

North Texas  NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.



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North Texas PC NEWS

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Publisher Reagan Andrews (Acting)
(214) 828-0699

Editor Gary Heine
(214) 938-7266

Assistant Editors Alan Lintel
(214) 220-7829

Doug McCoy
(214) 496-0366

Linda Moore
(214) 342-8833

John Gourd
(214) 783-9629

Newsletter Exchange Lewis Graber

Advertising Director Connie Andrews, (Acting) -
(214) 828-0699
Mail all advertising material
and ad payments to
North Texas PC NEWS
c/o 3100 Lincoln Plaza
500 North Akard
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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 2,650 last month. Member distribution was 2,217; 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 July
North Texas PC NEWS:
Saturday, June 10th

Meeting Dates:
June 17, 1995 - 3rd Saturday
July 15, 1995 - 3rd Saturday
August 12, 1995 - 2nd Saturday



In this Issue . . .

President's Message	2-4
Jim Hoisington	
Microsoft Excel 5.0 (Review)	4-5
Larry Linson	
Variety Store	6
Reagan Andrews	
Thanks for the Help	6
Doug Gorrie	
Calling all ShareWare	10
Jan Parkhill	
The Corel Corner	11-12
JoAnn Elliott	
High word processor power	12
Etoine Shrdlu	
Writers' guidelines	21
BBS - On-line	22
Fred Williams	

Special Items:

Agenda, Meetings & Times	1
Volunteer Guide	7
New Disks from the DOM Squad	8-10
Top 20 DOM Disks	8
SIG Reports	13-21
User-to-User	23-24
Membership Application	24
Officers & People You should know	25

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

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.



No PROGRAMS IN JUNE?

No, your eyes aren't deceiving you. There won't be any vendor presentations at the June Meeting.

Why? See Jim Hoisington's *Prez Sez* column on Page 2 for details/explanations.

SIG's will be THERE!

Why not take advantage of the "extra time" this month and visit some of the SIG meetings listed in the schedule below? You may be surprised at all you've been missing.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIGs JUNE MEETING Schedule

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

9:00 - 9:55
BASIC Programming-Visual
DOS
General Genealogy
Hardware Solutions
Internet-Advanced
Introduction to the PC
(Personal Users)
Quicken
StarText
Visual BASIC
Windows Applications
WordPerfect/DOS

9:00 - 10:55
DACAD (Corel)

10:00 - 10:55
BASIC - Classic
(Language)

10:00 - 10:55 (Cont.)
CAD
Fox Pro Database
Graphics
Networking
Internet-Beginning
PAF-Genealogy
Paradox

Introduction to the PC
(Personal Users)
WordPerfect/Windows
UNIX

11:00 - 11:55
BASIC Programming
- Beginning
Assembly Language
Brother's Keeper Genealogy

CAD (Cont.)
Investors
Graphics (Cont.)
MS Works

11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.)
OS/2 - Q & A
Roots III/IV - Genealogy
Spreadsheet Developers
Windows Developers

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Desktop Publishing
Health Care Computing
OS/2 for End Users
Introduction to the PC
(Personal Users)
The Master Genealogist

1:00 - 1:55
Access
ACT!
Business Apps./DAC Easy

1:00 - 1:55 (Cont.)
DATAFLEX
Middle C
Word for Windows
OS/2 Developers
Introduction to the PC
(Personal Users)
Spreadsheet

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

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

No Product Demonstrations or Business Meeting in June

Timothy Carmichael, who schedules our product demonstrations, couldn't find any vendors who wanted to show their software in June. It seems many user groups shut down entirely in the summer. By not using the auditorium, we save \$100 in room rental and \$250 in audiovisual expenses. So we won't have anything in the Auditorium in June.

Officer Richard Wilson

One of the two Dallas Police officers who provide security for our Saturday meetings is Richard Wilson. He made the front page of *The Dallas Morning News* in May by surviving a fall of 50 feet from a bridge in his police car while chasing a suspect at high speeds. Thanks to seat belts and air bags he crawled out of what used to be a car with relatively minor cuts and a broken bone in his face.

He should be back with us at the June meeting. We're glad he's safe and we really appreciate the efforts that our police officers go through to protect us. Thanks Richard and welcome back.

DFW Xchange Board Members

Andy Oliver reminded me that I really needed to let you know who the people are that set up the vendor area and arrange for our rooms at INFOMART each month.

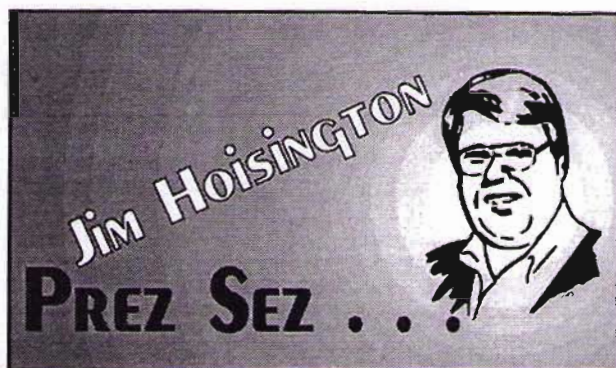
Stuart Yarus is the Prez of DFWX and can usually be found at the greeter's kiosk at the front door with a walkie-talkie in his hand. From time to time, Stuart relies on Robert Hilliard, recently returned from Austin, to help him out when he can't be at the meeting.

Stuart is usually talking to Alex Lilley, DFWX board member, who coordinates the room assignments and the audiovisual equipment on Saturdays. Alex is also the SIG (Special Interest Group) Coordinator for the North Texas PC Users Group.

Andy Reese is the Vendor Wangler and can be found at the Vendor kiosk at the back of the vendor area downstairs. Andy collects the table rentals, assigns the locations and keeps things under control downstairs.

G. KENT COBB SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

P.O. BOX 551271 (214) 343-3554
DALLAS, TEXAS 75355-1271 kentcobb@BIX.com



Andy has the third walkie-talkie. His helper is Jan Parkhill who also is in charge of the North Texas PC User Group's Disk of the Month area.

Mark Gruner is the DFW Xchange Treasurer. Mark and Alex have a contest each month to see which of them can pass out the most pages of reports. Mark usually wins!

Mark Miller is a DFWX board member and AppleCorps Prez. Mark has been surveying the people who visit the vendor area. At Mark's suggestion, we're going to get an official name for the vendor area downstairs. If I remember correctly, it will be *DFW Xchange Computer Marketplace*.

Ken Scott, a member of AppleCorps, is the DFWX Secretary. Ken has the onerous task of sifting through all the words spoken at the board meetings to find the few items of business that we actually transact.

And finally, there is the Evil Vice President of DFWX. His only function seems to be taking white marker boards from the leader of the Programmer's SIG.

Membership

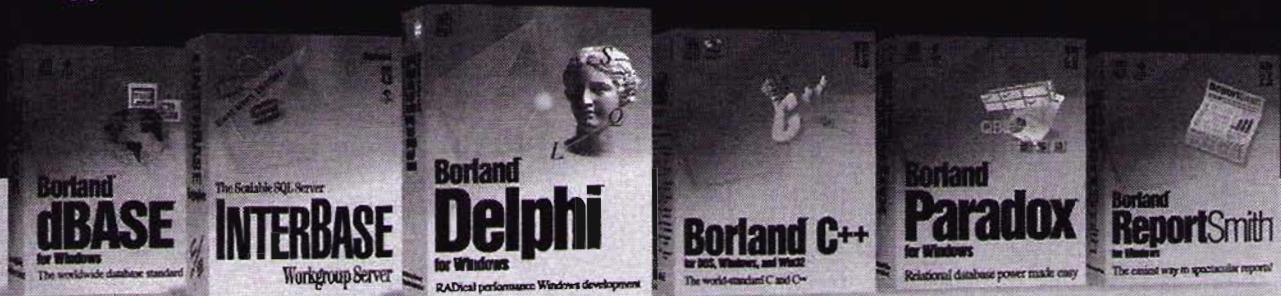
About four years ago, we bought what we thought would be five years worth of membership card stock. We ran out in May.

The membership cards have been plastic because when we started the membership card program, there were many computer stores in the Dallas-Fort Worth area



Evil Vice President of DFWX sullenly speaks to angry NTPCUG members protesting late p.m. white-board loss at infomart.

DEVELOPMENT JUST GOT EASIER



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Excel 5.0: Spreadsheet Product of Microsoft Office Professional 4.3

(Fifth Installment of MS Office Pro Review)

By Larry Linson

Excel has long been noted for the richness of the set of functions it provides. It is rated at or near the top in comparative reviews of spreadsheet products. Excel 5.0 is no exception.

Like the other software in Microsoft Office, it's easy-to-use, powerful, and carries a full complement of user-assistance enhancements: improved main and context-sensitive help, tooltips that show up when the mouse pointer hesitates over toolbar icons, tips, Wizards for

common procedures, drag and drop chart building, the ability to include verbal instructions via sound cards, and a truly startling little light bulb which goes on when the software detects that you may be doing something the hard way - click on it and it'll give you a tip on an easier method for accomplishing what you've been doing.

What does Excel have? It has the three traditional functions pioneered by Lotus 123: spreadsheet calculations, graphics, and database, but, oh, how it has them.

With a graphical user interface consistent with other software in the Microsoft Office suite, the ability to work with multiple files open at the same time, built-in functions further enhanced with each release, and compatibility with most major DOS and Windows spreadsheet file formats, the spreadsheet functions are easier for the user and more readable. A "scenario manager" simplifies using Excel spreadsheets for "what-if" analysis and you can build custom "templates" for categories of work that you find you'll be repeating.

Advanced analysis features and the ability to place Windows controls (command buttons, scroll bars, list and check boxes) on the spreadsheet allow functions once reserved for business planning and analysis software: "collapse" hierarchical information with the outlining feature to show different levels of detail, format individual characters of text in cells, check spelling in the worksheet, and use "tear-off" toolbars for convenient formatting.

Excel's graphics and charting features are among the best in the spreadsheet world. Generate a quick chart by simply dragging a range of numbers and dropping them onto a chart. Other effects include on-screen slide show with transition effects and objects from other software, even sound, if you have the hardware.

Not only can you work with spreadsheet data as though it were a database, Excel 5.0, with its MS Query, lets you work with external files almost as though Excel were a miniature Microsoft Access to access any database that has an ODBC driver.

Excel is the first of the Microsoft Office software to incorporate Visual Basic for Applications, soon to be the programming language for all Microsoft applications

For Microsoft
PREZ SEZ . . . Ctd.

and some of them were offering discounts to our members. Both the "many stores" and the discounts have long since gone away.

The plastic cards are expensive and they are hard on our printer. I have spent the last couple of weeks looking into alternatives that cost less and that are easier to print.

Although I am writing this before the May Board of Directors meeting, my guess is that by June, we will be issuing membership cards printed on card stock. They are much cheaper, lead time on ordering them is only a couple of weeks, and they can be printed on a laser printer.

Because we do not have to order a large quantity to get a decent price and because the lead time is not two months, we will probably buy enough for one year. Each new year's card will be printed in a different background color making it easier for our volunteers who hand out drawing tickets to spot out-of-date cards.

Jim...

PCs


K.B. Barton
President

PC Services & Solutions, Inc.

Software/Network Professionals

7046 Azalea Lane
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Excel 5.0 Ctd...

software. Indeed, even today, the Basic in Access and Word are only slightly different "flavors".

Excel 5.0 is enabled for Object Linking and Embedding 2.0 (OLE 2.0) both as an OLE automation container (or client) and server. OLE 2.0 applications, like the older OLE 1.0, can also be invoked to process, in-place, an OLE object imbedded in another document – an Excel spreadsheet can be included in an Access database or a Word document, for example. (DDE capability is retained for use where it is more appropriate, and for communication with applications which aren't yet OLE-enabled.)

In Black and White

Excel 5.0 comes with two printed manuals. The first is a *User's Guide* of 786 pages, covering a range from basics of installing and starting Excel to advanced topics. Many users familiar with Windows software never need to open the manual because they can do standard Windows things in the usual way, take the *Getting Started* lesson in the on-line *Quick Preview*, and refer to on-line Help for specifics.

The second document is a 344-page *Visual Basic User's Guide* for Excel, a how-to manual that covers simple tasks like recording and modifying a macro through advanced topics such as controlling and communicating with other applications and creating automatic procedures and add-in applications.

Excel's Help is extensive and rich in detail – there's even special help for 1-2-3 and MultiPlan users to determine equivalent Excel operations for the commands with which they are familiar.

Because Excel is such a popular spreadsheet product, there's an abundance of third-party self-study books and training manuals. But with Excel's documentation, tutorials, extensive Help, Wizards, and Windows-standard interface, you may not need more training material.

Downside

About the only complaint I've heard about Excel is the amount of Windows OLE registration resource it consumes. If you expect to be moving on in the world of



Windows to NT or Windows 95, it's only a temporary problem.

You'll find some operations a bit on the slow side if you haven't powered up with faster hardware for the current generation of Windows software. Yet, Excel is hardly an exception to most other current releases of Windows software in this respect.

Conclusion

I've done enough real work with Excel 5.0 to be comfortable that it will cover my own needs and office application development requirements. Excel made it easy to make the switch, never lacked functionality I needed, and impressed me as an excellent spreadsheet product. I'm moving most of my on-going spreadsheet work to Excel as major changes come along, and don't think I'll regret making the change. This product is more than adequate for anyone's needs in the spreadsheet marketplace and it's outstanding for developing integrated office applications.

Overall Conclusions About Microsoft Office

The Microsoft Office suite of software, in the Standard and Professional versions, is the market leader. That's shouldn't surprise anyone, because it bundles together at a very attractive price spreadsheet, word processing, presentation graphics, and (in the Pro version) database software, each of which consistently ranks among the best of its type. In fact, if you follow the trade magazines, at least one of the comparative reviews of each of these types of software has chosen the Microsoft product as "best of breed" for the end user. When you eavesdrop on the conversations of office application developers, it's just about the *only* name you'll hear mentioned. I think you're going to be seeing the little Microsoft Office Manager (MOM) toolbar at the top of the main window on more and more Windows PCs.

Weddings - Events - Parties

Spike's Photography

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Richardson, TX 75081-3736
(214) 231-0730



Gates throws in the Intuit towel, abandons Merger as Lotus buyout rumors point at IBM — Whispers point at Oracle, AT&T as well

May came on the scene like a real lion! All the rumors about suitors for Lotus took a firm back seat as Microsoft's CEO, Bill Gates, said "Enough!" and called-off the Intuit merger deal. All this to the tune of "I want to be a star..." as Chairman Gates made his starring TV debut on NBC's May 26 "NBC News Special."

Saw it. Gates has aged and looks about 30 now. Reback looked like a slicked-up rug dealer. Where Gates is rough and unpolished, Reback comes across like an experienced used-car salesman. (For those of you who haven't been following the "Microsoft vs. Everybody" rounds in Judge Sporkin's recent ruling debacle, Gary Reback is the attorney representing all the "secret-brief" complainants charging that Microsoft is the nemesis of true free enterprise and a potential scourge for open competition in the marketplace, etc., etc., etc.)

Lotus is back in the news with a disappointing quarter and increased rumors of being on the market block and ripe for takeover by IBM (supposedly wants Notes), Oracle or AT&T. No such rumors about Borland...

Gates' decision was Predictable in light of DOJ's renewed vigor

In case you have been trapped on a desert island and unable to see or hear any news, Bill Gates decided to drop pursuit of the Intuit acquisition. Failure of the merger was announced May 20 in a somewhat unusual business move. Major announcements of the Microsoft sort are rarely made during a weekend.

Impact was immediate on Monday, May 22 when Microsoft's stock climbed and Intuit's fell. Nothing really dramatic, but a sign that some investors were worried about Microsoft taking this direction in the first place.

Bill Gates was his usual, candid self and described Microsoft's (his) decision to avoid further DOJ-inspired delays and interference with Microsoft strategic planning activities. Mike Maples seconded this and added it would cast a pall on Mi-

crosoft's next 12 months of strategic operations if it continued.

Lots of paper here

Any investigation of the magnitude of DOJ's intensive probing into the Redmond, WA, software giant would involve lots of looking at "paper trails" and who knows how many dead trees as millions of copies of Microsoft business documents were surrendered to DOJ investigators during their probe. This had to be a major problem for Microsoft officers while they were trying to run the business. At any rate, Gates said "enough!" and folded plans to acquire Intuit.

DOJ attorney 'crows', Calls decision 'victory' For all PC users ...

Top DOJ attorney in the pursuit of Microsoft, Anne Bingaman, "crowed" over the Microsoft decision and announced this was a "victory" for all PC users. It was re-

ported that Ms. Bingaman had not expected the rapid Microsoft response and was somewhat surprised when informed of the move.

Fact that this probably is not a "victory" for PC users didn't seem to diminish DOJ's anti-Microsoft fervor. Industry observers looking at the Microsoft setback have also looked at the "standards" issues and wondered who will set the standards, if any, now that Microsoft has dropped the Intuit merger deal.

Reagan Andrews

Thanks for the Help ...

by Doug Gorrie

At the last minute, NTPCUG was offered a free booth at the ITEC EXPO, May 3-4 at the Infomart. Our thanks to the following for being flexible enough to assist on short notice in handing out NTPCUG membership information and answering attendee questions:

Deborah Bean
Neal Berkowitz
Dianna DeCicco
Chuck Fiedler
Alex Lilley
Claude McClure
Andy Oliver
Patrick O'Mahony
Jan Parkhill
Jim Thompson
John West
Fred Williams

I'm told that there was a lot of interest in NTPCUG, with nine new members signing up plus four renewals. Lots more asked for meeting dates so they might "try before they buy."

Special thanks go to Fred Williams for coordinating our table when I was sent out of town unexpectedly. Fred did a great job whipping our helpers into shape (or was that the other way around ...).

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

The Upgrade

When we bought our computers we thought they were pretty much complete with all the memory, drives, and programs we would need for the near future. Alas, with competitive pressure driving the computer business we are carried on the wave of peer pressure to re-configure our system before we can even fully explore it.

I recently left the monthly NTPCUG meeting with a brand new 16 bit sound card, and installed it that afternoon. The next meeting a well-informed user at the Information Booth told me to check out the good prices on speakers at booth number 98 downstairs. After that, the excellent value on 850 meg. drives made 240 megs.

unbearable, so I followed the advice of a hardware sig leader. Then every disk I had accumulated from the Disk Of the Month lived happily with room to expand. The world of computing became a terrific place again with everything I would ever need for the near future.

Then the illusion collapsed; there is one more thing that is needed. I must have one final upgrade. I need the office chair style made famous by the O.J. trial. I am afraid that won't be at the Infomart next Saturday.

Thanks to all the volunteers for their dedication to the Saturday meeting. They are the greatest help to all of us who want to learn more about computing. Some of them are mentioned below.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik (double)
Kenneth Berg
Crew:
Larry Matzer
Jack Nicholson
Ross Jones

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:
Connie Andrews

Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors:
Ralph Beaver
Eteta Eta
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt
John Ivers
Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Bob McNeil (Double)
Raymond Reyes
Paul Williams
Bob Wuller
Booth Crew:
Dianne Arnold
John Arnold
Deborah Bean
Glynn Brooks
James Gorak
Ross Jones
Claude McClure
Foy T. Mills
Carl Oehmann
Fred Toulmin

Disk of the Month (DOM)

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

Berny Baars
Donna Baker
Rob Bender
Philip Bridge
Gene Carleton
Don Chick
Robert Clark
William Farris
Duane Martin
Mac McKeethen
Jan Parkhill
Bob Post

With Special Thanks to:
Set Up Crew:
Mark Gruner

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



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael (214) 661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler
Charles Cashion (214) 881-0952 (h)
..... (214) 519-2583 (w)

DOM Software Review
Jan Parkhill (214) 828-2216 (h)(w)

Information Booth and General Information
Claude McClure (214) 867-0978 (h)

Disks of the Month (DOM) for May

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

Disks of the Month Released at the May NTPCUG Meeting:

Disk 969. WINFORMANT 1.0, 3/94 - A Windows Cleaning Utility, NEOCOM, PO Box 1126, Martinsville, VA 24114. Shareware fee: \$39.00.

You've heard about the Windows Uninstaller programs from almost every source! Now there is a Shareware version that can hold its own with the best of them. As a matter of fact, I find WINFORMANT has more to offer than being a simple uninstaller feature for Windows programs.

There are seven features included with Winformant 1.0. You have the Program Un-

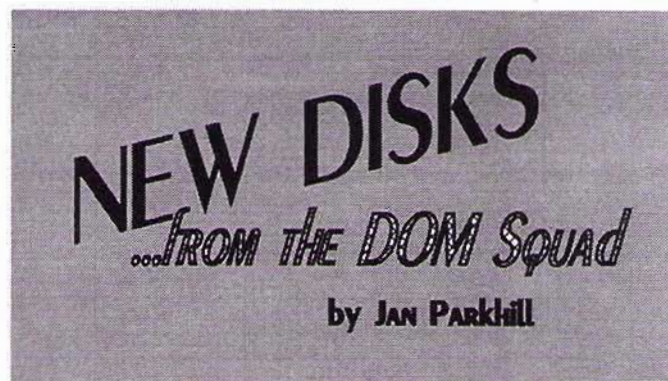
staller, a Profile Editor that makes changing SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI a snap, a VBX/DLL Redundancy Checker to find duplicated Windows files installed by most programs, Search utility finds files across multiple drives, Swap File quickly tests your swap-file condition and makes recommendations, Re-Start utility will exit the program and restart Windows at the click of a button and Eject, the utility that will give you IMMEDIATE, with no questions asked, Windows shutdown.

Your Windows system files can be dragging down the performance of your computer

Top Twenty DOM Disks

Want to know what's hot? These are the 20 most popular NTPCUG DOM Library disks - as of May 13, 1995.

- 923 IconMaster 1.2d
- 941 Wintune 2.0, 12/94
- 950 UN4WIN 1.5, 7/93
- 929 WHATPORT 4.0, 10/91
- 933 WinZip 5.0, 1/94
- 958 Windows Bonus Pack
- 930 FIXTIME 1.1, 3/94
- 952 Netscape 1.0N
- 955 VirusScan & VSHeild 2.17E
- 931 SLEEP 3.02, 1/94
- 932 DCOPY 2.0, 3/93
- 904 Microsoft Diagnostic Utility 2.11
- 935 AM-Tax 1994, 11/94
- 891 Beginners Guide to Internet 1.0
- 954 INFOSPY 2.13, 1/95
- 943 FILL DISKETTE 1.29, 6/92
- 940 NAG BUSTER 1.1, 4/94
- 921 Rockford! 3.0
- 922 WinPost 2.0
- 944 POW 1.20 OLR



system during day-to-day operations and you may not even be aware of it. If you are, then you will really appreciate this program. Plus, the removal of a Windows-based program involves more than simple removal of the hard drive directory and subdirectories. This program will locate all other files placed in your Windows and System directories, plus clean up your SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI entries that were made with the program.

So, you have seven powerful tools in one simple program. This is an absolute necessity for anyone running Windows and Windows applications.

System requirements: IBM compatible running Windows 3.1 or higher.

Shareware submitted by NTPCUG member Neal Berkowitz.

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

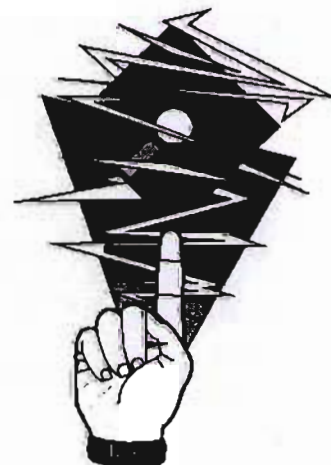
Disk 970. SPMORF 1.7, 7/94 - DOS based High Speed Morphing System by Scott H. Pultz, 114-168th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98008. Shareware fee: \$20.00.

SPMORF is a high speed morphing program that runs in DOS. It supports .GIF and 24-bit TGA files as input and outputs 24-bit TGA files.

To run this program, you must provide two "pictures", both must be either .GIF or 24-bit TGA file format. You may download hundreds of these file formats from many local

BBS download files. There are several options available to add to the command line that will allow you to select the type video monitor (e.g., 1024x768x256 color) you are using as well as select the vertical and horizontal resolution for your morphed images. Good morphs require that you create high quality meshing. This program allows you to highlight features such as mouth, eyes, nose, lips, etc. in order to morph those feature to the second image that you will be working with. This allows you a lot of freedom to accomplish different looks with your different images.

System requirements: Any 386 PC compatible system, VGA or better, math coprocessor is recommend.



Shareware downloaded and submitted by North Texas PC Users Group.

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

Disk 971. SPELLING SENTRY 1.4, 4/94 - Windows Spelling Checker, Wintertree Software, Inc., 43 Rueter Street, Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2J 3Z9. Shareware Fee: \$25.00 + 4.00 S&H.

*** Finally!! A SPELL CHECKER THAT WORKS AND WORKS RIGHT! ***

Having a friend that admits his immense difficulty with spelling has made me very much aware of the problems other people struggle with daily and the trouble they have finding decent spell-checking software. I suggest we may have found one of the more comprehensive aids with SPELLING SENTRY 1.4.

I personally tested the spelling checker to learn that it will check ASCII text files, too. In particular, this utility will check .WRI files, .TXT files and CLIP files for Windows Clipboard. You may also use the standard *.* mask to allow you to call any file on your hard drive.

I learned this spelling checker will also locate and find doubled words, which didn't "happen" to be one of the intentional tests I was running to test the utility program! No more of those doubled words in your letters.

Included is a 100,000 word lexicon (vocabulary, to you... Oops, that's my thesaurus working!) and an American/British spelling rules selection. Next, there are three lexicon library choices you may use to customize and select those personally difficult words you may have. This looks to be a very good program for correcting those troublesome spelling problems!!

System requirements: Any PC compatible system that runs Windows 3.1 or higher.

Shareware downloaded and submitted by North Texas PC Users Group.

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

Disk 972. Professional Capture Systems 1.02, 3/93 - Screen Copying Utilities, JASC, Inc., 10901 Red Circle Drive, Suite 340, Minnetonka, MN 55343 USA. Shareware Fee: \$39.00 + 4.00 S&H.

PCS, or Professional Capture Systems, is really two programs in one. You have a choice of WinCapture or Dos-Capture programs to capture a "snapshot" of your screen. You are given a choice of printing directly to a printer, printing to a file or to Clipboard. You can then redirect the captured screen image for use in your newsletters, documents, advertising layouts, etc.

As you prepare to capture a snapshot of your screen (it's impossible to capture your Windows screens with the Print Screen feature in DOS), you are given choices of "what to capture" such as the full screen image, an area, window or client area. You may choose to include the image of your cursor pointer, strategically placed to high-



light the subject you want emphasized. You are allowed a very flexible assortment of "hot keys" that serve as the trigger for taking your screen capture "snapshot".

Once you load the program and have an icon selected in Windows, you click the icon and it seems nothing happens. Observe the minimized active icon appears at the bottom of the screen; all you have to do now is prepare the screen view that you want captured and press the hot keys you have selected from the SetUp menu. The images are saved in .PCX format or you may want to make other selections in SetUp.

While this program is slightly older than some, it has great features, works well and is kind to those of us with limited hard drive space, a phenomena that seems to be reaching epidemic proportion. The program only takes up 213KB of HD space.

System requirements: Any PC compatible system with Windows 3.x and VGA monitor. The DOS version requires a 286 system with VGA.

Shareware downloaded and submitted by North Texas PC Users Group.

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

Disk 973. THIS DAY IN HISTORY, 7/94 - Bonus Pack of Two Programs One for DOS and One for Windows.

This bonus disk includes two programs designed to list What Happened On This Date In History.

TODAY (DOS) - is an interesting variation on the Today in History theme in that it allows you to run the program

from your Autoexec.bat file and it also provides daily "bits of wisdom" in the witty TODAY.WIT file. You can also add your own reminders such as birthdays to the TODAY.OWN file. This is done simply by editing these ASCII files with an ASCII text editor. The files named by months contain the actual data base info that will provide you details of history based own your computer's date setting. Another companion program called WHEN allows for text searches to find certain events you want to locate.

ON THIS DAY FOR WINDOWS - This Windows version has more of the bells and whistles regarding features like the use of four calendars to choose from: Gregorian, Julian, Hebrew and Islamic. There are 15,000 events, holidays and birthdays included in the extensive database, and since all events are maintained in ASCII files, you may choose to add or delete any happening, event or birth date that you want to change.

Both of the programs above are fun and interesting to play with, but they won't help you much in learning how to access the Internet. (Just wanted to see if you were paying close attention at this point.)

System requirements: Any PC compatible system or Windows 3.x for the Windows based program.

Shareware downloaded and submitted by North Texas PC Users Group.

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

Disk 974. BANANACOM 1.1, 4/94 - Communications Program for Beginners by Paul

DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED



checks, while it provides ANSI color and high speed capability to the most feeble computer system!

I found the help keys at the bottom of the screen very easy to follow and they are constantly changing with each screen you enter, so you always have the most appropriate commands on screen with you at all times. I could say "that's the way a help key should be displayed", but I won't! I really like this small program (doesn't take much disk space) and I think it's just what many of our users

DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

need to get them started "modeming" on the local BBS systems, etc. Who knows...this may lead directly to the Internet ...as soon as our Sysop gets the bugs working better!

System requirements: Any IBM PC compatible system.

Shareware downloaded and submitted to the North Texas PC Users Group.

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

Calling all ShareWare & FreeWare! Volunteer... And Get Paid for a Job Well Done!

by Jan Parkhill

Each month, the NTPCUG DOM (Disk of the Month) has an on-going need to find new shareware disks for the following month. The best way for this to happen is when our members VOLUNTEER to download new shareware programs. You may have found a new shareware program on a local BBS or the Internet, copied one from a CD-ROM disk you own, purchased a new disk from another shareware vendor or you may have a favorite shareware utility that makes your computing simpler each day.

VOLUNTEER to share it with us!!

Your NTPCUG is an organization founded and run with volunteer effort and spirit. What better way to support our Users Group than to volunteer to donate some shareware disks from time to time? Send one a month...or five! We encourage you to donate something each month; it's amazing what one or two donations can add up to over a month's time!! It takes so little time and we can use your assistance.

There are two easy ways to VOLUNTEER and deliver your shareware to the DOM. First, you can deliver your donation on an old disk and drop it off at the DOM booth during our monthly meeting date. (The DOM booth is located in the far right corner of the base-

ment area during the computer vendor show.) If you prefer the "High Tech" method, you can attach a zipped shareware file to a private E-Mail message (put it to my attention) on the TBBS board and I will take it from there. This is an easy and enjoyable way to VOLUNTEER each month and it only takes a few minutes.

Your name in print!

And, listen to this...!! Your name will be mentioned prominently in the README file, letting everyone know you made the software contribution. You also get bribed (read that as "paid") with a VOLUNTEER TOKEN good for any DOM disk of your choice! Don't forget to ask for your token...you've earned it.

README Help available

Furthermore, if you have a problem preparing a README file, don't despair...ask me for help and I'll pitch in to assist you! You don't have to be an author or technical writer!

Come on...pitch in...VOLUNTEER today! If you're new to our group and don't understand shareware, I especially look forward to speaking with YOU!!

Best regards,

*Jan Parkhill
DOM Squad Leader
(214) 828-2216*

Wheaton, 1916 Brooks, #205,
Missoula, Montana 59801.
Shareware fee: \$20.00 + 5.00
S&H.

I think and I hope this will be a great, GREAT program being offered by the DOM for many of our members, novice and expert PC users alike, who have not yet started to use their modems. With the new Internet access being brought on-line at this very time, it's high time for everyone to log onto our TBBS bulletin board system (BBS) at the North Texas PC Users Group.

BANANACOM 1.1 is a BEGINNERS COMM PROGRAM designed to help you start using your modem. And, look at this!! You will NOT BE REQUIRED to set or configure your comm program using Parity, data bits, stop bits, echo, duplex, flow control or terminal emulation.

In fact, the author claims you can configure BananaCom in less than a minute and I found that claim to be very accurate indeed! If I can do it in a minute, YOU can do it in a minute...just ask Fred Williams, our Sysop!

Never mind the "simplicity" claims for BananaCom; it's a full-featured program that you can live with for a long time. It offers Zmodem protocol for faster downloads and uploads with error correcting

CorelNEWS:

The Dallas Association of Corel Artists and Designers (DACAD) provides the following material as a service to Corel users in the NTPCUG. Material presented here comes from a variety of Corel sources from *Corel Corporation* newsletters to users on *CompuServe*, *America Online*, and *CorelNET*.

International CorelDRAW User Conference in Dallas

Hosted by Rick Altman, sponsored by *Corel Magazine*, the conference will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Dallas, October 22-25, 1995. User group discount for NTPCUG members is \$30.00 off the regular fee.

Call fax hotline (408) 252-5586 for faxed back brochure.

Notes on CorelCHART

Charts pasted into *CorelDRAW!* don't look or print correctly?

The probable cause for this would be limitations of the Windows Clipboard. The solution would be to convert all *CorelCHART!* objects into *CorelDRAW!* objects. You can do this by opening up the *CORELDRW.INI* file and changing the following option in the [CdrawConfig] section:

`OLEConvertObjectsToDraw=1`

When this option is '0' (the default) no conversion is applied to charts pasted into *CorelDRAW!*. When you set this option to '1' all charts pasted into *CorelDRAW!*



are converted into *CorelDRAW!* objects.

Currently when attempting to export AI or DXF from *CorelChart*, an Export Filter Error will occur. This problem stems from the *CORELCHT.INI* file not referencing the proper DAT information. To correct this problem, open the *CORELCHT.INI* file (located in the WINDOWS directory) in a text editor and make the following changes:

```
Currently the CORELCHT.INI file
reads:[CorelDXFExport]
Header=dxthead.dat
DlgFullColor=1[CorelAIExport]
V88Header=aihead.dat
V3Header=ai3head.dat
V3Footer=ai3foot.dat
DlgVersion3=0
DlgTextAsText=1
```

```
Should read:[CorelDXFExport]
InchHeader=dxthead.dat
MMHeader=dxthead2.dat[Core-
lAIExport]
V88Header=aihead.dat
V88Header2=aihead2.dat
V3Header=ai3head.dat
V3Footer=ai3foot.dat
```

The Dlg... information is automatically written to the *CORELCHT.INI* file when an AI or DXF file is exported for the first time and therefore is initially not needed. This information is used the next time an AI or DXF file is exported, to set the options in the export dialog box to the last settings used.

Notes on Fonts

Did you know *CorelDRAW* comes with versions of *Fontminder* and *Adobe Type Manager* for your use? Try them out! For more information on fonts, come to the DACAD SIG from 9-11 am.

Need a printed list of the ver. 5 PS fonts? *Fontminder* can help you.

"...try using the "Font List" option for print samples (last one in the option dialog). This will print 9 fonts per page with the full name in the font and a character set under it. Select about 100 fonts at a

IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Corel Corporation
1600 Carling Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1Z 8R7

- ❖ Technical Support Representatives..... 800-818-1848
- ❖ F Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products) 800-772-6735
- ❖ Customer Service Representatives 800-772-6735
- ❖ IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network) 613-728-1990
- ❖ 24 Hour Automated Fax System 613-728-0826 Ext.3080
- ❖ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays



High word processor power can have a high price 'Hidden Data' often found by wrong readers — Take care with 'Fast-Save' word processor files

by Etoine Shrdlu

Businesses have taken increasingly to transferring computer files rather than paper as a way to get business data and documents from one business firm to another, or from one branch to another. Sometimes, they are transferring more than they want as business PC users are discovering. There may be much more in their word processing files than they had thought, or imagined was possible.

Some business users have learned this the hard way, others have been more fortunate and discovered the "hidden data" before it could embarrass or do harm. The source of the new "hidden Data" is inextricably tied to the rise in features and power of the more popular word processor programs such as Microsoft *Word for Windows* and *WordPerfect for Windows*. Even *WordPerfect for DOS* can be a major offender if the user isn't careful.

Three major paths...

It would appear there are three main avenues for inadvertently including such data when transferring computer files from the major word processor packages.

First of these is based on "features" that do more than intended. *Word for Windows*' "Fast Save" option became notorious when version 6.0 was released after users discovered that several versions of a document might be included in the unusually large files produced by the new version. Increased "Undo" capabilities may have the same effect.

A second route to inclusion of unintended data may come from

document translation, when a document file from one word processor is loaded into another word processor and "translated" or converted to the native format of the second word processor. During the conversion process, data not even seen by the original writer in the finished document, may make its way into the document being viewed by the person who received the file and converted it. This can be true even for DOS word processor files being read by a Windows-based word processor.

Third route for inadvertent data transmission comes from users who view the word processor files with a "viewer" rather than a word processor. ASCII codes for formatting and/or "hiding" text may become quite visible even though they would normally be "invisible" when run through a word processor. Such data may be in form of style

names, other file information, and comments made by some work-group users.

How to prevent 'Un-hiding'

Safest way to assure you don't transmit more data than you wish is to only send "hard copy" documents. That defeats the whole purpose of electronic file transfer, however. Next would be converting the document to an unformatted ASCII file — which defeats all the special formatting and page layout features of the new word processors.

Better solution would be to write the final document, print it out with the intended formatting, then save as an ASCII file. Load the ASCII file into a "fresh" word processing file, then re-format, *without any text revisions*, and then save the file. After all this, you should be able to safely transmit the file to its intended recipient.

It would be a lot easier just to turn "Off" the fast save and undo features to avoid most of this, wouldn't it?



can be uncompressed with *LHarc*. If you open the archive with *FM*, it can optionally re-install the fonts when it uncompresses them.

time to list. If you can set up your printer as a PCL printer, things will print a little faster using ATM supplied bitmaps instead of full PS rasterization by the PS interpreter in the printer.

Another hint for commercial jobs: archive the fonts used along with the main document files. If you'd like, *Minder* will create a compressed archive of all the fonts in a single file. See the "Copy/Move/Archive" feature. Should *FM* not be available when you need the fonts, the archive

Creating a "Font Pack" of fonts used in each job is another suggestion. This makes it easy to install the needed fonts for any job. If you associate the font pack with the main document when you save the font pack, double clicking on the font pack file in your file manager will automatically install the fonts and open the document without opening *Minder*."

from *CompuServe Corel Forum*,
Dennis Harrington

Selected SIG Reports . . .

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 "I" — S(I)G Happenings upload for newsletter.
- ❖ Then, select "S" to submit.

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 a BBS E-mail message to me, Reagan Andrews. You might also post this on your SIG's BBS Conference area in addition to the above.

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

SIG Name Changes:

- Introduction to the PC — formerly Personal Users SIG

New SIGs:

- DACAD (Corel) — JoAnn Elliott @ (214) 231-5332
- QuickBooks — Jlm Thompson @ (817) 261-6159 h (214) 953-0051w

New SIG Leaders:

- Alpha 4 — Ken Brooks @ (214) 238-5959
- Networking — Bernle VanRoekel @ (817) 451-4540 h (817) 461-4120 w
- WordPerfect/DOS — Dawn Hopkins @ (214) 613-8815 h (214) 740-8085 w
- Windows Applications — Deborah Bean @ (214) 475-7463 h 475-3124 w
- Word for Windows — Bob Rice @ (214) 885-0202 w

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- Middle C [Contact Tom Cook @ (214) 871-8177 w]
- Desktop Publishing (Contact Deborah Bean @ (214) 475-7463 h 475-3124 w)

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

- Leadership** — at least one individual willing to lead the SIG, and an assistant.
- Membership** — at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

If you have a group that meets these qualifications or would like help in finding others who might share your interests, please contact me at (214) 517-7430 (H) or (214) 527-0922 (W).

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) 446-0639 h
 Frank McCoy..... (817) 232-2483 h

Alpha 4

Ron Jackson (214) 276-3661 h
 Ken Brooks (214) 238-5959

Applications Developers (OLE & ODBC)

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 h
 Linda Moore (214) 342-8833
 Vince Prehn (214) 880-0000
 Dan Ogden..... (214) 556-0668 w

Assembly Language SIG

Glynn Brooks (214) 578-8737 h

BASIC - Beginning

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

BASIC - Classic

Mike Firth (214) 827-7734 h

BASIC Visual

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

Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland .. (214) 272-2869 h

Business Applications/DAC

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

SIG

Access SIG

Larry Linson will present a tutorial session on Access techniques, again using the Address Book example application. He'll explain using the undocumented MSAU200.DLL to obtain file names for selecting the database to use for attached tables.

Thanks to **Peggy Mitchell** for her presentation, at our May meeting, on using Asymetrix' InfoModeler for table design and simplifying communication with users in the early phases of Access application development.

Between meetings, keep up with current goings-on, ask questions, and get answers by calling the NTPCUG electronic bulletin board system and visiting the Access SIG message conference. Ask **Rob Gura** if it works to get quick response, sometimes even including a sample .MDB. For a little wider scope, worldwide, that is, check out the Access newsgroup from the Internet, "comp.databases.ms-access", now available for download.

If you're not into "modeming," be sure to bring something for our Tips and Hints and Questions and Answers segment, a regular feature of the Access SIG.

Talk to Larry about sharing your Access experience at a future SIG meeting: tips, hints, useful techniques, tutorials, and demos of your applications are all of interest. Consider contributing some demonstration material for an Access SIG disk for the Disk of the Month operation, too.

See you at the Access SIG on June 17!

Larry Linson

ACT! SIG

I am currently trying to get **Jerry Breaud**, the new Symantec area representative, to give us a demonstration of the ACT! Mobile Link prod-

uct. I have not received an affirmative response, yet.

ACT! ver. 2.04 is currently available. The most recent patches solve some problems encountered with very large databases (25,000 entries).

We will continue to discuss the ways to use the software to help you accomplish your daily tasks. We also set aside the last part of each meeting to answer your questions about ACT!.

Jim Thompson

Application Developers SIG (OLE & ODBC)

Join us in our continuing discussions about developing applications using OLE 2.0 techniques and the Open Database Connection (ODBC). It's a great way to parlay the effort expended by the developers of commercial applications into extensions of our own applications built with OLE-enabled software products such as Microsoft *Access* and *Visual Basic* and Borland's *Paradox* and *Delphi*, along with *Microsoft Office* and other Windows software.

We don't have a lot of hoorah and hoopla at this SIG, just lots of member participation and (we hope) straight talk about the trials and triumphs of using these new technologies. We sometimes have a presentation but often just discuss topics of interest.

Here's your chance for a little time in the limelight: volunteer to present or to lead a discussion on a subject of interest to the group. We're particularly looking for examples of using OLE automation, experiences on building and using Windows Help files, and tutorials on Excel's Visual Basic for Applications and Microsoft *WordBasic*. If you have a topic that you'd like added to our list, let any of the SIG leaders know, and we'll see what we can do to find a speaker or hold a discussion.

SIG LEADER LISTING

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

C++/Advanced

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

Middle C

Tom Cook (214) 871-8177 w

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) 234-5332 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

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

SIG LEADER LISTING

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

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

Introduction to the PC**(formerly Personal Users)**

Alex Lilley..... (214) 517-7430 h
..... (214) 527-0922 w
Bob Russell..... (214) 422-4269 h

Investors

Dick Richtman (214) 437-0322 h

MS Word for Windows

Janet Patton..... (903) 886-6249 h
Bob Rice..... (214) 885-0202 w

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

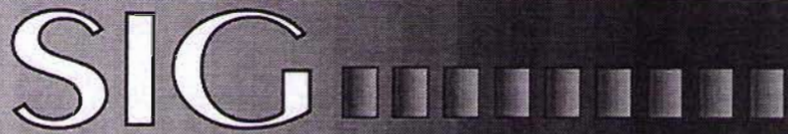
Bernie Van Roekel
..... (817) 451-4540 h
..... (817) 461-4120 w
Leroy Tension
Francis Bright

OS/2 Developer

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

OS/2 for End Users

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



In this pioneering area, questions are more common than answers, but sometimes we surprise ourselves (and each other) with the things we didn't realize we knew until we were asked! The only dumb questions are the unasked ones!

Dan Ogden, attorney and software developer, will hold a meeting in September to explore member interest in a new SIG devoted to legal issues in computing. Initial focus will be on issues of interest to developers, contractors, consultants, and their customers and clients. Watch for more details in later issues of the *PC News*.

In the meanwhile, drop in on the meetings of the Application Developers (OLE & ODBC) SIG, of which Dan is Assistant SIG Leader (and frequent speaker on application developer topics, too). Questions on legal issues are now fair game in the Q&A segment of this SIG.

Also, at the August meeting of Application Developers, Dan and Larry Linson will give a preview presentation, on the subject of Fixed Price Contracts, which can have some potential benefits to vendor and customer, but can also have some catastrophic pitfalls.

Larry Linson

Assembly Language SIG

At our May meeting, we discussed memory paging on the 386 class of CPUs and how the operating system fakes programs into thinking there's more memory available than is actually in the computer. We also looked at how Windows 95 will be changing memory management strategies.

In June, Frank Cavallito will lead the discussion of how Windows and DOS interoperate. We'll also look at new features of Windows 95 that affect DOS operations and

the appropriate use of DOS in a Win95 environment.

Also in June, I'll be the guest speaker in the Hardware Solutions SIG. By popular demand, I'll be discussing what Enhanced IDE is all about and how it compares to SCSI-2. Want to know how to put an 8.4GB hard drive on your computer? Come find out at the June Hardware Solutions SIG meeting.

In the Coming Soon department, I have talked to speakers at both Intel and Motorola who would like to come give us an update and preview of new products coming to the desktop in the next year or so. Is there a PowerPC in your future? How about a P6 or P7? Plan now to get the details at the Assembly Language SIG!

Glynn Brooks

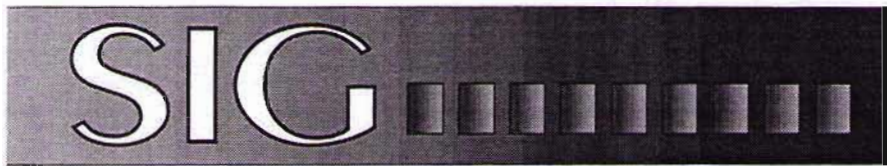
Beginners BASIC SIG

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 at 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).

Recent SIG meetings are about a payroll program set with Visual basic-like color screens, and mature code that works.

Regular SIG members bring a 3.5" HD floppy 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 program examples, and they are up-to-date without having to wait for the yearly DOM disk.

Charles Jacobus



Business Applications/DAC SIG

As many of you know, we had planned a presentation of "Maximizer for Windows"; however, due to some big problems locating equipment, we were unable to start the demo before the crowd became unruly, threw the SIG co-leader over the Atrium guardrail and stomped out. Happily, he survived the fall and is now out of traction.

The good news is that **Bruce Schubert** has located the equipment and will once again offer us the opportunity to see Maximizer in action. This is a really fine piece of PIM/Contact Management software from Modatech Systems International, Inc. These folks have a local address and phone so support, if needed, should be a breeze.

The program is great for telemarketing, with look-ups, dial-ups, and FAXing possible from within the program. It has its own word processor, complete with spell checker and thesaurus, or you may link with your own copy of MS Word, Word Perfect or Ami Pro, (and avoid loading another spell check & thesaurus).

There is convenient access to hook a memo to a client &/or contact which can be popped-up, reviewed and continued during future calls. Maximizer automatically logs each phone call you make, and every FAX and letter you send. There is even an accessory program available, Maximizer Sales Suite for Windows, designed to make life a lot more productive for the sales person on the road with their laptop.

This you've got to see, so join us on June 17, 1995, at the Business Applications/DAC SIG meeting at 1:00 pm. There is much more to this program than I can describe here!!

Putt Shaw

Communications SIG

In June, we will be hosting Scott Sodoma from GammaLink, a Dialogic Company. We will be discussing Lan-based Fax, Fax Standards, and the future of the industry. Dialogic manufacturers and markets fax boards. Since GammaLink does not produce their own software, Scott will ask one of their vendors to accompany him to answer questions regarding software.

Birl Smith & Doug Gorrie

DACAD (Corel) SIG

June Meeting:

FIGHT THE FONT FLASCO

End the font fiasco by attending DACAD on June 17. June's meeting will focus on fonts and font management. Once we understand their technical management and optimized use on our systems, we users can move on to considerations of typography (the art of typesetting) and its effective use in our design work.

As users of graphics programs such as CorelDRAW!, font usage is a frequent or everyday encounter. CorelDraw comes with ATM (Adobe Type Manager) and Fontminder Lite. Is the upgrade to version 2.5 worthwhile? Learn when and how to use True Type, Postscript, and Type 1 Fonts. How are they different, better or necessary? Which are system fonts? What is FontMonger? FontChameleon?

Do I need 950 fonts installed? How can we prepare our work to merge smoothly with service bureaus?

If you are font weary, learn from the experienced. Share your expertise and questions, too. Grab a seat June 17.

Marsha Drebellis

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

OS/2 Q&A

Larry Truesdale

Paradox

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

Programmers

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

QuickBooks

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

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 SIG

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
Deborah Bean.....(214) 475-7463 h
.....(214) 475-3124 w

Windows - Developers

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

WordPerfect / DOS

Dawn Hopkins.....(214) 613-8815 h
.....(214) 740-8085 w

WordPerfect / Windows

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

April in Review

Members of the DACAD (Corel) SIG showcased their work at the April meeting. The intent was to show functional to fabulous production results from one (or many) of Corel Draw's graphics, photo-editing, presentation and publishing tools. Everyone was urged to participate. Among the contributing individuals were Susan Biggs, Sharon Chandler, Judith Cutler, Gary Dean, Blanch Dillion, Marsh Drebelbis, JoAnn Elliott, Jenny Hawkins, Liz MacNeil, Janie Owen-Bugh, Rocky Stonewall, and Elayne Vick.

Everything imaginable was on display to "feast one's eyes" from huge graphic exhibits to miniature tags, woodworking art to book covers, T-shirts and mugs to floor-plans. Portfolios of beautifully designed business cards, letterheads, envelopes, forms, flyers, brochures, newsletters, postcards, invitations, and announcements were crowded around and admired. Multi-media screen shows of business presentations, advertising, and illustration were popular attractions. Examples showing the ability to interface Corel graphics with *Adobe Acrobat* documentation was of great interest. From the feedback we received the event was a solid success, and we thank everyone for their participation.

Rocky Stonewall



**F1- Get Help—
Give Help**

Notes from *The
CorelDRAW Journal*

Filters First

If you typically import and export the same file formats over and over, you can change the order of the filters listings in your import/export dialog box. First, back up your CORELFLT.INI file in the CONFIG subdirectory of your Corel Directory. Next, open your CORELFLT.INI file in a text editor and rearrange the filters to the desired order using cut and paste.



Texture Talk

There is another way to create variations on a texture besides the options listed in the texture dialog box. You can use the blend feature to blend two textures and create new variation(s). There are some limitations. First, your textures must be of the same or similar style. Second, remember the more blend steps you use, the longer it will take to create your next blend.

In the texture dialog box, if you lock all the variables except for the texture number, then click "Preview" repeatedly, you will be able to see just how many possible textures you can create with just this one variable.

Textures do not rotate with the objects filled with them. If you need a workaround, export to a bitmap format (e.g. TIFF) and import this bitmap to rotate. However, rotated bitmaps will display even more slowly than normal bitmaps. Try disabling High Resolution from the Bitmaps option on the View Menu to speed things up, or work in Wireframe mode.

Susan Biggs

DOS SIG

DOS SIG Meeting for June will continue to focus on preparations for *Windows 95-6-7-8...* After seeing the Microsoft *Windows* extravaganza — it was nice to see the pro's make a "stumble" or two during a large presentation — May 22, think DOS' future may be in question after all. Brought out a lot of interesting questions about judgment. The moving cursors (bugs, etc.) were really neat, but what does that do to "overhead" when MS is struggling to get the new *Windows* to run gracefully in a 4M, 386DX PC's?

We have our own question for the June DOS SIG Meeting: Should we change the name of the SIG?

Some members/participants in past DOS SIG meetings have suggested (complained) that name of the SIG is misleading and tends to produce confusion in those who come to hear about DOS. We've even had some suggestions for possibly more descriptive SIG names from other SIG leaders and NTPCUG members. The suggestion I liked best was:

Hopelessly generic SIG that avoids all questions about DOS and tends to focus on obscure subjects that nobody — not even the SIG leaders — really know anything about

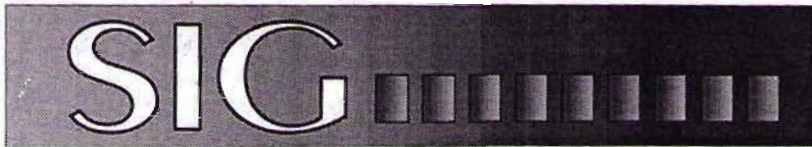
That tends to pretty well describe what we actually do in the DOS SIG, come to think of it. Don't know if Jim Hoisington would agree, but it's kind of catchy even if it would take half a column in the newsletter for the title. Guess we could make it a little shorter, something along the lines of: *Hopgen SIG*.

Come on up and visit the DOS SIG in June. It'll be a lot of fun and we may even talk about DOS for a change during the usual Q&A portion that terminates the session and the SIG leaders.

Reagan Andrews

Graphics SIG

We have been working with Gold Disk to have them come in to demonstrate *Astound*, *Professional Draw*, and the rest of the Gold Disk line. Well, during the SIG dinner I discovered that the DACAD group was as interested in Gold Disk as we were! So, with a bit of coordination and cooperation we will be featuring three hours of Gold Disk beginning in the DACAD group at 9, the big auditorium at 10, and the Graphics SIG at 11. The only complication is that this will take place in July, not June as we had originally planned.



Currently we do not have a program for June. One possibility is that we will be bringing in someone to fill us in on how to get output from our files to hard copy. If it can be arranged we will have a local service bureau give us pointers, tips, and tricks on how to make our masterpieces look good in print.

Several interesting comments were made at the SIG meeting in May. First, the people in the SIG are extremely interested in the real world applications. We also had requests to have software companies give more complete "how do I do" sessions. Finally, we had interest shown by the Genealogy SIGs to have a demonstration on photo retouching. This last request is going to be the hardest to fulfill, but we will make a valiant effort to do so in an upcoming month. Stay tuned for more news!

Neal Berkowitz

Hardware Solutions SIG

A question which has managed to crop up at almost every Hardware Solutions SIG meeting this year is the difference between IDE and the new Enhanced IDE specification. For those of us whose experience is primarily plugging the pieces together and turning it on, these standards and specifications can be quite mystifying.

Consumer demands for larger and larger capacity hard disks have now exceeded the theoretical maximums which were laid down back in the days when 10 and 20-meg hard disks were the norm (remember when Bill Gates said "nobody should ever need more than 640K?"). Most users are blissfully unaware that 528 megabytes is supposedly the maximum size for an IDE drive, and even fewer of us understand why.

To meet demands for more storage, hard drive manufacturers have found ways around this and other limits. There is a lot to the subject

of drive I/O and the different drive specifications, and many of us would benefit from a greater understanding of the specifications and how they effect the computers we use.

This month, we are very pleased to have during our nine o'clock hour a guest speaker who has an uncanny knack for making the complex understandable. Glynn Brooks is the Assembly Language SIG leader, and a frequent contributor at the Hardware Solutions Q&A sessions.

Glynn has agreed to give us an up-to-date presentation on the changes that EIDE is bringing to the desktop and the impact it will have on our hardware buying decisions. This is certain to be one of those SIG meetings you will want to attend with your notebook and pencils ready.

Charles Miller

Health Care/Medical Informatics SIG

While many of our SIG members were enjoying kids home from college over Easter, and family gatherings diverted the attention and attendance of other SIG members, the diehards who made it to our April meeting were treated to a demo of MEDISOFT.

Elva Roy, of Providers Business Services Network demonstrated one of the most popular medical/dental practice management software applications in the country. MEDISOFT currently accounts for 60% of total sales in that niche. The very reasonable price, less than \$500 for functionality comparable to software packages that typically cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000, provides an easy-to-understand explanation for MEDISOFT's popularity.

Electronic billing capability is an attractive feature of MEDISOFT. Appointment scheduling, automated

telephone dialing, pop-up patient ledgers, and tracking of payments in capitated plans were other functions that Elva covered during her presentation. As always, a lively discussion followed the presentation. You had to be there....

We welcome suggestions for topics that you'd like to see covered at future SIG meetings.

Zeke Rabkin
zeker@onramp.net

Introduction to the PC SIG (formerly the Personal Users SIG)

The following is the tentative schedule for SIG classes that will be offered as an Introduction to the PC during the next four months. Classes can be taken in any order suitable to the individual student's schedule. Printed notes are provided during classes.

June 17, 1995

- ◆ 9:00 Class 1
Introduction to the 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

July 15, 1995

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

August 19, 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)

September 16, 1995*

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

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

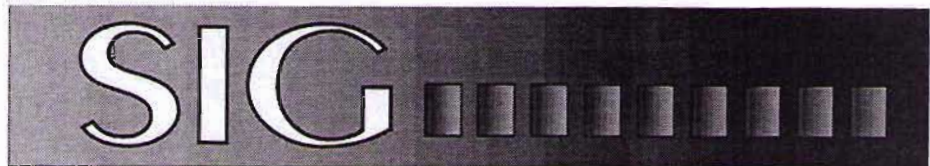
Alex Lilley

Paradox SIG

Frank Cavillito has offered to help with starting a *Delphi* SIG. I think Frank, Tom, and myself will meet and see what we can actually work out for the future. Some mention was made of possibly switching our Paradox SIG meeting time to gain access to a two-hour time slot. The plan is to offer Paradox for one hour and Delphi in the other hour.

In the past, I have wished we had two hours just to cover Paradox, but we can see how this new setup might work. We can either expand or contract product coverage to suit the direction of the market. Delphi seems to be attracting some market interest. I don't think it launched as a barn burner, but after some initial working with it, maybe the development community will learn to live with the fact it is built on Object Pascal.

The June Paradox meeting will be a Tips and Tricks session lead by the "Energizer" and myself. Bring all of those neat tricks you have tripped over while exploring the Pdox\Win world. We do still try to answer Pdox\DOS questions also. My work now seems to be pretty much split between DOS and Win, with a slow but



steady increase in Windows development.

I can report that Paradox 5.0 runs just fine under Win'95. I can see no obvious pluses or minuses when Paradox is moved to Win'95, except Paradox DOS runs like a scalded dog! Pdox 5.0 can still manage to generate a GPF pretty regularly, but now at least, most of the time I can nuke Pdox without bringing down the whole machine. The bummer is, when Pdox dies, he refuses to restart because he claims the IDAPI files are "busy", bummer!

Fred Williams & Tom Browning

Personal Users SIG

To better reflect what the Personal Users SIG is about, the name has been changed to Introduction to the PC SIG but the SIG format will remain the same. Look for class listings under the new SIG name.

Alex Lilley

Pro SIG

Chris Balthrop presented a paper outlining the differences between DSP and NDP chips. Most of the audience left the room PDQ.

Join us in July when we will hear a paper describing the differences between CISC, RISC, CICS, and MYST.

Jim Hoisington

QuickBooks SIG

The QuickBooks SIG in May covered the use of the software in an application to track Real Estate Investments and a method of processing a payroll check and getting the information in the current place without using the payroll package.

In the June meeting we will look at the risks and rewards of QuickBooks, what type of user will gain benefits, and risks involved in using this package.

Jim Thompson

StarText SIG

StarText SIG for April 15 was devoted to technical matters. Dennis Brand, EJBEST and a StarText BUDDY, discussed many lesser known features now available to StarTexans. These include the MNP-5 protocol, allowing 4800 Bits Per Second to those modems with this feature, even though they run at a nominal 2400 BPS.

Attendees also heard the StarComm manual could be downloaded now. StarComm is the DOS communications program offered by StarText to subscribers who only want to use the service, and have no interest or ability in technical matters. It guides the new user through a setup program to get connected, then gives simple menus to access all keywords and features.

Gripes were also aired and honored. StarText has a two-tier subscriber message system, started in the bad old days when the service wanted to charge extra for long messages and multiple recipients. The charges are long gone, but the tiers remain. More will come of this.

Talk moved to Jerry Conger, Mail Code 65709, a friend of all and contributor to the community, who recently passed away. It continued with praise for INTERACT, an area that actively solicits subscriber input and awards prizes to the really dedicated. It even covered StarText access with Term, StarLink, Procomm, Commo, and other programs.

Come by and join us. Visitors are always welcome, and our cheerful bunch is delighted to tell all that StarText is simpler, cheaper, and a whole lot friendlier than the Infonet.

William L. Jones

Visual Basic SIG - Beginning

The June 17th meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will be a presentation on the topic of alternatives

SIG



to the Grid.VBX control supplied with Visual Basic 3.0. I have been experimenting with TrueGrid Pro and will report on my experiences.

Last month, Ken Levy presented the features of the Setup Wizard. I was unable to attend that particular meeting.

The July meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will be "Open Line" and consist of brief presentations by members of the SIG on varied topics. If you have a topic you would like to discuss for 10 minutes or so, give me a call and I will place you on the agenda.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, June 17, 1995. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment. We have been warned that changes to room assignments will be frequent. Stay tuned!

Jim Carter

Windows Application SIG

Now that we have finished the basics, the Windows Application SIG begins to slip into high gear. We have decided that the best format of the SIG is to have one person (generally yours truly) give a 20 to 30 minute presentation on one type of Windows application. This will be followed by a general no-holds-barred question and answer session on Windows topics in general.

On the agenda for June is our repeatedly-delayed demonstration of presentation packages. I will begin with *Powerpoint* and then venture into the unknown with comments about *Harvard Graphics*, *Freelance*, and *Astound*. Anybody wanting to comment about other presentation programs is welcome to voice their opinions.

Tentative agenda for June will be FAX programs. Many people do not realize that the average office does not need a fax machine any more. With an inexpensive scan-

ner, a fax modem, and software, a person can produce better quality faxes than can be obtained with the best plain paper fax machines on the market. More about this in June.

Tip of the Month:

The easiest way to create icons in program manager is to open File Manager and drag the file over to the Program Manager group in which you want the icon created. What is really great about this process is that almost any file can be dragged to Program Manager and made into an icon including data files. Just make sure that the file extension has been associated with an application.

Neal Berkowitz

Word for Windows SIG

The MS Word SIG is alive and well. Come and visit and learn more about Word. We've missed Beverly Curtin's outstanding presentations and especially her giggle. We hope that she will come back and visit us when she is feeling up to it. We miss you Beverly!!

Let me introduce you to our leadership group:

Bob Rice, a local Dallas attorney, has agreed to be a co-leader of the SIG. He may be reached during the day at (214) 885-0202. Bob brings a wealth of experience on Word from a true business user's standpoint.

Bob Russell is our new contact person to call for HELP. He is an MS Engineer and has expertise in several MS products. Bob is one of the original charter members of the NTPCUG and is active in training those who are in the Beginner's SIG. We really appreciate his willingness to receive our calls of desperation and the expert information that he is able to provide. Note that he is available from 7-10 pm at night. Bob will be with us during part of the June meeting so you can meet him face-to-face.

I am the other co-leader, **Jan Patton**, from Commerce. I am a former business teacher and curriculum specialist for the State in the business, office, and the computer areas. Currently I am the owner of a desktop publishing/word processing service business. I have used Word in developing and designing curriculum and workbooks for seven years and have provided training on Word for several businesses, colleges, and teachers.

We have an opening for an MS Expert position although we have Bob to call upon to help us out individually. We will hopefully find another "MS HELP" person to join our presentation team in the near future.

YOU—yes, you are also part of our team. Without you at the meetings there would not be any meeting. We also know that many of you have various expertise in Word and invite you to assist us with a portion of the program. Feel free to contact either Bob Rice or myself at the meeting or at the numbers listed within this newsletter to sign up for a date. We are always open to suggestions of topic ideas from you.

Announcement:

June 22, at the Apparel Mart, Microsoft will be presenting a program on *Windows 95* and *Word for Windows 95*. It should be an interesting meeting. We will have one of the MS people come to one of the first fall meetings to present Word for Windows 95 to our group and allow you to ask questions. For that session we may expand the time.

Last meeting we covered pagination and watermarks. A brief hand-out will be provided at our June meeting as a review for those of you who were present and to assist those who were not able to come.

The following is a list of topics that we will be covering over the next few months:

- ♦ June—Everything You Wanted to Know About Tables including how to Use Formulas.

- ❖ July—Changing and Customizing the Tool Bar
- ❖ August—Linking Word with the rest of the Office Programs
- ❖ September—Word for Windows '95

Come and join us. Even if you know all there is to know about Word, you might pick up a tidbit that will help make your life with Word easier.

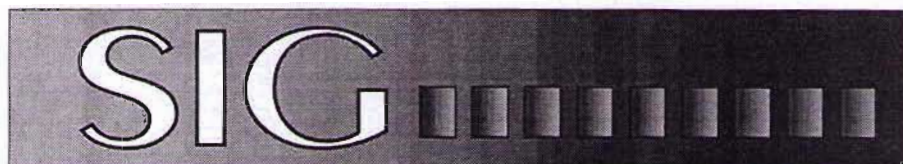
Jan Patton

WordPerfect (DOS) SIG

At the April meeting we discussed basic setup and how to "personalize" WordPerfect, based on our personal needs.

Our attendance was very good and a lot of interesting information was shared, and after all, that's why we come to these meetings to learn, to share, to network and to meet new friends.

In June, we will be discussing "Tables - From Scratch" (in both 5.1



and 6.0) so if you have a question about tables, be sure to be at the meeting!

Tip of the Month:

The Block feature can be used for temporary storage or permanent storage on your hard drive.

Temporary blocks are created by blocking the text to be saved, pressing [HOME][F10] and [ENTER]. They can be retrieved in two ways: using [HOME][SHIFT][F10], [ENTER] or [CTRL][F4], Block Retrieve. ALL CODES ARE INCLUDED.

You can append to temporary blocks by blocking the text to be appended, pressing [CTRL][F4], selecting Block Append and [ENTER].

Just as the name implies, temporary blocks are deleted when you exit

WordPerfect. They are also overwritten with each Block Copy or Block Move.

Permanent blocks are stored as permanent files on your hard drive. After blocking the text to be saved, press [HOME][F10]. At the Block Name: prompt, enter a document name.

You can append to permanent blocks by blocking the text to be appended, pressing [CTRL][F4], selecting Block Append and entering the block name.

Permanent blocks use space on your hard drive. You should periodically check your hard drive for block saves and delete those that are no longer needed.

Dawn Hopkins

Writers' Guidelines for SIG Notes and Article Publication in the PC News

The following is a reprint of the handout for SIG Leaders distributed at the April SIG Leader Meeting.

Production of the newsletter takes 40+ hours a month for the Publisher and many additional hours for the Editors. All hours combined make it close to 60. Much edit time could be saved if articles were submitted using the formatting guidelines set forth below. Following these guidelines will help reduce the number of hours the Publisher and Editors must currently spend and will be very much appreciated.

Article Submission on the BBS:

Choose F — (F)ile Up/Download menu

- To submit an article choose:
- A - Newsletter ((A)rticle to Editors
- A - to submit (A)rticle

To submit SIG notes choose:
I - S(I)G happenings upload for newsletter

S - to (S)ubmit SIG happenings
Press Page Up and use Sealink or some other protocol to send.

Format:

1. Most preferred format is Microsoft WFW 2.0, but if you are using WFW 6.0, please Save As a WFW 2.0 file as Ventura 4.2 does not recognize WFW 6.0. Next preferred format is WordPerfect. (Versions below 6.0) We can accept most other word processing formats, but please contact us to make sure we can accept yours. Least preferred format is ASCII as time must be spent stripping it of hard returns and adding formatting.

2. If you send a word processing document, bold the title/subtitles and names of any user group members only the first time they are men-

tioned. Please italicize the names of books, newspapers, newsletters and software; italicize the name of software products only the first time they appear in your article.

3. Please use caps and lower case for titles and subtitles instead of all caps.

4. For SIG notes, please put title of SIG exactly as it appears in the newsletter.

5. All articles and SIG notes need the author's name at the end for proper credit.

6. Please do not indent paragraphs. And please do use small paragraphs as they are much easier to read in the 3-column format used in the newsletter.

7. Read your article or SIG notes after publication and note any changes the Editors or Publisher made to your copy for a guide to future submissions.

The Editors
4/95

A Busy Month With Internet, BBS and, now, Windows 95

It has been a very busy month; seems like I just wrote last month's BBS column.

I've been prowling around the new Microsoft Network using my preview copy of Win '95. Fear not Compuserve. Microsoft has a very long way to go. Like any endeavor that a major player in an industry embarks upon, I am certain that the Microsoft Network will remain very slanted toward Microsoft's own product line. Not many competitors, direct or indirect, are going to be too excited about establishing a presence on Microsoft's network.

I think the best thing that will come from the Microsoft network effort will be the set of Windows APIs that will allow third-party developers to build some really significant online applications. There is a burgeoning demand for remote access solutions, as the use of both notebook computers and cell phones continues to mushroom.

I can think of at least a half dozen super applications for remote access, both portable and fixed location. I am watching the currently separate LAN and WAN environments rapidly evolving into homogeneous, geographically dispersed, enterprise-wide networks. Later versions from all the major database players have contained ever-expanding levels of multiphase commits, delayed transaction updating, synchronization, rollback, and multi-instance data dispersal. The networking hardware and software products are still rapidly evolving toward greater speeds and reliability, with ever-increasing interoperability.

The one really nice feature I see in every recent Windows-based remote client software product is user-transparent support of both the communications port features and an attached modem. One of the more interesting features of the Microsoft Network client was the way it installed itself. The thing actually

NTPCUG — ON-LINE

by **Fred Williams**
SYSOP, NTPCUG BBS

examined each communications port, examined and identified the modem, and simply asked some basic phone number questions to configure the dialing string contents. There was absolutely no user interaction required to configure the communications hardware environment recognition!

I know all us old timers who like beating ourselves over the head with a rock will find self-configuration a very boring and ridiculously painless way to setup communications software. But I know, after being involved with various aspects of computer communications for several years, that there are a multitude of users out there who can't tell the difference between an external modem and a doorstop, and they don't want to learn any different.

Microsoft holds the current prize in my book for fully-automated, sit back and watch the blinking lights, communications setup. For those who just won't leave well enough

alone, you do have the option of going in and dinking around with a perfectly good setup. Oh, but do make a backup copy before the urge to improve the situation takes full hold.

The down side of all this "automagic" is that while Microsoft knows a lot, they don't know everything. The user who has pieced his system together from Mama San parts acquired at Cheap Charlie's Computers and Lawn Mower Repair, will suddenly discover the true value of buying mainstream products. I'll bet you double or nothing Microsoft Network's client setup will not recognize that \$19.95, 2400 baud Fax/Modem you picked up at Sam's Club last weekend on your latest high technology shopping spree. With a little luck, it should default to some generic setup string, which may or may not work. The same applies for those who buy a preconfigured system, pop the case, and just drop in an internal modem; good luck!

Well, I didn't spend any column space on our BBS this month; this is because I continue to find the general online world to be a very interesting and rapidly changing branch of our technological world. I think the Microsoft Network and other Windows-based products will greatly advance the industry toward providing online connection that is no more complex than plugging in and configuring the average multi-function phone device is today. Until that actually happens there will continue to be a very large percentage of those who would like to play in the game but find the technology wall too tall and slippery to scale.

Fred Williams
@ntpcug.org



NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

NTPCUG USER-TO-USER PROGRAM

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)481-2350	M-Sa 1300-1500	DOS	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Assembly Language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7 1800-2200	DR DOS	Ralph Beaver	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700
	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200		.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	Hardware Help	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Beginner Problems	Jan Parkhill	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	HyperAccess	Woody Pewitt	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
	Shirley Hudgens	(214)352-2800	7 0900-2000	LANs - Novell	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869	7 0900-2200	- Lantastic	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	Managing Your Money	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	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
	Doug Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030	PC Tools/Win	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
CorelDraw	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200	Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315	7 1300-2100
	.....	.....	S-S 1300-2200	ProComm/ProComm+	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
Batch Files	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400		.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
Borland C++	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Bill Green	(817) 731-1308	
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200		Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	.....	.....	T&T 1800-2030		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700	Publisher (Microsoft)	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900				
CompuServe	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900				
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows	Ted Gillam	(214)964-7923	7 0800-1700				

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Quicken			
	Billy Pitts	(817)430-8148	7 1830-2100
	Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
Quickbooks			
	Jim Thompson	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
SPFFC			
	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
TurboVision			
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
	.....		T&T 1800-2030
	Don Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030
UNIX			
	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus			
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Visual Basic - Advanced			
	Woody Pewitt	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800

NTPCUG User - To - User Program

Visual Basic - Beginning			
	Jim Carter	(214)235-5968	7 1700-2130
	L.J. Johnson	(214)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman	(214)495-6342	7 1700-2130
Windows for Workgroups			
	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Word for Windows			
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
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

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

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.

North Texas Users Group, Inc. Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Work ____ (____) _____ (Ext) _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

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

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

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$ & Sense | MKS products |
| Borland Turbo C | Norton Utilities |
| CAD | PAF |
| Dataflex | Pagemaker |
| DeskLink | PC Hookup |
| Desktop Publishing | Personal Tax Preparer |
| Easy Text | PKzip/PKUNzip |
| First Choice | Portfolio Analyzer |
| First Publisher | Q & A |
| Fox Pro | QuietWrite |
| Harvard Graphics | Roots |
| LapLink | Smart |
| Mathematica | Smart Notes |
| Modems | Sound Blaster |
| Money Counts | Stacker |
| Money Plans | TurboTax |
| Microsoft C | Core! Ventura |
| Microsoft C++ | XTree |
| Microsoft Visual C++ | |
| Microsoft Word | |

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 Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	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. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214) 462-0552
Disk of the Month	Jan Parkhill	(214) 828-2216 h
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(214) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(214) 492-1315

Members Emeritus

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

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:

..... (214)387-2751
..... (214)387-2752
..... METRO (214)263-9036

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

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

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

Address Changes, etc...

Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

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



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

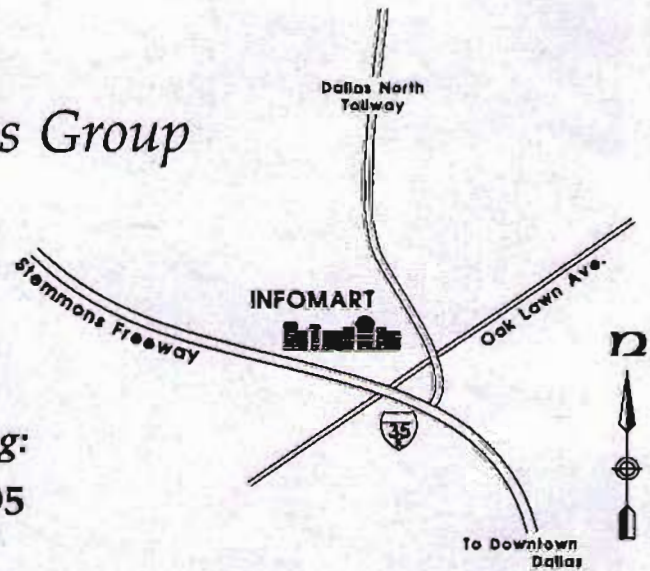
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Arlington, TX
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested

14.6



North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:
17 June 1995