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Publisher Reagan Andrews (Acting)
(214) 828-0699
Editor Gerry Heins
(214) 938-7266
Assistant Editors Alan Lintel
(214) 220-7829
Doug McCoy
(214) 496-0366
Linda Moore
(214) 369-8377
John Gourd
(214) 783-9629
Newsletter Exchange Lewis Graber
Advertising Director Connie Andrews, (Acting) -
(214) 828-0699
Mail all advertising material
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North Texas PC NEWS
c/o 3100 Lincoln Plaza
500 North Akard
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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2,675 last month. Member distribution was 2,231; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for May
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, April 10th

Meeting Dates:
April 15, 1995 - 3rd Saturday
May 13, 1995 - 2nd Saturday
June 17, 1995 - 3rd Saturday



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North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies - April, 1995

Ad Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
2-Page Spread	\$400	\$325		
Full Page (7 x 9)	225	195	\$165	\$150
Half Page (7 x 4 1/2)	150	125	110	100
Qtr Page (3 1/4 x 4 1/2)	100	80	65	55
Business Card (2 x 3 1/4)	65	50	40	35
Business Card (Members)	35	25	20	20

Reduced rates for multiple insertions of same ad. Require prior commitment in writing and payment in advance (3 months minimum). Copy and mechanical changes requested between insertions will be billed accordingly.

Deadlines: All advertising copy must be received by the PC News staff no later than the 10th day of the month prior to the month of publication unless other arrangements are made with the Publisher. NT PC News publication date is 10 days before the monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group.

Policies & Mechanicals:

- Commercial ads must be in repro form, in final size, ready for printing.
- Halftones must be furnished as final size, screened prints or negatives.
- Halftone screens cannot exceed 100 LPI maximum.
- No ads on front cover. Bleed pages and color must be discussed with Publisher before submission.
- Related ads only; suitability is at discretion of the Publisher and the North Texas PC Users Group Board of Directors.

Payment: Payment in advance of publication. Make checks payable to: North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

PROGRAM FOR April . . . **TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL**

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

No Presentation Scheduled

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

Shazam!!

On The Internet In 10 Minutes with I*Link

I*Link Ltd.

Rod Dial, Director of Marketing

"You travel at the speed of sound, waking bats who dangle in your way. You pontificate on the virtues of virtual worlds and laugh Ha-Ha at those who dare reply." **SO WHY IS IT SO HARD TO GET ON THE INTERNET?** Hey, if you want to be in control, get control of the Internet first. Come see how easy and affordable I*Link makes getting on. And register to win some great prizes. So go there. Be there. Start here. I*Link — Getting on is easy when you know where to start. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

LANTastic for OS/2

Artisoft, Inc.

John Freeman

Come see the products from Artisoft, including the newly released LANTastic for OS/2, which allows LANTastic network users to easily integrate OS/2 system machines into their existing DOS and Windows peer-to-peer networks. It is compatible with the Simply LANTastic network, LANTastic networks version 5.0 and 6.0, and the CorStream dedicated server, and provides connectivity to SMB-based networks such as IBM LAN Server, Microsoft NT, WFW and LAN Manager. LANTastic for OS/2 fully supports all OS/2 features and network applications which use named pipes (such as SQL), and allows users to be on multiple networks simultaneously by coexisting with NetWare Requester. Information about a new, still unannounced major product will also be featured. 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 April Meeting Schedule

<p>8:00 - 8:55 Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning MultiMedia</p> <p>9:00 - 9:55 BASIC Programming-Visual DOS General Genealogy Hardware Solutions Internet-Advanced Personal Users Quicken StarText Visual BASIC Windows Applications WordPerfect/DOS</p> <p>9:00 - 10:55 DACAD (Corel)</p> <p>10:00 - 10:55 BASIC - Classic</p>	<p>10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.) CAD Fox Pro Database Graphics Networking Internet-Beginning PAF-Genealogy Paradox Personal Users WordPerfect/Windows UNIX</p> <p>11:00 - 11:55 BASIC Programming - Beginning Assembler Brother's Keeper Genealogy CAD (Cont.) Investors Graphics (Cont.) MS Works</p>	<p>11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.) OS/2 — Q & A Roots III/IV - Genealogy Spreadsheet Developers Windows Developers</p> <p>11:30 - 11:55 Orientation</p> <p>12:00 - 12:55 Alpha Four C++/Advanced C Communications Desktop Publishing Health Care Computing OS/2 for End Users Personal Users Roots III/IV (Cont.) The Master Genealogist</p> <p>1:00 - 1:55 Access ACT!</p>	<p>1:00 - 1:55 (Cont.) Business Apps./DAC Easy DATAFLEX Middle C Word for Windows OS/2 Developers Personal Users Spreadsheet</p> <p>2:00 - 2:55 Advanced Programmers Community Services North Texas FreeNet Application Developers (OLE and ODBC)</p> <p>Please consult the BBS and remember to check the overhead display in the INFOMART lobby for latest SIG schedules and room locations.</p>
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DACAD – Dallas Association of Corel Artists and Designers

The NTPCUG welcomes the DACAD as a new Special Interest Group (SIG). Previously, this group was an independent group. They typically have about 100 people at their meetings. If you are interested in CorelDraw or other Corel products, you might want to check out this SIG.

We're Connected

Fred Williams, BBS Guru, has connected our Bulletin Board to the INTERNET. Fred negotiated an agreement with On Ramp Technologies to provide a UUCP link.

Initially we will have read/write access to usenet newsgroups. There is also the possibility that the NTPCUG will have a Web Home Page at some point in the future.

These services will initially be available only to people using off-line readers.

Way to go, Fred.

Court Reporters' Convention in Fort Worth

There will be a convention for court reporters in Fort Worth from June 8th through June 10th. They have invited NTPCUG to have a booth there to provide information about our activities. Are there any volunteers interested in staffing the booth? Please contact me on the BBS (send your messages to **Jim Hoisington**) or drop me a note at the user group post office box or the information booth at the April meeting. We will provide the brochures. We need a leader willing to handle staffing of the booth and some volunteers.

User Group Locator

Have friends in other cities that would like to join a PC user group? The Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) has an automated telephone

Software Gallery, Inc.

(Novell NetWare and Lantastic Specialists)

Zack Porterfield, MS, CNE
503 Westcliff Drive
Euleus, Texas 76040-4042



Office: Metro 817/540-5788 Voice Mail:
Fax: Metro 817/540-2079 Metro 817/669-3766



service to help you locate the nearest group that is a member of APCUG. The telephone number is 914-876-6678.

Membership

This month is a tough one for the Prez. There were 304 renewal letters to send out. Each member receives a letter, personally signed (maybe scrawled is more appropriate) from the President plus a printout of their record in the database.

The database printout saves the member from having to fill in still another form with information that we already have. They can just mark up the form with any changes and send it back to the user group with their check.

Letters as Spur to Invention

Faced with the massive task of printing 608 pieces of paper, I decided to try a little experiment with Windows to see if I couldn't speed things up.

WordPerfect for Windows starts a separate task when it prints. So, I did the mail merge from the database to print the renewal letters to my QMS laser printer. That mail merger task finished in about a minute which allowed me to close down WordPerfect leaving only the print task running.

Next, I started my text editor, SPFFPC for DOS. Earlier, I had the database "print" the database sheets to a disk file. I had SPFFPC print that file to my dot matrix printer.

Then, I went **back to** Windows and started the database program in another DOS window and generated a set of **mailing** labels in a diskette file.

Doing three things at once. Pretty neat stuff for a 25 mhz 386!

Jim Hoisington

RAD → ROI

Rapid Application Development

Return On Investment

Introducing Delphi

Redefining the fundamental relationship between you and your business

The fastest way to the fastest applications

If you program... you have to see Delphi.™ You'll quickly see how its breakthrough combination of the world's fastest optimizing native code compiler, visual Rapid Application Development tools, and scalable database technology will give you a tremendous Return On Investment. And set you on the fast track to client/server and Windows 95.

RAD: prototype to production

Delphi's sophisticated visual design and debugging tools help you develop faster. They make it easy to work interactively with your customers, so your final .EXE will fit their needs, increase their productivity, and make you a star! But faster development cycles are just the beginning. The Delphi compiler produces applications that run 10-20 times faster than P-code interpreters. Royalty-free executables let you deploy fast, so you can crunch through the applications backlog in record time. And just wait until your users experience the speed of your delivered apps—they won't want anyone's apps but yours.

"It's going to change our lives!"

J. D. Hightstrand, Windows 95 Journal

"Particularly for larger applications, the performance gains can be substantial over Visual Basic, PowerBuilder, SQLWindows, or similar applications development environments."

—J. D. Hightstrand

Delphi Facts

	Graph	PowerBuilder	VBPro
Native code compiler for high-performance applications	✓	—	—
Creates standalone, redistributable EXEs and DLLs	✓	—	—
No runtime interpreter DLL required	✓	—	—
Fully object-oriented programming language. Provides optimal code reuse	✓	—	—
No external tools necessary to build new components or extend environment	✓	—	—
Combines high-performance compiler, visual environment, reusable components, and scalable database tools	✓	—	—
Robust exception handling	✓	—	—
ReportSmith™ "live" data reporting	✓	—	—
Local ANSI SQL-92 engine for server independent client/server development	✓	✓	—
Client/server version available	✓	✓	—

Reuse your components

Delphi's Visual Component Library (VCL) helps you minimize coding, accelerates project completion, and simplifies corporate standardizations. You get a gallery of 75 reusable forms, project templates, dialogs, buttons, multimedia controls, and more. Or add your own reusable objects, DLLs, VBX controls, or OLE 2.0 servers into Delphi's open, integrated, component-based development environment.

Smooth scaling to client/server

Delphi has a built-in ANSI SQL-92 server, Paradox™/dBASE™ access, and ODBC support. So you can rapidly develop full client/server applications on your desktop. Then, by upgrading to Delphi's Client/Server edition, you can quickly deploy applications across the entire enterprise with high-performance native drivers for Oracle, Sybase, MS SQL Server, Informix,™ and InterBase.™ And all the work you do in Delphi today will be fully compatible with Delphi's forthcoming 32-bit, Windows 95 release. Put RADical performance to work on your bottom line today.



"Development costs are coming down by 50% (because we can reuse code)."

Art Hill, VP Cash Management Systems, First National Bank of Chicago

"The capabilities of Delphi are endless..."

Jerry Coffey, Paradox Informant

"Its performance edge will be considerable."

Paul Bonner, Windows Source

Delphi

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In Canada, call 1-800-461-3327

Borland

Financial Results of the North Texas PC Users Group

By Mark Gruner

At the January meeting at the Infomart, some members inquired about the financial results of the group. After the meeting, the NTPCUG Board of Directors decided to include an article in the *PC News* on the financial results of the group once a year. This article will briefly discuss how the NTPCUG keeps its financial records and then show and discuss the results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994.

The financial records of the group are maintained on a cash basis which means that transactions are only entered when cash is received or disbursed. Most organizations use December 31st as their year end. However, for some reason the NTPCUG uses June 30th as year end.

The NTPCUG is a 501(c)(3) educational, non-profit organization which means that the group pays no federal or state income tax. We

are also exempt from paying sales tax on products that we purchase. As a non-profit organization, the Board of Directors has adopted a "fund" accounting approach which means that a few "accounting" terms are changed. For instance, "Revenue" is changed to "Receipts", and "Net Income" is changed to "Excess Over Expenses". While these changes may seem subtle, they are an important distinction for a non-profit organizations.

Having said all of that, here are the financial results of the North Texas PC Users Group for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994 with some comments afterward ...

Operating Results for the Year Ending June 30, 1994		
	In Dollars	Percent
RECEIPTS:		
Membership Dues	\$ 48,729.16	75.0%
Disk-of-the-Month	4,893.50	7.5%
PC News Ad Receipts	8,867.36	13.6%
Mailing List Sales	1,300.00	2.0%
Interest	788.95	1.3%
Other Receipts	406.45	0.6%
TOTAL Receipts	\$ 64,988.42	100.0%
DIRECT EXPENSES:		
Membership Expense	\$ 1,489.07	2.3%
Disk-of-the-Month	4,289.70	6.6%
PC News	29,044.51	44.7%
BBS	1,238.70	1.9%
Meeting Expense	12,618.23	19.4%
Equipment Purchases	4,695.50	7.3%
TOTAL Direct Expenses	\$ 53,375.71	82.2%
EXCESS OVER DIRECT EXPENSES	\$ 11,612.71	17.8%
INDIRECT EXPENSES:		
Administration	\$ 5,857.98	9.0%
Office Rent (for BBS)	1,440.00	2.2%
Conferences	2,021.32	3.1%
Sales Tax on DOM Receipts	378.52	0.6%
Bank Charges/Discounts	601.59	0.9%
TOTAL Indirect Expenses	\$ 10,299.41	15.8%
EXCESS OVER EXPENSES	\$ 1,313.30	2.0%

Explanation of Terms

Receipts: The majority (75%) of the Receipts of the group is from membership dues that you pay. Ads in this newsletter were our second highest source of funds with Disk-of-the-Month in third place. The "Other Receipts" account is primarily commissions on magazine subscriptions that members initiate.

Direct Expenses: By far the group's biggest expense is the publication and mailing of the *PC News*, our monthly newsletter. The second highest expense is Meeting expense which is primarily the rental of the audio visual equipment for the SIG rooms, and the auditorium. Membership expense includes items such as mailing membership renewal letters, new membership kits, and mailing membership badges not picked up at the monthly meeting. The BBS expense is primarily the cost of the three telephone lines. The Equipment Purchased included a printer for membership badges and a printer to print originals for the *PC News*.

Disk-of-the-Month (DOM): The DOM recently increased the price to \$3 per disk. The fundamental reason for this increase was higher production costs associated with 3.5" disks that members have been

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I/O. NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

NTPCUG President Braves Utah Wilds to Attend February PCUG Meeting at Novell

by Jim Hoisington

The Presidents of several user groups were invited to attend the NetWare Users International Meeting at Novell in Provo, Utah in February. I felt it was important to see, up close and personal, how the "New Novell" (their

NTPCUG Financials... Ctd.

requesting. As the statement above illustrates, the DOM only generated \$225.28 more in Receipts than Expenses (including sales tax). Much of year, the DOM was issuing titles on less expensive 5.25" disks.

Indirect Expenses: Administration expenses include Officer's meetings, supplies, and other expenses to provide for group administration. The office rent is for a very small office for all of the BBS equipment. Conferences are for certain expenses for the President, *PC News* Publisher, and others to attend conferences and trade shows such as Comdex where they meet with other user group representatives. Bank Charges and Discounts include fees charged by banks and discounts on MasterCard and Visa transactions.

Hopefully, this brief article answers most of the questions members have on the financial results of the user group. As you can see, the vast majority of our receipts are put to work for the benefit of YOU, our members. In case, you are wondering how you can help improve the financial results of the user group, here is a brief list: (1) use the DOM for you shareware needs instead of other vendors, then register with the author; (2) pick-up membership cards at the meeting; (3) use checks, not credit cards, and (4) do not "bounce" checks.

Mark Gruner

term, not mine) looked after the merger with WordPerfect Corporation.

Actually, we had a drawing to see whether Andy Oliver, President-Elect, or I would go to Utah in February. Andy won. Armed with a suitcase filled with my warmest clothing, I set out for Utah on the morning of February 8th.

The conference was very well organized and included a two-hour meeting with Bob Frankenberg, CEO of Novell and a one-hour meeting with Kyle Powell, one of the three original developers of NetWare.

How is the merger going?

The Novell employees we met consider the merger of WordPerfect and Novell to now be complete. They use the term the "New Novell" to describe the resulting company.

Bob Frankenberg said that when he started the merger a friend told him that the hardest mergers

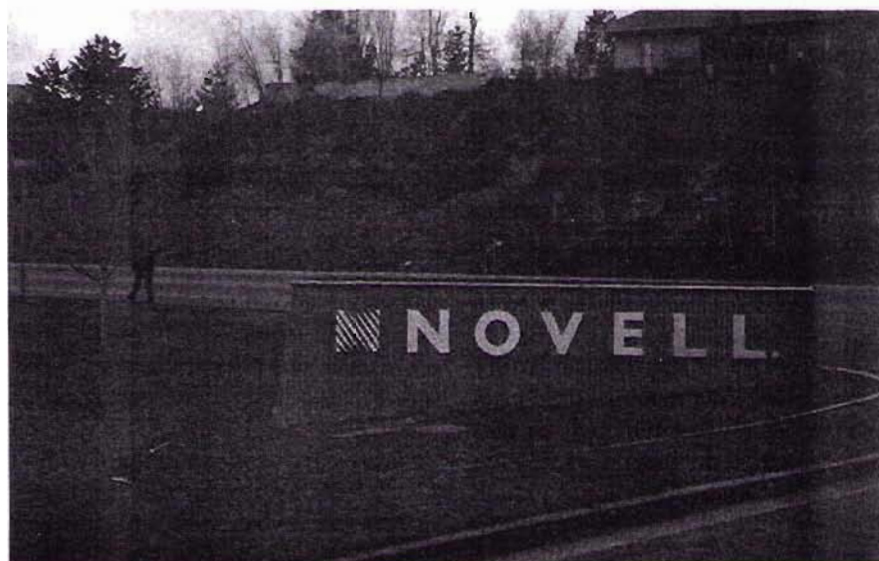
of all were between two similarly sized companies. Before the merger, Novell and WordPerfect had almost the same numbers of employees. He said that now that the merger is complete, he would not dispute his friend's advice.

Although the two companies were similar in size, they were very different in the way they sold and supported their products. They attempted to draw on the experiences of both companies as they formed the "New Novell".

If anything about the merger is still unfinished, it would be the support organization. Based on our meetings with their support people, they admit they made some mistakes during the merger and are still adjusting the manner in which they will support Novell products in the future.

How will the New Novell relate to Microsoft?

This question was put to Bob Frankenberg in our meeting. He told us that he had met recently with Bill Gates of Microsoft. Of his personal relationship with the Chairman of Microsoft he said,



"Bill and I don't go fishing together..."

However, their meeting focused on those areas where Microsoft customers are using NetWare and WordPerfect and NetWare customers are using Windows. In that area, Bob Frankenberg said that he and Bill Gates agreed that, "we have joint customers and they deserve support." Novell and Microsoft are committed to working together to support their joint customers.

Where is Novell headed?

Nowhere is Novell more different from Microsoft than in the area of future directions. Microsoft spends a lot of time telling their customers in great detail where they are headed. Novell, on the other hand, believes that it is to their advantage to not state their future directions in any detail. They believe that laying out their product plans would give their competitors additional time to build competing products.

When asked about the future, Bob Frankenberg responded, "Novell will stay focused on networking."

What are the key platforms for Novell?

Novell is using a rough rule of thumb that until a platform sells more than a million units per year, they will not *consider* developing for it. At this time, they are developing for DOS, all versions of WINDOWS, and the Apple Macintosh. However, OS/2 is on the verge of coming under consideration.

Asked about the delay in Windows 95, the people at Novell said that it helps them perfect their 32-bit client software. They intend to have "impressive" client

software support for NetWare with Windows 95 when it ships. The developers said that the 32-bit environment under Windows 95 lets them do a lot of things that they just couldn't squeeze into the 16-bit environment and they are excited about their client software.

Where is NetWare headed?

Kyle Powell, one of the original developers of NetWare, told us that he was glad for the merger of the two companies because it gave them a chance to address what had become a growing problem with NetWare. Prior to the merger, if an enhancement or fix to NetWare was needed, one of a very small group of the developers would code and test the software change. However, as NetWare has increased in complexity, that procedure was beginning to break down.

Novell is undergoing the certification process for ISO 9001. As a result, they have put formalized software development procedures in place. And they have a much more formalized product-testing procedure. All of that should help them as they move into the future.

At this point, Novell says that they are investigating what they call "Super-NOS", the next generation of networking software. It *may* be a merger of UnixWare and NetWare combining the best features of both.

They will not put a time frame on when the software will be available because they want to thoroughly investigate the design. One developer was quoted as saying, "if we hurried through the design to meet some artificially

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Microsoft *Visual Basic 3.0* and Database Operations

The question, "What is the difference between the Standard and Professional Editions of *Visual Basic 3.0*?" is often asked by newcomers to *Visual Basic 3.0*. My usual response is that the Standard Edition is for folks who just want an introduction to *Visual Basic 3.0* and aren't sure they want to write serious Windows applications in *Visual Basic 3.0*.

The Professional Edition is for folks who want to write serious

A Trip to Novell... Ctd.

imposed ship date, we might end up creating Franken-NOS." For the near future, you can expect to see improvements in NetWare 4.x product.

When asked about the future of NetWare 3.x, they said they would continue to supply bug fixes and to support it, but not enhance it. Novell will let the market decide when there is no more interest in the product.

The good news about the New Novell

In the past I have always felt that Novell was counting too heavily on their superior, proprietary technology to keep their market lead. While Novell is still very much committed to having superior technology, I think they are beginning to realize that superior technology is not enough. They are making sure that their products can connect easily with other non-Novell networks and systems. I think that is a very realistic view of the future.

Jim Hoisington

THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by *JIM CARTER*

Windows applications. We then go into a discussion of the specific programming goals of the individual to refine the recommendation.

Database Capability Significant

The most significant feature introduced in *Visual Basic 3.0* is the database capabilities. Further, the most significant difference between the Standard and Professional Editions of *Visual Basic 3.0* is the power of the database operations.

The Standard edition includes the Data Control for manipulating existing databases. The Data Manager is provided with the Standard Edition of *Visual Basic 3.0* to permit the creation of new databases. See related *Visual Basic Corner* columns in the November 1993 and January 1994 issues of the *PC News* for description of database operations using the Standard Edition of *Visual Basic 3.0*.

The database capabilities of the Standard Edition would likely support the requirements of a single-station database application. The database could be constructed and modified with the Data Manager add-in application and controls bound to Data Controls would provide adequate user interface.

Client-Server Needs...

The typical client-server application, however, usually involves many stations with LAN (Local Area Network) servers and stations in a distributed fashion. In larger systems, the interconnec-

tion includes WAN (Wide Area Network) to satisfy the needs of national/international networks.

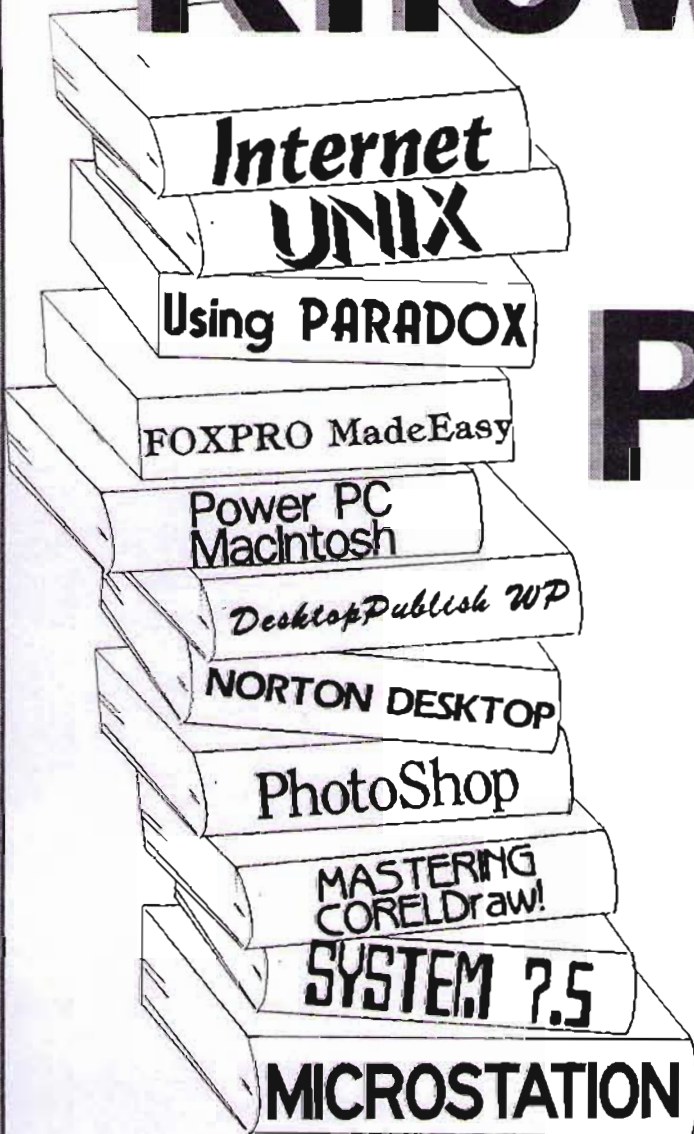
Included in the Professional Edition of *Visual Basic 3.0* are:

- ❖ A Database Report Generator by Crystal Reports. This add-in application simplifies the job of designing reports for database applications.
- ❖ Data Access Objects to permit direct control of the Access engine.
- ❖ Full support for Open Database Connectivity (ODBC). *Visual Basic 3.0* provides access to client-server, host-based, and local databases and includes some ODBC drivers.
- ❖ Additional controls for communications, data entry, and controls that will assist the database programmer.
- ❖ Additional documentation to support the above features plus information on developing custom controls and developing Windows Help Files.

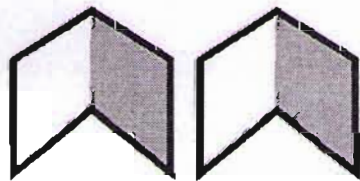
Database applications using *Visual Basic 3.0* are becoming the largest segment of *Visual Basic 3.0* applications. For additional information on these types of applications, I recommend *Database Developer's Guide with Visual Basic 3.0* written by Roger Jennings and published by Sams Publishing. ISBN Number is 0-672-30440-6. It is large, expensive and comprehensive.

Jim Carter

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Breaking-up is Hard to do — Saying "Good-Bye" to an Old Friend and Recycling

by Andy Oliver

I recently parted ways with my first 8088-based clone computer. This was one more step in the recycling process. My wife received the system when I purchased a 386, and my daughter moved it into her room after my 486 arrived.

The computer, CGA monitor and dot matrix printer still work, although you do get spoiled by the speed of each new CPU generation.

A 1986 Model?

The date, May 3, 1986, was on the original receipt that I found while I was "cleaning". I remember that my Commodore 64 had developed disk drive problems, and I was using IBM PC's at work. The AT's were out so the price on the XT's were dropping.

I did my research and selected a now-defunct-clone-dealer in Plano. The computer is an ARC XT with 640K of RAM memory, a CGA monitor, and keyboard (the printer was purchased later). I paid \$1,341 for this system. Oh, and this included TWO 1/2-height 360K floppy disk drives. I upgraded the following year, adding a 30MB hard drive.

The Way It Was

Compare my 1986 XT clone with the March 5, 1995 ad from CompUSA for a 486DX2-66Mhz computer with 8MB RAM, 540MB hard disk drive, 3-1/2" floppy,

double speed CD-ROM, 16-bit sound card, speakers, keyboard, mouse, 14" SVGA monitor, a 360dpi ink jet printer, and at least 10 software programs pre-loaded for \$1699.99. Oh what a difference 9 years and \$358.99 can make.

Other deals advertised in 1986 included a Turbo AT (8 Mhz speed) with 640K RAM expandable to 1MB, a parallel/serial card, and your choice of an amber or green TTL monitor for \$2495. Also, a box of 10 3-1/2" AT diskettes for only \$30.00.

Then there were: a 20MB hard disk drive for \$485, a 1200 baud modem for \$179, an EGA monitor for \$595, and a mouse system with *PC Paint* for \$179 (well some things haven't changed much in 9 years).

Soft Warehouse was selling *dBase III+* for \$369, *Microsoft Word 2.01* for \$239, *Norton Utility* (I guess there was only one at the time.) 3.1 for \$52, and a Panasonic 1592



(180 CPS) 132 column dot matrix printer for \$469.

Final Destination

Our family's old XT clone still works. It has a new home with the Dallas Computer Literacy Program (DCLP). The DCLP takes donated personal computer equipment and puts it to use in inner-city computer labs. The labs provide access to technology for those people who would normally not have access.

The DCLP establishes computer clubs in the high schools and recruits volunteers to teach computer classes in the labs and learning centers.

Hands On in the Recycling Process

If you wander up on the fourth floor of the Infomart on meeting Saturday, you will find a room full of donated computer equipment. In this room, a contingent of volunteers will be working to put together computer systems from parts of other systems. Stop in and offer your assistance. There is plenty of work, and you can leave feeling better about yourself.

Andy Oliver

No Variety Store in April?

You're right — you didn't see the *Variety Store* column this month. Reason for the omission is time — *The PC News* is on a very short turn-around between the March and April issues.

There just wasn't time to write the column and do all the other things necessary to get out the newsletter in a timely manner.

Reagan Andrews

One World. One Communications Software.

PROCOMM PLUS for Windows.

Integrating
fax with data
opens up a
whole new world in
communications software.



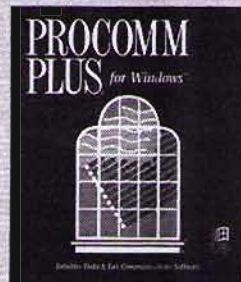
PROCOMM PLUS for Windows 2.1 is here with new features which are above and beyond all other communications software programs. First up, you have access to complete fax capabilities including a fax viewer, scheduling, broadcast send, and the ability to receive faxes in the background; all from right within PROCOMM PLUS for Windows. Plus, you can access your local area net or the vast global village via the Internet with our TCP/IP support for Telnet connections



and an easy-to-use FTP file transfer and file management utility. With the fully-customizable Action Bar™ you can easily activate frequently used features with immediately understandable icons. You'll find our new Dialing Directory smart enough to serve as a single phone source to organize voice, fax and data calls. Enhanced ASPECT scripts automate on-line sessions with services like CompuServe and MCI Mail. Our GIF viewer displays graphics as you download them. And in the intuitive PROCOMM PLUS tradition, everything is extremely powerful and easy to use.

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**PROCOMM
PLUS** for Windows™

TOTALLY CONNECTED

Disks of the Month (DOM) for March

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

Disk 953. ToolPAL 2.0, 2/95 — Windows utility for creating tool palettes by Arthur English, Digital Artistry, 3509 Gary Drive, Plano, Texas 75023, Tel: (214) 232-3310. Shareware Fee: \$39.00

ToolPAL is an easy-to-learn and easy to use design tool that generates customized Windows tool palettes. ToolPAL has a point and click interface that lets you create tool palettes to launch programs, manage up to nine virtual desktops and command other Windows applications.

ToolPAL has many powerful features, such a versatile user interface that's very customizable, the ability to work

with any Windows application as its tool bar, a built in Windows resource monitor and the ability to launch Windows applications with a high degree of control.

Whether you are a seasoned Windows power user or new to using Windows, ToolPAL will save you time and effort. You can create Windows tool palettes that have any type of "look and feel" you want.

System requirements: Windows 3.1, 3.11 or Windows for Workgroups 3.11, 386 SX or higher IBM compatible system, 4 MB RAM and 4MB available hard drive space, Microsoft compatible mouse,

Top Twenty DOM Disks

Want to know what's hot? These are the 20 most popular NTPCUG DOM Library disks - as of March 25, 1995.

- 904 MicroSoft Diagnostic Utility 2.11
- 923 IconMaster 1.2d
- 905 SYSCHK 2.4 — Diagnostics
- 908 ViruScan and Vshield 2.12E
- 902 PC Magazine Utilities 94, May-Sep
- 929 WHATPORT 4.0, 10/91
- 933 WinZip 5.0, 1/94
- 930 FIXTIME 1.1, 3/94
- 941 Wintune 2.0, 12/94
- 909 ViruScan for Windows & OS/2 2.12E
- 891 Beginners Guide to Internet 1.0
- 932 DCOPY 2.0, 3/93
- 931 SLEEP 3.02, 1/94
- 935 AM-Tax 1994, 11/94
- 907 The Constitution Notebook
- 943 FILL DISKETTE 1.29, 6/92
- 921 Rockford! 3.0
- 903 A ButtonFile 1.0, (two disks)
- 911 Color View 2.53
- 922 WinPost 2.0

NEW DISKS FROM THE DOM SQUAD

by JAN PARKHILL

graphics adapter and video display.

Shareware provided by author and NTPCUG member, Arthur English.

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

System requirements: Windows 3.1 or higher, 800KB hard disk space.

Shareware downloaded by NTPCUG member Gary Kasper.

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

Disk 954. INFOSPY 2.13, 1/95 — Windows real time monitor utility by Dean Software Design, PO Box 13032, Mill Creek, WA 93082. Shareware Fee: \$14.99.

INFOSPY is the complete Windows utility program which combines the power of a Resource Monitor, a task scheduler, an environment spy, alarm systems and Windows activity tracing in a friendly, clear MDI interface.

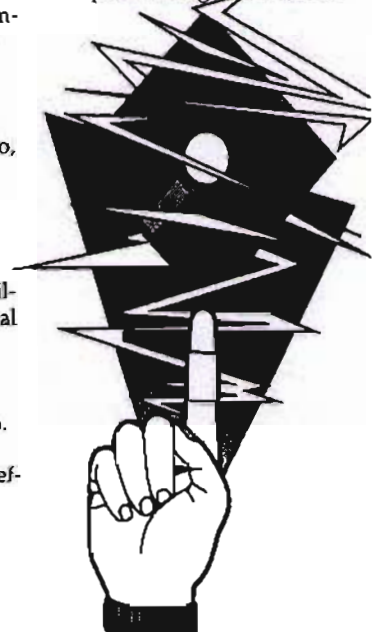
InfoSpy can examine and report on Windows tasks, modules, open windows, classes, open files, global atoms, memory usage by tasks, multimedia devices, memory control blocks, DOS device drivers, environment, CMOS, VxD's, virtual machines, version info, timer info, GDI and user heap, memory usage and heap usage.

InfoSpy has a DLL search utility which will search any local or network drives and will also open all EXE, VBX and DLL files to see which DLL files they in turn reference to. Once the search is complete the window displays all unreferenced DLLs and all duplicate DLLs found.

Disk 955. VirusScan and VShield 2.17E, 03/08/95 — McAfee's Virus Protection, McAfee Inc., 2710 Walsh Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95051-0963.

SCN-217E.ZIP (VirusScan Version 217E) REGISTRATION FEE = \$25.

Scans checks floppy, hard, CD-ROM, and compressed (SuperStor, Stacker, Doublespace, etc.) disks on both stand-alone and networked PC's as well as network file servers for pre-existing infections of



DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

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.

VSH-217E.ZIP (VSHIELD Infection Blocker Version 217E) REGISTRATION FEE = \$25.

When VSHIELD first loads, it will search for known computer 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 downloaded from McAfee Associates BBS by Charles Miller.

This README prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Charles Miller.

Disk 956. WORD Viewer 6.0, 1/95 — Microsoft Viewer for WORD Documents., Microsoft Download Service (MSDL). Shareware Fee: FREE.

WORD Viewer 6.0 is a free product designed to make it easier to exchange Microsoft WORD with other people. You can open, view and print documents from Word for Windows (version 1.0 and greater) and Word for Macintosh (version 4.0 and greater).

You cannot edit documents, but the many other features are outstanding. You may use the paste and copy commands, plus WORD Viewer will drag and drop, or you may choose to use the split screen feature from any open

document. This is a very powerful tool allowing users of other word processors to access documents created with Microsoft WORD. In particular, I noticed WORD Viewer 6.0 will open rather large files for viewing when other programs balk at handling large text files on occasion.

System requirements: 386 IBM system running DOS 3.x and Windows 3.1, 4 Meg RAM, 3 Meg HD space.

Shareware provided by NTPCUG member Neal Berkowitz.

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

Disk 957. Thunderbyte 6.31, 1/95 — Anti-Virus Utilities by Thunderbyte North American Sales, 49 Main St, Suite 300, Massena, N.Y. 13662.

Thunderbyte antivirus Version 6.31D - REGISTRATION FEE = \$20.

Thunderbyte Anti-Virus is a collection of several useful anti-virus utilities from the Neatherlands. Included are TbScan, TbScanX, TbSetup, TbClean, TbDisk, TbFile, TbMem, TbCheck, and TbUtil.



TbScan is a virus scanner which has been specifically developed to detect viruses, Trojan Horses and other such threats to your valuable data. TbScanX is the resident version of the TbScan program. TbCheck is a memory-resident integrity checker, coming into action whenever a file is about to be executed. It uses the Anti-Vir.Dat records generated by TbSetup to detect file changes.

TbClean isolates viral code in an infected program and removes it. TbMem detects attempts of programs to remain resident in memory without permission. TbFile detects attempts of programs to infect other programs. TbDisk detects attempts of programs to write directly to the disk (without using DOS), attempts to format, etc.

This software was downloaded from the Metaverse BBS by Charles Miller.

This README prepared by Charles Miller, edited by Will Davis.

Disk 958. Windows Bonus Pack — Answers to FAQ and working with .INI Files, Using Windows Driver Library, and Internet Text Files. Shareware Fee: none.

There are two sets of text files included with this Windows Bonus Pack.

The first is a FAQ (frequently asked questions) file that covers many aspects of making Windows operate YOUR way or the PROPER way. Of note are several articles dealing with problems running Windows with large hard disks, how to turn off the Windows Logo screen, how to design and make your own Logo screen, questions about drivers, permanent and temporary swap files, why does Windows take so long to start, and tips on how to get free Windows software and in general making Windows run smoother for you. There are

over 60 different topics in this QUESTION and ANSWER text file.

The second bonus consists of five text files, a goldmine if you ever have to understand all the entries in your SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI files. Both .INI files are detailed ENTRY BY ENTRY, including many entries that are not included with the default files. You have to add the entries yourself with instruction on how to do it and what the results will be after you make the additions. You are given all the DEPAULT settings, explanations of the various settings, formatting of the .INI files and step by step instructions on how to make changes without crashing your system. This is excellent for those experienced users and beginners who need the guidance before making changes to their Windows systems files.

For those users wanting to clear junk and old file entries from their .INI files after unloading software programs, this is the safe information you have been looking for.

System requirements: Any system that runs Windows 3.x or higher.

Shareware submitted by NTPCUG member Doug Gorie.

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

Disk 959. F-PROT 2.16d, 3/95 — Virus Protection from Iceland, Frisk Software International, Postholf 7180. IS-127 Reykjavik, Iceland.

F-PROT.EXE Version 216D REGISTRATION FEE = \$20.

The F-PROT anti-virus package contains a virus scanner combined with a disinfection program, as well as a resident monitoring program for intercepting known viruses. This program is free of charge for private users, but others are required to register. This pro-

gram has been consistently rated as one of the top computer virus scanners. Several levels of virus detection, including Heuristic Analysis, are available. Most users will find the menu-driven interface to be very user friendly. Command line options are available for use in batch files. F-PROT first performs a self-test, to see if it has been infected with a virus, and then it loads the search strings into memory. The next step is to search for viruses in memory, then on your disks.

The other program included in this archive is VIR-STOPEXE, a TSR program to intercept known viruses - it will prevent the execution of any program infected with any of the viruses

This software was downloaded from the Metaverse BBS by Charles Miller.

This README prepared by Charles Miller, edited by Will Davis.

Disk 960. INTEGRITY MASTER 2.42a, 2/95 — Virus protection and more, Stiller Research, 2625 Ridgeway St., Tallahassee, Florida 32310.

INTEGRITY MASTER(tm) V2.42a REGISTRATION FEE = \$35.

INTEGRITY MASTER(tm) V2.42a Virus scanner and data integrity. Easy to use but protects against much more than just viruses. Hardware glitches, software bugs, even deliberate sabotage are detected. If a virus strikes, Integrity Master identifies it by name and (unlike other programs) also identifies any damage caused by the virus. It will even detect new and unknown viruses and now provides full CMOS protection!

This software was downloaded from the Metaverse BBS by Charles Miller.

This README prepared by Charles Miller, edited by Will Davis.

Disk 961. VDS (Virus Detection System) 3.0, 12/94 — Virus Protection, Advanced Research Group, 17 W. Market St., Suite 2A, York, PA 17401, U.S.A.

VDS (Virus Detection System) 3.0 REGISTRATION FEE = \$19.

VDS (Virus Detection System) 3.0 An up-to-date anti-virus package for IBM PCs with Novell Netware(tm) LAN support. It features a fast scanner, a robust integrity checker, real-time decoy launcher, and a generic virus remover. Its user interface is one of the most functional in the market. This is the shareware release of the military-grade "Pro" version.

This software was downloaded from the Metaverse BBS by Charles Miller.

This README prepared by Charles Miller, edited by Will Davis.

Disk 962. Virex 2.94, 7/94 — Virus Protection, Datawatch Corporation, Triangle Software Division, P.O. Box 13984, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3984. **REGISTRATION FEE = \$49.95.**

Virex for the PC provides comprehensive protection against computer viruses. The current version of the program includes detection of more than 2000 known viruses. The program offers two installation methods: Quick (using default



DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

settings) or Custom (allowing customization). The package also includes an enhanced inoculate feature, which cannot only repair virus damage, but also protect your system from unknown viruses using a unique integrity check method as well as disinfectors

for more than 55 boot sector viruses.

This software was downloaded from the Metaverse BBS by Charles Miller.

This README prepared by Charles Miller, edited by Will Davis.

Windows Games

by Mike Firth

Almost everyone who uses Windows knows of the calculator in the accessories group. [If users followed the Pentium math-error stories in the media, they also know that Windows Calculator has errors also. Ed.]

The calculator that pops up is pretty simple, but it also combines well with some other Windows features: the calculator supports both copy (Ctrl-C) and paste (Ctrl-V). Copy is pretty clear: do some calculations, do copy, change to a document and paste the answer.

So what does paste do? Well, if you type 4+5+6 in a word processor and copy it to the clipboard (Ctrl-C), then switch to the calculator, and paste (Ctrl-V), you will see 6 on the display. Press = on the keyboard or on the screen with the mouse and the total appears. If you type 4+5+6= and copy and paste that, the total will appear instantly.

The "Hidden" Calculator

There is also a scientific calculator hidden away with a lot of functions. Besides working in decimal, which is the default, the display and entry can be changed to show hexadecimal, octal, and binary.

Not many people who work in Windows have much use any more for those, but if you want to play, the conversion is instant. When using anything but decimal, another box chooses whether to display 32, 16, or 8 bits (dword, word, byte). When in decimal, this box allows a choice as to whether the trig functions will interpret the displayed value as degrees, radians, or gradient. It does not change the display.

If you want to explore some of the keys look at Help (which isn't very informative), particularly the Inv key under Other Advanced Functions.

Mike Firth

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Membership Survey — October 1994

The North Texas PC Users Group (NTPCUG) is an independent, nonprofit organization of approximately 2200 members who regularly meet to exchange ideas and facts about IBM and compatible personal computers. Beginning in February, 1987, the NTPCUG began regular surveys of its membership. These surveys sample members' occupations, corporate and personal computer purchases, current hardware and software, expected future purchases and general user personal demographics.

The following results are based on a survey conducted at the October, 1994, meeting at Infomart. 260 valid surveys were collected during the meeting, representing a 12% sample of 2183 NTPCUG members current at the time of the October meeting. All numbers greater than 10 are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

NTPCUG — 1994 Membership Demographics in Brief:

Based on the October, 1994, survey, the NTPCUG membership appears to be a group of people who are working in professional-level positions, and exert significant influence over corporate computer purchase decisions. Our members are evenly distributed in age, report median family income levels above \$50,000, are well-educated and invested in continuing education efforts.

NTPCUG members also appear to be invested in maintaining state-of-the-art PC's. Members reported an average of \$2,489.05 in hardware and software purchases in 1994, representing personal PC spending of \$528,636 for the sample group. Carried across all NTPCUG members this would amount to roughly \$5.5 Million.

NTPCUG Members' professional roles

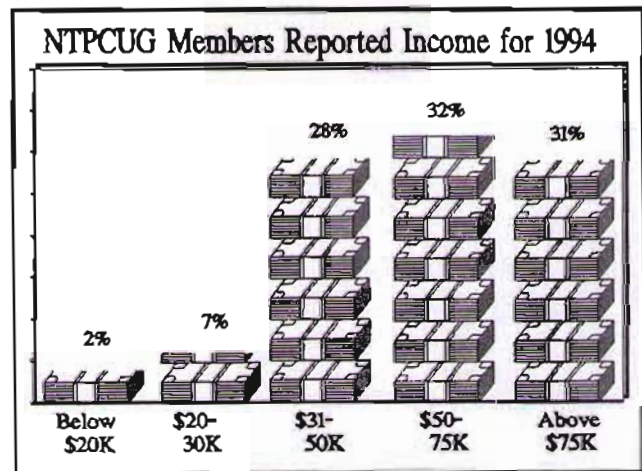
In their professional roles, NTPCUG members felt the most appropriate description of their jobs were:

A) Chairman/.....	G) Software Engr./.....
President CEO .....8%	Programmer 10%
B) MIS Manager .....5%	H) Representative 1%
C) Engr./Hardware .....5%	I) Educator .....4%
D) Consultant .....24%	J) Mgr. (Non-MIS) 8%
E) Systems Analyst .....4%	K) Scientist .....3%
F) Data Base .....1%	L) Other.....24%
Supervisor/Administrator	

- 75% of our members are married (this figure is not broken down by sex) 12% of members report that they bring their spouses or significant others to NTPCUG meetings
- 76% of the 1994 membership sample had 4-year Bachelor degrees or higher — 24% of members report degrees at the Masters level, 6% of the respondents hold doctoral level degrees
- 53% report that they regularly participate in continuing education
- 86% classify themselves as skilled or expert PC users — 28% report expert-level knowledge
- 87% have and regularly use modems with their PC's at home, 50% at work, and 36% report two or more telephone lines at their residences
- 64% report use of a FAX board in the home PC while 16% have dedicated FAX machines
- 64% have more than one PC in operation at home
- Median PC reported is a 486DX, has a 340+ M hard disk and 8M or more DRAM installed. 21% report disks larger than 340M and 33% report 16M DRAM or more.
- DOS/Windows is used by 82%, OS/2 by 6% of members responding. UNIX was reported as most used operating system by 2%, 8% "Don't Know" while one (1) member reported PICK as primary OS.

Membership survey highlights

- 63% of NTPCUG members surveyed report a significant amount of their work involves them in evaluation, recommendation, design manufacture or sales of computer hardware or software:
45% of total sample in computer hardware
18% of total sample in software
- 65% of those members sampled who are not Computer Professionals state they are considered PC Experts in their area(s)
- 89% of NTPCUG members are males
11% of NTPCUG members are females



NTPCUG — 1994 Membership Demographics

NTPCUG Members tend to spend a lot of time with PC's. Majority of NTPCUG members surveyed reported more than one operational PC at home and 24% of members said they had three or more PC's at home. Home PC use patterns reported indicate that male members tend to use the PC most — 54%. Women were reported as primary users at 33% while the children were described as most frequent PC users by 13% of responders.

Home PC Purchase Patterns

Members *personal* home PC spending reported for the year increased approximately 5% since 1993, and were:

Hardware: 212 members reported they spent an average of \$1,529 on hardware in 1994 for a total of \$324,336 in purchases.

Software: 213 members said they spent an average of \$959 on software during 1993 for a total of \$204,300.

Total: PC purchases averaged \$2,489 for 213 members responding to the survey. Total spent = \$528,636.

If carried across all 2,230 members, that would represent about \$5,550,470 in NTPCUG members' *personal* home PC-related purchases.

Home PC use patterns

Home PC ownership has continued shifting away from the "name brands" since the last survey. CPU Power seems to increase every year — apparently driven by *Windows, OS/2* and *Multimedia* demands.

"486-Class" PC's now represent 71% of members' primary machines and 80386DX and SX CPU's have dropped to 19% from last year's 36% of PC's. Less than 3% of the primary PC's reported are 8088/8086 - powered with 80286 PC's now at 3% of primary use according to this survey.

"Old" PC's — Stay at home

What happened to all the "old" PC's? Many seem to have remained at home — either as back-up PC's or for use by other members of the family. 60% of the sample reported more than one, working, home PC in this survey and 24% reported three or more operating PC's in their homes.

Planned Purchases: NTPC members state they are planning to upgrade their current systems by:

- A) Adding a Hard Disk 10%
- B) Adding a Larger Hard Disk 34%
- C) Adding a (faster) Modem 26%
- D) Adding an AT or Clone 1%
- E) Adding Memory (DRAM) 30%
- F) Adding an Impact Printer 1%
- G) Adding a Laser Printer 16%
- H) Adding Accelerator Board 5%
- I) Adding 486 Machine 11%
- J) Add high-quality color / graphics VGA+ etc. . 11%
- K) Add multiple scan-rate or high res monitor .. 8%
- L) Adding a Pentium Machine 20%
- M) Adding a CD-ROM to PC..... 39%
- N) Adding a FAX Board to PC..... 8%
- O) Adding a Tape Drive Backup 16%

NTPCUG Members exert significant influence on computer-related purchasing decisions within their companies and organizations. Figures below are rounded to nearest whole percent based on survey responses.

NTPCUG Members report they recommend computer and software purchases, but have NO FINAL AUTHORITY OVER them, in the following amounts:

- A) Below \$2,000. 31%
- B) \$ 2 - 5K 10%
- C) \$ 5 - 10K 11%
- D) \$10 - 20K 8%
- E) \$20 - 50K 10%
- F) \$50 - 100K 13%
- G) Over \$100K 16%
- Other Code or No response ... 28%

HARDWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer hardware annually:

- A) Mainframe/s 5%
- B) Minicomputers 12%
- C) Microcomputers [PC's] 73%
- D) LAN's 43%
- E) Laser Printers..... 70%
- F) Impact Printers..... 43%
- G) Monitors..... 77%
- H) Modems..... 77%
- I) Hard Disks 76%
- J) Tape Backup 63%
- K) Add-In Cards 59%
- L) Video Projection Systems .. 15%
- M) Communications Equipment 44%
- Z) Other 3%

NTPCUG Members report they recommend and HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY OVER the following amounts of computer-related purchases annually:

- A) Below \$2,000..... 40%
- B) \$ 2 - 5K..... 19%
- C) \$ 5 - 10K..... 13%
- D) \$ 10 - 20K..... 11%
- E) \$20 - 50K 7%
- F) \$50 - 100K 4%
- G) Over \$100K 6%
- Other Code or No response .. 23%

SOFTWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer software annually:

- A) Accounting 36%
- B) Order Entry / Inventory ... 18%
- C) Payroll 16%
- D) Time Billing..... 13%
- E) Spreadsheets 72%
- F) Word Processing 78%
- G) Communications 59%
- H) CAD / CAM..... 19%
- I) Project Managers 28%
- J) Database..... 66%
- K) Programming Tools 37%
- L) Graphics 42%
- M) Statistics / Analysis 18%
- N) Multimedia Presentation .. 29%
- O) Electronic Mail (E-Mail) ... 32%
- Z) Other..... 7%

Selected SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to NTPCUG BBS SIG Upload Area before the 10th day of each month)

Attention All SIG Leaders!

We want your SIG notes. It's important that NTPCUG members know what your SIG has done and will be doing at your meetings and presentations. But, you must get them to the *PC News* before they can be printed in the newsletter.

The best way is via the NTPCUG BBS. It's easy and quick. After you have written your SIGnote, sign it at the bottom and give it a file name that will help the editors know what it is.

A good naming convention would be four letters identifying your SIG, date of publication and followed by .SIG suffix. April DOS SIG filename, for example, would be: *DOS0495.SIG*.

Once you log on to the NTPCUG BBS, here's the procedure:

- ❖ From the BBS Main Menu, select "F" — (F)ile Up/Download. That will take you to the NTPCUG Up/Download Menu.
- ❖ Select "T" — S(I)G Happenings upload for newsletter.
- ❖ Then, select "S" to submit happening (SIG note)

If you want to make doubly sure that your note gets to the *PC News* — after you've sent it to the SIG Upload Area — you can also include it as a (F)ile attached to an E-mail message to Kent Roberts or to me, Reagan Andrews.

We'll discuss this in detail at the April SIG Leaders Meeting.

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

The following are changes/additions/needs that the NTPCUG has made to the SIG's.

New SIGs:

- **DACAD (Corel)** — JoAnn Elliott @ (214) 231-5332
- **Internet-Beginning** — Tom O'Keefe @ (214) 247-8812 h

New SIG Leaders:

- **Windows Applications** — Neal Berkowitz @ (214) 475-7463 h
(214) 475-3124 w

SIG Name Change:

- **Micrografx SIG** is now **Graphics SIG**

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- **Middle C** (Contact Tom Cook @ (214) 871-8177 w)
- **Word for Windows** (Contact Janet Parton @ (903) 886-6249 h)

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)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley (214) 517-7430 h

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

ACT I

Jim Thompson (817) 261-6159 h
..... (214) 953-0051 w
Deborah Bean..... (214) 475-7463 h
..... (214) 475-3124 w

Access

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 hM
Jack Atkinson..... (817) 481-6623 h
Dianna DeCicco.. (214) 448-0639 h
Frank McCoy..... (817) 232-2483 h

Alpha 4

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

Applications Developers (OLE & ODBC)

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

Assembler

Glynn Brooks (214) 578-8737 h
..... (214) 930-5123 w

BASIC - Beginning

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

BASIC - Classic

Mike Firth (214) 827-7734 h

BASIC Visual

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

Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland .. (214) 272-2869 h

Business Applications/DAC

Putt Shaw..... (214) 235-2559 h
..... (214) 669-9633 w

SIG

Access SIG

Larry Linson will speak in April on a variety of techniques he's found useful in developing Access 2.0 applications. Some are useful to the beginning developer and some are, well, more advanced. Some planned topics are:

- ❖ "Borrowing Test Data from Sample Applications",
- ❖ "Taking Advantage of Access 2.0's Smarter Combo Boxes," and
- ❖ "Using Access 2.0's Data Access Objects."

Larry's example application will be a simple address book done in Access, which could be expanded into a custom-tailored personal information manager application — come take a look, and maybe win a copy of the source in our regular door prize drawing.

Thanks to Frank McCoy, who's been Assistant SIG Leader of the Access SIG since we began in April of 1993, for his presentation on his user-developed application to support the business needs of his employer, a provider of Magnetic Resonance Imaging services.

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.

Don't you have some samples and examples that you'd be willing to contribute to an Access SIG Disk of the Month for distribution by the North Texas User Group Disk of

the Month? We're still looking for participants in this effort.

And, of course, if you are willing to speak on a topic of interest to Access users and developers, please let us know. Our attendees range from those still trying to decide what Windows DBMS to purchase to advanced Access developers, so topics at any level are appropriate.

A sister organization has been formed in this area, Metroplex Access Developers. It's not associated with the NTPCUG, but a number of our SIG members are among the organizers and participants. We're happy to see that interest in our favorite Windows DBMS is strong enough to support two active groups in the area. We offer our best wishes for success to this new organization. (Additional information will be available at our April SIG meeting.)

See you at the Access SIG on April 15!

Larry Linson

Application Developers SIG (OLE and ODBC)

Jeff Hopper of Borland International, will speak at our April meeting, to give us an in-depth presentation on the official release version Borland's *Delphi*. This new development tool supports OLE, ODBC, IDAPI, and is aimed primarily at the client-server front end market. It's not officially cast as a competitor to Visual Basic but more as a competitor for PowerBuilder and the like, though the initial release is certainly useful for developing for the desktop.

According to industry experts, Delphi will be a major factor in Borland's future. We're looking forward to this demonstration, especially since Jeff gave us a sneak peek at the Delphi beta after his December *Paradox* demonstration. Even if you're perfectly satisfied with your current set of develop-

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

Business Applications... Ctd.

Bruce Schubert ... (214) 690-5848 h
..... (214) 233-8353 w

C++/Advanced

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

Middle C

Tom Cook (214) 871-8177 w

CAD

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

Communications

Doug Gorrie (214) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-7942 w
Birl Smith (214) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 220-9388 w

Community Service

Brian Mickel (214) 521-2938 h
..... (214) 521-6670 w
Alex Lilley (214) 517-7430 h
..... (214) 527-0922 w

DACAD (Dallas Association of Corel Artists and Designers)

JoAnn Elliott (214) 231-5332 h
Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266

DOS

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

Dataflex

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

Desktop Publishing

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

Fox Pro

Kevin White (214) 644-5008 w

Genealogy - General

Al Sanford (214) 278-7888 h

Genealogy - PAF

Joe Waldrop (817) 498-5856 h

Genealogy - Roots III / IV

John Wylie (214) 495-4410 h

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

Genealogy - *The Master Genealogist*

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

Graphics

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

Hardware Solutions

Charles Miller..... (903) 938-4220 h
Ralph Beaver..... (817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson..... (214) 938-0344 h

Health Care Computing/Informatics

Zeke Rabkin..... (214) 321-9462 w

Internet-Beginner

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

Internet-Advanced

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

Investors

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

MS Word for Windows

Janet Patton..... (903) 886-6249 h

MS Works

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

Microsoft Networking

Debbie Lenhart... (214) 625-9680 h
..... (214) 716-2704 w
Bruce Wynn..... (214) 335-2507 h
..... (214) 756-7832 w
John McCrae.....

MultiMedia

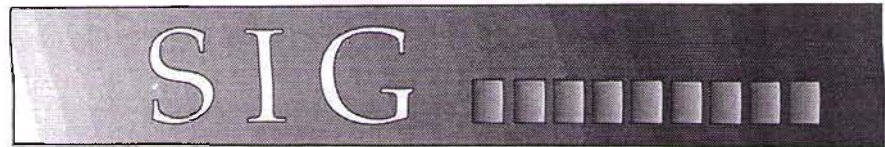
Dennis Rice..... (214) 680-8299 h

Networking

Leroy Tennison
Francis Bright

OS/2 Developer

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



ment tools, you'll find this an informative demonstration of a very interesting product — it supports the VBX 1.0 standard, can be used to prepare your own VBXes and .DLLs, compiles to a true executable program, and is very-much object oriented.

Thanks to Dan Ogden for his recent demonstrations and for showing us the *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal CD*, which has quite a number of items of interest to OLE & ODBC developers. Thanks, too, to the many SIG members who participated in our general discussions of items of interest at recent meetings — we're depending on your continued interest and participation.

If you haven't been attending, here's a summary of our goals for the SIG:

The Microsoft Windows *Component Object Model*, based on the Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) and the Open Database Connection (ODBC) technologies, enables application developers to use commercial software (such as the Microsoft Office products) as integral parts of their own applications. Our goal is to learn together to use these technologies to develop component applications compliant with the Microsoft Component Object Model. IBM says that its (competing?) *System Object Model* will support Component Object Model applications, too, so if SOM is your goal, you'll get a head start if you join with us in our efforts.

Our current focus is on using Access 2.0, Delphi, Paradox 5.0 for Windows, and Visual Basic 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 discussion of component application techniques, demonstrations and examples, occasional guest speakers, and sometimes just getting together to talk about the subject.

We continue to need speakers for future meetings on any topic of interest to developers using the Component Object Model, especially: samples and examples 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 March meeting we discussed the PC's printer port and how it works both for output (easy) and for input (a bit trickier). We also looked at three Assembler programs that (1) swap the printer output ports, (2) determine whether the printer port is bidirectional, and (3) a TSR that converts extended ASCII characters to characters that will print properly on any printer. (You can still download a .ZIP file containing the source programs and compiled programs. They are attached to the March meeting announcement message in the Assembler SIG area on the BBS.)

The April discussion will be about CMOS memory. Many of the CMOS registers have never been documented officially, yet contain

SIG



useful information. Come get the lowdown and learn how to dependably read and write CMOS memory data. We'll also look at the real-time clock and how to use and program it properly.

Tip of the Month: Where to Get Help

People who cannot get their Assembler programs to work sometimes have difficulty finding anyone who can help. Here are a few of my problem resolution strategies and some suggestions on how to get expert answers.

1. If the problem is incorrect program output, use the debugger to step through the code. Make sure the values in the registers are consistent with your understanding of how the program is supposed to work. Use debugger breakpoints to stop program execution just before where a failure occurs so you can see what led up to the failure. Know before you execute the code what each routine should produce and check for inconsistencies. Don't just watch the program run — predict what will happen before executing the suspect code and investigate any deviation from your prediction.

2. If the problem appears to be a bug in the Assembler, linker or other program product, isolate the problem with the smallest fragment of source code possible and then report it to the vendor. Don't just send a copy of your program to the vendor — the longer the code is, the less likely you will get a quick answer.

3. Upload your code fragment to the vendor's bulletin board in a public message. This serves two purposes: it officially notifies the vendor that there is a bug in the product, and it helps other users to know there is a problem they should avoid. In my experience, other users may be able to offer

suggestions or other coding techniques that will get you going again. In addition, other users frequently provide a quicker answer than the vendor's staff.

I've also had luck getting answers to technical questions and notice of bug fixes on CompuServe. I frequently visit the forums listed below to keep in contact with other users and find out what new features and fixes are available from the vendors.

PCPROG, Section 1 — General Assembler language questions

BCPPDOS, Section 4 — Borland TASM support

MSLANG, Section 4 — Microsoft MASM support

OAFORUM, Section 14 — Eric Isaacson's A86 shareware assembler

Glynn Brooks

Beginners Basic SIG

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

To be covered in 1995: Bit/hex/decimal conversion, more graphics programs, payroll programs, general ledger programs, your own spread sheet program code, inventory control, your own database program code (Not necessarily in that order).

Regular SIG members bring a 3-1/2" disk each month to exchange for an updated disk which includes this month's material. That way they don't have to type in the pro-

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

OS/2 for End Users

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

OS/2 Q&A

Larry Truesdale

Paradox

Fred Williams.....(214) 492-1315 h

Paradox... Ctd.

Tom Browning(214) 692-9784 h

Personal Users

Alex Lilley(214) 517-7430 h

.....(214) 527-0922 w

Bob Russell(214) 422-4269 h

Programmers

Kent Kingery.....(214) 317-0125 h

Jim Holsington.....(214) 416-3101 h

Quicken

W. L. Harris(214) 291-7616 h

.....(214) 462-3676 w

Phil Faulkner(214) 239-0561 h

.....(214) 819-4446 w

Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev

Mark Gruner(214) 964-8174 h

.....(214) 605-8447 w

Adam Peterson.....(214) 682-0725 h

.....(214) 864-2760 w

Startext

Jim Boughton(817) 478-6665 h

.....(817) 265-8044 w

Bill Jones(214) 423-8486 h

UNIX

Jim Stallworth.....(214) 789-3783 h

.....(214) 604-2226 w

Doug Scott.....(817) 261-4653 hM

.....(817) 878-0367 wM

Windows - Applications

Neal Berkowitz(214) 475-7463 h

.....(214) 475-3124 w

Windows - Developers

Art English.....(214) 618-1266 h

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

WordPerfect / DOS

Dawn Hopkins

WordPerfect / Windows

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

gram examples, and they are up-to-date without having to wait for the yearly DOM disk.

Charles Jacobus



Communications SIG

At our March meeting, co-leader Birl Smith gave his long-awaited session on UARTs (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitters). These little devices are involved whenever you initiate a modem connection to an online service. The version of UART installed on your PC has a lot to do with the reliability of high speed connections

(9,600 bps and higher), especially when operating under Windows. Birl also discussed why communications drivers from non-Microsoft sources can increase speed and reduce errors when using your Windows communications software.

In April, we plan to explain off-line mail readers (OLMR). The idea with OLMRs is to connect to a BBS only long enough (as little as one minute) to have a compressed "QWK" packet of conference and personal messages downloaded to your PC. Then, hang up and, using an OLMR, read the QWK packet of messages and create any replies. Finally, reconnect to the BBS and upload them in a compressed QWK packet form. The BBS will separate the messages and distribute them to the final user or conference. The reduced connect time allowed by OLMRs can reduce long distance charges as well as increase the utilization of each BBS phone line.

By the time you receive this April newsletter, our BBS may already be connected to the Internet's USENET news groups. USENET is the Internet's conference mail system, similar to the conference areas on our own BBS. Because USENET has over 1,200 conferences (of both good and dubious value), our members could easily tie up BBS phone lines for hours reading news groups. To alleviate this costly problem, NTPCUG will require that news groups be downloaded as compressed QWK packets for reading with an OLMR. If you plan to take advantage of USENET on our BBS, plan on joining us to learn about off-line mail readers. If you miss the April meeting, this process will be covered in later meetings and in the PC NEWS.

Birl Smith & Doug Gorrie

DACAD SIG

DACAD — Dallas Association of Corel Artists and Designers — will hold our first meeting as an NTPCUG SIG in April. See our "ad" at left for details of the April DACAD SIG Meeting.

JoAnn Elliott

Welcome Dallas Association of Corel Artists & Designers (DACAD)

Established Dallas CorelDRAW! User Group Merges with NTPCUG March 25.

Dallas Association of Corel Artists & Designers (DACAD) is a special interest group whose purpose is to provide ongoing information exchange for Corel users. Specifically, it strives to help Corel users achieve their technical and creative goals with Corel and Corel compatible products and services.

The group accomplishes this purpose through programs that:

- ➔ **Demonstrate the potential** of the technical and creative features of Corel products, and their compatibility with other software and hardware.
- ➔ **Educate** and assist users of Corel products at all skill levels.
- ➔ **Encourage information sharing** among members through forums, networks and publications.
- ➔ **Communicate with and respond to the needs and requests of the members.**
- ➔ **Obtain direct support** from Corel Corporation, i.e. group acknowledgment, product and technical information and group preferential treatment.

CorelDRAW! and other Corel products provide the focus of interest, with most attendees relying on them in their work environments and others using them purely for personal enjoyment. The products uniquely fill a place in the market and user interest remains keen. The complexity of the products is such that users welcome information exchange opportunities to gain greater proficiency. The future of the product seems promising enough for individuals to commit to an in-depth learning effort.



Meeting: April 15, 1995 featuring a MEMBERS SHOWCASE.

DACAD members will be showing examples of their work with Corel Products. There will be samples, a computer slide presentation, and demonstrations. As usual you can get plenty of advice and questions answered from fellow Corel users.

Room assignment to be announced



SIG

DOS SIG

From the top, I'd like to thank **Glynn Brooks**, Assembler SIG Leader, **Ken Loafman**, resident Virus expert and **Charles Miller**, Hardware Solutions SIG Leader, for their contributions to the March combined DOS - Hardware Solutions SIG meeting. It was an excellent panel discussion on prevention and cure of Virus infections.

April's DOS SIG will not be quite so focused. We will pick up some of the questions posed in the March meeting and expand on them with an emphasis on use of Emergency Disks, FDISK, FORMAT and SYS after emergencies such as disk crashes, electrical storm damage and virus infections.

(Ken Loafman may remind us — again — of the importance of including your backup software in the "emergency pack.")

As usual, we'll end with a general Q & A discussion of members' DOS questions.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG - General

The Chrysalis Bulletin Board (BBS) was the program for February. Garry Grosse, the owner of Chrysalis gave the presentation. Chrysalis has been a BBS in the DFW area for some 17 years. Its main interest to the Genealogy SIGs is its Internet capability which gives access to much genealogy research, hardware, software, and other data. Internet (The Super Electronic Highway) is becoming more and more popular among computer genealogy researchers. The most frequently asked questions among the genealogy SIGs is "How can I get on Internet without a large monthly cost?" The most painless way I know of so far is to become a member of the local Chrysalis Bulletin Board System (BBS).

At present Chrysalis is lacking the Internet facilities for World Wide Web (WWW) and for Telnet and it has a modified File Transfer Protocol (FTP) capability in that you have to access one of 5 give FTP sites in order to establish contact with the FTP site of your interest. Chrysalis does have Internet (and local) E-mail, it has gateways to Usenet, Bitnet, etc. Chrysalis supports the use of Archie, Gopher, and the like.

I personally have a \$50 yearly membership. I subscribe to Roots-L, one of the main Internet genealogy forums. My E-mail address is lfred.sanford@chrysalis.org in case any of you are interested in contacting me over the Internet.

There are at least two other Internet gateways in the DFW area that supply the full Internet service for approximately \$20 per month. These are Metro Net and Internet America.

The General Genealogy SIG, with about 60 present, meets from 9 to 10 am in room 1059. It tries to support all hardware and software types. The program for March was scheduled as "An Overview of Major Genealogy Programs" and the April program will be "Family Keys CD ROM Magazine."

Al Sanford

Genealogy SIG- PAF

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) has long been one of the most popular genealogy program software packages. The upgrades of its menu-driven interface have steadfastly resisted change and remained in the Disk Operating System (DOS) domain instead of being able to also operate within the Windows environment. It also uses a simple text editor instead of a more full-blown word processor to enter notes.

Now there is a new Windows genealogy software package called An-

cestral Quest which uses the PAF database for both its input and output. This means that when Ancestral File is brought up on your computer, it automatically loads your PAF database. You can then operate in the Windows environment, including the usual cut, copy, and paste functions and the use of a word processor for writing your notes and citing your sources.

When you "save" the work of your Ancestral Quest, it saves it back into your PAF data file. You can then go to PAF and your data will reflect data changes you made using Ancestral Quest.

Ancestral Quest and PAF can be used together to give you the best of two worlds. You can do data entry more speedily sometimes when using AQ than PAF. You can certainly write and edit notes more comfortably in AQ than PAF. But you can switch from one to the other software program without having to GEDCOM.

AQ is a Windows program. You cannot run it if you do not have Windows capability. But the good thing is that, unlike most Windows programs, it can be run with 286 processor (although a 386 or higher is recommended) and with only 2 MB of RAM and 1 MB of hard disk space. Using a computer with a 286 means you have to run Windows in the Regular and not the Enhanced mode of the 386 or above processors. Thus the program will run slower, but AQ is a very fast program.

Ancestral Quest can be obtained from local genealogy stores or it can be purchased from its maker Incline Software, P.O. Box 17788, Salt Lake City UT 84117-0788, phone 800-825-8864 for \$69.95 (\$49.95 introductory offer, but I don't know when this expires). There is a 30-day money-back guarantee. It can be ordered on a 3-1/2" or a 5-1/4" disk.

The PAF SIG meets from 10 to 11 am in room 1059. There is Q & A period and 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

Graphics SIG

The Micrografx SIG is becoming the Graphics SIG to better reflect our growing interest in all graphics programs. We have been showing signs of this change over the last few months with presentations by Arts & Letters and Fractal Design.

While we will continue to support and promote the Micrografx products (heck, Picture Publisher is definitely the best image editing program on the market today), there are many products that are not being covered by any of the SIGs that fit into our area of interest.

So, if you are interested in Presentation Programs, animation, image editing, drawing, morphing, or most of the programs that drive high-end machines to their knees, come give us a check out.

If anyone has any ideas for a presentation, or has a program that they would like to show off, give me a yell. Hope to see everybody.

Neal Berkowitz

Health Care/Medical Informatics SIG

Since the NTPCUG newsletter deadline precedes our next meeting... it is a bit challenging describing things that will take place in the future...but will be in the past by the time you receive this. Our March meeting will have been devoted to mobile computing in the medical world. Jim Henry from HEALTHWARE will demo some pen technology applications that can be used in the hospital, out-patient, or home health settings. We expect to have some hand-held hardware with healthcare software applications demonstrated. And we anticipate another lively discussion touching on the economic, political, and social forces contributing to the trend of increased computerization in the health care arena.....and we will almost certainly spend some time examining the enormous array of cultural, organizational, and financial obstacles to applying currently available computer solutions to tackle the vast range of health care problems.



Zeke Rabkin

Internet SIGs - Beginning and Advanced

In March, due to popular demand, NTPCUG initiated a SECOND Internet SIG. Our regular 9 AM SIG became an Advanced SIG, focusing on issues of interest to our more experienced Internet users. At 10 AM, we instituted a new SIG in a much larger room to address the needs of Internet "newbees".

Our presenter for both SIGs was Chris MacFarland, of Compu-tek International. Compu-tek is one of the growing number of Internet service providers (ISP) in the Dallas area. At the 9 AM SIG, Chris explained the use of Internet Relay Chat (IRC), an Internet service that operates similar to Citizens Band radio. IRC is a tricky tool to use, but Chris did an admirable job of explaining how. At 10 AM, Chris dropped back to the basics, helping those unfamiliar with the Internet understand how to gain access, and what the options are in doing so. Our thanks to Chris for his assistance in educating our members.

In April's Beginners SIG, Jeff Smith of On Ramp Technologies will discuss World Wide Web browsers, especially one called Netscape. Netscape and similar browsers are making it easy for anyone to access the Internet, without their having to become "teckies". To get your overview of WWW browsers, join us at 10 AM.

As of our SIG Happenings cutoff date, we have not yet identified the Advanced Internet SIG topic and presenter for April, but we know that if you miss it (whatever it is), you'll regret it. 'Nough said.

Tom O'Keefe & Doug Gorrie

Paradox SIG

Larry Linson has confirmed that Jeff Hopper or possibly an unnamed Scots Valley person will be

presenting in-depth looks at Delphi at both the Paradox SIG and the Windows Applications Developers SIG at our April meeting.

I urge all Windows developers, database or otherwise, to attend either or both of the SIG meetings. Delphi is a very interesting product and is targeted to provide a desktop, full object-oriented, RAD (Rapid Application Development) client server, development tool. I have seen the product about three times now and it looks very "interesting".

Come to the Paradox SIG and see if you think Delphi truly is a "Power-Builder Killer."

Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

The following is the tentative schedule for the Personal Users classes that will be offered during the next three months. Classes can be taken in any order suitable to the individual student's schedule. Printed notes are provided during classes.

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

SIG



- ❖ Noon Class 15
Disk of the Month (DOM)
- ❖ 1:00 Class 16
PC's Into the 21st Century

ine 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
TPCUG BBS for corrected dates
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

Program SIG

Programming madness will prevail in April as the Programmer's SIG holds a Battle of the Objects. Programmers in each major language group will produce as many overloaded, multi-inherited objects as possible in 15 minutes.

The first group to successfully compile and run their code will get to "Ctrl-Alt-Del" the other programmers' computers.

Join us in May when we ask the winners to read the source code of their program and tell us what it does.

Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - Beginning

The April 15th meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will include a presentation introducing the subject of objects: form objects,

control objects, object variables, etc. If you want to get advance info, read Chapter 8 of the Visual Basic Programmer's Guide.

During the February "For Beginner's Only" presentation, I ran out of time just as I got to the live demo on Visual Basic 3.0. This has happened before, so I promise that the next presentation that is canceled for some reason, I will just "wing it" and show off the Integrated Development Environment (IDE) of Visual Basic 3.0. Several folks complained that I quit just when we got to the "interesting" part!

We had a drawing (during the February meeting) for several copies of True Grid, a data-aware Grid control for Microsoft Visual Basic 3.0 which were donated by Apex Software Corporation. Remember, only card/receipt-carrying members are eligible to win product drawings!

The March 25th meeting was scheduled to be on the topic of relational databases.

Future meetings of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will feature 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, April 15, 1995. Check the Infomart lobby

screens for the correct room assignment. We have been warned that changes to room assignments will be coming soon.

Jim Carter

Windows Applications SIG

The Windows Applications SIG has new leadership this year, and although I am slow in getting things out to the newsletter, we are going gangbusters.

The year began with more interest in getting Windows working than in seeing what is actually available for Windows. Because of this, we started with the basics - hardware requirements in January, DOS and .INI "tweaks" in February, and assorted user tips and tricks in March.

The crystal ball is still a bit cloudy for future months but we are considering doing a presentation on presentation programs in April which may continue into May. It seems that we have a great deal of interest in how the presentations are constructed! Another possibility for May is that we might be demonstrating the features of Central Point PC Tools for Windows. While Windows 95 is pending, there is still a great deal of life left in Windows 3.1. Replacement shells will go a long way toward delaying the move to 95.

Regardless, the major focus of the group will continue to be an overview of all of Windows. One month we might tackle video issues, the next Communication programs, the next Utilities.

Tip of the month:

Waiting for Windows to start up can be a pain - especially if you need to get into it now! To skip the loading of all the items in the startup group, press the SHIFT key while Windows loads. Unfortunately, the items in the LOAD= and RUN= lines still get executed. Perhaps this is the incentive needed to place them in startup instead of in WIN.INI.

Neal Berkowitz

Internet Feed ... Almost Here

As I am writing this Doug Gorrie is working out the administrative details of the UUCP feed with our new Internet service provider, On Ramp Technologies. And, I am attempting to get the BBS hardware and software installed so that we can actually start testing the Internet feed.

It has certainly taken a long time coming, but it should not be much longer. Everyone had best start warming up their off-line readers.

eSoft on Top of Things

The TBBS 2.3 upgrade seems to be working smoothly. I have already received and installed two bug-fix updates in as many months. eSoft, the TBBS author's company, is world-renowned for their software support.

I check the eSoft Support BBS at least once a week to catch up on what is happening in the TBBS world. I use QSO, the QWK mail feature, to process my mail same as I do here on our BBS. If there is a new TBBS update file since the last time I called eSoft's BBS, it is automatically included in my new mail packet.

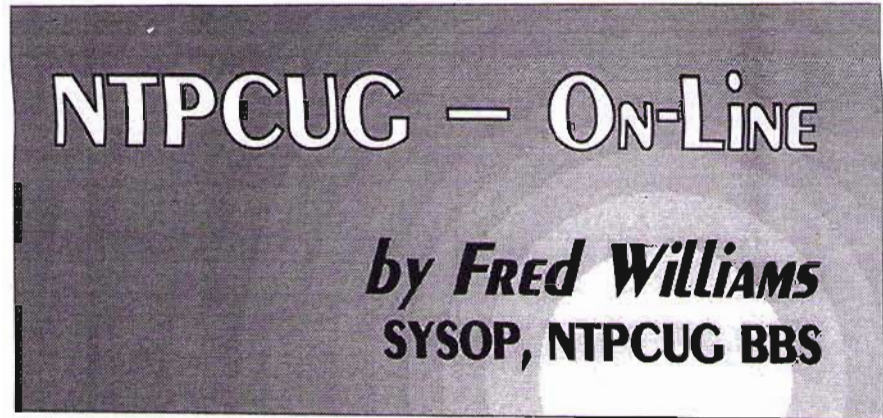
To update our BBS, I extract the update zip file from my new mail packet and upload it to our BBS. The next nightly processing run recognizes there is a new update file and automatically runs the TBBS update program. When the BBS comes back online it has the latest bug fixes installed. Man! This Sysop work is backbreaking!

SIG ■■■■■■

Word for Windows SIG

The Word for Windows SIG will take a month off in April. We'll start up again in May and topic for the May SIG meeting will be announced in the NTPCUG newsletter.

Janet Patton



If anyone notes any "undocumented features" on the BBS please leave the Sysop staff a note, so that we can check it out. eSoft is so fast that before I could send them a message related to a couple of bugs I found, that night's update file had the fixes for those bugs.

Feed Fred's BBS Suggestion Box

The first monthly Fred's BBS Suggestion Box was a roaring flop. I got zero input. Bummer. I need some feedback here. The box will be back at the NTPCUG kiosk this month. Let us know what it will take to get you "online".

Use the BBS for Member Input

Recently on the BBS there has been a lively discussion of how the NTPCUG might improve the membership renewal percentage. Most of the board of directors have been following the message thread closely. I have seen some very posi-

tive input that looks very interesting. I think the Board of Directors will attempt to implement some version of the better ideas.

If you are interested in having some input into your users group, the BBS is the only continuous two-way communications medium we have. It is just difficult to get everything done and everybody visited with only one day a month.

There are some very helpful things that end up on the BBS. We have had in-depth discussions on various hardware add-ons and the grief they can cause. And better yet, some helpful suggestions on extracting oneself from a tight spot. Windows is a consistent source for generating questions and answers also.

Chef Fred

In the spirit of helping one another, I posted one rather helpful bit of information recently. It was a delicious-sounding recipe for Elephant Soup I found on another BBS. The toughest part so far has been locating an elephant. The next tough part, once I have found it, will be cutting it into bite sized chunks.

I just whipped up a batch of shrimp etouffee tonight, but Donna claimed she is ready for a more interesting menu change. I'm getting kind of desperate, so if you see any elephants, please scare one my way or bring it to the meeting. I have an old original PC I'll trade you for it. I'll throw in an original IBM dot matrix printer, if you bring it field dressed.

Fred Williams



INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

In Like A Lion

Just like the weather; the NTPCUG started March with attendance at the *Delphi* rollout at the Infomart. There was a lot of activity at the three tables outside the doors as members filed by to the packed auditorium. Our volunteers were there to hand out questionnaires, Club trifold brochures and membership applications. NTPCUG does a lot to further computer knowledge in North Texas. It is great to see the activity and to be a part of it.

New member and volunteer Linda Moore was so busy taking applications, she had to be told the program was starting so she wouldn't miss the kickoff. Typical of the

March madness when the tally was made, Linda had taken three applications. Hats off to Linda. We also want to mention **Timothy Carmichael**, who communicated to the volunteers and to the Borland folks to make this get-together a pleasant way to spend a rainy March weekend.

My only regret was that I didn't win a copy of the *Delphi* program or a neat T-shirt, but some lucky members went home with the resolution to clear a nice bit of hard drive acreage for their new toy.

Be sure to thank our volunteers; they make our system work. The volunteers from our February 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
Raymond Reyes
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller

Booth Crew:

Laurie Barnett
Lorin Cranford
Elizabeth Doss
Ron Goady
James Gorak
Al Goyna
Eugene Hamelman
Claude McClure
Foy T. Mills
Martin Moomaw
Carl Oehmann
Fred Toulmin
Art Ullman
Jean Waldrep

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:

Joe Allen
James Donlon
Judy Griffiths
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Crew:

Doug Athas

Berny Baars
Donna Baker
Rob Bender
Philip Bridge
Gene Carleton
Don Chick
Robert Clark
William Farris
Charles Fernandez
Ned Keig
Jan Parkhill
Bob Post

David Huckabee

M. Pat Henley
Jan Parkhill
Jerry Stone

Inventory and Take-down Crew:

Dale Diamond
Mark Gruner
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Scheduler:
Charles Cashion
Disk Production:
Howard Hamilton
Willard Davis

With Special Thanks

to:

Set Up Crew:
Mark Gruner

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)263-9096 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael (214)661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler

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

DOM Software Review

Frank Miller (214)231-1345 (h)

Information Booth and General Information

Claude McClure (214)867-0978 (h)



NTPCUG User - To - User Program

NTPCUG USER-TO-USER PROGRAM

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)481-2350	M-Sa 1300-1500	DR DOS	Ralph Beaver	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700
Assembly Language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7 1800-2200		.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100
	Glynn Brooks.....	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200	Hardware Help	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	HyperAccess	Woody Pewitt.....	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
Beginner Problems	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	LANs — Novell	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(214)352-2800	7 0900-2000	— Lantastic	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland.....	(214)272-2869	7 0900-2200	Managing Your Money	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
C (the language)	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200	MathCAD	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	.....		T&T 1800-2030	OS/2	Larry Truesdale	(214)442-7074	7 1000-2200
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	PC Tools/Win	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200	Paradox	Fred Williams.....	(214)492-1315	7 1300-2100
	.....		T&T 1800-2030	ProComm/ProComm+	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
	Don Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030		.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
Batch Files	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400		Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308	
Borland C++	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	.....		T&T 1800-2030	Quicken	Billy Pitts.....	(817)430-8148	7 1830-2100
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700		Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900	Quickbooks	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
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
SPFPC			
	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
TurboVision			
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
	.....		T&T 1800-2030
	Don Cochran.....	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030
UNIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus			
	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Visual Basic - Advanced			
	Woody Pawitt.....	(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

NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

Windows for Workgroups			
	Joseph Beasley.....	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley.....	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Word for Windows			
	Beverly Kurtin.....	(817) 355-9594	7
WordPerfect 5.x /Win			
	Georgene Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
	.....		M-F 1800-2030
Works, Microsoft			
	Mike Firth.....	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200
XENIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200

The subject areas below do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Doug Gorrie at (214)464-7924 M-F 0800-1700 or Sa & Su 1000-1900 at (214)618-8002. Doug 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

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

North Texas Users Group, Inc. Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Occupation/Profession: _____

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

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

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

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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

NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP Officers and People YOU SHOULD KNOW . . .

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101 h
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(214) 223-4044 h
		(214) 960-4215 w
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(214) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(903) 569-2638
Secretary	John West	(214) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir.	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
	(Acting)	
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214) 462-0552
Disk of the Month	Jan Parkhill	(214) 828-2216 h
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(214) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(214) 492-1315

Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)
Phil Chamberlain Jim Hoisington
David McGehee Stuart Yarus
Tom Prickett Connie Andrews
Kathryn Loafman Reagan Andrews

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



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

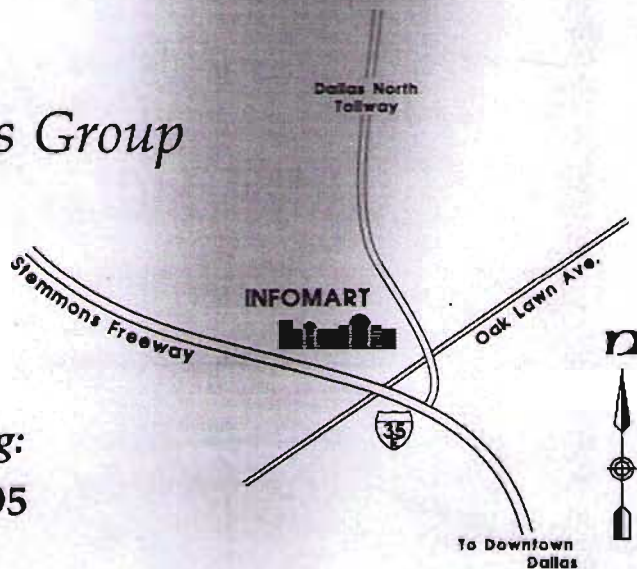
Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Arlington, TX
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested

14.4



North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:
15 April 1995