North Texas PC NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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 . . .

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

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President	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101 h
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		(214) 960-4215 w
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Phil Chamberlain   Jim Hoisington
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NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROGRAM FOR MARCH . . .   TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

The Nx586 Processor:
RISC Technology with X86 Compatibility
NexGen Microsystems
Dave Hulett, Central Regional Sales Manager

The newest entrant in the x86 processor market, the Nx586 is developed and marketed by NexGen and is manufactured by IBM Microelectronics. The Nx586 began shipping in October and thus is the first alternative 586 class processor. The Nx586 combines RISC technology while achieving compatibility at the binary level with all software written for x86 processors. The Nx586 allows system vendors to offer 586 class power at prices affordable to mainstream computer users. Come see the features and find out where you can get a Nx586 system locally.

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

Ability Windows:
The Perfect Office Suite for Smart People
Ability Plus Software
Melinda Broome

Ability Windows is an office suite consisting of 7 fully integrated modules linked to a library manager. The modules include: word processor, spreadsheet, chart, database, forms, draw, communicate, and library manager. What makes this product unique is its ease of use and its economic price. In addition to the standard Windows Help, Ability provides Quick Tutor and Quickcards. And because the product was designed from the users point of view, key features have been included without the extra cost, all within less than 20 Mb of disk space. There will be a drawing for free products.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

PC-File — Database Management
Doesn't Have to be Difficult
Outlook Software, Dallas, TX
Kenneth Mecca, President and Debbie Loard, Director of Customer Satisfaction

PC-File, which hit the market in 1982 and was one of the first "shareware" products, has brought its users through ten upgrades. Outlook Software which purchased PC-File in mid 1994 has released the long-awaited PC-File for Windows in February of 1995. Outlook Software will demonstrate both versions. Technical people will be on hand to answer any questions, so don't miss this opportunity to learn more about database products. For orders placed at the presentation, expect substantial discounts on all Outlook products. 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 MARCH MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

10:00 - 10:55
BASIC – Classic
CAD

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

11:00 - 11:55
BASIC Programming
– Begining
Assembler
Brother's Keeper Genealogy
CAD (Cont.)
Investors
Micrografx (Cont.)
MS Works
OS/2 — Q & A
Roots III/IV - Genealogy

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

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Desktop Publishing
Health Care Computing
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
Roots III/IV (Cont.)
The Master Genealogist

1:00 - 1:55
Access
ACT!

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

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers
Community Services
North Texas FreeNet
Application Developers
(OLE and ODBC)

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

We'll be 'Early Morning Folks'
If we want to PARK anywhere Close to Infomart in March

I know "real programmers, etc..." don't stir at 7:00 a.m., unless they're just coming to bed, Coke™ and stale Twinkies™ in hand. Members better beat the programmers to Infomart in March and arrive very early — if they want to actually park there for the NTPCUG's March Meeting.

Very Large Crowds Expected At the March Meeting

Another trade show will be going on during our Saturday meeting in March. The HUD Home Buyers Show is expected to draw between 8,000 and 10,000 people. It starts at 8:00 a.m. They will be using some of the rooms on the first floor along the hall that goes to the auditorium. The HUD show will also create quite a parking problem at Infomart for late arrivals and NTPCUG members may want to plan on arriving earlier than usual.

We tried to avoid this conflict but there were no other meeting dates available in March.

DFW Xchange Changes Telephone Numbers

Many of us rely on the green stick-on labels provided by SixB Labels to keep track of the meeting dates of the North Texas PC Users Group. The label also lists the telephone number of DFW Xchange which provides the vendor area downstairs and schedules our dates with INFOMART.

It was necessary for DFWX to change its telephone number in January. Their new number is 214-746-3365. The telephone number for the
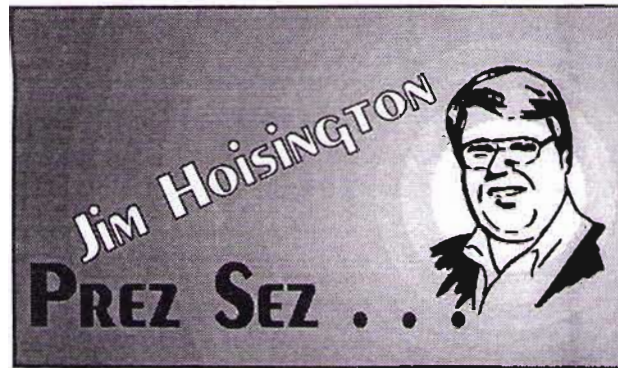
North Texas PC Users Group continues to be 214-746-4699.

Membership

We finished January with 2,175 members. In the past the NTPCUG has always grown through attracting new members with about 35 percent of our existing members choosing not to renew. However, starting about three months ago, more of our members are choosing to renew. The Board of Directors appreciates that. Maybe we're doing something right.

PC News Ads —Another Member Benefit

NTPCUG members have another Club benefit they may not know about. Members get special rates when they place "Business-Card" ads in the newsletter.

Beginning in the March issue of *The PC News*, Business Card advertising rates for NTPCUG members will be reduced further, to almost half the cost for non-members. New rates are: $35 for a single insertion, $75 for three insertions, and, $120 for six insertions.

Members' Professions

You may remember the "PREZ SEZ" column that Andy Oliver did last fall on the professions that our members list on their membership form. One member listed his profession as *"attorney - but reasonable"*. He just renewed his membership. This year his profession is listed as *"attorney - still reasonable."*

Jim Hoisington

Teach Yourself Visual Basic 3.0 in 21 Days

by Jim Carter

THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER
by JIM CARTER

For some time now, folks have been asking my opinion of this book by Nathan and Ori Gurewich. I had not purchased any of the "Teach Yourself ... in 21 Days" books. I had tried to purchase a copy of the book on my periodic visits to my favorite bookstore, but they were always out of stock when I was there.

Well, I finally found a copy of *Teach Yourself Visual Basic 3.0 in 21 Days* and my in-store browse convinced me it would be a worthwhile addition to my library and a worthy candidate for review in this column.

Teach Yourself Visual Basic 3.0 in 21 Days appears to be an excellent book for programmers with no experience in Visual Basic. It deals with the *Standard Edition of Visual Basic 3.0* until the last day (Chapter 21: Sound and Multimedia) when it requires the MCI.VBX control from the Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0.

The example programs presented by the authors are excellent. The authors suggest that some readers will be able to complete the book in less than 21 days. I expect that this will be a very individual thing, depending on the amount of experience in programming, especially Windows programming.

The authors include a quiz and several exercises at the end of each day (chapter) with answers in the book to measure effectiveness of progress. The quiz asks questions about sample code; the exercises generally ask the reader to create some code to accomplish a specific task.

There is a companion disk available for $10 but I have not purchased it. I believe in expanding the learning experiences through debugging the typos introduced into the code.

(Teach Yourself Visual Basic 3.0 in 21 Days by Nathan and Ori Gurewich. Copyright 1993 by Sams Publishing, 968 pages, ISBN 0-672-30378-7. $29.95 Companion disk $10.00)

Teach Yourself More Visual Basic 3 in 21 Days

I spied this book while browsing the book reviewed above. While I bought both at the same time, I have not been able to spend as much time with it. As you must expect, this book is a sequel to the original. The author, Paul Perry, includes the fundamentals of *Visual Basic 3.0* in the first day of his 21 days then launches into the controls that are a part of the *Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0*.

Clearly, the thrust of *Teach Yourself More Visual Basic 3 in 21 Days* is to describe the features of the *Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0*. The programming examples are generally more complex and the discussion is more detailed.

In addition to the controls provided by the *Professional Edition of Visual Basic 3.0*, author Paul Perry has included chapters on third-party controls, communications applications, debugging and error handling, building Windows help files, and writing your own VBXs. Each chapter (day) concludes with a workshop that generally includes a quiz and several exercises similar to the original book. The answers are included in the book to permit progress evaluation.

As before, the amount of time required to complete the "21 days" will depend on the type and amount of experience in programming for the Windows environment. This book appears to be an excellent choice for a Visual Basic programmer to take his skill set to the next level.

(Teach Yourself More Visual Basic 3.0 in 21 Days by Paul Perry. Copyright 1994 by Sams Publishing, 592 pages, ISBN 0-672-30495-3. $35.00 including companion disk)

Jim Carter

If this reminds you

of the back of

your computer,

clean up your act.
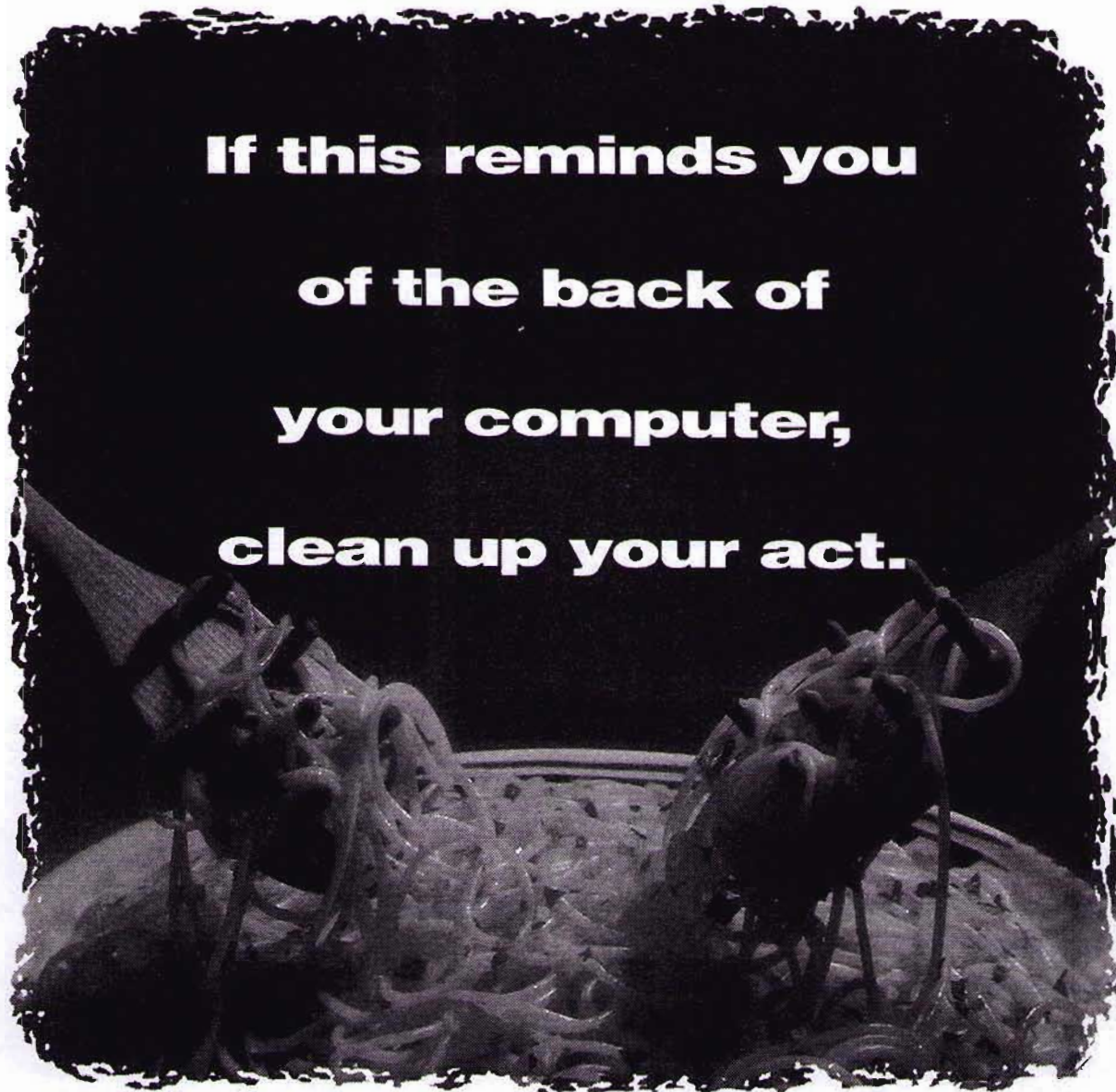
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Two Views of Intuit's *TurboTax* for 1994 taxes — And a Caution for

NORTH TEXAS PC REVIEWS . . .

TurboTax for Tax Year 1994, V 94.0 for Windows

Tax time is coming up once again for most of us, and now is the time to get organized. TurboTax V94.0 for Windows, from Intuit, is one of the best known tax preparation software packages available. For those who use Quicken 4.0 for Windows for their daily accounting, TurboTax can directly import your personal and financial data using its Tax-Link feature. The version of EasyTax reviewed here is the HeadStart version, which does not have the final official IRS forms and some features (such as Electronic Filing) which are included in the Final Version.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: This program requires Microsoft Windows 3.1, 4 Mb of RAM minimum, 15 Mb of available hard disk space, one floppy disk drive (3.5" DD or HD, or 5.25" HD), a VGA monitor or better, and a printer (most 9-pin or 24-pin IBM or Epson compatibles, HP DeskJet compatibles, PostScript compatibles, and HP LaserJet Series II or better compatibles will work).

Installation is quick and easy with the 4 HD 3.5" installation disks, taking only 5 minutes on a 486DX2-66 system. A Quick Start card is included which has easy instructions for installing and immediately using TurboTax, for those too impatient to read the 102-page manual. Documentation is very well-structured and well-indexed, and the online Help is extensive. The program has a very polished GUI screen with classy shading effects and mellow colors.

You can start using TurboTax immediately with the EasyStep method, which guides you gently through the data entry process with plain English questions. It helps you enter information directly from your W2 and 1099 forms. IRS jargon is included as well, which you can click on for further definitions. You can also click on the context-sensitive Tax Help button for further information, which is quite extensive. The SmartAudit and Tax Advisor features ask you important questions based upon your data and warns you of possible problems and IRS audit flags.

TurboTax
The Easiest Way To Do Your Taxes

User Manual — WINDOWS

You can jump to the Forms method when you get more familiar with the program, allowing you to pull up specific forms for more detailed work. Over 70 forms and an even greater number of worksheets are included in the Final Version. For most people, all the required forms are included. You can jump from one form or worksheet window to another easily and can even iconize the forms in use.

Every one of the numerous forms and worksheets can be printed out at any time, and they printed well on both Epson 9-pin and HP LaserJet III printers. The Intuit folks included a Windows driver for the HP LaserJet III which is required to work around a glitch encountered with the standard Windows printer driver.

The Uninstall feature works fairly well, deleting all the EasyTax program and data files from the \TAX94 subdirectory where it is installed. It does leave the empty \TAX94 subdirectory and Windows Group intact, but these are easily deleted manually. It deletes all of its fonts from the \WINDOWS\SYSTEM subdirectory, but leaves a few updated driver files.

WARNING: As with all tax preparation programs, you should manually check the completed forms, calculated and table lookup data, and instructions provided by the IRS. Use this program for getting organized, doing preliminary calculations, and trying various deduction schemes. The IRS will not accept any program errors as valid excuses for mistakes.

Overall, TurboTax can greatly ease the process of organizing and cataloging your income tax records, whether filing on your own or passing it on to a CPA. It will prompt you about many important details and check your math, and can make the process of understanding the tax rules much less painful.

Timothy Carmichael

TurboTax Multimedia -
1994 Tax Year

TurboTax Multimedia is not just a tax preparation software program. It includes an easy step by step process that incorporates video of Marshal Loeb and Mary Sprouse to help guide you through completing the tax forms, the *Money Magazine Income Tax Handbook*, IRS publications, links for Quicken users, electronic filing (final version only), and more. You can also go directly to the tax forms to enter the information.

The version that I reviewed is called the HeadStart version and is not the final version. This essentially means that filable tax forms are not included in the HeadStart version. One reason that it may not print filable forms is that as of the publishing date, the IRS had not "approved" the forms printed by TurboTax.

One comment that must be made regarding all tax preparation software programs is that you, the

North Texas PC Reviews . . .

taxpayer, are responsible for tracking your income and expenses as well as filing and paying your taxes. The simple statement "but I used a computer-based program" is not going to help you avoid penalties or interest if you ever get audited by the IRS. While tax preparation programs may help answer many tax questions, all programs include disclaimers.

The test machine was a 486, 33MHz computer with 8M of RAM, Multimedia PC (MPC) compatible. Installation was quick and easy and required approximately 15M of hard disk space - no disks to swap out of a drive (nice). It also installed Video For Windows version 1.1 so that it can run the videos. Also included is an Uninstall program. I have not tried it as yet, but the manual indicates that it removes everything except your data files, system file, and special fonts.

Prior to receiving the program, I had already organized all of my tax information. I had already figured out what my tax position was, and that I was going to get a small refund. Having said all of that, I could have gone right to the tax forms to input and enter information directly. However, I decided to use the Easy Step feature which walks you through the whole process.

Easy Step starts with a brief video introduction by Marshal Loeb (Editor-at-Large at *Fortune* magazine) and Mary Sprouse (lawyer, and formerly with the IRS as an audit group manager). Additional videos are available in the Easy Step process. The videos

are informative and made the data input process a little easier. The Easy Step process can also import Quicken data. I tried to use the import feature, but I have not gotten around to installing Quicken 4 for Windows currently on my shelf. So I started the interview.

The interview methodically walks you through income and expenses. Throughout the whole process you have access to a calculator, a tax summary, and help. The interview certainly goes much quicker if you have all of your tax information in one place. You enter personal information including phone numbers that are not required for the tax forms but may be required for electronic filing. The interview walks you through wages reported to you in W-2 forms and 1099 forms.

∴Intuit·

For better documentation in TurboTax, you are prompted to enter all of the information including name, address, and Tax ID of the payer, which is not needed to just file your return. However, the information does make the forms, and worksheets printed by Turbo-Tax much easier to read, and understand. When the interview came to deductions, the only information I appeared to be missing was a tax ID number for a company and I made a note to call and get it. I reviewed the information in the "Forms" environment and made a few changes.

When everything was said and done about two hours later (in-

Sometimes, You Wouldn't Believe What Goes On In The Computer Industry

A tale of an errant server and inaccesible help

by Andy Oliver

Case 1: My company purchased 150 AST computers with Microsoft Windows pre-loaded. We had a question about how to add printers to the list of available printers, so we called Microsoft. Guess what? They said we have to call AST to get support on Microsoft Windows, unless we have at least one copy of Windows that was purchased at retail.

Case 2: Another purchase was a Compaq Prosignia Pentium file server with 48MB of RAM memory, a CD-ROM, and a 3-1/2" floppy, from Microtech, an authorized Compaq dealer. We also purchased 2 EISA 3COM Ethernet adapters, 2 PCI Adaptec SCSI hard drive controllers, and 2 four-gigabyte Micropolis hard disk· drives. An attempt to install the hard drives brought the realization that we needed special plas-

tic drive mounting rails for use in the Compaq. Guess what? Compaq will sell us the file server, but not the 75-cent disk drive mounting rails. Our dealer found a third party for these little pieces of plastic.

Case 3: Same Compaq Prosignia file server. The drives will not come up. We call Compaq and are told that they will not support us because the drives are not Compaq drives. Upon pressing them, Compaq support says for $175 they will help us, and not charge us if they can't fix the problem. We do not opt for the support ransom. So we discuss the problem with Micropolis and Adaptec. Guess what? We come to the conclusion that the Compaq PCI bus does not support bus mastering. We try the same cards and drives in a Microtech PCI-bus EISA P90 server, and they work correctly. Microtech concedes to Compaq that we will buy Compaq SCSI controllers and Compaq hard disk drives. Well you guessed it, Compaq does not make a PCI SCSI controller (they know it won't work), nor do they make 4GB SCSI drives. They get their server back, and we buy the Microtech server.

There are no perfect companies in the hardware or software business. All I ask is that if I buy a product with Microsoft's name on it, Microsoft should answer my questions about it; if Compaq does not sell the configuration that I want and I buy their server, they should tell me that their hardware doesn't comply with industry standards.

Andy Oliver

TurboTax Multimedia... Ctd.

cluding installation), TurboTax came back with the same tax refund that I came up with except that it was rounded to the nearest dollar and would short me 42 cents. The printout included forms 1040, Schedules A and B, and a host of worksheets of the information that I entered - 21 pages in total, but nothing filable.

All in all, I was very impressed with the input process except that I think that I have to file form 2441 for Child and Dependent Care Expenses, but some required inputs were not included in the interview. But perhaps they will be added when the "final" version arrives.

Next, I was going to input information for a company that I am Treasurer of even though the tax return has already been prepared and filed. However, TurboTax Multimedia did not appear to support corporate returns on forms 1120 and/or 1120A.

The other elements of the program included are IRS publications and the *Money Magazine Income Tax Handbook*. These include

a lot of information regarding the tax code and could help taxpayers better figure out their tax position. While potentially very helpful, nothing can replace the advice and interpretation of a qualified tax preparer.
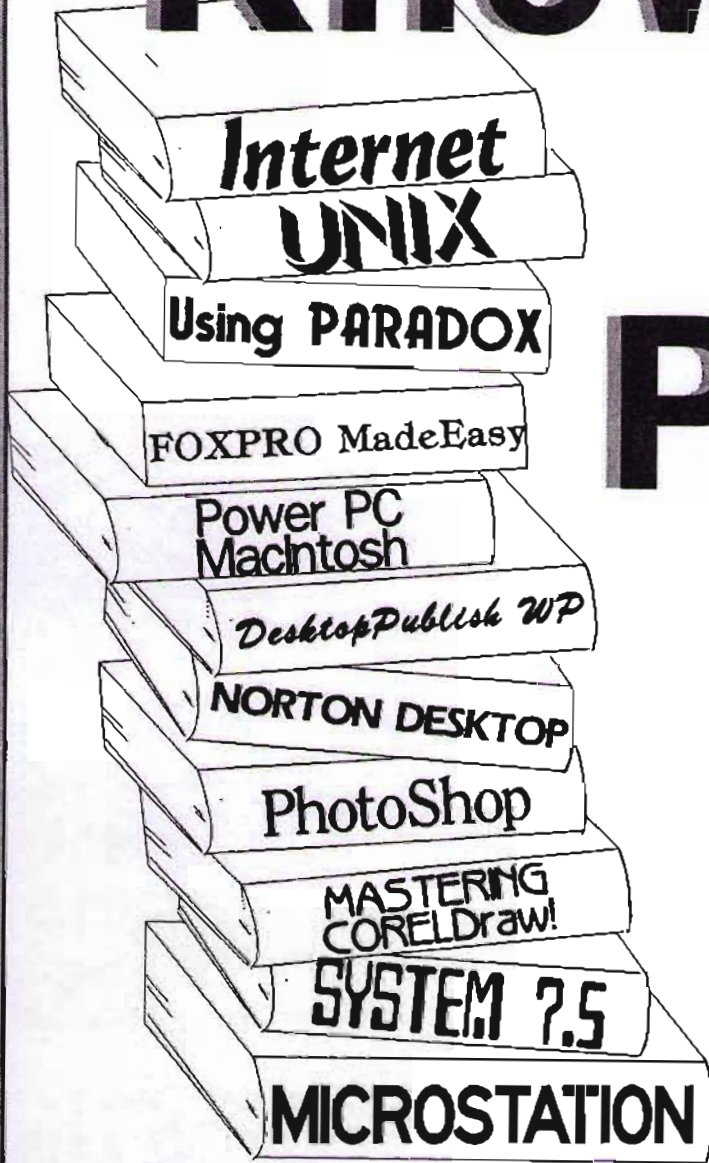
Mark Gruner
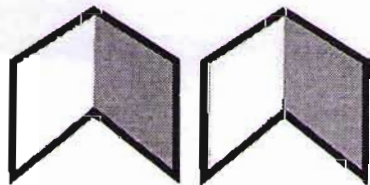
THE VARIETY STORE

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

Won't we ever hear the end of the "Microsoft v. Everybody" saga? — Road goes on forever

Last version of *OS/2* for the Intel x-86?

Microsoft and the Department of Justice (DOJ) will appeal Judge Stanley Sporkin's decision in early March. That's news? Knew that would happen, but wasn't expecting all the furor late in the game from another player, Apple, who sent the good judge a number of papers alleging that Microsoft used "strong-arm" tactics in talks/negotiations with Apple.

Apple was a new and very late entrant to the game, though. Reminds me of the scene in *From Russia with Love* (absolute best of the Sean Connery "James Bond" flicks) where Rosa Klebb (Lotte Lenya) is looking at two Siamese Fighting Fish and the SPECTRE head describes a scenario where a third fish will hang off to the side and then pounce on the exhausted winner of the original fight.

Apple's Supreme Court loss Behind attack on Microsoft So late in the game?

Apple must be hurting after its bid for "Supreme Court" justice was denied by a wiser body in February. Still remember all the smirks when media pundits "estimated" in 1991 that Apple would gouge Microsoft for a minimum of $800 million in the ill-fated attempt.

This really is beginning to have the appearance of a bunch of lampreys — the blood-sucking eels that feed off other fishes — circling around Microsoft looking for some left-over food. Think I like the "sharks at a feeding frenzy" metaphor even better.

MS & Gates as 'victims'?

Problem here is that Microsoft and Bill Gates don't fit well into the role of "victim" or "loser." No matter how hard I stretch, those words won't work in this story.

If I were Apple Computer Company and had made some of the re-

ally arrogant and stupid blunders the Cupertino, CA,-based company has grown famous for, think I'd walk a little more softly — and definitely not try for a "free kick" at Microsoft.

Microsoft software kept Macintosh alive in 1984

Only reason Apple is still in the game is "luck" when Microsoft decided to support the new (1984) Macintosh platform with real software. (Please, don't give me all that garbage about a "great" operating system concept — Apple thought users would flock to an overpriced machine without enough memory to run any real application — then be grateful to pay Apple three or four times the street price for "Apple-approved" DRAM as a result of their warranty policy.) Even IBM didn't have this kind of arrogance toward their users/owners.

At any rate, Sporkin is Apple's kind of guy — he reads one book and he's an expert. Question is, has he read about the folks who

have been submitting all those "anonymous" tidbits of fact/opinion/bias? Best bet would be "no."

Last thought/interpretation for this matter: "If I do it to you — that's just good business, but if you do it to me — that's monopolistic bullying...."

Dismaying speculations...
Media conjecture viz.
OS/2's X-86 future

Rumors, rumors, rumors. Saw a blurb in Cringely's *Infoworld* column about IBM's plans for OS/2's future on the Intel platform that's a little disturbing, if I understood it

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SCHEDULE OF COMING MS/DOJ EVENTS

Coming Microsoft/DOJ/Intuit activities — taken from February 27 issue of *PC Week.*

☐ March 7 — Opening briefs in appeal due from Microsoft and DOJ

☐ March 31 — Opposing briefs from third parties

☐ April 7 — responses to opposing briefs due from Microsoft and DOJ

☐ April 10 — Intuit shareholders scheduled to vote on acquisition by Microsoft (May be delayed because of above)

☐ April 24 — Oral arguments in appeal scheduled to begin

☐ April 30 — Intuit or Microsoft can walk away from the acquisition plan or extend the escape clause to Aug. 29

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correctly. Seems Cringeley heard rumors that 3.0 will be the last Intel-based version of the OS.

After all this hype about IBM's pushing OS/2 3.0 as the real OS of the future for the X-86, seems a little strange. Or does it? IBM is notorious for an on again - off again love affair with OS/2 and this does make some sense in the announced departure of James Cannavino, last of the old-line, hard-core IBM exec's. May set IBM back a little though.

Cringely's column implied that IBM would focus all its OS resources (PC) on the emerging *Power PC* RISC-based CPU standard and forsake the X-86 standard that accounts for approximately 50 million units in service at this time. In marketing terms that means abandoning 85% of the OS market in hopes that 15% will grow like crazy.

Question here is the market itself — is it a *Power PC* market, or (more likely) an *Apple-based, Power PC*-powered market that will opt for the Apple OS over OS/2?

Dark clouds over Borland
Low $$ endanger future
Will *Delphi* save the day?

The Wall Street Journal may be a bit premature in announcing this, but may not be "off" in their speculations. *WSJ* reported in early March that Borland's cash reserves were at the $47 million level. Sounds like a lot of money to most of us.

However, *WSJ* pointed out that Borland did lose the suit(s) with Lotus, and the cash awards to Lotus were estimated in the $120 million range at the time the Lotus victory was announced. That throws quite a wet blanket over any hopes that Borland could be an attractive merger/buyout target/partner in the near future. According to the

article, Borland is appealing the judgement in Lotus' favor, but hasn't posted the requisite appeal bond.

Borland may be banking on *Delphi95* to turn the troubled company's fortunes around. Members (300+) who came to see Borland show *Delphi* at the March 4, Infomart demo seemed excited about the product. Also, getting more than 300 people to come to Infomart on an "off" Saturday indicates there's a lot of interest out there — if Borland can hold on until sales take off.

Lotus may "own" Borland

Borland's failure to post the appeal bond may have already decided the matter. Lotus could become the single largest creditor at any bankruptcy proceeding, and in effect, "own" any significant Borland assets. Where this would leave *Paradox, dBASE IV*, and *Delphi95* is anybody's guess.

My problem with this is that Borland has consistently been one of the PCUG "friendlier" companies , and one of the few companies that had any real feeling for "style." Borland has always had a swaggering, aggressive, presence that exuded a sense of dynamism peculiar to the West.

Reagan Andrews

Adobe's new *Adobe Type Manager 3.0* super and honed for networked *Windows 3.x* users

Sometimes you need a big kick in the rear to realize the special nature of something you take for granted. Adobe's *Adobe Type Manager 3.0* (*ATM 3.0*) brings out one of those times.

I use ATM every day — it loads automatically whenever I start *Windows*, does its job and goes mostly ignored. That's a compliment, since I can ignore it because it works very, very well and doesn't do anything to get my attention.

With release 3.0 of ATM, things got even better. Adobe is proudest of their Multiple Master Fonts and they are nothing short of miraculous. But, I'm proudest of being able to use ATM across the peer-to-peer network at the office. Any

user on the network can access a central font directory and print documents to their printer, or a networked printer, without having to assure their PC has the necessary fonts installed.

It doesn't matter what kind of printer, laser or dot-matrix, it will print the document with appropriate fonts appearing in the finished output.

About those Multiple Master Fonts, and "instancing," a real font addict will go into Nirvana with possibility of creating an infinite number of type faces controlling the weight, width and other aspects of the type's appearance in print. Adobe's *Tekton* is the face usually supplied with *ATM 3.0* and users may have a lot of fun "playing" with various "instances" they can produce with the new package.

There's an important issue for users here. Although the installation is typically quite easily accomplished, users would be advised to read the *ATM 3.0 Manual, Release Notes* and *Technical Reference Guide* included with the upgrade package. You'll have to print the latter
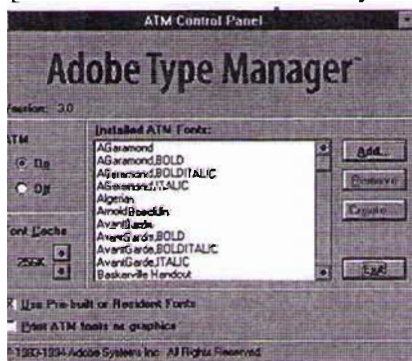
Adobe *Photoshop 3.0 for Windows* — Still top choice In professional digital image manipulation on PC's

I was able to obtain a copy of Adobe's *Photoshop 3.0* for review at Comdex in November and have been cursing Adobe's Rye Livingston ever since.

Reason for the profanity is time.

Adobe's *Photoshop 3.0 for Windows* is an awesome package. It has power to do almost anything the image-worker could imagine, much less use. Such power doesn't come cheaply with a suggested retail price of $895.00. Money isn't the only "price" though — the user has to learn how to harness and use it and that takes time.

Old hands with the Macintosh version assure me I can get over the learning curve and I believe them. PC users familiar with the earlier version of Photoshop for Windows assure me that the interface has been streamlined and made more intuitive and I'm lucky to be starting with this version.

Installation and setup

I was lucky. Adobe sent me the CD/ROM version of *Photoshop 3.0 for Windows*. The package also included a copy of the Adobe *Type on Call 4.0* CD/ROM — a dangerous addition in the hands of a certified

ATM 3.0... Ctd.

doc's yourself since they only exist on the installation disks. In the process, you'll learn a lot about controlling your printer in Windows. Solutions to frequent user problems and questions are contained in the doc's with explanation of workarounds and need for "tuning" Windows to make everything work seamlessly.

I won't quote a price for the upgrade since it seems to vary considerably from the $29.95 I paid. Also, Adobe (and other vendors) routinely ship the latest version of ATM with their graphics packages.

Etoine Shrdlu

type-junkie — and *Adobe Type Manager 3.0*.

Included on the CD/ROM is a very good Photoshop tutorial. There's also a good tutorial on the floppy disk-based version, but not at extensive or exhaustive as on the CD/ROM.

My nerves begin twitching when I receive software via CD/ROM since I've become accustomed to seeing hard disk space eaten voraciously by new program groups taking more than 50 M of disk space before they're through installing. Not to worry. Adobe is a real miser in terms of Windows applications and only took 7.8 M of space on the hard disk.

You'll need power for *Photoshop*

I did read the box warnings about amount of PC-muscle needed to run the software and installed on a machine with a 486DX266 with 32M DRAM, VL video accelerator card and roughly 100 M free disk space among four volumes.

Adobe suggests a minimum of a 486DX33 with 10 M DRAM on the box. When you read the documentation *inside* the box, DRAM seems to begin at 32 M and 64 M is suggested by Adobe. I think this may have been a "leftover" from either the Macintosh, *UNIX* or *Windows NT* documentation, though.

What's new in 3.0?

32-bit operation, the Filter Factory and Layers. Drawing on the WIN32S subsystem, Photoshop 3.0 is now a 32-bit application. Adobe also has incorporated multiple layer, Alpha channel capabilities to images in this version, and has also reworked some of the program's real

and virtual memory handling. This last caught me by surprise. Adobe gets around the DRAM squeeze by use of virtual memory, Scratch Disk operation.

Photoshop's real power is filters
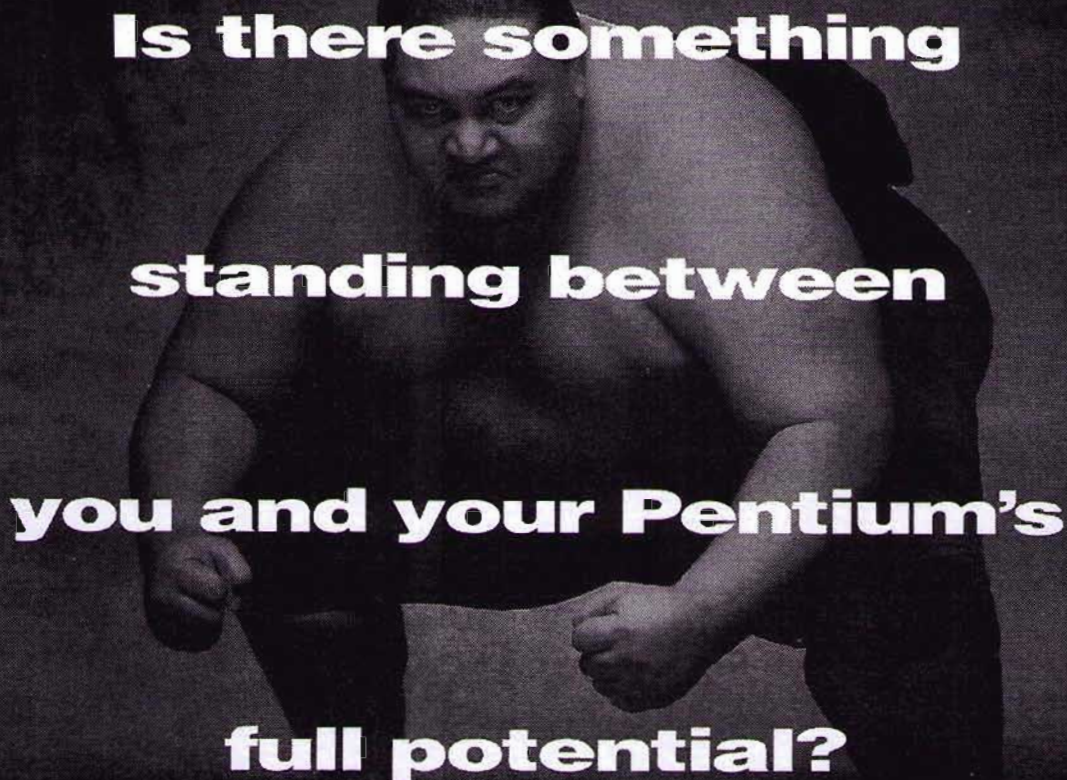
Filters are the image power in Photoshop. The really amazing effects are accomplished with filters and masks, and this will be the user's first hurdle. I'd sugest anyone using Photoshop obtain a copy of Bill Niffenegger's book, *Photoshop Filter Finesse*, published by Random House. I picked up a copy at the HSC booth at Comdex while looking at another HSC product, *Kai's Power Filters*. There isn't room to go into filter application here — nor can *The PC News'* usual production methods display their power, yet.

Conspicuous excess...

Photoshop has so much power, the "typical" user may be overwhelmed. The learning curve is as awesome as advertized, and I'm still plowing my way through the "basics." Do I like it — Yes. Would I recommend it to the casual user — No. There are other, less capable, products much better-suited to the casual user who may be able to accomplish what they need with less pain. But, for the power graphics user, *Photoshop 3.0* is the top product available for the PC platform.

Reagan Andrews

Is there something standing between you and your Pentium's full potential?

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>
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> — PC Magazine, 6/28/94 "The Perfect PC"

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Disks of the Month (DOM) for February

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

Disks of the Month released at the February Meeting

Disk 945. VirusScan and VShield 2.14E, 1/11/95 — McAfee's Virus Protection, McAfee Inc., 2710 Walsh Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95051-0963. (408) 988-3832 Office, 970-9727 Fax, 988-4004 BBS, CompuServe: GO MCAFEE, Internet Support @mcafee.COM, America On-line: VIRUSSCAN MCAFEE. REGISTRATION FEE = $25.

Scans and checks floppy, hard, CD-ROM, and compressed (SuperStor, Stacker, Doublespace, etc.) disks on both stand-alone and net-worked PC's as well as network file servers for pre-existing infections of known and unknown viruses, and disinfects all common viruses (file, boot sector, partition table infectors) with options to overwrite and delete infected files.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS = SCAN requires 390Kb of free RAM and DOS 3.0 or above.

VSHIELD Infection Blocker Version 214E REGISTRATION FEE = $25

When VSHIELD first loads, it will search for known com-

puter viruses in memory, the partition table, boot sector, system files, and finally itself. Then it installs itself as a memory resident program to monitor program loads on all drives, scanning all programs before allowing the system to execute them. Prevents known viruses from becoming resident or spreading on systems.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Ken Loafman.

This README prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Will Davis.

Disk 946. VirusScan, Windows/OS2 2.14E, 1/11/95 — McAfee's Virus Protection

VirusScan for Windows and VirusScan for OS/2 2.14E, McAfee Inc., 2710 Walsh Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95051-0963, (408) 988-3832 Office, 970-9727 Fax, 988-4004 BBS, CompuServe: GO MCAFEE, Internet Support @mcafee.COM, America On-line: MCAFEE.

WSC-214E.ZIP (VirusScan for Windows Version 214E) REGISTRATION FEE = $25.

Scans and checks floppy, hard, CD-ROM, and compressed (SuperStor, Stacker, Doublespace, etc.) disks on both stand-alone and net-worked PC's as well as network file servers for pre-existing infections of known and unknown viruses; and disinfects all common viruses (file, boot sector, partition table infectors) with options to overwrite and delete infected files.


by Jan Parkhill

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS = WSCAN requires Windows.

OSC-214E.ZIP (VirusScan for OS/2 214E) REGISTRATION FEE = $35 (Does not include VirusScan).

Scans and checks floppy, hard, CD-ROM, and compressed (SuperStor, Stacker, Doublespace, etc.) disks on both stand-alone and net-worked PC's as well as network file servers for pre-existing infections of known and unknown viruses, and disinfects all common viruses (file, boot sector, partition table infectors) with options to overwrite and delete infected files.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS = WSCAN requires Windows.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Ken Loafman.
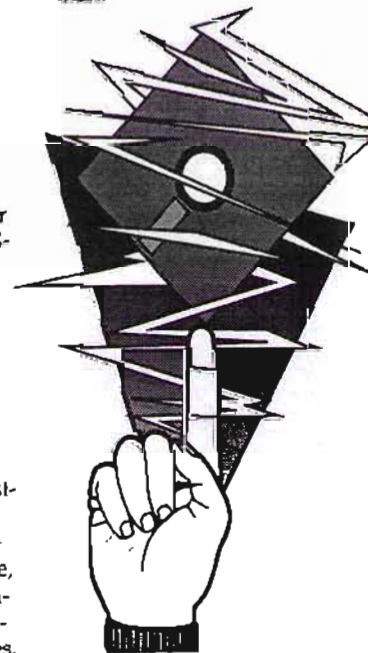
Top Twenty DOM Disks

Want to know what's hot? These are the 20 most popular NTPCUG DOM Library disks - as of February 18, 1995.

923.	*IconMaster 1.2d*
904.	*MicroSoft Diagnostic Utility 2.11*
905.	*SYSCHK 2.4 — Diagnostics*
902.	*PC Magazine Utilities 94, May-Sep*
908.	*ViruScan and Vshield 2.12E*
929.	*WHATPORT 4.0, 10/91*
933.	*WinZip 5.0, 1/94*
930.	*FIXTIME 1.1, 3/94*
891.	*Beginners Guide to Internet 1.0*
932.	*DCOPY 2.0, 3/93*
931.	*SLEEP 3.02, 1/94*
909.	*ViruScan for Windows & OS/2 2.12E*
907.	*The Constitution Notebook*
903 A	*ButtonFile 1.0, Disk 1 of 2*
921.	*Rockford! 3.0*
903 B.	*ButtonFile 1.0, Disk 2 of 2*
906.	*CD Index*
917.	*POW110*
941.	*Wintune 2.0, 12/94*
911.	*Color View 2.53*

DOM DISKS
...Continued

Disk 947. Pea-ESP! 2.0, 10/94 — A game based on ESP experiments by Russ Prymak, Prymak Associates, Inc., 9 Campbell Road, Wayland, MA 01778, (508) 358-4484. Shareware Fee: Author will PAY a fee for completed studies based on your game results and returned to him.

Pea-ESP! takes a game approach to educating people about Extra Sensory Perception (ESP), provides a fun game for "checking for ESP talent", learning about the "clumpiness" of random phenomena and finally allows registered users to qualify for and participate in a nationwide ESP experiment. The author offers to submit escalating sums of cash for test results submitted indicating varying numbers of games have been experimented with.

The author says this game is for anyone four years or older, but the required reading seems best suited for junior high or high school students and up.

System requirements: DOS based systems, VGA monitor, 1.7 Meg of hard disk space.

Disk 948ABC. Arts & Letters Draw LITE 2.0, 8/94 — Drawing program for Windows, Computer Support Corporation, 15926 Midway Road, Dallas, Texas 75244, Tel: 214-661-8960, FAX: 214-661-5429. Shareware Fee: $25.00 including free Clip-Art $50.00 for Arts & Letters EXPRESS.

ARTS & LETTERS for Windows is a familiar name in the computer users world. Now they have issued a Draw LITE shareware version of their acclaimed drawing program to let you better feel how it is to use their product. This program has been acclaimed by many to be the easiest and friendliest to use, complete with clip art and symbols to make your designing easier and to provide you with a more professional finished product. This version includes the new Clip-Art Manager (library) that allows easy selection of the different art you may want to include in your art work. The real version has 10,000 clip-art objects for you to use.

This is a very good program, with many extra features that really make a difference in the quality of drawings that can be produced by even an amateur or beginning artist.

Disk 949AB. TELIX for Windows 1.01a, 10/94 — Communications program, delta-COMM Development, PO Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Shareware Fee: $99.00 plus $10 S&H.

Modem users have been using TELIX communications software for many years with great success. You need a dependable software to operate your modem and that is configurable for all the demands you will put on your modem usage.

Telix offers SALT script language programming, SIMPLE simplified script language for those not versed in programming and the HOSTPlus program for emulating and setting up a small BBS on your own system. No other communications software offers so much in one package. Now this fine Telix product has finally become available in a Windows version.

Telix for Windows includes support for over 450 models of modems, cost calculation and phone bill estimation, VT-220, WYSE-75, and full ANSI X3.64 terminal emulation in fully resizable windows, color scrollback, script recorder, built-in editor and much more! Version 1.01a is the newest bug-fix release for v1.00 errors.

System Requirements: 386 IBM compatible running Windows 3.1 or later, 4 MEG RAM minimum, 3 MEG Hard Disk Space, EGA monitor or better, 16550 UART.

Disk 950. UN4WIN 1.5, 7/93 — DOS or Windows based uninstaller for Windows, It's Your Money, Inc , 3 Floyd Drive, Mount Arlington, NJ 07856, Tel: 201-663-4577. Shareware Fee: $19.00.

A shareware program designed to help you do a dirty job easily. When Windows programs are installed, it involves much more than the DOS installations that tamper with your Config.Sys and Autoexec.Bat files. With a Windows program install, you have changes made not only in the directory you select for the program files but changes also happen in the \Windows and \Windows\System directories, Win.ini and System.ini files and so on and so on.

This makes a nightmare when you decide you no longer want to keep that program on your hard disk and want to remove all vestiges of the program at one time. There is so much to find, recognize and identify as a part of your program that it becomes almost impossible to clean up your hard disk. Many old files and system changes still exist on hard drives because we simply didn't know to look for all the "remnants" of old programs to remove.

Now, you can use a simple five step shareware program that will help you remove all the Windows applications from your system. This is the way it should be.

System requirements: DOS 3.x, Windows 3.x, 386 SX or better IBM compatible system.

Disk 951. TELIX Utility Pack — RECORD 2.1, PICKUP 1.0 and MODEMCFG 3.22, Mark Harrison, 6676 Robinson School Rd., New Athens, IL 62264, FidoNet: Telix Users, FidoNet: 1:2250/23. Shareware fee: $10.00 for PICKUP 1.0, $10.00 for RECORD 2.1.

This disk is put together by the NTPCUG as utility packet for TELIX communications software users. There are three programs included:

RECORD 2.1 - A utility script written to assist the average user who does not do programming in the SALT script language. RECORD will watch every keystroke you make and record those steps so you will log on the next time without all the keystrokes or mistakes. Life is too short...try this out.

PICKUP 1.0 - A utility script written that will allow you to set a time, like late at night, to perform mail runs or unattended uploads with a user supplied script. You can do uploads and downloads, perform DOS commands without shell to DOS, file viewer, file

size displayed in PICK list plus much more.

MODEMCFG 3.22 - A newer expanded version of TELIX's modem configuration helper to be sure your modem is configured best for use with TELIX when you log on the next time. If you have older versions of TELIX, this is a worthwhile upgrade for your comm software package.

System requirements: Any system running TELIX 3.xx or better.

Shareware submitted by NTPCUG member Gary Kauper.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Will Davis.

Disk 952. NETSCAPE 1.0N — Windows World Wide Web Browser for Internet, Netscape Communications Corporation, 501 E. Middlefield Road, Mountain View,

CA 94043, Tel: (415) 254-1900. Shareware fee: Free for evaluation.

Netscape is a World Wide Web (WWW) browser that supports Point and Click access to the 10,000 WWW servers worldwide. Its forte is its ease of use, eliminating the need to enter long and archaic address schemes. And with its hypertext links, you can click on highlighted pointers in a WWW document to dynamically branch to other documents on the same or different server. Netscape also supports FTP, TELNET and Usenet NEWS access, plus can be used to generate e-mail. Netscape even comes with a number of "starting points" predefined, so you can be online in minutes.

Using Netscape requires some form of "direct" connection to the Internet, and Microsoft Windows. For most, that

DOM DISKS ...Continued

means acquiring a PPP or SLIP connection through a local or national Internet Service Provider (ISP). Check with your provider if you are uncertain about SLIP or PPP connectivity.

Interesting locations can be saved in Netscape's Bookmarks area, and a Preferences option lets you personalize it where needed. HELP for Netscape is derived by using predefined hypertext links under the HELP option. However, use of HELP requires that you be on-line at the time. You can view the help on-line or print it to your printer. Alternately, Netscape lets you save any displayed

documents using FILE, SAVE AS .... Once saved, you can read them from within Netscape just as if you were on-line.

System requirements: Any 386 or better system running Windows 3.1 and an internet connection; either direct or via PPP or SLIP protocol to a provider. Modem should support 14,400 bps or better.

Shareware downloaded from Netscape's FTP server by Doug Gorrie.

This README prepared by Doug Gorrie, edited by Will Davis.

On Complexity
No. 76 in a Series

Question: "What's worse than having no backup at all?" Answer: "Thinking you have a backup!"

It isn't supposed to be this complex. Backing up a non-preemptive, non-multithreaded, non-protected mode, non-multiuser, non-intuitive, non-32 bit operating system like DOS should not require this much knowledge and planning. If you don't know what I'm talking about, then you haven't tried to back up and restore your data using the backup software that comes with the current versions of DOS.

For many years DOS came with two programs *BACKUP* and *RESTORE*. This pair of programs were difficult and dangerous to use. They were so bad that they created a strong market for third party data backup software. With the advent of MS-DOS 6.0, Microsoft included a program called *MSBACKUP* which was supposed to improve the situation. It had a

much better interface which made it a lot easier to use. It backed up files reliably. IBM also included *MSBACKUP* with their IBM DOS.

But, *MSBACKUP* included a little known gotcha! It changed the backed up file format with each new release of MS-DOS 6.0 and uses a different file format from the *MSBACKUP* contained in IBM-DOS 6.0. It backs up files fine but there is a real *surprise* when you go to restore your files. If you have upgraded your DOS or you are trying to restore you files on a computer that is running a different version or sub-version of DOS 6.0, you won't be able to restore your data.

The messages with each combination of *MSBACKUPs* are different but the results are the same. You can't get there from here! *Windows AD* is even more annoying (*AD* stands for *After Debugging*. The product used to be called *Windows*

On Complexity
by Jim Hoisington

95). It tells you exactly which version of *MSBACKUP* was used to back up the data and then it refuses to restore your data.

The only way to insure that you can restore your data is to make a bootable diskette for the peculiar version of DOS that you are using and then put that version's *MSBACKUP* on the diskette. Otherwise, all the work you are doing to back up your data is worthless.

Did things get better or worse when the vendors of DOS *improved* their backup and restore software in DOS?

Jim Hoisington

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

Frank McCoy, who's been Assistant SIG Leader of the Access SIG since we began in April of 1993, will speak at our March meeting. Frank is Magnetic Resonance Imaging Manager for a medical provider, not a software developer by trade. His company needed an application to support their business, so Frank learned Access, determined the needs of the business, and turned them, over time, into a working Access application.

We're looking forward to hearing about his experiences — he's given himself a crash course in database software, business systems analysis, and database development. The result is a usable and useful application for the business.

Many thanks to Fred Williams for his presentation of the latest and greatest edition of his "Introduction to Relational Database Design", in two parts at our January and February meetings. We appreciate Fred's sharing his experience with us — he's helped some of us avoid having to learn it the hard way. We offer our congratulations to Fred, also, on his reelection to the NTPCUG Board of Directors.

Publication deadlines being what they are, this was written before the February meeting, but it's worth noting that attendance at the SIG in January was our record high with 89 attendees.

Hmmm. Maybe we can persuade Fred to work up a presentation on

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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: (None this month)

New SIG Leaders:
— **Windows Applications** – Neal Berkowitz @ (214) 475-7463 h
(214) 475-3124 w

Groups Looking for Help In Leading their SIGs:
—**Middle C** [Contact Tom Cook @ (214) 871-8177 w]

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) 527-0922 (W)

NOTE: Please be sure to try other SIG's that you might have an Interest in and DON'T EVER FEEL YOU ARE TOO MUCH OF A BEGINNER and wouldn't fit in. Remember — we all started out as beginners.

—Alex Lilley.

SIG

"Intermediate RDB Design"... and "Advanced RDB Design".

Barring a better offer in the meanwhile, Larry will speak in April, on a topic to be announced in the next issue. We're also looking forward, in the not-too-distant future, to a presentation by **Peggy Mitchell** on her real-world experience with Asymetrix' InfoModeler to assist in designing the database for a significant business application.

We expect to have a lively "Questions and Answers and Tips and Hints" segment in the last quarter hour of each meeting. We share discoveries about Access, help each other with current problems, and ask and answer questions. It's always surprising to us how often someone has already solved the problems that we ask about. If you bring a small sample of either your problem or your solution to a problem on diskette, we can run it on the demo machine for everyone's benefit.

Jan Parkhill, with great enthusiasm, is now spearheading the Disk of the Month operation. Let's help out by contributing to an Access SIG Samples and Examples disk — talk to Larry at the SIG meeting if you're willing to be a part of this effort. With a little luck, you'll soon see a DOM distribution of Microsoft's Access Service Pack that will bring the Access "Jet" database engine up to the 2.5 release level. It has bug fixes (some of which have been mentioned in the meetings) and the current level of .DLLs required for commercial OLE custom controls. We hear the corrections are vital for multiuser, client-server environments.

Between meetings, don't forget to call the NTPCUG electronic bulletin board system (BBS) and follow the Access message conference. Ask your questions, give your answers, share your experiences, get late-breaking news, and maybe even just keep up with the Access gossip. You can even upload and attach to your message an Access database to illustrate problems you've encountered or techniques you've found useful. BBS telephone numbers are on the back cover of this issue.

See you at the Access SIG on March 25!

Larry Linson

Application Developers SIG (OLE and ODBC)

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 head start if you join with us in our efforts.

Our initial focus is on using Visual Basic or Access as OLE containers 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.

The top word processing, spreadsheet, and database software on the market (not just Microsoft's products, though they were among the earliest) are now enabled. We want to prepare ourselves to take advantage of all those years of effort that went into building such heavy-duty commercial applications as extensions to our own applications.

It's our intent to be a high-tech, low-key SIG featuring member dis-

SIG

cussion of component application techniques, demonstrations and examples, occasional guest speakers, and sometimes just getting together to talk about the subject. Thanks to all who were active participants in our February discussion of building Windows HELP files — ranging from doing it the hard way (our bare hands, Word for Windows, and the Windows Help Compiler) to the easier way, with commercial or shareware products to assist in the process.

For March, we plan a relatively unstructured discussion of topics of interest, and perhaps our own **Dan Ogden** will play some software on CD for us. Now that the software drivers for the new CD-ROM have been installed on our demo machine, he'll be able to demonstrate the Visual Basic Programmer's Journal CD. **Fred Williams** came in and installed the drivers after our January meeting and Dan waited around to give it a trial run with the VBPJ CD, which worked like a champ.

We're looking forward to another visit, in the not-too-distant future, from **Jeff Hopper** of Borland International, with an in-depth presentation on Borland's *Delphi95* when it's officially released. That release is, at the time of this writing, predicted to be in February with product shipping early in March. It's surely an interesting development tool and will be a major factor in Borland's future, according to industry experts. Jeff whetted our interest with a brief sneak peek at the *Delphi95* beta after his December Paradox demonstration.

We still need speakers for future meetings. Please let any of the SIG leaders know if you are willing to speak, or lead a discussion, on a topic related to component application development. Some topics about which members have expressed an interest and a desire to learn include: samples and exam-

ples of component applications, tutorials on OLE 2.0-enabled software, Excel's Visual Basic for Applications, and Word for Windows 6.0's Word Basic.

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

At our February meeting we looked at the different ways in which files are stored and long filenames are handled by DOS, OS/2 and Win95. We also talked about how to process the directory structures in an Assembly language program. The topic was not greatly interesting, but it did give us an appreciation for what the directory and file services of the operating systems do. It also convinced most people that they would not want to write a device driver. So maybe some good came out of it, after all.

In March, we'll be covering details of the PC's printer port. Yeah, I know that sounds even more boring than how filenames are stored in a directory, but I think you'll find a few surprises in the discussion. Did you know that even though the printer is an output device, the port it attaches to is bidirectional? Have you ever wanted to attach a data gathering device to a PC? Many people do it by connecting blackboxes to the printer port. There's more here than meets the eye.

Tip of the Month: Effect of Operand Alignment on Program Performance

High performance assembly language code doesn't just happen; it's a by-product of your knowledge of the computer's instruction set and how to make each instruction do as much as possible. One of the simplest ways to improve program performance is to arrange the program's variables so that they are properly aligned in memory.

SIG

Whenever possible — and this applies to any program language, not just assembler — the programmer should declare data items so that the doubleword items are declared first in the memory segment, followed by word-oriented items, followed by string operands, followed by byte operands. The reason for doing this is simple: machine instructions that operate on doublewords, words, and some string instructions work faster when the data they process is aligned on a doubleword or word boundary in memory. If data is not aligned properly, extra clock cycles are consumed to load and then realign the data bits.

The same rule holds true with data structures: force the structure to start at a memory location that is on a doubleword boundary and then lay out the structure members so that the doubleword items are first, etc.

Some assembler programs force operands to be boundary aligned automatically, others will do it if told to do so, and some won't do it at all — it's left up to the programmer. Borland's TASM, for example does not boundary align data unless told to do so with the *ALIGN* directive which can be used multiple times in the same body of code.

TASM also supports the *EVEN* and *EVENDATA* directives which are okay for 16-bit data but inadequate for 32-bit data. I have seen performance improvements of over 20% that occurred when a single *EVENDATA* line was added to the program code. For older code, that may be the easiest thing to do since it does not require any other modifications to the code. Try it, maybe it will help!

Glynn Brooks

Advanced C/C++ SIG

At the February meeting, we enjoyed a very informative presentation from Bob Foery and Darrell Rader of Rational Software. The two gentlemen demonstrated Rational Rose, their OOD design tool which automates the Booch design methodology. Bob and Darrell gave us a very thorough demo, and answered a number of questions from the usual heckl ... er, aficionados.

[TIME TRAVEL MODE OFF]

In March, we will have an unstructured question and answer session. I like to have at least two or three informal meetings each year, so that you have the opportunity to bring up whatever topics may be of interest to you. We've had more formal presentations for several months in a row now, so this seems like a good month to let you pick the subjects.

We have some interesting presentations coming up in the months ahead. In April, we'll be visited by Select Software, who will be demonstrating their Select OMT and Perspective CASE tools. Sometime this summer, **Frank Cavallito** will be talking about the possibilities and pitfalls of writing DLLs, and I hope to follow that up with a discussion of VBXes and OCXes. And finally, we're hoping to arrange a visit from a compiler vendor with headquarters in Redmond, Washington, in the next few months, although nothing is definite.

Kent Cobb & Tom Cook

Communications SIG

We will be discussing Universal Asynchronous Adapters (UARTS) in the March SIG meeting. The UART's that are currently available including Hayes ESP card and Microcom's parallel port modems will be included. The products that will

be available in the future will be discussed. We will discuss the relationship between Windows and the Communications process. The discussion will be an open forum.

Birl Smith
& Doug Gorrie

DOS SIG &
Hardware Solutions SIG

It's VIRUS season — and March will be another "Combined Meeting" month for the DOS SIG and the Hardware Solutions SIG. Actually, March is generally the end of the FLU season, but with so many NTPCUG members joining the Internet and other online services, the computer VIRUS season is just starting.

Through the graces of **Charles Miller**, Hardware Solutions SIG Leader, **Ken Loafman, Jim Hoisington** and **Reagan Andrews**, exploration of the latest VIRUS onslaught should be both interesting and informative. During the combined session, we'll be addressing:

❖ "Safe Computing" or virus avoidance & prevention

❖ Virus detection — including the question of virus infection vs. hardware malfunction

❖ Virus scanning software — the good, the bad and the outright dangerous,

❖ Virus cleaning software — (same as above)

❖ And, lastly, what to do with/to the "friend" who slipped you the disk with the virus in the first place.

We'll be open to users' questions throughout the session. I may even try to produce another set of sterling overheads to aid in the discussion.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG — General

This month's program was on *Family Tree Maker*. Family Tree Maker is not a new program. Family Tree Maker Version 1.0 was a DOS program that was popular because it allowed the user to generate an almost infinite variety of Descendant

and Ancestral charts. Its limitations were that it could handle only about 1200 individuals in any given files. Of course you could make as many files as you desired. The next program update was to allow about 2400 names to a file.

Then came *Family Tree for Windows* and a DOS equivalent version which allows 1 million names in its database. The Windows version allows for storing photos, video clips, and putting together a 'slide show.' Banner Blue Software, the company which makes FTM has bought out Automated Archives, the company who puts genealogy indexes on CD ROMs. They have now come out with a FTM on CD ROM.

The latest FTM, the DOS, the Windows, and the CD ROM versions are in a class with other genealogy software programs such as Family Origins for Windows, Reunion for Mac, Reunion for Windows, Ancestral Quest, Family Treasures, etc. Why, then was FTM singled out for the presentation? The main reason is that FTM for Windows and FTM on CD ROM are unique. They are the first to give what can be considered a fairly complete multimedia package for genealogy.

FTM genealogy can be presented with sound, color, graphics, and motion. Of course, this is not necessarily good for everybody. If you are a very serious genealogist and 100% interested in how you can source you research, for example, there is less appeal in the multimedia part of FTM. But to those whose main interest is to write a book (even though the research may not be 100% thorough) this multimedia is seen as a way to (1) attract interest from family members you are trying to research and (2) produce a video tape instead of (or in addition to) the book.

The General Genealogy SIG meets from 9 to 10 am in room 1059. It tries to support all hardware and

software types. There are generally about 60 present.

The program for February will be a discussion of the Bulletin Board Chrysalis by its owner Garry Grosse with emphasis on the genealogy and Internet capabilities. The March program is tentatively scheduled to bring an overview of the currently available genealogy program software. The April program will be unique as it is on the first CD ROM genealogical magazine. The magazine is called *Family Keys*.

Al Sanford

Genealogy SIG — *PAF*

This article will try to touch on the high spots of the GENTECH 95 talk "PAF - Beyond the Manual" by Joan Lowrey. GENTECH is an annual technical conference in genealogy in the Dallas area. It consists of lectures, demonstrations, and vendors. The last was Jan. 27, 28 in Dallas and GENTECH96 will be Jan. 26 & 27 in Plano. Joan Lowrey, as most of you know, is the author of the book *Personal Ancestral File 2.31 User's Guide*, which is almost a definitive work on how to master PAF.

Joan divides PAF users into 3 categories: beginners who can easily master the fundamentals of PAF but never get any further; intermediate users who read the manual and try to understand all the menu options; advanced users who ask "is there anything else I can do?", or "I have a problem, how can I fix it?" After that comes the exploration and creative use of the programs and of the peripheral software.

But even beginners will need to make use of some of these tools; going beyond the manual is not just for advanced users.

SIG

To take full advantage of the PAF options available:

1. Learn PAF thoroughly. Be creative and inquisitive. For instance, understand all options of CONFIG; know CONVERT changes temple codes, not from uppercase; Family Records has hot keys to speed data entry (ditto down, ditto forward, help messages, last 20 individuals, browsing keys, shell to DOS, name code); master Pedigree Search; use Focus/Design to print unique reports and analyze data; learn about the -d switch, date calculator, how data is stored in the files, how files are linked. Learn the fundamentals of GEDCOM, so you can import and export files. Look into RDF, an excellent database to index your paper files, etc.

2. Use other software with PAF. Use specific DOS utilities (DIR, PKZIP & PKUNZIP, COPY command. Use PAF utilities - there are over 100 of these, use genealogy utilities that are compatible with PAF through GEDCOM.

3. Interface with others — PAF users groups, classes, bulletin board systems, and publications.

The PAF SIG meets from 10 to 11 am in room 1059. There is always a question and answer period and this generally leads into a program discussion. About 50 members are present at each meeting. A computer with an overlay is used to project computer display on a large screen.

Al Sanford

Hardware Solutions SIG

See DOS SIG notes.

Internet SIG, Beginning and Advanced

Note! There are now TWO Internet SIG meetings. Due to our growth, the room size problem, and the variety of people's back-grounds, we are trying a new approach: two SIG meetings, Advanced at 9am and Beginning at 10am. Check the lobby overheads for the exact location.

The Advanced Internet SIG will host Chris MacFarland (chris@computek.net), of Compu-Tek International, providers of the Compunet Internet access service. Chris will speak on Internet Relay Chat, or "irc". Internetters use irc to hold real-time conversations among many participants. You choose a "channel" from thousands of topics, and join in on the discussion. Or start your own channel with the topic of your choice.

Chris also volunteered to explain to our first Beginner's SIG what's required to get a presence on the 'net.

Steve Linebarger (srl@metronet.com) led February's standing room only meeting on commercialization and privatization. The future of the Internet's backbone networks, how "acceptable use policies" are changing and the resulting effect on how *we* can access the 'net were hot topics.

Tom O'Keefe
(okeefe@metronet.com)
& Doug Gorrie
(DG8489%DLSMAIL1@SWGATE2
.sbc.com)

Microsoft Networking SIG

We have had some great Microsoft Networking SIGs lately. Last month, **Bruce Wynn** led the SIG and introduced John McCrae's presentation of Remote Access Service (RAS). RAS allows the client a way to dial in to the network and directly access resources as if on the LAN. One very practical use for RAS is when traveling.

This month, Scott Suhy of Microsoft Consulting Services will discuss "Capacity Planning" for NT networks. Many times questions come up about what type of hard-ware to purchase, how to provide for growth on the network, and other issues that impact not only the purchasing line but require some architectural thought. Scott has been involved with Microsoft networking products for the last three years, in particular working in depth with Windows NT Server and LAN Manager.

Next month, Bruce, the Exchange expert, will be discussing X.500 and X.400 standards of the mail world, particularly as they relate to the Microsoft Exchange Messaging product.

So, roll out of bed and come on down at the 8:00 hour for an hour of technical and entertaining material about some terrific enterprise networking products.

Debbie Lenhart
(deborahl@microsoft.com)

Paradox SIG

As plans stand now, it looks like Borland personnel will be rolling out *Delphi95* officially at one of the main presentations at the March User's Group Saturday. I am planning on either adjourning the regular Paradox SIG meeting to the Delphi presentation in the auditorium, or arranging for the Borland folks to drop by our SIG and give us a little more targeted presentation.

The final arrangements will be keyed on the time that Borland is scheduled to do their thing in the main presentation. Please check the overhead projectors in the Infomart foyer for the final arrangement announcement.

I would prefer that we get to have the SIG meeting separate from the presentation but I don't know the time frame as yet. If neither works out, I'll just flip the switch on the "Energizer Bunny" and step back. Hey, I wonder if he could do that bit with Darth Vader and the light saber?

Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

The following is the tentative schedule for the Personal Users classes that will be offered during the next

five months. Classes can be taken in any order suitable to the individual student's schedule. Printed notes are provided during classes.

Mar 25, 1995

- ❖ 9:00   Class 5
  Graphics for the PC
- ❖ 10:00   Class 6
  Word Processors
- ❖ Noon   Class 7
  Spreadsheet Programs
- ❖ 1:00   Class 8
  Other Software for the PC

April 15, 1995

- ❖ 9:00   Class 9
  Hardware for the PC
- ❖ 10:00   Class 10
  Printers for the PC
- ❖ Noon   Class 11
  Overview of Quicken Accounting Software
- ❖ 1:00   Class 12
  Modems & Telecommunications
- ❖ 2:00   Class 12a
  NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS)

May 13

- ❖ 9:00   Class 13
  Overview of Microsoft Windows
- ❖ 10:00   Class 14
  Overview of MultiMedia Software & Hardware
- ❖ Noon   Class 15
  Disk of the Month (DOM)
- ❖ 1:00   Class 16
  PC's Into the 21st Century

June 17, 1995*

- ❖ 9:00   Class 1
  Introduction to Personal Users SIG and the Personal Computer
- ❖ 10:00   Class 2
  Working with Files & Directory Structures
- ❖ Noon   Class 3
  Disk Operating System (DOS) - Part I
- ❖ 1:00   Class 4
  DOS - Part II

* This date is subject to change. Check your PC NEWS and/or the NTPCUG BBS for corrected dates

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before the meetings. Classes are FREE and OPEN to ALL Beginners, Novices, New PC Owners, Soon-To-Be PC Owners, etc. COME JOIN US AS WE LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS !

Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

As usual, March will be our "RPG'orama" festival with discussions of how to build multimedia RPG programs by Chris Balthrop.

Jim Hoisington

StarSIG

StarSIG had an abbreviated schedule when they met January 21,1995, because everyone wanted to join the Infomart birthday party. The schedule was short, but very busy.

First, congratulations to Dennis Brand, StarText Columnist of the Quarter. Dennis, best known for posting Ed Jackson's work on EJBEST, also has GUEST columns and works as a StarText BUDDY.

The featured speaker was Editor Dorothy Pomeroy, who explained duties of the day and night editors and spoke of the newsroom meetings during the day. She displayed newspaper page transparencies, giving us a peek at the way the Fort Worth Star-Telegram is assembled.

Editors Christy Jeter and Paul Harral closed out the brief session with notice of STOCKSHOW and SUPERBOWL keywords, a discussion of the progress from keywords to database, and a question and answer session that almost lasted through the birthday party.

Interested in using a modem, but intimidated by the complexity of the Internet? Join our friendly group and consider StarText, run from the beginning as an easy to access and easy to use Bulletin Board System.

William L. Jones

UNIX SIG

At the UNIX SIG in January Jim was to have presented a discussion on backing up your system under UNIX. As it happened Jim had to go out of town at the last minute. His wife had insisted that they go to Las Vegas instead. We are all quite sure that Jim went to Las Vegas kicking and screaming and was thoroughly miserable while he was there thinking about all the fun he could have been having with us in Dallas instead. Yeah, right.

So instead of Jim, I gave the discussion on backups. The best comparison I can make of backing up is with insurance. Like any kind of insurance, backups might seem to be a waste of time and energy since most of the time you will never need to retrieve the data. When that day comes when you do, both insurance and backups suddenly assume a new importance.

The problem is just how to arrange your backup schedule so that you have a reasonable amount of protection and it is still simple to implement in a minimum amount of time. The later is important because if it's not simple or takes too much time, then you aren't all that likely to do it.

UNIX provides several commands that can be used for making backups. There are the old standbys like tar (tape archive) which, in spite of its name, works on disks too, and cpio (copy i/o) which is especially handy for using with find. But much of the discussion focused on the backup command which, as its name implies, was designed especially for making backups.

Backup makes incremental copies of only the data that has changed since another backup. It also has backup levels and backs up files changed since they were saved at the current or a lower level but also backs up again files saved by a

higher level backup. This allows you to make daily backups followed by a weekly backup that includes all the files changed in the preceding week for an extra ounce of protection. This also reduces the amount of end-user intervention during the backup process.

Join us in March where Jim is planning to discuss UNIX communications, an increasingly important field in these days of the Internet and the World Wide Web. This presupposes that Jim's wife doesn't talk him into going to Hawaii, of course.

Doug Scott

Visual Basic SIG — Beginning

The March 25th meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will feature a presentation describing the nature and advantages of a relational database. Too many examples of database applications using the Jet engine in Visual Basic 3.0 use a flat file and never demonstrate the features and procedures of a truly relational database. This presentation will include an example of a database constructed in both a relational and flat file structure.

Last month, I gave my semiannual "For Beginner's Only" presentation. This presentation is given each February and August to help folks who are just getting started in Visual Basic.

Future meetings of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will feature "An Introduction to Objects" in April, "An Introduction to the Setup Wizard" in May, and "Third-Party Visual Basic Add-On Tools" in June.

Three Visual Basic Workshops have been formed under the leadership of **Charlie Uhl, Tom Browning,** and **Bryan Wilson** and all are very active. Additional workshops will be formed soon. Each meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG

now includes a status report from each of our Visual Basic Workshops. If you are interested in starting a workshop or participating in one, see me at the meeting (preferably before the meeting starts at 8:00 AM). 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, March 25, 1995. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment.

Jim Carter

WordPerfect (DOS) SIG

MARCH BUSINESS

I've been the leader of this SIG for over 3 years and have enjoyed it thoroughly. Unfortunately, my business has grown to a point that I can no longer spend the time required to be a SIG leader. Thank you for all your support and kind words after every meeting. You've always been so appreciative of whatever I did with the group.

Fortunately, I found someone who was willing to accept the responsibility. Her name is **Dawn Hopkins** and I recommended to her that she find a couple of assistants. You don't have to be an expert. In fact, it's an excellent way to learn the product. When you've got to teach it to someone else, you learn a lot along the way.

So I can't tell you what is planned for the March meeting because I didn't give Dawn enough warning for her to think of something. But whatever it is, I'm sure you'll enjoy it and get a lot of good information.

So long!

WordPerfect for DOS Tip of the Month!

There is a collection of macros that ships with all versions of WordPerfect (well, not prior to 5.0). There

is one called EDITCODE that allows you to highlight a code (reveal codes don't have to be on) and this macro will put you in that code's menu where you can make changes. Then once you press {F7} you'll be back in the document and only the last change you made will be in the document.

In other words, this macro will eliminate duplicate codes (how many times have you looked at your tab settings, then exit and see a tab set code for each time you've been in that menu).

Other than the EDITCODE macro, which comes with both versions, the set of shipping macros in WordPerfect 5.1 is different than those that come with WordPerfect 6.0 and we've discussed many of them over the last 4 years. Right now, I want to point out a few cool ones in version 6.

There's one that allows you to change one attribute to a different attribute. For instance, you've got text bolded, and the boss has made a change and now wants that text to be small caps. Run the macro (press {Alt}{F10}) called MOD_ATRB. The prompts are easy to follow. Think of this as an option if you use redline in documents that have to be faxed. Because the shade of gray is so dark, it may not fax well. Change all the redlines to double underline or some other attribute that will be seen clearly.

Another great macro is the CALENDAR macro that prompts you through creating a monthly calendar. Then there's the SPACETAB macro that converts spaces to tabs. Use this when you've retrieved an ASCII file and it needs to be cleaned up.

Try the GLOSSARY macro that lets you type in abbreviations and it expands it for you. For instance, FYI will become 'for your information' or type your initials to spell out your full name.

You'll find a complete listing of the 6.0 macros in Help. Select Help, Macros, then List of Shipping Macros.

Internet Feed – Redux

At the time of this writing, we have started negotiating with our Internet news feed provider. This should not require too much time as we have developed a pretty good idea of what the final arrangements will be, and we are now just dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's".

I intend to begin hooking up the news feed machine to the BBS machine in the next few weeks. I have pretested all of the internal configurations. Soon, I should be able to actually begin testing the link to the feed.

We Want Feedback

I'm looking forward to results of the first month of "Fred's BBS Suggestion Box." I am hopeful that many of our non BBS'ers will give me some insight as to why they are not on the BBS, and more importantly, what we Sysops need to do to get them there.

TBBS Software Upgrade

I recently received the latest TBBS software upgrade from eSoft. I have it up and running on our BBS now. There are not very many user-visible changes with this latest release. Phil and company are laying the ground work for an avalanche of major TBBS enhancements planned for the coming year.

This release of TBBS consists of mostly major internal changes aimed at further increasing overall performance and improving and enlarging the TBBS software infrastructure. This will allow for the coming support of "unlimited" line counts, "huge" message bases, and, thank the Lord, a QSO option mod-

Keep in mind that all of these macros could be assigned to a keyboard or they can be copied (or renamed) to an [Alt] letter, which makes them easier to use.

Lori Quinn

NTPCUG – ON-LINE

by Fred Williams
SYSOP, NTPCUG BBS

ule that will support the latest and greatest PKWare Zip software.

There are major enhancements in this release's download file management capabilities. The NTPCUG BBS really does not gain much from enhancements in TBBS file management, but many other TBBS sysops have been clamoring loudly for these features for too long now.

eSoft Software a Winner

Early experiences indicate that eSoft has once again turned out yet another edition of rock solid software. With the ever-increasing performance of modem technology, it is difficult for a BBS software supplier to keep up with the ever-increasing demands the modems are placing on the installed base of BBS software.

With years of experience of living with other people's software, it is truly a pleasure to use a piece of software that experience has taught

me I can really count on. I am truly amazed that there have only been three events of BBS downtime directly related to TBBS issues, since first installing TBBS. Two of those I had direct proof that TBBS failed us, the third event I could find no one else to blame.

V.Everything Modems

The recently installed US Robotics Courier V.Everything modems are performing flawlessly. This is certainly a vast improvement over the modems they replaced. But, do keep in mind that a BBS places extreme demands on a modem. What works well on a BBS, is most often than not, extreme overkill for the personal user.

Speaking of modems, the number of 9600bps and faster modem users logging on the BBS moved above fifty percent a couple of months ago and continues to climb. At last count we still had two users running at 300 baud.

Texas Tire Kickers

We are still getting a large number of "tire kickers" logging on now that the BBS number is being published in *Texas Computing*. I'm studying ways to best motivate these browsers into filling out and mailing in a membership application. There are ways that are technically simplistic, but insurmountably political. But, I'm working on it.

Just a parting reminder to keep stuffing the BBS Suggestion Box. The prize you win will be an even better BBS!

Fred Williams

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community
Volunteers in Action
by Claude McClure

A Numbers Game

Charles Cashion and I chat pretty often about club business. The interesting thing is that we rarely see each other and that we do this chatting on the NTPCUG Bulletin Board. When I signed on the BBS the other day it connected and mentioned Charles had posted some new mail concerning the Disk of the Month. The message was supposed to be the names of workers from the recent Saturday event, but it looked strange. The odd thing was that everyone who had volunteered two weeks beforehand had shown up to work their specific job and time. There were no changes and no substitutions in the volunteer roster.

Charles posted a note at the bottom saying that in all the time he had been calling, cajoling, and scheduling us to donate an hour of our time, there had never before been a 100% perfect schedule.

I haven't talked with Charles in the last few days, but he may also be able to pick all six numbers in the Texas Lottery. I think I'll start meeting him at the Seven-Eleven.

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

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
John Ivers
Kenneth Berg
Crew:
Larry Johnson
Paul Weathers

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

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

Eteta Eta
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
John Ivers
Ned Keig
Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller
Booth Crew:
Linda Anderson
Laurie Barnett
Lorin Cranford
Elizabeth Doss
Ron Goady
James Gorak
Al Goyna
Bernard Hale
Thomas Jones
Vernon Kanoper
Claude McClure
Bob McNeil
Foy T. Mills
Carl Oehmann
Fred Toulmin

Disk of the Month (DOM)
DOM Shift Supervisors:
Joe Allen
James Donlon
Judy Griffiths
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
Arnold Krusemark
Oscar Tyler
DOM Desk Crew:
Berny Baars
Rob Bender

Philip Bridge
Gene Carleton
Norman Dang
Dale Diamond
William Parris
Charles Fernandez
Stephen Hay
Tom Jackson
Mac McKeethen
Nancy Ogden
Jan Parkhill
Bob Post
John Primm
George Read
With Special Thanks to:
Set Up Crew:
Mark Gruner
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
Jan Parkhill

Jerry Stone
Inventory and Take-down Crew:
Dale Diamond
Mark Gruner
Arnold Krusemark
Jan Parkhill
DOM Desk Scheduler:
Charles Cashion
Disk Production:
Howard Hamilton
Willard Davis

NTPCUG USER – To – USER PROGRAM

NTPCUG USER-TO-USER PROGRAM

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

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

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

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access		
Larry Linson	(817)481-2350	M-Sa 1300-1500
Assembly Language		
Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7 1800-2200
Glynn Brooks.................	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
BASIC		
Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200
Beginner Problems		
Jan Parkhill....................	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700
Shirley Hudgens.............	(214)352-2800	7 0900-2000
Brother's Keeper		
Neil Sunderland.............	(214)272-2869	7 0900-2200
C (the language)		
Howard Harkness...........	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
....		T&T 1800-2030
C++ (the language)		
Bob Adams....................	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
Howard Harkness...........	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
....		T&T 1800-2030
Don Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030
Batch Files		
Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Borland C++		
Bob Adams....................	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
Howard Harkness...........	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
....		T&T 1800-2030
Comm Software		
Doug Gorrie...................	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
CompuServe		
Bob Adams.....................	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows		
Ted Gillam....................	(214)964-7923	7 0800-1700

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Hardware Help		
Charles Miller.................	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
HyperAccess		
Woody Pewitt................	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
LANs — Novell		
Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
— Lantastic		
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Managing Your Money		
Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
MathCAD		
Bob Adams....................	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
OS/2		
Larry Truesdale	(214)442-7074	7 1000-2200
PC Tools/Win		
Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
Paradox		
Fred Williams.................	(214)492-1315	7 1300-2100
ProComm/ProComm+		
Doug Gorrie...................	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
Bill Green......................	(817) 731-1308	
Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Quicken		
Billy Pitts........................	(817)430-8148	7 1830-2100
Jim Hall.........................	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
Quickbooks		
Jim Thompson	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
SPFPC		
Doug Gorrie...................	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	
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 for Workgroups			
Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200

NTPCUG User – To – User Program

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	
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 PC Users Group, Inc.
Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____-_____

PHONE:(Check Preferred No.) Home ____ (_____) _____

Work ____ (_____) _____ (Ext) _____

Occupation/Profession:_____

Check one from each column below		
Payment:	Membership, Classification:	Application Status:
Cash _____	Regular ($24.00) ___	New Member _____
Check _____	Student ($12.00 ___	Renewal _____
Credit Card_____		Address Change ___

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

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

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 2,575 last month.

Member distribution was 2,176; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft *Word for Windows*. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using *Corel Ventura 4.2, Corel Draw 5.0, Arts & Letters 3.12* and HP Scanjet IIp. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, Lithos and Mistral.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for April
North Texas PC NEWS:
Friday, March 10th

Meeting Dates:
March 25, 1995 – 4th Saturday
April 15, 1995 – 3rd Saturday
May 13, 1995 – 2nd Saturday

Member

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

4. **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

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

Address Correction Requested

14.3
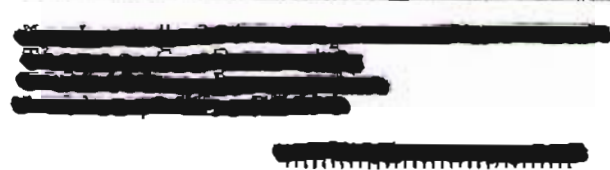
North Texas PC Users Group
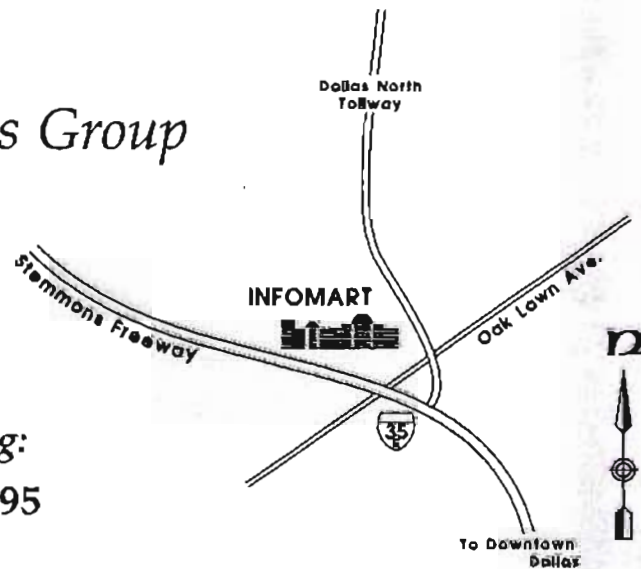
Next Meeting:
25 March 1995