hours (6:30 - 8:30 PM) since September. They are currently identifying work assignments for their group on a database management system for a small college grading system.

As each assignment is completed, it is reviewed by the group and added to the project. This process continues until all the assignments are satisfactorily reviewed and the Visual Basic application is complete.



The scope of the project undertaken should match the capabilities of the group members. The members need not be equally knowledgeable about Visual Basic, but should share an equal desire to participate in the project. If the members are fairly new to Visual Basic, then a modest project to develop "basic" skills would prepare the group for a more ambitious project later.

The Visual Basic Workshop concept is not fully developed yet, but as more groups are formed and projects developed we will try to document the concept to promote additional groups.

How Can I Get Involved in a Visual Basic Workshop?

First, you can start one of your own. If you can host a meeting of a group at your home or office, make an announcement at the next Visual Basic SIG meeting (either the Beginning or Regular SIG) that you would like to form a Visual Basic Workshop and that anyone wanting to join your group should see you at the end of the meeting for details.

Second, if you would like to join an existing group, contact the leader or see me at the Beginning Visual Basic SIG meeting and I will attempt to get you in contact with others. Anyone with suggestions for improving this concept, contact me through the NTPCUG BBS or at the Visual Basic SIG meetings.

Jim Carter

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Word 6.0A for Windows: Powerful wordprocessing Centerpiece of Microsoft Office Professional 4.3 (Fourth Installment of MS Office Pro Review)

By Larry Linson

Word 6.0 for Windows is the word processing component of Microsoft Office Professional 4.3. How good is Word 6.0? It's good enough that it got the "Best Buy" rating in *PC World's* March 1994 comparative review. The previous release was a frequent winner of "Best ..." awards, too, so Word 6.0 is just carrying on a "family tradition." Like the other software in Microsoft Office, it's both easy-to-use and powerful.

Are you beginning to tire of reading that the latest releases of Microsoft's applications are filled with enhancements that assist the user? If so, skip the next sentence, because this one is too: expanded on-line help, Wizards that automate many common tasks, a "tip of the day" help function, templates, and tooltips that appear when your mouse pointer hesitates over an icon on the toolbar, are included to make life easier for the user.

It's a full-function word processing package — there just isn't much in the way of features and functions that aren't included (though I'd bet that there are some in the works for the next release that I haven't even thought I needed). The basics include text entry, editing, selective application of local and global formatting, and many features that once were only found in desktop publishing packages. You'll find "filters" for converting many common, and some less common, word processing formats, as well as ASCII text, spreadsheets and database data.

Many, perhaps most, users will find that Word for Windows 6.0 satisfies not only their word processing requirements but their desktop publishing needs, too. (That's common to most high-end word processors these days; only professional and advanced amateur publishers need a separate desktop publishing package after all the recent enhancements to Windows word processors.)

Word was the first of the Microsoft applications to offer a Visual Basic-like macro language for programming its macros. Since just about every PC and PC-compatible computer has included BASIC along with its operating system, BASIC is, arguably, the most widely-known programming language.

With just a little effort learning the extensions that adapt BASIC to the event-driven scheme of Windows, BASIC programmers become Word Basic programmers. It's not nearly as much effort as learning another macro language just to automate a few functions in your word processor.

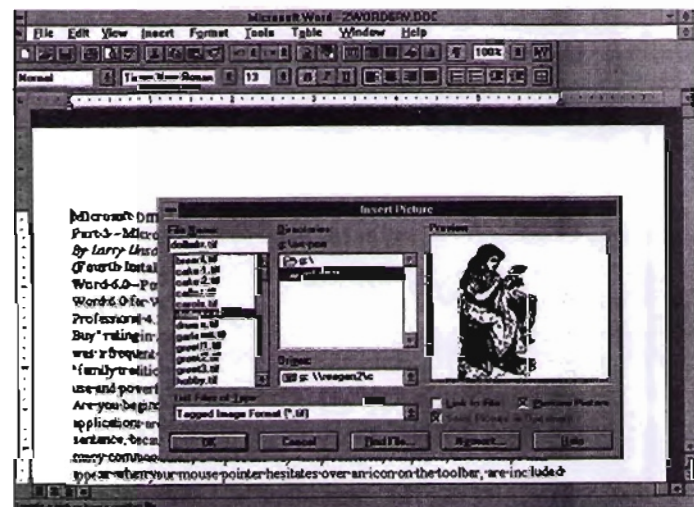
Of course, many users won't even need to write their own macros, because Word features automation of so many common word processing tasks. One that is of

special interest, not only to poor spellers, but to less-than-perfect typists as well, is AutoCorrect. If you type *teh* instead of *the*, when you press the space bar, Word corrects your typographical error.

Not only can you add your own list of frequently mistyped words to be automatically corrected, you can insert abbreviations for which you want expanded text (such as *ntpc* for *North Texas PC User Group*), tables, and graphics (scan in your signature and pick an abbreviation).

Also, like other software in the Office suite, Word 6.0 is enabled for Object Linking and Embedding 2.0 (OLE 2.0) both as an OLE container or client and as a server. OLE automation servers expose OLE objects for use by OLE clients (by registering those objects with Windows itself). Word took the "minimalist" approach by only exposing a single OLE object: WordBasic. That means that client applications can send WordBasic statements or commands to be executed by Word — all the power of Word is available.

It doesn't mean that you have to include entire WordBasic procedures in your client application, though — the statement can load a Word document containing mac-



ros and procedures and call the previously prepared WordBasic functions and subroutines in that document. Just as OLE 1.0 applications, OLE 2.0 applications can also be invoked to process, in-place, an OLE 2.0 object imbedded in another document — an Excel spreadsheet or a PowerPoint presentation in a Word document, for example.

In Black And White

Two printed documents on Word 6.0 are included in the Microsoft Office pack. The first, *Quick Results*, has 187 pages and is subtitled, "Start here to install Word, see what's new, and use wizards to create letters, memos, resumes, or other documents step by step." Along with the tutorial available under the *Quick Preview* heading of help, this will move you along quickly to getting results by using the features and automated tools.

Microsoft Office Professional — Word 6.0A for Windows... Ctd.

A *User's Guide*, 829 pages, covers the basics of using Microsoft Word, and, as you might guess from its length, well beyond the basics, too. Microsoft has done a consistently good job of documenting the Office products, but they don't intend that the printed documentation be the user's only reference. It's clear, straightforward, and easy to follow with text and ample illustration.

The index is useful and usable and there is a modest set of appendices covering topics not detailed in the text. Additional information, and examples, are available in the on-line help. (Unlike the PowerPoint documentation, there is a section of text on WordArt, however.)

The on-line Help in all the Microsoft Office products is an important part of the documentation, a part that you can't, or shouldn't, do without. Also, in the Help menu, there's the *Quick Preview* tutorial mentioned earlier, Examples and Demos, the Tip of the Day option, and a special section of help for Word Perfect users new to Microsoft Word.

User's Guide Can confuse

The Word *User's Guide* contains the information on both Windows and Macintosh versions — your train of thought may be interrupted by a section dealing with the Macintosh environment.

Third-party self-study books and training manuals abound because of the popularity of Word for Windows. I'd suggest you give

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Word for Windows 6.0A... Ctd.

Word a few days trial before rushing out to obtain "training material." You might just be pleasantly surprised to discover that the help and user aids built into Word for Windows make that unnecessary.

Downside And Wish List

Word is like many new release of Windows software since all this ease of use and power comes at a price of additional disk storage space, increased memory requirements, and the need for a fast processor (not less than a fast 386, unless you're very patient).

Word processors are among the most "mature" personal applications, so it's difficult to think of a great many features that should be added to Word. I'd like to see Microsoft put in a little work on displaying fonts that aren't TrueType — some are not rendered as well as in some other word processors.

Conclusion

Although I haven't yet switched all my word processing to Microsoft Word for Windows 6.0, I am impressed with its features, functions, and ease of use. It may take a little while for a user converting from another word processing package to adjust to the "Word way" of doing things, but the similarity of the interface to other software in Microsoft Office lessens the learning curve.

I think users who are moving to Microsoft Office from another word processor or office suite will be pleased with Word for Windows 6.0, and I think office application developers will be very pleased.

Larry Linson

Who is Running this Group anyway?

Some of you have noticed a list of names on the inside back cover of your *North Texas PC News*. It enumerates the Board of Directors, officers and other people who volunteer their time to help run this group.

If you observe, the same names sometimes crop up in the BOD and officer's sections. Some board members serve in multiple areas, most board members have been officers in the past. However, this is not a requirement. Any member of the group can run for a board or the President-Elect position. If elected by the NTPCUG membership, you serve for one year.

The NTPCUG has seven voting board members: The President, the President-Elect, and five other elected directors. The only designated duties as President-Elect are to attend monthly board/officer meetings, and to form a nominating committee to select recommendations for next year's President-Elect and board.



If you want to run for one of these positions or you know someone that you want to nominate, the only requirements are that the nominee be a member of the NTPCUG in good standing and that he or she is willing to serve for one year. Nominations can be made at the North Texas PC Users Group Business Meeting Saturday, December 17, 1994, 11:00-11:30 am in the Alexandria Auditorium at the Infomart. After the meeting, the nominations will be closed and the ballots will be printed in the January *PC News* along with biographies and pictures of all of the candidates.

Current candidates for President-Elect and for positions on the NTPCUG Board of Directors are listed on this and the following page.

1995 President-Elect Nominees Andy Oliver

Andy is the current President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG. Andy was also President in 1992 and has served as President-Elect in 1991 and 1993. Andy became active in the NTPCUG in 1985 and has served as SIG Coordinator and Information Booth Anchor in the past. He is a member of the Microcomputer Managers Association and Dallas NetWare Users Group. Andy is now Information Systems Director for the Staubach Company in Dallas.

Zack Porterfield

Zack Porterfield was President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG in 1990, serving a year as President-Elect in 1989. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a BSEE and MS of Business degrees. Zack joined NTPCUG in 1985

1995 President-Elect and Board Nominees

and was formerly SIG Coordinator and worked extensively at both the Information Booth and DOM area. Currently, Zack is President of Software Gallery, Inc., and is a Certified NetWare Engineer.

Board Nominees

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

Reagan is currently a member of the Board, and a past President. He is Co-leader of the DOS SIG and stepped in last year to become Publisher of *the North Texas PC News*, a tremendous volunteer task. The "Variety Store" column in this newsletter was his idea and has become a mainstay of keeping on top of industry news. Reagan works for the VA Hospital as a Clinical Psychologist treating veterans suffering from delayed stress syndrome. He and his wife, Connie, continue to be ambassadors to COMDEX.

Neal Berkowitz

Neal Berkowitz is future SIG Leader of the Windows SIG, SIG Leader of the Micrografx SIG and Co-Leader of the Software Review SIG. Neal is also a frequent review author for *The PC News*, and is an independent computer consultant with DNB Computer Services. He holds BS degrees in Biology and Chemistry and has been a member of the NTPCUG since 1990.

Timothy Carmichael

Timothy serves as Program Chairman of the NTPCUG and has done so since 1989. Timothy is a current member of the Board of Directors. As the Program Chairman, he is responsible for the Auditorium presentations at our Saturday meetings and Timothy continues to do an excellent job for us. In his real job, he is an electrical and biomedical engineer doing research, applying computer hardware and software for medical

measurement and diagnostic systems.

Doug Gorrie

Doug was the 1993 President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG. He is the Co-leader of the Communications and BBS SIG's and is involved in the day-to-day support of our Bulletin Board System. Doug's is the voice that you hear if you call the NTPCUG phone number, and he updates the message monthly as new information about our monthly meetings becomes available. He has spent the past 25 years with Southwestern Bell Telephone, 17 of those were working with IBM mainframes. The past five years he has worked as an Internal Auditor for SWBT.

Alex Lilley

Alex has been the Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator for the past two years and is also the room scheduler for all computer groups that meet at In-fomart. Alex Co-leads the Community Services SIG and is on the board of the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP). He picks up and delivers a lot of the computers donated to DCLP. Alex is married with two grown children and works as a contractor for a federal agency. He is a Certified Property Manager and graduate of Texas A & M.

Peyton Weaver

Peyton Weaver is currently Publicity Director for the NTPCUG. He has been a member of the users group since 1985 and has been active as a volunteer at both the Information Booth and DOM area. Peyton is a native Texan and a graduate of Texas A & M where he earned a BS degree in Engineering. He reports he served as a Communications Technician with the Air Force prior to completing his degree, and has just finished a four-year term as a City Councilman for Coppell, Texas. Peyton is currently an independent contractor for computer support services.

Fred Williams

Fred has been a member of NTPCUG since its founding in 1982. He has been SIG Leader for the Communications and LAN SIG's, and is the founder and current leader of the Paradox SIG. He chaired the BBS Steering Committee which reorganized the BBS support staff, and he provided project management and technical services while converting the BBS software to the current TBBS. He is SYSOP of the BBS and helps maintain the system. He has been an independent software developer of communications and database systems for personal computers since 1982.





REAGAN ANDREWS

THE VARIETY STORE

A personal view of new or unusual hardware, software, and applications for IBM small computers and compatibles

Comdex/FALL '94 — Glitter as usual, But show starts on money controversy As 200K hit the halls, clog the streets

Comdex in the snow — last day a chilly shocker

This year I believe the numbers reported by Interface Group. Comdex/FALL '94 was undoubtedly the largest ever. There were real crowds in Las Vegas — from the show opening Monday, November 14, to its close on Friday, November 18. Struggling through crowds in the display halls lasted all week long for a change.

Comdex this year was a "Fun" show in spite of the crowds — because of the people. It was also a continuation of the war between CISC (x86) CPU's and the ever-powerful RISC CPU's for space on the desktop. The new, *Power PC*, was most prevalent followed closely by MIPS (in NEC and Silicon Graphics units) and DEC.

"Star" at Comdex/FALL '94 Windows 95 — Still Beta — Shown everywhere in halls

Windows 95 "star" of this year's Fall Comdex and Bill Gates admitted it was first Comdex with "No DOS, or DOS products featured at the show." Have seen lots of beta versions at Comdex in the past — just never seen so much being run as platform for other products!

Runner-up for top spot had to be *Windows NT* which was being shown everywhere, including the Motorola/IBM/Apple Power PC Pavillion. RISC vendors have adopted NT as best path to the desktop and it was ubiquitous this year where the platform didn't run *Windows 95*.

IBM's new *OS/2 Warp* ran a distant third — this in spite of

some real marketing muscle exerted and displayed by IBM.

Probably not fair to make the comparison since *Warp* just hit the streets before Comdex. Hmm...on the other hand, *Windows 95* is still in "beta."

Mucho, unplanned, news

Lots of news at Comdex — little of it planned or the kind usually associated with this show.

Hayes, venerable modem maker, announced it was going Chapter 11 on Wednesday.

Apple & IBM announced they wouldn't be getting quite as cozy as had been hinted last year with IBM pulling back from *Macintosh System 7.5* as choice for the IBM Power PC's in favor of *OS/2* (as yet to be delivered for the new platform).

Broken Interface promises

Interface reneged on its earlier announcement that "Adult-oriented MultiMedia" wouldn't be shown in the halls this year as many vendors displayed and sold XX and XXX-rated, interactive CD-ROMs in the Sands Convention Center "Garage."

Gates, Grove & Frankenberg Not "Happy Campers"

Biggest news may have preceded the Las Vegas show as media described Monday, November 14, the roiling controversy involving this year's Comdex. Keynote speakers Bill Gates, Microsoft CEO, Andy Grove, Intel CEO, and Novell CEO, Robert Frankenberg, balked at Interface's added \$25 charge for attending the keynote speeches by the three executives.

The Wall Street Journal article detailing the trio's discontent described Interface CEO Sheldon Adelson's move to add the charge to the formerly free event and resulting furor which almost ended in a pull-out by the angered speakers. Last-minute negotiations left the additional charge, but all funds collected were to be donated by Interface to charity *WSJ* reported.

Anger at Interface Group isn't new — they have been called "In Your Face" for several years by both vendors and



show goers. This is the first year the large-scale discontent has been so public and vendors have been so outspoken.

No-shows also news

Only sign of Intel this year was on one of the "mall" corridors and was primarily aimed at marketing Pentium CPU-based PC's to end users. Gone were the engineers, product managers and technicians from previous years who could, and would, answer questions about Intel products.

Compaq was a "no-show" as they were last year. They were joined this year by AST and Borland who also failed to make Comdex on the main convention center floors.

Borland did have a small meeting room at LVCC where they were showing a number of new products, including their beta version of Delphi 95 which was named "Best of Comdex." Raised a lot of questions about this title for a beta product, and about Interface Group's feelings when a product from a non-exhibitor is named "Best of Show."

Sands - most fun - most Pain at Comdex this year

For me, most fun this year was found at the Sands Convention Center. Interface Group would desperately like the Sands to be the "premier" show site. Not so — LVCC and the Hilton still draw the flagship exhibitors, and the Sands CC seems to be

home for the smaller (and frequently more interesting) exhibitors.

Here was where exhibitors seemed enthusiastic and anxious to really talk about their products rather than stage a marketing show and throw a few T-shirts to the ravening hoards afterward.

Adult CD/ROM's still Created controversy and Fun in the Sands CC...

People & Adult Videos (Porn) were center of a lot of activity and controversy at the Sands. Vendors and visitors seemed to handle this better than the media most of the time.

There was an "unspoken" agreement that vendors wouldn't show CD's facing the isles. This held for the most part. It also led to some really funny incidents.

One vendor, a woman, offered "private showings" of her interactive sex CD's. Others had areas where their monitors couldn't be seen from the isles.

I got caught by one display with both games and educational CD's as well as the Adult-oriented fare. I was looking at one of the Doom follow-ups and perspiring in the heat — heard a woman's voice to my right say "Why don't you just take off your clothes?" Looked over and saw a woman tending the adult section of the display. Left quite quickly.

Adult fare came in lots of disguises. Stopped by one very attractive and obviously professionally-designed display area at the Sands CC. Imagine my surprise when I discovered their show give-aways were condoms.

Sands CC was site of best Display area at Comdex

Also, the most outstanding Comdex show display area this year was found in the Sands "Garage" (the newly-opened lower level of the Sands CC which was greatly despised by a number of exhibitors exiled to the depths of the building) the Hessen exhibit area — an oasis of calm and visually interesting environment touting the products made in the German state.

I'll remember Sands for A long time after Comdex

The Sands CC will long have a special place in my heart for another reason — it's Interface Group at its very best — and a long story about a strange way to spend a Tuesday afternoon at Comdex. This is a long, long story, but fits since this is an "atmosphere" piece.

Connie and I had stepped out of the Sands CC show area to have a cigarette. I finished and we decided I'd go back into the display area and Connie would join me later on the next isle. Began working my way through the crowds and looking at the exhibits. Without warning the hall PA system began a series of announcements: "There is an emergency situation in the convention hall and everyone is asked to go to the nearest exit and evacuate the building."

I took this seriously and headed for the exit along with



others. On reaching the exit, I was met by a security guard who announced the announcement was a "false alarm" and we could continue enjoying the exhibit area.

"Sorry folks, it's a 'False alarm' and everyone can continue with the show."

That was reassuring. I felt much better with the "official" announcement. I did until a second announcement followed in about 60 seconds:

"There is an emergency situation in the convention hall and everyone is asked to go to the nearest exit and evacuate the building."

Turned around again, headed for the exit — once more. PA came on again:

"Sorry folks, it's a 'False alarm' and everyone can continue with the show."

That's better, but somewhat confusing. I just stood still (as did many others around me) trying to take stock of the situation. Sure enough, there was another announcement on the PA:

"There is an emergency situation in the convention hall and everyone is asked to go to the nearest exit and evacuate the building."

This cycle continued for about 10 minutes with alternating flows of visitors and exhibitors alike circling from display area toward the exits and back again.

It dawned on me I hadn't seen Connie for the better part of an hour. I figured she certainly had time for almost a whole pack of cigarettes and should have found me by this time.

Headed for the exit and walked down the mezzanine looking

for her. Instead ran into David Huckabee (NTPCUG member and frequent volunteer at the Information Booth). David came up to me and said he and Connie had been worried because of the announcement and she was waiting outside, hop-

ing I'd walk by if I were headed back to the hotel.

Went outside and found Connie, half frozen by this time. The story is funny now, it wasn't then.

Reagan

A Friend indeed... Cold and loathing outside the Sands

One of our members, David Huckabee, ran into Reagan and me at the end of an aisle in the Sands Convention site on Tuesday afternoon at COMDEX. The three of us stepped out into the lobby for a brief visit.

Reagan decided to tackle the aisles again while David and I visited a little longer and suggested that I catch up with him on aisle 2600.

In the midst of this conversation, an announcement came over the building loudspeakers: "Attention, attention. There is an emergency in the building. Please leave at the nearest exit." Whoa!

As the announcement sank in, David and I both worried about where Reagan was. I suggested that David leave while I waited a little longer for Reagan. He suggested that I leave while he waited.

He then asked me what Reagan would want me to do and I realized that Reagan would want both of us to leave and regroup outside. We departed to a small hill outside.

Meanwhile, back in the convention hall, Reagan had proceeded to the exit where David and I had been (which was not the closest one), and was informed by a guard it was a false alarm.

As he proceeded back down the aisle, the loudspeakers again blared out the warning, "Attention, attention. There is an emergency in the building ...". So, he again proceeded to the exit. As he neared the exit, the loudspeakers then announced that it was a false alarm and to resume whatever he was doing.

Meanwhile, back on our little hill, David and I had begun to wonder what was holding Reagan up. I told David I was going back in to look for Reagan. He would have nothing of the sort. He declared he was going back in — I should wait outside.

David won the argument, found Reagan inside at the place we had arranged to meet earlier in the day if we should become separated, and soon we were all reunited.

We'll never know what caused the alarm in the first place. We heard rumors of everything from a bomb threat to a backed up drain.

It was a courageous and caring thing David Huckabee did getting me out of the building and then going back in. He is a friend indeed and we are lucky to have him as part of our NTPCUG community.

Connie Andrews

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

In December, Frank McCoy will describe his real application for administration of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) medical provider business. His example demonstrates the ease of use and flexibility of Access for helping to run a business, even if the user doesn't come from a programming background.

Frank is MRI manager in the firm Medical Plaza MRI and a Registered Technician. He's been an Assistant Leader of the Access SIG since its inception in April of 1993. (This presentation, originally planned for October, was rescheduled due to circumstances beyond our control.)

Thanks to Vince Prehn for his informative presentation in November on the OLE custom control, TAB.OCX. It provides the capability to implement, in Access 2.0 applications, a tabbed control similar to the tabbed dialogs found in Excel 5.0 and Word for Windows 6.0. This control was featured in an article in the October/November issue of *Access Advisor* magazine and in an hour-long presentation at the Access Advisor conference in Phoenix.

Vince is President of Network Utilities Corporation and an experienced Access consultant and contractor, and Assistant SIG Leader of the Application Developers (OLE & ODBC) SIG.

The motto and the goal of the North Texas PC User Group is "Us-

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:

- Application Developers (OLE & ODBC) Meets from 2:00 until 2:55
- OS/2 Q & A - Meets from 11:00 until 11:55
- North Texas FreeNet - Meets from 2:00 until 2:55

New SIG Leaders:

- Quicken - W.L. Harris [(214) 291-7816H, (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!

Jim Thompson (817) 261-8159 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) 278-3661 h
Mac McKeethen.. (214) 556-1352 h

Applications Developers (OLE & ODBC)

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 h
Linda Moore (214) 342-8833
Vince Prehn (214) 880-0000

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

SIG

ers helping users." There's a high probability that the solution you found for some difficulty you encountered, if you'll tell us about it, can save some work for your colleagues here in the SIG. Don't look back and think, "I'll look like a fool for not knowing that in the first place."

We often don't know the best way, or any way, to solve a problem until we encounter it and work our way through it — unless, that is, someone who's "been there, done that" is kind enough to share their experience. This, of course, is a solicitation for you to be the one who's kind enough to share your experience with the SIG.

We still need presenters, donations of examples for a freeware disk, and contributors for our regular *Questions and Answers and Tips and Hints* segment. We'll be happy to try to assist you in preparing for any of these. See Dianna, Frank, Jack, or Larry at the meeting to discuss what you have and what help you may need. Better yet, call one of us in advance (our numbers are in the sidebar here), send Larry E-



mail on the NTPCUG BBS, or post a message in the Access conference.

Bring your questions, answers, and Access 2.0 samples on diskette to show problems or solutions. We'll still try to answer questions on Access 1.1, but can't run them on the demo machine. We've repeatedly "surprised ourselves" with the innovative solutions our SIG members have been able to offer in the *Questions and Answers and Tips and Hints* segment. Bring your problem, solution, or interesting discoveries to the meeting!

Telephone numbers for the NTPCUG BBS are on the back cover of this issue and our own Access message conference is a great way to keep up-to-date, address problems, discuss issues, and get any late-breaking Access SIG news. You can even upload and attach to your message an Access database to illustrate a problem or to demonstrate a solution you've discovered. Call and check it out.

Interesting experiment of the month: Construct a query (any old table will do) with a first field being a calculated field including the "Rnd" function (not just "Rnd" alone, which will be taken as a constant and only calculated once). Set the calculated field as a sort field, either ascending or descending. Run the query.

Are the values actually sorted? Now try "moving" the use of the "Rnd" function farther and farther away from the field... hide it in an Access Basic function. Now change the calculation in the field so it has no reference to "Rnd". Run the query. Why does this make the sort work successfully.

It appears that you can't trick Access into sorting on any random value. Come to the SIG meeting and ask Larry why you'd want to sort on a random value and how to accomplish it.

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

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
Bird Smith (214) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 220-9388 w

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 Steale (214) 306-1596 h
..... (214) 917-3917 w

Hardware Solutions

Charles Miller (903) 938-4220 h
Ralph Beaver (817) 624-9530 h

**SIG LEADER LISTING
CONTINUED ...**

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

Hardware Solutions ... Ctd.

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

Micrografix

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

Microsoft Networking

Debbie Lenhart... (214) 625-8680 h
..... (214) 716-2704 w
Bruce Wynn (214) 335-2507 h
..... (214) 756-7832 w
John McCrae

Legend: h = Home #, W = Work #

Networking

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

OS/2 Developer

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

OS/2 for End Users

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

Paradox

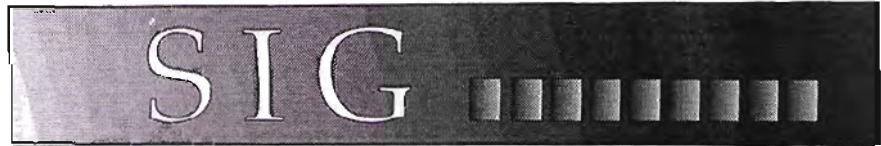
Fred Williams (214) 492-1315 h
Tom Browning (214) 692-9784 h

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 Moisington (214) 416-3101 h



See you at the Access SIG on December 17! Come and continue with the Access SIG in "learning Access together."

Larry Linson

Application Developers SIG (OLE and ODBC)

Our plans are for the SIG to be "high tech; low key" and, in October, we did just that: no scheduled speaker, discussion of issues, but an important announcement: Linda Moore (also announced in the November newsletter) and Vince Prehn have agreed to serve as Assistant SIG Leaders. I'm delighted they took the plunge and appreciate their giving their time and energy to make the SIG a success.

Thanks to our SIG members who brought demonstration code using OLE automation to the November meeting: Linda Moore, Dan Ogden, and Vince Prehn. Dan deserves special mention: he's an attorney, not a "programmer by trade" who taught himself Access and other software to support his professional activities. Frankly, I'd say that anyone who's into application development at this level has become a programmer, in fact, if not "by trade", wouldn't you?

We appreciate your participation; the success of this SIG depends on a high level of member involvement. Remember, too, every member (at least "unofficially") is a leader in the Application Developers (OLE & ODBC) SIG!

The Microsoft Windows *Component Object Model*, based on the Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) and the Open Database Connection (ODBC) technologies, enables application developers to use commercial software (such as the Microsoft Office products) as integral parts of their own applications. Our goal is to "learn together" to use these technologies to develop component

applications compliant with the Microsoft Component Object Model.

IBM says that its (competing?) *System Object Model* will support Component Object Model applications, too, so if SOM is your goal, you'll get a headstart if you join with us in our efforts. (Interest in the OLE technology isn't limited to this SIG.)

Did you see **Woody Pewitt's** October presentation on using OLE automation from Visual Basic to control the Visio graphics software, in the Visual Basic SIG?

Our initial "focus" will be on using *Visual Basic* or *Access* as OLE containers or clients and Microsoft Office software, *Paradox 5.0 for Windows*, and *Visio* as OLE servers in component applications. Other applications, "applets", and OLE custom controls will be added to our agenda as they become available.

We need speakers for future meetings. Topics of particular interest are demonstration and presentation of component applications, prepar-



SIG

ing Windows HELP files, tutorials on any software that is OLE 2.0-enabled, and introductory presentations on Paradox for Windows 5.0 (Borland leapfrogged Microsoft by making it the first Windows database product enabled as an OLE automation server), *Excel's* Visual Basic for Applications, and *Word for Windows 6.0's* Word Basic.

We invite you to join us this month for more discussion and demonstrations on topics of interest to application developers who want to ride the OLE and ODBC wave into the future.

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

At the November Assembler SIG meeting we heard Bev Zaharie from Intel Corp. give a well-prepared and quite interesting talk on "Code Optimization for the Pentium Processor". It was certainly one of the highlights of the year for our group. Clyde Wemberly, also from Intel, gave a commendable



presentation on Intel strategy at the 9:00 a.m. presentation in the auditorium. We are grateful to Intel for sending us such able speakers!

In December we will be looking at programming techniques for video cards. We will discuss video card architecture, and I'll show program code that determines the type of video card, how to select and program fonts, how to manipulate the bitplanes, and what the differences are among MDA, CGA, EGA, VGA, Super VGA and TIGA cards. We'll conclude with a look at the VESA standard. Don't worry if these acronyms look foreign; just come to the meeting so we can make it all clear to you.

I have noticed that some of other SIG leaders give a tip of the month, and Andy Oliver told us at the last SIG leaders' meeting that they help improve the usefulness of our newsletter. So here is the Assembler language tip of the month:

Nothing improves the readability of Assembler code more than a set of well-thought-out program constant definitions. For example, if you insert the constant definition:

Escape = 1bh ; the escape character
you can then code

```
mov al,Escape
instead of
```

```
mov al,1bh
```

Constant definitions do not occupy any memory when a program is run, so don't hesitate to use them. They can make a world of difference to anyone who has to do maintenance on the code, including you!

Glynn Brooks

C/C++ Advanced C SIG

At the November meeting, we combined our SIG meeting with the Windows Developers SIG. David

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

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) 882-0725 h
.....(214) 864-2760 w

Startext

Jim Boughton(817) 478-6565 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

Thielen (a developer for 7th Level, author of two Windows programming books, and frequent contributor to *Microsoft Systems Journal*) talked about avoiding bugs in Windows development projects.

In December, I will discuss techniques for combining C/C++ DLLs with Visual Basic applications. I plan to concentrate on the advantages of splitting an application between Visual Basic and C, and some of the pitfalls that I have encountered.

I think it goes without saying that my emphasis will be on the DLL/C/C++ side. However, for those of you wondering how green the grass really is on the other side, I'll be talking to Woody Pewitt's Visual Basic SIG at 9:00 AM. The topic will be the same, but the emphasis will be on the VB side.

Kent Cobb

Communications SIG

In December and January, the Communications SIG will be doing our annual communications survey to determine our members' interests. December's meeting will be a Q&A session and perhaps a few festivities. In January we will be discussing UART's (Universal Asynchro-

nous Receiver/Transmitter) and the options available for high speed communications.

In November, the Communication SIG discussed wireless communications as a continuation of Page-Mart's same day auditorium presentation. We discussed *WinBeep*, software that lets you create and send alphanumeric messages to laptop computers and pagers nationwide using satellite technology. Those present were treated to a demo of what the future offers in wireless. Our thanks to Larry Martin for making these arrangements, and for authoring a two-part series in PC NEWS explaining the components and technology required to make it all work.

At the October SIG meeting, Kathy Ashmore and Robert Chase of Southwestern Bell Telephone explained ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network). ISDN services became available in the Dallas area

November 1, 1994 for both residential and business customers, allowing end-to-end digital transmission of voice and data. We were provided with charts outlining the availability of ISDN for the Dallas and surrounding area. Everyone present received one free year of ISDN (oops — just kidding!!)

The types of equipment needed to connect to ISDN were discussed. To initiate or receive voice phone calls, either an ISDN phone or an adapter for cur-

rent equipment will be needed. Southwestern Bell has adopted national standards, but caution is required when purchasing equipment to ensure that it is compatible. Technical support is available to help with problems and equipment purchases. If you are interested in ISDN for home or business, give me a call and I'll get you in contact with the right folks.

Have a Merry Christmas. And for your friends getting a computer, have you considered giving them a membership to NTPCUG?

See you December 17th!!

*Birl Smith
& Doug Gorrie*

DOS SIG

Will there be DOS after Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp? That's a good question for the December DOS SIG Meeting.

Answer — certainly! Even Microsoft and IBM don't expect an instant user mass-conversion to the new OS's — in spite of what their respective merry-marketeers' hype may infer. DOS is still there "under" Windows 95, and available in Warp as well.

A lot of users "launch" DOS applications from Windows 3.xx and that trend's not expected to go away the instant a user opts for one of the new OS's on their system(s). Also, there are still some premium applications in use that simply don't exist as Windows versions — yet. Most run quite well when launched from Windows and OS/2. Some don't, though.

Question here is whether users really want DOS — or just don't like the Windows shell that's provided by both Microsoft (PROGMAN.EXE) and alternative shells



SIG

from third-party vendors such as Symantec and H-P. *Windows 95* will allow a "clean boot" without the onerous (if you don't like it) shell and all its overhead.

If there's time, we'll try to discuss some of the recently-revealed *Pentium* foibles (bugs) and how this may spell big trouble for users with heavy math usage applications. We will, as usual, end the December DOS SIG meeting with a general Q & A session devoted to members' questions/problems and possible solutions provided by the SIG leaders and other members.

We will understand if you are torn by a need for another MultiMedia "fix" and go to the Broderbund presentation instead of attending the SIG, but you'll probably miss another stimulating demonstration by the CP/M zealots as they attempt one more Christmas coup.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG — General

There are 6 SIGS on User Group Saturday that are of interest to the "computer genealogist." Five of these SIGS meet in Room 1059. The BK SIG meets in Room 7014. The Multi-Media SIG (a new SIG just starting in November) meets from 8 to 9 am. The General Genealogy SIG meets from 9 to 10 am. Personal Ancestral File (PAF) meets 10 to 11 am. Roots III/IV SIG and Brother's Keeper (BK) meet from 11 to noon, and The Master Genealogist (TMG) from 1 to 2 pm. The Multi-Media SIG is not limited to genealogy; the General Genealogy SIG tries to support all genealogy hardware and software, while the other 4 SIGS are tied to specific genealogy software. There are generally about 60 people present at the Genealogy SIG meetings.

The October program was on local bulletin boards (BBS), the November topic was "An Understanding

of the Microprocessor," and the December program will be "OS/2 for the genealogist." The January 1995 presentation will be "Family Tree Maker (FTM) Deluxe" on CD ROM. February 1995 will feature genealogy and the internet on Chrysalis, a local BBS that is over 15 years old.

Dean Lachan who runs the Southern Crossroads BBS in Carrollton brought the October program. He came on by default as there was a mix-up which prevented Garry Grosse of the Chrysalis BBS from making the presentation. The Southern Crossroads BBS phone number is 817-481-8984. It operates two nets, one A:Net/Node is 1:124/4115 and the other is 1:130/4115. High speed modems (at least up to 19,200) can be handled by Southern Crossroads. The genealogy queries you upload can be local or netmail.

The net is generally a FIDO net or an ILink net and the messages are ECHOed from the single BBS you have uploaded onto (at night while you are asleep and the phone rates

are cheap) to one BBS after another until all BBS within the net have received them. It can circle the globe in approximately 24 hours.

Dean Lachan warned to only put your message on one BBS or it would be duplicated. The A of A:Net/Node means area. All of North America (I believe the US and Canada) is area 1. Net means network - i.e. 130 is the network number which acts as the hub for the nodes after the /, i.e. 4115. Node 4115 is within the network 130 which is within the confines of North America.

Al Sanford

Genealogy SIG — PAF

The November program was: (1) A question and answer period, (2) A demonstration of how to GEDCOM from PAF to Brother's Keeper (BK) and then print out descendant charts and (3) a continuation of the tour of Joan Lowrey's book *PAF User's Guide*.

PAF (Personal Ancestral File) is the most widely used genealogy software program and meets in room 1059 from 10 to 11 am on User Group Saturdays. PAF costs \$35 and can be ordered from Salt Lake Distribution Center, 1999 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104, or by phone for \$2 more (VISA or Mastercard) by calling 1-800-537-5950.

A lot of the material from LDS archives in Salt City is available at the local LDS libraries (see local phone book for places and times) on CD ROMs and at no charge for their use. The Dallas Public Library also has such a setup in their genealogy section. This Family History Library (FHL) catalog on compact disk has two problems that have been discovered in the November 1993 edition.

Both errors are in the Locality section: (1) Most of the information under the heading FLORIDA GENERAL was accidentally deleted and (2) Entries for Union County, South Carolina are mixed with entries for Union County, Georgia. Therefore, if you are searching for either of these two areas, check the catalog



on microfiche to get complete information.

A June 1994 article from the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints shows over 2 million people used their local genealogy library centers throughout the US. The average use of computers at the centers was 32-1/2 hours per week.

Al Sanford

Internet SIG

In December, we are privileged to have one of our newer members, David Maxwell, PC Systems Analyst with *The Dallas Morning News*, available to discuss the World Wide Web (WWW). Details are not fully set as we go to press (pun intended!), but it promises to be a very informative session. WWW is one of the more important items on the Internet, and is fast becoming one of the predominant Internet access tool for experts and rookies alike.

In November, Sharon Macalik of Southwestern Bell explained what ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) will mean to Dallas-area SWBT customers as they access the Internet. ISDN became available throughout Dallas for SWBT customers on November 1st (Ft. Worth gets theirs in early 1995). With ISDN's two 64kbits/sec digital data channels carried across your existing copper lines, ISDN promises to be THE way to access the Internet or to TeleCommute to the office.

Our thanks also go to Jeff Smith of OnRamp Technology, who graciously demonstrated some of the equipment used to provide ISDN access to the Internet. OnRamp is on the forefront in making ISDN/Internet service available, and Jeff and crew are ongoing supporters of NTPCUG.

For those who attended the October meeting, you know that our Telnet discussion was postponed due to "business priorities". These things happen, but we won't let our own Ken Loafman off the hook that easily. Telnet will return in the first quarter of 1995.



See you December 17th !! Merry Christmas!!

*Tom O'Keefe
& Doug Gorrie*

Microsoft Networking SIG

The SMS (Systems Management Server) product has recently been released and this month Robert Wickham of Product Support Services (PSS) will do an authoritative technical presentation on its features. SMS provides centralized management of computers in an enterprise network, including collecting hardware and software information for inventory purposes, distributing and installing software, sharing network applications, and troubleshooting hardware and software problems (can use remote control software as well as a software protocol analyzer to do this.)

SMS runs on NT Server with MS SQL Server as the data collection point. SMS can also be used in a Netware environment, naturally with the SMS/NT Server machine as part of its domain. Robert is an escalation engineer and, since SMS is his specialty, he knows the mechanics and technical details down to the circuit bone.

If you weren't up at 8:00 this last month, (and sitting in the MSNetSIG), you missed finding out about administering *NT Server*. I had a short demonstration on several features, including setting permissions on users, local groups, and global groups, as well as permissions on directories and files through file manager. After this, there was a general question and answer discussion free-for-all.

Next month we'll either be doing an interoperability session, showing WFW (or maybe *Windows 95*) working with NT Server OR going into depth about Microsoft Exchange Messaging.

As always, the SIG is at the heavenly hour of 8 am on Saturday morning. Join us!

Debbie Lenhart

Paradox SIG

Well, once again Tom (AKA, Energizer Bunny) came through at the November meeting. Actually, as I write this, Tom said he had to chose between two possible presentations, so you now know more about the November SIG meeting than I do as I write this!

December will be a pretty busy month for everybody, so odds are we may just have an open *Tricks and Tips* session for the December SIG as presentation preparation time may be hard to find prior to the meeting. I expect turnout for the whole Saturday will be high as there will be exciting holiday re-



SIG

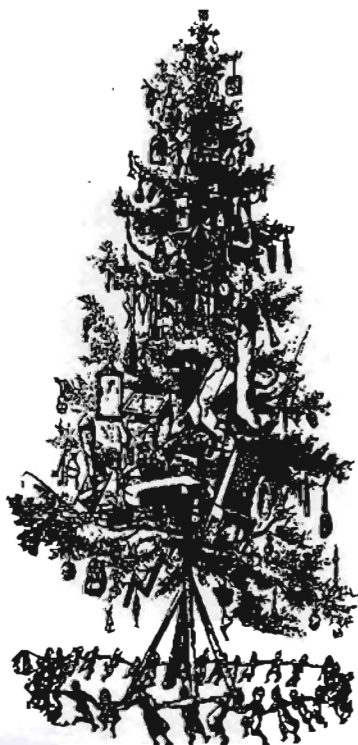
lated presentations in the main auditorium.

At the last SIG Leader's meeting these SIG Happenings were much cussed and discussed. We didn't really create any great leaps forward but I think the SIG Leaders have vowed to try to make things "better" as to SIG happenings content, with the exception of the "PRO SIG", of course.

It was resolved that for the very latest, greatest, breaking news about the current month's SIG meetings, it would be wise to check the group's BBS. Many of the SIG Leaders stated that this might be the best media for publishing the current month's SIG meeting plan, as there is no deadline related to SIG notes publication on-line.

So, you might want to check the BBS when planning your next Saturday, but be sure to set aside 10:00 AM for the PDox SIG.

Fred Williams



Personal Users SIG

The Personal Users SIG won't be meeting this month — it's our regular, scheduled "off" month. We'll resume again in January with a new series of classes, discussions and seminars for PC users.

As with all of the SIG meetings, the meetings are open to all with the only requirement being having an interest in computers.

Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

December — The team of programmers searching for Jim Hoisington who is being held hostage by the evil Vice President of DFW Xchange Corp are on their way to Auckland, New Zealand. Their numerous reports say that Jim is working on a new release of an operating system for a major computer vendor at a building at 210 Federal Street. The code name for the project is TV. Maybe it's a multi-media thing.

Join us this month as Stuart Yarus and Frank Cavallito lead their annual discussion on object-oriented APL.

StarSIG

The October meeting featured speakers, from StarText and Siberia.

StarText staff member and INK editor Christine Gonzales told how she turned out the INK newsletter on an Apple computer, allowing her to put out an attractive paper on time each month by avoiding the delays of interdepartmental cut and paste. She showed sample pages from the early stages. This was special to the attendees, most of whom use IBM compatibles. This was the other viewpoint.

The other guest was very special. Vladimar Evdokimov, Editor-in-Chief, *Omsk Pravda*, was visiting the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on an exchange program, and accepted our

invitation. He spoke of running a newspaper in Siberia, one of 55,000 circulation for a population of 1,000,000 to 1,500,000. He told us of how freedom of the press increased in recent years, and how some recent articles were critical of the local government. He also spoke of his plans for the future and his desire to use computers.

Editor Paul Harral from StarText briefed us on this last point, explaining that Editor Evdokimov did not lack for computer knowledge or educated users, only hardware. The people are computer literate, but hardware is hard to find and expensive, and the Russian Ruble is not well supported.

Editor Evdokimov finished his presentation and answered several questions, then received a large round of applause for an outstanding presentation.

Other speakers were Sports Editor Jim McGee with news of Fantasy Football and the necessary statistics, and the FREELoader, with his announcement of his coming marriage to his childhood sweetheart, a girl he met in the 1930's.

Come visit our meetings. They have many surprises, even for the SIG Leader and his assistant, and all are welcome. Programs, when planned, are usually hashed out in the week before User Group Saturday, in keeping with the newspaper tradition of working right up to deadline on everything.

William L. Jones

Visual Basic SIG — Beginning

The December 17th meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will continue a discussion of *Visual Basic for Windows* applications using the data control to manipulate a database. This presentation began last month and the December 17 meeting will conclude this discussion.

A new topic started in the October meeting was the initiation of Visual Basic Workshops. For a summary of this new concept at NTPCUG, see this month's "Visual Basic Corner" elsewhere in this newsletter. If you are interested in starting a workshop or participating in one,

see me at the meeting (preferably before the meeting starts). We will try to get all interested parties together.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, December 17, 1994. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG

The December 17th meeting of the Visual Basic SIG will feature a presentation by Kent Cobb on techniques for enhancing Visual Basic applications with DLLs. Kent will demonstrate an application he has been working on. The application's user interface is written in Visual Basic while most of the low-level code is contained in DLLs that he wrote in C and C++. Kent will discuss the advantages of this approach and some of the problems he has run into. Kent Cobb is SIG leader for the Advanced C/C++ SIG and will be continuing his discussion of this application at his SIG meeting at noon. At that meeting, he will discuss the DLLs in more detail.



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.

Woody invites any member of the SIG to present a program at the Visual Basic SIG meeting. If you have a topic you would like to discuss, contact Woody to make arrangements.

The Visual Basic SIG will meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 17, 1994. Members with any sort of questions about Visual Basic are invited to bring the questions to the meeting for discussion. Check the screens in the Infomart lobby for room assignment.

Jim Carter & Woody Pewitt

Word for Windows SIG

We're on the grow! The SIG has enjoyed about a 430% increase in attendance over the past few months. That's EXCITING! If you've never been a SIG leader you may not realize that it can take hours of preparation to prepare to do a one-hour presentation. So when you see a lot of people reap the benefit of all that preparation it just makes you work all that much harder the next month. And that's how a SIG just keeps getting better and better.

November's meeting highlighted the incredibly easy Mail Merge functionality in Word for Windows 6.x. Only two documents are needed: A data document containing the information that is to be merged, and a main document. The main document can be a form letter, a layout for labels or envelopes, or a catalog listing. In WordPerfect terms, a data document is a secondary file and the main document is a primary file.

Let's face it, a lot of folks have come to Winword from WordPerfect, and that means that a lot of

secondary files out there need to be converted to the Word format. Fortunately, all it takes is choosing Open from the File menu and Word automatically converts the linear WP secondary file to a Word table format.

Keep in mind that I've been word crunching for over a dozen years. I've seen lots of methods of creating "data bases" for word processor-based mail merging. Word's method is so simple that even an adult can do it. Let's take a look at how simple it is to begin building an eight field data document.

The data file will have eight fields: Courtesy title, first name, last name, address 1, address 2, city, state, and ZIP. You type the following with NO SPACES WHATSOEVER:

```
ctitle,firstname,lastname,address1,address2,city,state,zip
```

Then it's just a simple matter of selecting the line (I like to press CTRL+A), then either clicking on the Insert Table icon or choosing Convert Text to Tables from the Table menu and pressing OK at the confirming dialog box.

If that wasn't easy enough, the program provides a database toolbar that makes entering data as easy as the easiest database programs — even easier! It's almost fun to add, edit, delete, find, etc. data.

With the main document on the screen, all that's necessary to do is to press Alt, T, R (or choose Mail Merge from the Tools menu) and the Mail Merge Helper takes you by the hand and leads you to the promised land of easy merging.

A point of interest for those who are interested in cranking out work in a hurry: once a main document is connected to a data document all that's necessary to do a mail merge is to open the main document and press ALT, SHIFT, N (or press the

SIG



Merge to New Document icon). THAT'S IT. No messing around with fancy, schmancy commands. No putting the documents together each and every time you need to merge files. In other words, the Mail Merge function in Word is one heck of a productivity feature.

If you missed November's meeting, well, you missed it! But a step-by-step handout was distributed at the meeting. If you need one, ask at the January meeting and we might still have one for you.

Tip of the Month

Ever wonder how many words you've typed or what template you're connected to or when the document you're working on was first created? Wonder no more. Use Summary Info to keep track of:

File Name, the directory in which it is stored, and the template upon which it is based. Also included in the Document Statistics dialog box shows a long document name, the day and time the document was created, when it was last saved, who saved it, the most current revision number, total editing time, and when it was last printed. Finally, it shows the number of pages, words, characters, paragraphs and lines.

DECEMBER: Let's have a WOPR. No, not a hamburger (although that does sound good as I'm writing this), but Woody's Office POWER Pack™ for Word for Windows 6.0. Talk about adding power to something, WOPR will do everything except grow hair on your head. We're going to do a full-fledged "Dog and Pony Show" on this add-on shareware package for Word for Windows 6.0x.

Need to do brochures, greeting cards, etc.? Grab WOPR. Want a fancier toolbar editor? WOPR again. Like a printout of all of your hotkeys? Hmumum, let's see. Oh yes, it's WOPR again! The dog-gone thing can even tell you when

you've been staring at the CRT for too long.

Want to know more? Then be at the meeting on December 17 at 1:00pm. It's going to be a fun 'un! 'Til then it's Ho, Ho, Ho from Bev & Janet.

Beverly Kurtin

WordPerfect (DOS) SIG

December Business — Come and test your knowledge of WordPerfect at this special year-end meeting. We'll have Jeopardy! with WordPerfect answers and other challenging games that are fun! Winners (and there will be lots of winners!) will receive ribbons or certificates so you'll have something to show off to your co-workers!

See you there!

Lori Quinn

WordPerfect 6.0 DOS TIP of the MONTH

Some quick movement techniques!

Using {Home}{Up Arrow} moves the cursor to the previous screen, which means you'll see every line of the document if you need to proofread it. You can also use the + key on the numeric pad (if the Num Lock is NOT on). To move to the next screen, use {Home}{Down Arrow} (or the minus key). These can also be used in Print Preview, which is a real time saver if you've viewing at 100%.

The "GoTo" feature is activated by pressing {Ctrl}{Home}. Then if you type a number, the cursor will jump to that page in the document. Or if you type an alphabetic letter, the cursor will jump to the next occurrence of that letter (upper and lower case will matter). If you've accidentally pressed {Home}{Home}{Down Arrow}, you can jump right back to where you

were in the document by using "GoTo" twice!

When Block(F12) or {Alt}{F3} is on, GoTo is assumed. That means, when you type a letter, the block will expand to that character. The quickest way to block a sentence is to turn block on at the beginning of the sentence, then type a period. The quickest way to block a paragraph is to turn block on at the beginning of the paragraph, then press {Enter}.

Using {Ctrl} and the up or down arrow keys moves the cursor paragraph by paragraph.

A couple of shortcuts in deleting text involve using the {Home} key. If the cursor is in the middle of a word, pressing {Home}{Del} deletes from the cursor to the end of the word. This is helpful if you've made corrections to a word and there are remaining characters you don't need, instead of pressing {Del} several times, use this method.

Using {Home}{Backspace} deletes from the cursor to the beginning of the word. This is helpful if you are cleaning up an ASCII document that has several spaces at the beginning of each line.

Lori Quinn

Works SIG

While attendance was smaller than we have had frequently in the past, there were a number of questions to explore. The planned presentation was presented in part, showing how Windows supports using document icons for convenient loading. Almost everyone that attends the SIG is using the Windows version, but we still get questions about older versions. One of the critical questions about Works for Windows is the missing macro capability found within DOS Works and supposedly taken over by the very bad Macro Recorder in Windows.

Mike Firth

Internet Project Picking Up Speed

Things are beginning to stir on the Internet project! We are currently working on a Request For Proposal for our Internet UUCP feed (for the Usenet News Group). We received an excellent verbal proposal from a local feed site, but we feel in fairness to all we must seek additional potential vendors.

Besides, the board of directors forced me to!

The mate in Australia set me straight by informing me that Internet E-mail would be handled by a soon-to-be-released, totally separate module. He considers the News Group code as finished.

This means we are now ready to begin pressing toward implementing Usenet News Groups as our first Internet service.

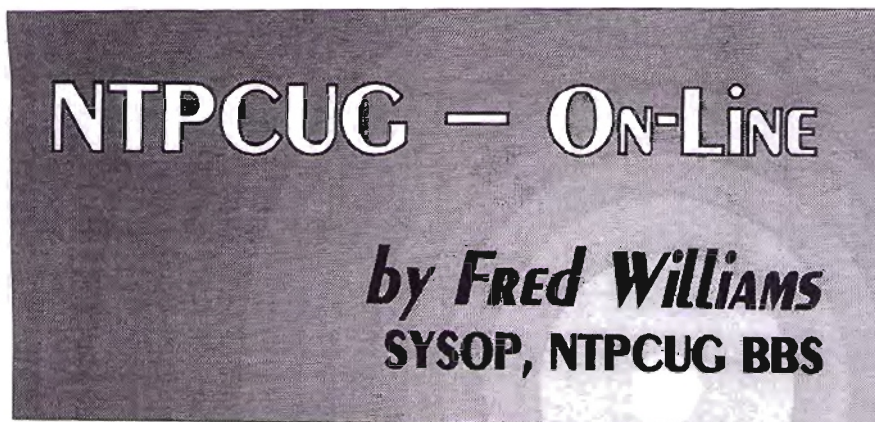
Yours Truly has NTPCUG Off-Line Reader Training Project in the Works

Doug Gorrie had an astute observation: since our implementation of Internet access will require the use of off-line mail readers — demand for some form of training will be very much in evidence. We will address this aspect of the project as we proceed.

I'm hoping to convince both him(Doug Gorrie) and Lewis Graber that their involvement in the necessary training — and troubleshooting — would be a great service for our group's membership.

I have "been going to" do a special self-installing NTPCUG BBS communications diskette for some time now. I intend to go ahead with this project with the help of Doug and Lewis. This will supply the average NTPCUG member with a virtually "plug and play" way to go on-line with the NTPCUG BBS.

I'm certain that the newly revitalized DOM group will be just the ticket for distributing the diskette.



I did a similar diskette for a client company a while back and it actually worked quite well for a large segment of the new users wishing access to the client's on-line information service.

The users were only required to type "A:INSTALL" and follow the few simple prompts to install a pretty robust communications capability on their systems.

Ahem - Special Holiday Consulting Available

Normally the consulting bizness gets a little slow for me around the holidays, as by then most companies have burned up their fiscal year's budgets and are just hanging on for next year.

I'm only semi-busy, so I hope to have some time to devote to all this before year end.

I am also available to be invited to any and all holiday parties. I do prefer those with hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic beverages. I will be happy to chat about the "Information Super Highway", "Convergence", and "Multi-media".

Given enough Scotch whiskey I can even be enticed into telling old submarine sea stories, from back when I rode those "Sharks of Steel". I even bring my own designated driver.

[Ed. Note: Fred really isn't that proud — he's been observed drinking something that looked suspiciously like cheap red wine camouflaged/wrapped in a brown-paper bag while discussing the relative merits of "Beans & Weenies" v. "Ham and Limas" C-Rats from the perspective of a submariner who never, ever had to subsist on either government-supplied delicacy.]

Back to the Future

Well enough about my future social life, back to BBS's and such: The BBS is continuing to grow with a lot of interest being generated by our board's recent return to the BBS list carried in *Texas Computing*.

With the addition of the planned Internet services, and a couple of other pet projects I have in mind, I expect the BBS to be an even greater value for our membership in the future.

Fred Williams



The Modem Challenge — Or: Getting on-line isn't That hard for a beginner — or that easy!

by Judy Griffiths

For years I had listened as others talked about using our BBS and other services, extolling the virtues of solving problems and making friends on-line. While I found their tales intriguing, I vowed to stay out of the online world. After all, I was already wasting too much time puttering around with my PC. But finally all this talk about the Information Super Highway wore down my resistance. I wanted to ride, too.

The price of a ride would be buying and installing an internal modem in my upgraded 486SX. It seemed doable. After all, I'd opened up that CPU before and installed a floppy drive as well as several cards and boards over the years.

I marched down to the vendor area on User Group Saturday and found a recommended modem dealer. The vendor recognized the fact that I might not be up to this task. He asked, "Would you be able to 'disable' COM2?" Now if he had asked me about enabling something, I would have honestly admitted that I couldn't. But he said "disable" and I figured, heck, I could disable just about anything. So I bought a souped-up 14.4 fax/modem and headed home.

Well, if anybody asks you, disabling is tougher than it sounds. After several calls and dragging out never-read documentation, I found that this had to be done to my I/O card. Yup, that's the one with lots of stuff connected to it. Although the diagram on the documentation sheet appeared to be in some foreign tongue, the guru at my office was able to translate this into semi-English. He explained that the "jumpers" referred to were really little caps that fit over tiny prongs on the card. To disable COM2, I needed to move one of these caps. With the help of a pair of eyebrow tweezers, I got this done.

Now I had to get this I/O card back in with all that stuff con-

nected. Of course, this card happened to be the toughest one to wedge in and out of my motherboard. But after some well-placed blows and grunts, the card went back in.

Now, where did all these connections go? There were ribbon connections to the floppy drives, the hard disk controller, and a couple of unused game ports. Unfortunately, the ribbon connections could fit either upside down or right side up, which complicated the task. Why didn't I write this down before I unplugged them?

Eventually, they were all hooked up, and to my great relief it booted. So far, so good.

Now came the time to try the modem. Oh yeah, I need software for that. I fought with the software that came "free" with the modem, finally getting it installed. It certainly was not user-friendly, but somehow I figured out how to place a call. I excitedly keyed in 387-2751 to call our BBS. The modem squawked and squealed, and up popped the Welcome screen. The thrill was enormous. I was so astonished to have gotten through that I had a hard time thinking up a password when prompted for one. Since I knew the BBS would verify my membership overnight, I signed off for the night with the thrill of victory.

The next night I decided to explore a bit more of the communications software. I found a dialing directory where you could enter the phone numbers of the BBS's and such so that you didn't need to key them in each time. I got out my trusty newsletter and entered all three numbers for our board.

Then I chose one and told it to dial. There were the squeals and squawks, but no connection was made, and I heard my tiny speaker say something about being unable to complete my call. I didn't hear it all but assumed maybe there was a problem with the modem on the BBS end. I tried another number

with the same result. Oh well, maybe the board was down. I decided to wait and try again another night.

Subsequent nights brought the same results. I couldn't believe our intrepid BBS crew would let this go on so long, which, unfortunately, meant the problem must be on my end again. I turned down the TV and listened carefully to the words of wisdom from my CPU. "Your call cannot be completed from the phone you are using. This phone will only accept collect incoming calls," it chirped. Huh? Desperately, I got out my modem book and the software documentation. Needless to say, neither source addressed my mysterious message.

Then I remembered that the next day was User Group Saturday. Surely some of my friends in the Users Group could tell me where I had messed up this time. As I worked the DOM desk, I described my strange message to my companions. Several suggested that I might need an exorcist. Then while working the Info Desk, one guy said "It sounds to me like an extra digit is being dialed. Could you have somehow set it to dial a '9' first?" I told him that I doubted it, as I wouldn't have a clue as to how to do that, but I would check it out.

When I got home, I pulled up the dialing directory. I saw the problem immediately. When I had dialed the number manually, I had merely keyed "387-2751." However, when I filled in the dialing directory, there was a space for the area code. Being a good little government worker, I filled in all the blanks in the form. When the offending area code was deleted, the call went right through, without sarcasm from my speaker. I was in business.

Now, the reason for revealing my ineptness should be apparent. Working as a volunteer on User Group Saturday can solve your problems. Try it sometime soon.

Judy Griffiths

Disks of the Month (DOM) for November

Note: All of these disks are distributed on 1.44M disk only

DISK OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

Disk 917. POW110, 6/94 — Powerline Offline Reader for Windows v1.10. A QWK mail reader including Spell Checking by Gina Davis, London, England, Southland Trading Company, 900-91 Howard Avenue, Escondido CA 92029. Shareware Fee: \$35.00

POW is a thorough, easy to learn, easy to use offline reader for Windows that handles "one at a time .QWK packets" for reading and replying to your E-mail. It also handles Internet E-mail with automatic TO: insertion in the first line of your text body.

POW offers selective taglines, auto-quoting of messages and address books for TO: and SUBJECT: lines. You can view bulletins, News, NewFiles, Session Text, including ANSI. Replies you generate are automatically stored to a special folder for this purpose.

One of the great features is the ability to Add, Drop or Reset the Maildoor Conferences you want to view each time you download messages. This helps you avoid spending on-line time tinkering with the .QWK configuration file because it's handled by POW automatically during your .QWK packet upload.

If you are eager to enter the world of offline readers, this is the program that will make it easy for you...learning and using this program is made even better by the fine context-sensitive Help included with this program.

Also included is the file POWUS.ZIP that will add a Spell Checker feature. This feature is one not often found in OLR programs and it works effortlessly. The spelling check is only available when you are in the REPLY mode or EDIT mode of the offline reader program.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: IBM AT 286 or better (VBRUN300.DLL dated 12 May 93 for 286); 3 Mb memory minimum, preferably 4 Mb or higher; Windows 3.1; approximately 400k HD space for program, not including VBRUN300.DLL, plus an additional 500k if dictionary/spell checker is added.

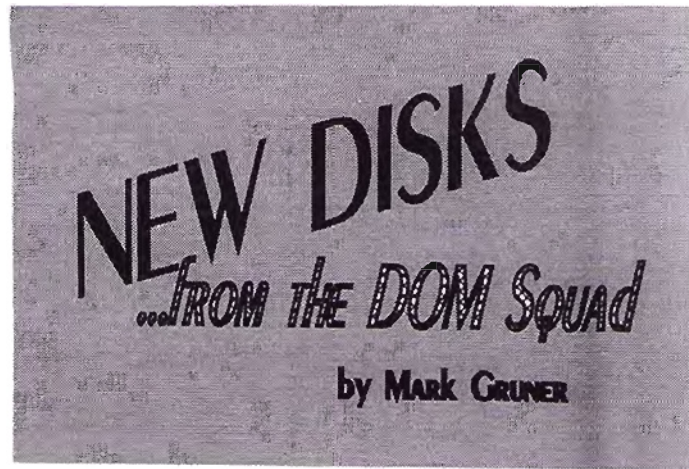
This software was donated by Jan Parkhill.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (11/94).

Disk 918. Mega Edit 2.11, 3/94 — Large File Editor for Windows, Computer Witchcraft, Inc., Post Office Box 4189, Louisville, KY 40204, Phone: (502) 589-6800. Shareware Fee: \$39.00 (including S&H).

With the increasing size of files used in programs today, it's inevitable you will soon be needing a text editor that is not crippled or limited in the size of the files you ask it to load and read. Mega Edit promises to be able to handle files of any size to help you meet that need.

At the present time, this shareware version of Mega Edit is limited to 5,000 line size files.



You are asked to register the program and the 5,000 line limit will be removed so you may edit files as large as your hard drive. For any file less than the 5,000 line limitation, Mega Edit is still a smooth editor with all the standard editing features found in your better programs. PC World magazine has chosen Mega Edit one of the very best programs for their "Under \$50.00" category.

The program offers a split screen feature and you can configure the program to your satisfaction by using the Options menu. You have sizable screen fonts (any font used by Windows) and you may edit up to 20 files at one time.

Mega Edit understands UNIX, DOS and Mac text, allowing editing to be performed transparently in each format.

This software was donated by Jan Parkhill.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (11/94).

Disk 919. CUTZIT 1.1, 1/90 — CUT large files into smaller files. Author unknown FREEWARE.

CUTZIT is a file to help you CUT large files into smaller pieces. It can cut files many ways. It may be the only utility you need - instead of having to keep track of 25 smaller utilities to do the same jobs.

There are many ways to "skin a cat". And many ways to change a text file or pull material from it. This program has most of those tools that let you make your text or binary files what you want them to be.

It not only lets you cut up your files into smaller pieces, but it lets you cut them vertically as well as by lines or phrases. You could easily cut out data tables using the vertical cutting process. You will need some knowledge of the placement of text by bytes (or, the character position in the file).

ASCII text files can be divided into a specified number of smaller files, or by a specified number of lines to be in each file, or by a specified size in kilobytes for each file. Binary files can be cut into a specified ratio or by specified file size in kilobytes. Files can be merged, appended, or pasted together side by side. You can also extract multiple vertical slices from a text file. Many other text manipulation features are included, such as search and replace text in a file, padding or trimming characters on the right side of the file, create a new file upon a phrase occurrence, and output of various statistics on a text file.

CUTZIT has seven files as follows:

DOM DISKS

...CONTINUED

CUTZIT.EXE - the main file

CUTZIT.DOC - the Manual to be printed out (+/- 30 Sheets)

CUTZMAN.BAT - the Batch file to help you print the Manual

CUTZREAD.ME - this file to tell you what the other ones are

README2.TXT - information file

GO.TXT - How-to list for CUTZIT

GO.BAT - TYPE GO.TXT

There is NO registration fee of any kind. This is not shareware. You may use this yourself without paying a cent.

This software was donated by Jan Parkhill.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (11/94)

Disk 920. 2COL 4.6, 4/93 — A compressed print utility by Tony Caine, ARCaine Technology, 960 Neilson Avenue, Albany, CA 94706. Phone: (510) 527-9859. Shareware Fee: \$20.00.

How often do we want to print out manuals for shareware programs or verbose text files we want to reference from time to time, only to be unwilling to print out a 40 page manual? 2COL is a compressed file printing utility that will help by placing two pages of condensed text on one sheet of paper. To make it more efficient, you may also tell the program to print the third and fourth pages on the back side of you paper. Now, your 40 page document can be cut down to 20 pages or 10 pages depending on your desires.

Support is for Deskjet and Dot Matrix printers at the present writing. If you want to use a Laser Jet printer, the

author asks you add \$5.00 to your registration fee for a second program called JetCol. In addition, 2COL will support WordStar, .WRI files, Word, Word for Windows and WP-generic. If you want, you can request a macro for WordPerfect that will let you use 2COL from inside WP for an additional fee of \$3.00.

If you feel you want to print out your shareware text files, etc., this is an excellent way to save on the printing cost and subsequent storage problems created by mass printing of text files.

2COL has many -switch options that allow you to customize your print jobs. You may request odd/even page printing, margin setting, print the filename of the job you are printing, truncate long lines instead of wrap, set the length of the column/page, etc.

We seem to have found a "handy" utility to keep in our toolbox.

This software was donated by Jan Parkhill.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (11/94)



Disk 921. Rockford! 3.0, 2/93 — Business card designer for Windows by George Campbell, OSOSOFT BBS (805)528-3753, Public Software Library (800)242-4775. Shareware Fee: \$20.00

Need a business card? Rockford! is your Windows 3.1 WYSIWYG solution to designing and printing your own business cards to suit your purpose. Imagine, you can be a Computer Consultant in the morning and an Insurance Salesman that same afternoon!

You can use any Windows fonts, clipart images, lines, circles, boxes and set text alignment any way you want. Rockford! even has custom settings for pre-scored business card stock that is available from many dealers. Better yet, you can print a 200% or four-up layout to take to your local printer.

You can have new business cards in minutes...as few or as many as you need.

The author offers thorough instructions, a short tutorial (to follow step-by-step) and some very worthwhile TIPS on how to begin designing your own business cards.

One very worthwhile suggestion is to visit several print shops or office supply stores that offer business card printing and study the cards that seem to jump out at you, grabbing your attention. Pay close attention to the layout and how the pros use large and small fonts effectively to help you design better business cards.

This is not only interesting software, but it has many practical applications for those of us involved in business ventures other than our "day jobs!". If your desire is for more clipart, etc., the author also offers Rockford! Professional for a \$30.00 registration fee.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 3.1, a 386/486 CPU, VGA graphics, 2 meg RAM, 2 meg hard disk, mouse and a

Windows graphics compatible printer. This program supports only True Type and Adobe Type Manager (ATM) fonts. Requires VBRUN200.DLL.

This software was donated by Jan Parkhill.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (11/94)

Disk 922. WinPost 2.0, 2/91 — A Windows "Sticky" Post-It Utility by Nobuya Higashiyama, 7337 Chapparral Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235. Phone: (614) 798-0910. Shareware Fee: \$20.00.

We all have those little yellow, green, blue, or similar colored post-it notes on the face of our computers, don't we? They remind us to call someone or to do something we wanted to remember later. Now, there's a Windows program/utility that does the very same thing...and it even lets you pick the color you prefer to use with your computer "paper stickums." Hey, this is environmentally safe "paper notes", too.

With this program, you can have 32 notes active at any one time. The notes are also available in three sizes, 1.5" by 2", 3" by 3" and 3" by 5". All of this information can be configured to suit your individual preferences. You can use a layout feature to set preferences that will allow only certain related notes to appear at one time, helping keep your screen clear of clutter.

You may hide the notes when not in use, which creates a "notes" icon at the lower left of your desktop, indicating notes are stored. You may also selectively hide notes one by one and when you exit Windows, your notes are saved for you automatically as a reminder when you reboot to Windows.

Each "note" is an editable window. All the standard editing operation are available.

The size of the note itself may not be changed once selected, but as you type to fill the note size, the text will scroll, allowing plenty of information to be stored on one small note. You may change the caption heading to a name more suitable and the windows may be moved by dragging with your mouse. You also have cut, paste, undo and copy features available.

In a nutshell, the program is very intuitive and the enclosed shareware manual is short, concise and very well laid out. Where many manuals are considered "Useless as a spit valve on a violin," I doubt anyone will have trouble reading and understanding this simple, well-written program manual.

Last but not least, the program can be used as a reminder each time you boot Windows to remind you of your calls and appointments. I think you will enjoy this small program as you become familiar with it. I use it every day.

This software was donated by Jan Parkhill.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (11/94).

Disk 923. IconMaster 1.2d, 5/92 — A Windows Icon Utility Deluxe by Philip A. Kaufman, 19987 Moran Lane, Saratogo, CA 95070. CompuServe: 72431,2543 Internet: phil@qcktm.com. Shareware Fee: \$20.00.

Welcome to IconMaster, the most comprehensive and user friendly Windows 3.x Icon Management and editing utility available. The Window Users community has long recognized IconMaster as an outstanding utility and it has been honored with the Public Software Library's "Best of 1991" award, PC World chose it the "Top Pick Shareware" and PC Computing Magazine saw it as the "Top Windows Pick."

This outstanding program can show all the icons you have stored on your hard disk, one at a time or all at the same time. With a simple click of the mouse, you can enter the EDIT mode and make changes or you may edit and move an icon stored in a .DLL file to make it an .ICO file. In fact, you can move and rename ten (10) different icon formats! Heck, you can edit and EXTRACT icon files from .EXE files at will!! Look at this list of features:

Supports 10 different icon file formats

(.ICO, .DLL, .ICN, .IMO, .EXE, .JL, .IML, .IMZ, .ZIP, .NIL, .ICA)

Create and edit icons
Capture screen images into icons

-Install icons into Program Manager/Norton Desktop by drag and drop

-Sort icons into libraries by drag and drop

-Edit icons in .EXE files

-Extract icons from .EXE files

-Enjoy the fastest and smallest icon file formats available

IconMaster is an extremely flexible program. You can edit, preview and manage your library of icons, putting some order to your many icons files. The program is intuitive enough that you should be able to run this program without much training or constant reference to the documentation.

Install in Windows 3.1 and click the icon to be off and



running. See the documentation file for more details.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis (11/94).

This software was donated by Jan Parkhill

"Old" Computer Software? Users "ShelfWare" can help others

I have three or four packages of software that I am not using, either because I didn't much like it and bought something else or because I got it as a prize, gift, or with an upgrade and decided not to use it. Most schools have no use for the individual packages of software that you might have laying around, since they need to have multiple legal copies for class work.

But, you might ask at the Media Center (Library for us old folks) and see whether a single copy of something you are not using can fill a niche on the machines available for student project use. Remember, if you are still using an upgrade, under most Copyright licensing agreements, you can't donate the older copy of the program unless the publisher allows this.

CCAD — DCLP Always need help

Two more specific places are CCAD and the Computer Literacy Project. Information on the latter can be had at the NTPCUG meetings.

CCAD stands for the Center for Computer Assistance to the Disabled. Founded by an engineer, Jack Kishpaugh, who was confined to a wheelchair after a deep dive into shallow water, CCAD has worked for over a decade to get computers into the hands and under the mouth sticks of people who need some adaptation to work properly. Now CCAD has a user group that meets with us and an office and training center in the Infomart.

CCAD takes donations of hardware and software and matches them to the needs of individuals. Equipment that is not suitable for home or office use, such as chain printers, are sold or otherwise used to pull in cash or other products that can be used. Since many levels of hardware are donated, older versions of software can be matched to available computers and client needs. Consider CCAD.

Mike Firth

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

The Message is Perfectly Clear

This weeks' *Electronic Buyers' News* featured an advertisement in which a salesman is swinging on a broken rope bridge to deliver parts to an electronics manufacturer. By copying the ropes and flipping them first vertically and then horizontally you may put the two resulting images adjacent to each other and might make out the words "THE 486 IS DEAD". :-)

No such activity is required to interpret the messages our club members need to take advantage of the many benefits of meetings held at the Infomart each month. SIG Coordinator Alex Lilley produces the overhead projection of the meeting schedule which will advise anyone in the Infomart lobby where their favorite SIG is lo-

cated. Alex also produces the informative handout page meeting schedule which may be picked up at the Information Desk or a table near the elevators. Alex also finds time to write up this same schedule which is printed on page one of the North Texas PC News (that's right - this Newsletter). I have even run into him at a local printer, getting last minute changes printed up to satisfy his desire for the perfect meeting. Thanks, Alex, for the planning, organizing, pleading and application of pressure that produces successful SIG groups. Keep the clear messages coming. We ARE listening.

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

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Eteta Eta
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt
David Huckabee
Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Paul Williams

Chris Balthrop
Phillip Bridge
Don Chick
Norman Dang
William Farris
Charles Fernandez
Judy Griffiths
Gene Hamelman
M. Pat Henley
Tom Jackson
Mac McKeethen
John Primm
George Read
Oscar Tyler

David Huckabee
Jerry Stone
Inventory and Take-down
Crew:

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
John Ivers
Kenneth Berg
Crew:
James Guyer
William Guyer
Ross Jones

Booth Crew:
Deborah Bean
Ralph Beaver
Roger Bopp
Lorin Cranford
Larry Fisher
Lance Green
Stuart Gygi
Bernard Hale
Eugene Hamelman
Nancy Hise
Claude McClure
Foy T. Mills
Thelda Opella
Don Springer
Linda Thomas

Arnold Krusemark
Dale Diamond
DOM Desk Scheduler:
Charles Cashion

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Disks for Review Manager:
Frank Miller
Disk Production:
Howard Hamilton
Willard Davis

Information/Registration
Booth
Statistician:
Connie Andrews
Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors:
Al Aston

Disk of the Month (DOM)
DOM Shift Supervisors:
Roy Bales
Gene Carleton
James Donlon
M. Pat Henley
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Crew:
Joe Allen
Doug Athas
Benny Baars

With Special Thanks
to:
Set Up Crew:
Mark Gruner

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)283-9038 (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 Frank Miller	(214)231-1345 (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	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)481-2350	M-Sa 1300-1500	DOS (all MS versions)	Rick Steffon	(214)327-2728	7 1000-2400
Assembly Language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7 1800-2200	Hardware Help	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1800	HyperAccess	Woody Pewitt	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	LANs — Novell	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
Beginner Problems	Jan Parkhill	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	— Lantastic	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Shirley Hudgens	(214)352-2800	7 0900-2000	Managing Your Money	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1600
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869	7 0900-2200	MathCAD	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
C (the language)	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200	OS/2	Larry Truesdale	(214)442-7074	7 1000-2200
	.....	.....	T&T 1800-2030	PC Tools/Win	Glynn Brooks	(214)888-0625	M-F 0800-1600
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315	7 1300-2100
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200	ProComm/ProComm+	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	.....	T&T 1800-2030		.....	(214) 818-8002	S-S 1000-1900
Batch Files	Don Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030		Bill Green	(817) 731-1308	7 0800-2400
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400		Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0900-2200
Borland C++	.....	.....	.....		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	Quicken	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148	7 1830-2100
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200		Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
	.....	.....	T&T 1800-2030	Quickbooks	Jim Thompson	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700				
	.....	(214) 818-8002	S-S 1000-1900				
CompuServe	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900				
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows	Ted Gilliam	(214)964-7923	7 0800-1700				

NTPCUG User - To - User Program

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
SPFPC			
	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
TurboVision			
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
	.....		T&T 1800-2030
	Don Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030
UNIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus			
	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Visual Basic - Advanced			
	Woody Pewitt.....	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
Visual Basic - Beginning			
	Jim Carter.....	(214)235-5968	7 1700-2130

L.J. Johnson	(214)495-9067	7	1700-2130
Gene Hamelman.....	(214)495-6342	7	1700-2130
Windows			
Rick Sivemell	(214)306-5422	7	1830-2200
Windows for Workgroups			
Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Word for Windows			
Beverly Kurtin	(817) 355-9594	7	
WordPerfect 5.x /Win			
Georgene Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun	0900-1200
.....		M-F	1800-2030
Works, Microsoft			
Mike Firth.....	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200
XENIX			
Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200

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

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:

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

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

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

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

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Phone (214) 746-4699 for recorded information about the North Texas PC Users Group and scheduled meeting date times and locations. Please leave a message if you would like specific information about the Group.

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM or any other corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to IBM Personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in

this newsletter, and send with \$24 membership dues to the Membership Director — address shown below. Subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership. The Group meets once each month, usually on the third or fourth Saturday. See inside front cover for date, time and place of the next North Texas PC Users Group meeting.

NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP Officers and People You should know . . .

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(214) 223-4044 h (214) 960-4215 w
President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101 h
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(214) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(903) 569-2638
Secretary	John West	(214) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214) 462-0552
Disk of the Month	Jan Parkhill	(214) 828-2216 h
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 Loanman

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, Texas 75378-0066

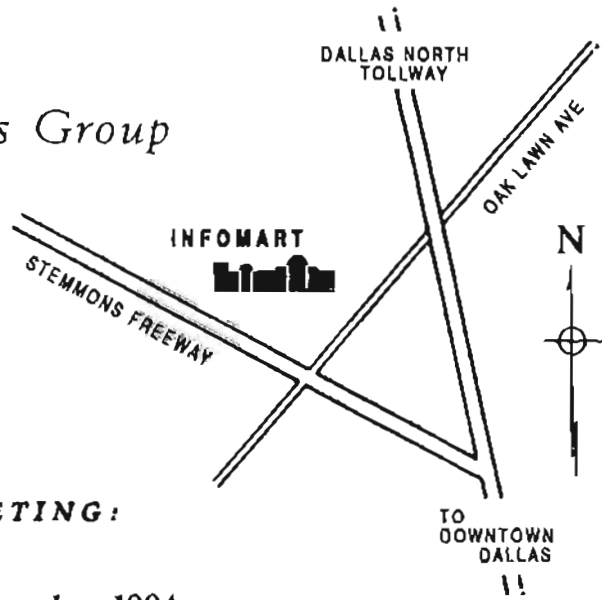
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North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

17 December 1994