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# North Texas PC NEWS

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### Deadline:

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

### Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2,650 last month.

Member distribution was 2,203; 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 October  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Sundayday, September 10th

### Meeting Dates:

September 16, 1995 - 3rd Saturday  
October 7, 1995 - 1st Saturday  
November 18 - 3rd Saturday



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## North Texas PC News

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Ad Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
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*Reduced rates for multiple insertions of same ad. Require prior commitment in writing and payment in advance (3 months minimum). Copy and mechanical changes requested between insertions will be billed accordingly.*

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

### Policies & Mechanicals:

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

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

# PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER . . . TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

## Developing a Testing Strategy for Windows 95 Microsoft Corporation

*Suz Bohn, Microsoft Product Manager*

Cut development costs, improve quality, and increase customer satisfaction with *Microsoft Test* and *TestBasic*. Learn how to use *Test* to test Visual Basic and other applications. The *TestBasic* language, nearly identical to Visual Basic's Basic, will be shown with samples from the next release of Visual Basic and Windows 95 common controls. This session is the start of an all-day visit by members of the Visual Basic and Visual C++ teams from Microsoft, who will be at the Windows Developers SIG, the Beginning and Advanced C++ SIGs, and the Advanced Programmers SIG. There will be a drawing for free products. \*

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

## Symantec's Solution For Windows 95

Symantec Corporation

*Jerry Breaud, Corporate Account Rep.*

Symantec's Peter Norton Group has developed new products and versions of its current utilities that build on the capabilities of the existing products, while taking advantage of the more powerful architecture, easier-to-use environment, and built-in networking capabilities of Windows 95. Come see Windows 95 versions of *Norton Utilities* (NU), *Norton Navigator* (NN), and *Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95* (NAV) and for NetWare (NAV/NLM). There will be a drawing for free products. \*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

## Eight Professional Applications, One Perfectly Integrated Suite

Novell, Incorporated

*Rob Wellman*

*PerfectOffice Professional 3.0 for Windows* gives you professional power and intelligent automation in one convenient place. You get the six *PerfectOffice* Standard applications (*WordPerfect*, *QuattroPro*, *Presentations*, *InfoCentral*, *Envoy*, and *GroupWise*), plus *Paradox 5.0* database versatility and *AppWare* visual programming ease. And *PerfectOffice* integration goes beyond common-look-and-feel to actually share the underlying code for many operations. *PerfectOffice* Professional edition is the perfect professional place to work. There will be a drawing for free products. \*

\* Tickets for each drawing will be given out from 10 minutes before until 15 minutes after the start-time of the meeting to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIGS SEPTEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

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

9:00 - 9:55  
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  
Delphi  
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!

1:00 - 1:55 (Cont.)  
Business Apps./DAC Easy  
DATAFLEX  
C++/Beginners  
Word for Windows  
OS/2 Developers  
Introduction to the PC  
(Personal Users)  
Spreadsheet

2:00 - 2:55  
Advanced Programmers  
QuickBooks  
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.



## Busy Months Ahead for NTPCUG Members

September and October are going to be very busy months for NTPCUG members. September brings us *Networks Expo Dallas/Windows World* on the 12-14 at the Dallas Convention Center. September 16th is the NTPCUG Meeting (see below), and this is followed just three weeks later by the October 7th NTPCUG Meeting at Infomart (see *Warning*, below). Corel's international conference comes toward the end of October on the 22-25.

### A Busy September Meeting

September NTPCUG Meeting is going to be a very busy day at Infomart. With *Windows World* in Dallas the week before our September 16th meeting, we expect several product managers from Symantec and Microsoft at our September meeting. There will be product presentations and they will be attending many of the SIG meetings.

### Membership Cards Arrive

I picked up the new membership cards at 6B Labels today. They look great! The old cards cost us about \$1.50 per card. The new cards cost \$0.08 per card. We'll take the savings.

### Hop on the DFW Xchange Bus

You can see two shows in October according to **Stuart Yarus**, DFW Xchange President. The October NTPCUG Meeting falls on October 7th. That is also "First Saturday" - the giant ham-radio, electronics, computer and anything-else-you-can-imag-ine fleamarket in Downtown Dallas at Ross Ave.

Many NTPCUG members like to go to the outdoor fleamarket as well as our regular meetings. Many of the *Computer Marketplace* vendors (downstairs at Infomart) also usually have tables at "First Saturday" in addition to their sites downstairs at Infomart.

## G. KENT COBB SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

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Stuart informs us that DFW Xchange will provide regular shuttle-bus service between Infomart and the "First Saturday" event on October 7 in order that NTPCUG members won't have to make a difficult choice between the two.

### CorelDRAW in Dallas

Speaking of October, **JoAnn Elliott** reminds us that the *International CorelDRAW User Conference* is coming October 22-25. The international conference will be at the Dallas Sheraton Grand Hotel and members can find more information about the event in JoAnn's *Corel Corner* column in this issue.

### Warning! — October PCN Deadlines

**Gerry Heine**, Editor of our newsletter, *The PC News*, reminds SIG leaders, writers and advertisers that the October 7th meeting date demands much earlier than usual submission of SIG Notes, articles and columns in September. Since we usually take either the October or November *PC News* to Comdex, it is especially important that authors and writers adhere to the deadlines.

### Elections are Coming

It is the job of our President Elect, **Andy Oliver**, to collect nominations for President-Elect and Board of Directors. Andy will be soliciting nominations soon. If you know of someone you think would be willing to be nominated, contact Andy when he starts the nomination process.

### Membership

Membership dropped off to 2,191 at the end of July. Few people realize that August is our largest month for renewals. I sent out 155 renewal letters on the first of August to those members who had not already renewed.

Jim....





# CodeGuard puts bugs in plain view

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- ✓ Uninitialized data access
- ✓ Attempts to access freed objects
- ✓ Double deletes
- ✓ Failure to free memory
- ✓ Failure to close file handles  
... and more



written to an external log file for use with command-line tools. You save time because CodeGuard is integrated with the Borland C++ 4.5 development environment, eliminating the need to switch back and forth between tools. Using CodeGuard, you can easily rid your 16-bit Windows applications of aggravating bugs that might otherwise take days, weeks, or even months to detect and isolate.

## If you're a bug... give up!

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It pinpoints bugs that can be impossible to isolate using other means. Find bugs such as memory leaks, invalid memory references, memory overruns, uninitialized data access, and more! Don't wait until you're up against a deadline—order CodeGuard today and take advantage of this special introductory offer!

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# THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by **JIM CARTER**

## Which Visual Basic Magazine is Best For You?

It wasn't very long ago that finding quality magazine articles on Visual Basic topics was very difficult. Today, we have three established magazines that are almost exclusively Visual Basic/Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) and another one is just being announced.

The three established magazines are: (1) *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal* published by Fawcette Technical Publications, (2) *Inside Visual Basic for Windows* published by The Cobb Group, and (3) *VB Tech Journal* published by Oakley Publishing.

Recently, Pinnacle Publishing, Inc. has announced a fourth publication, *Visual Basic Developer*. In this column, I will try to characterize each of these magazines for you so you can decide which may best serve your needs.

### Criteria for Evaluation of Visual Basic Magazines

Each magazine develops its own editorial focus and scope. The three most important things I look for in a Visual Basic magazine are (1) articles on programming techniques, (2) review articles on the latest third-party tools, and (3) articles describing significant Windows applications written in Visual Basic. Other desirable content includes articles on Windows API calls, reviews of Visual Basic books, and Visual Basic user group activities.

Programming techniques are usually not covered adequately in the Microsoft Visual Basic manuals

or other programming books. Additional examples in magazine articles can be very informative in explaining a programming technique from a different viewpoint.

One of the most powerful, if not the most powerful, characteristic of Visual Basic is its extensibility. The programmer needing capability in an application beyond that available in regular Visual Basic can call on literally hundreds of add-on products to solve the problem. The challenge is to be aware of the capability and availability of all these add-on products. Reading articles that review the performance of these add-on products will help a programmer become much more effective.

Articles describing significant Windows applications that are written in Visual Basic help to shape the programmer's confidence in the power of Visual Basic to handle such applications. Too many people have the erroneous opinion that Visual Basic is a "toy" language that is not capable of handling powerful applications. Such articles give new and potential Visual Basic programmers the confidence to try their hand at significant Windows applications.

### Visual Basic Programmer's Journal

The *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal* (VBPJ) has been around the longest. Originally published under the *BASICPro* title and including articles on *Visual Basic for Windows 1.0* in early 1991, VBPJ has been and continues to be the best magazine on Visual Basic.

Under the leadership of publisher Jim Fawcette, VBPJ attracts quality authors on timely subjects. The editorial balance seems to favor programming techniques and examples of Windows applications created in the corporate Visual Basic programming environment. VBPJ attracts quality advertisers that support the quality of the magazine.

About a year ago, VBPJ opened a Visual Basic forum on CompuServe (GO VBPJFO) with 22 sections devoted to various topics related to Visual Basic. Many of the section leaders of this forum are authors from the magazine and all are very knowledgeable Visual Basic programmers. Two

# PCS

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section leaders are from NTPCUG (L. J. Johnson and Woody Pewitt).

Sections include Beginners Corner, Talk to Editors, User Groups, 32-Bit Bucket, Code Style, and The Classifieds where you might find a job as a Visual Basic programmer. Typically, authors will post their code in this forum to save us from having to keyboard the file into our computers. Altogether, an excellent place to obtain current information on Visual Basic.

This year, *VBPJ* is publishing a CD-ROM that contains substantial information on Visual Basic. I have not purchased one yet, but the ads in the current issue of *VBPJ* state that the current CD-ROM contains a database of over 1000 programming tools, complete text and code from prior issues of *VBPJ* and *BASICPro* magazines, sample applications and utilities, the latest Visual Basic shareware, and demos of new applications.

If you would like to order a subscription to the magazine (\$27.95 for one year) or the CD-ROM (\$49.95 each or \$99.95 for quarterly subscription) call 800-848-5523.

#### Inside Visual Basic for Windows

*Inside Visual Basic for Windows (IVBW)* was first published in December 1991 by the Cobb Group. It was the first magazine exclusively on Visual Basic that had no advertising copy at all, just technical articles. Recently they have been inserting flyers in the center of the magazine which are easy to remove, but it is an annoyance.

The editorial content of *IVBW* is almost exclusively programming tips and techniques. There are very few articles for beginners and the authors tend toward more advanced programming topics. Program listings can be downloaded from ZiffNet.

Earlier this year, the Cobb Group published a CD-ROM with back issues of *IVBW* as well as back is-

## THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by JIM CARTER

issues of other Cobb Group publications on Windows products (*Inside Microsoft Word 6*, *Inside Microsoft Access*, etc.). More recently, they are offering a monthly disk which includes the current month's code listings and the code from two other Cobb Group publications. This disk is referred to as the Software Developer's Resource Disk.

If you would like to subscribe to *IVBW* (\$59 per year) or the Software Developer's Resource Disk (\$29 per year), call 800-223-8720.

#### VB Tech Journal

This Visual Basic magazine was just started in February 1995 by Oakley Publishing Company, publishers of *Windows Tech Journal*. The first six issues have generated much interest and controversy amongst its readers.

*VB Tech Journal* is supported by advertising and has an editorial slant toward reviews of third-party add-ons to Visual Basic. The editor, J. D. Hildebrand, believes that this is very important for programmers to understand in order that they make informed "make" versus "buy" decisions regarding code for their applications.

The first few issues have included rather extensive reviews of popular VBX's and DLL's with comparative performance. These first few issues include a balanced approach to both beginners and experienced programmers. I found the articles informative and well written.

The controversial issues related to the new magazine *VB Tech Journal* are (1) the use of orange and green backgrounds behind the black text and (2) the inclusion of fiction in a "technical journal." I found the colored backgrounds made the reading a bit more difficult. My skim rate was probably a bit slower on those pages.

The fiction, however, was a welcome break for me. I enjoy reading fiction for relaxation but seldom have the time to read a full-length novel. I seldom read the fiction when the magazine first arrives. I save it for some time when I need a short break.

*VB Tech Journal* publishes their code on CompuServe in the CLMFORUM (GO CLMFORUM) in



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## Speed, Capacity & Quiet Conner Tape•Stor 4000

Windows and *The PC News* made me do it! I finally said "good-bye" to my Colorado 250 tape drive. Not really, and more on that later.

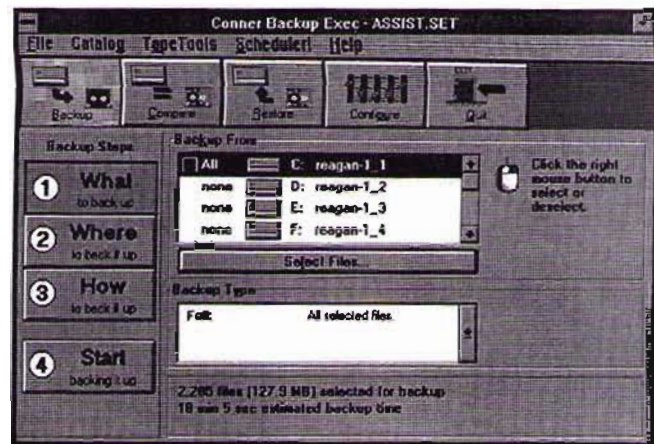
I faced the same problem(s) lots of users are going to confront shortly — too many big hard drives and limited patience/time to backup with the "old" floppy-speed, limited-capacity tape drive. I have a 1GB drive on my main PC, 500MB (compressed to about 1GB) on my backup PC and Connie's PC will shortly have 550MB. I tend to do "routine" backups across the Windows 3.11/Windows 95 network and doing a full backup of 2.5GB takes a lot of time and tapes.

Obviously, I was looking for a faster tape drive with much more capacity.

### Tape•Stor 4000 looked good

Conner's new *Tape•Stor 4000* seemed ideal. It takes the new "Travan" QIC-3080 tapes with an advertised capacity of 2GB (native), 4 GB when compressed using the Sony QW3080XLF tape supplied, and is about the same size as my old DC 2120 tapes. The drive is SCSI-II, and is fast — Conner claims up to 54MB/minute backup rate.

Conner reports the QIC-3080 tapes are compatible and can be interchanged with other drives which is highly desirable. In addition, the DOS software can work with tapes and catalogs created under



the Windows version and vice-versa, and that's very important if the user experiences a real hard-disk "crash."

Also, at the time I was "shopping" the Conner Tape•Stor 4000 had approximately twice the capacity and speed of similar and available Colorado drives at about a \$200 dollar lower retail cost. Have seen the Conner drives from local retailers in the \$550 range.

### Hardware Installation

Kit supplied by Conner contained an internal drive, *Conner Backup Exec* software (Arcada develops the Backup Exec software) and user manual, SCSI cable, mounting hardware for either 5.25" or 3.5" form factor, and a hardware installation guide.

## THE VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by Jim CARTER

Library 9. I am sure that as *VB Tech Journal* matures, it will also publish diskettes, CD-ROM's and maybe sponsor a forum of its own on CompuServe. If you wish to enter your subscription (\$24.95 per year) for *VB Tech Journal*, call 800-234-0386.

### Visual Basic Developer

Let me state right now that I have not seen a copy of *Visual Basic Developer* yet. I have an unsolicited advertisement for it that describes it, that's all. I did order an evaluation copy but it has not arrived yet. According to the flyer from the publisher, Pinnacle Publishing, Inc., *Visual Basic Developer* will be another no-advertising magazine with income consisting only of subscription revenues.

The focus will be on helping the serious Visual Basic programmer. Each issue of *Visual Basic Developer* will include a companion disk which will include source code and compiled programs, sample databases for testing, various and sundry shareware or freeware programs as space and time permit. The editor is Karen Watterson, a proven Visual Basic programming author with extensive experience in database programming.

The price of *Visual Basic Developer* is rather high because of the absence of advertising and the inclusion of a companion disk with each month's issue. If you would like to subscribe (\$179 per year) to *Visual Basic Developer*, call 800-788-1900.

Jim Carter



### Conner Tape•Stor 4000 ...Ctd.

Manuals were clear, concise and useful. Actual installation took approximately 15 minutes, a lot of which was devoted to getting the cabling correct. Since I've already got the 1GB disk and a CD-ROM drive, I needed a cable capable of attaching at least three devices in addition to the Adaptec AHA-2842A VL to Fast SCSI host adapter. The Conner-supplied cable would only take two devices (standard mfg. issue) so a new cable with sufficient connectors was acquired in the *Computer Marketplace*, downstairs at Infomart on NTPCUG meeting day.

#### Everything worked

Surprise! I actually had all the connectors correctly keyed, and had set the correct drive ID on first try. Apparently, SCSI termination was correct as well.

Adaptec's EZ-SCSI software was already installed and immediately recognized the Conner Tape•Stor 4000 on booting. Installation and configuration of



#### Welcome to Arcada Backup for Windows 95

No, I didn't get to review the *Arcada Backup for Windows 95*. It was still in *beta* when this was written. Grabbed this screen shot from the Arcada WWW site.

the Conner *Backup Exec 2.0s* software (both DOS and Windows versions) went equally quickly on my main PC.

Although I would have liked to try it with my *beta* WIN 95, conversation with Arcada's Nick Blozan warned against this. He suggested I wait for Arcada's WIN 95 version of the software which should be available by mid-September or about the time this is printed.

Absolutely no problems (other than those of my own making) occurred — so I didn't get a chance to "sample" Conner's technical support. I plan to review the WIN 95 version of the software for October and may get an "opportunity" then. All backups were made with data verification turned "off."

#### Performance & Speed

Does the Conner perform? Yes. I used the Conner default of "medium" compression and backed up a 133MB volume in six (6) minutes for a backup rate of 22.2MB/minute. A backup of the same volume at "high" compression took 15 minutes for a backup rate of 8.9MB/minute. Subsequently, I backed up 565MB in three volumes with "medium" compression in 23 minutes for 24MB/minute backup rate. Backups across the network were slower and were limited in "speed" by the WFW 3.11 network and NIC's.

That's very fast compared to my old Colorado 250 drive. But, it's not the 54MB/minute figure shown on the box — and, I didn't expect it to be. It's actually closer than I thought it would be and I'm not at all disappointed.

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## Conner Tape•Stor 4000 ... Ctd.

### 'Real' backup speed complex equation

Backups were accomplished in *Windows 3.11* and the Windows version of Backup Exec. The WFW network was functioning and employed during portions of the testing. PC used was a 486DX2/66 with 32MB DRAM, equipped with an Adaptec AHA 2842A SCSI VL Fast host adapter on a motherboard with a 256KB secondary cache and 1GB Hewlett-Packard SureStore 1000S SCSI hard disk.

All this is a factor in determining "real" backup speeds, since data compression speed is a function of CPU speed, etc. Arcada uses Stac software data compression and "steals" the unused CPU cycles to achieve some compression in the "Save Time" mode. Relative disk speed, caching, etc., also figure into the backup-speed equation.

I could probably increase the Conner Tape•Stor backup speed by judicious "tweaking" of the software and hardware setup. I did run comparisons of each backup and this mode took approximately same time as the backup itself.

### Some minor complaints

First is the cable issue. This is a top-performing drive aimed at the "serious" user. Delivery with a two-device capacity cable is a trifle annoying. I did expect the cable received and prepared for the installation by purchasing an appropriate cable beforehand. But, still think that it should have come with at least three-device capacity since many users will have more than a hard disk attached to their SCSI interface.

The software is another issue. It's very, very good, but has some surprises and at least one "gotcha" that can be infuriating. Several times in the testing, I inadvertently began the backup while trying to edit the backup name. Since Backup Exec has to be cancelled, and the tape put through all the usual tape-drive overhead, it takes some time to restart the process again.

The DOS software does tell the user how much space the compressed file uses on the tape. On the other hand, the Windows software gives a percentage (%) of

tape capacity used which wasn't terribly handy while testing for this review.

Also, the defaults in the DOS version for speed vs. compression appeared to result in a 1.5 compression ratio while the Windows version appeared to hit a 1.1 ratio. Could be that Windows' overhead doesn't allow as much CPU cycle-stealing as DOS, which could account for the difference.

I'd suspect the DOS version is actually somewhat "faster" than the Windows version as a result.

### Conclusion, and ...

#### An unexpected 'Plus'

First thing I noticed was something I didn't notice. Quiet – the Conner Tape•Stor 4000 is really quiet compared to my older Colorado drive. It simply doesn't *whine* at me and if I've got music playing in the room, I have to check the drive light to be sure it's running. I really like that.

On the whole, that was my global impression of the Conner drive. It's fast, unobtrusive and very reasonably priced for it's capacity and speed. At time of this writing, it's still the value leader available locally. I do expect the competition to reconsider their unit pricing if they want to stay in competition with Conner.

The Backup Exec software from Arcada delivered with the drive is a significant pleasure after using the the Colorado software delivered with their drives, and is much more straightforward and intuitive. Colorado does have more sophisticated versions of their software available, but these are not the programs usually supplied with the drive kits.

For my money, the Conner is a winner.

The Conner Tape•Stor 4000 drive was received on loan for review. It will be returned to Conner — with my thanks and a copy of this article. The same day, I'll buy a Tape•Stor 4000 locally.

### About the 'Old' Colorado drive

Will I give the old Colorado drive away? No. It will be installed on another PC on the network and used for transporting large graphics files and PC News files between this system, *The PC News* editor and to my office PC at the VA Medical Center which is also equipped with the older drive.

Reagan Andrews





## Disks of the Month (DOM) for August

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

Disk 993. Intel AT Command Online Manual, 1/94 Copyright 1993 by Intel Corporation.

*This README prepared by John Puckette, edited by Willard Davis.*

For those of us who use, or want to use a Hayes-Compatible Modem, this disk is a MUST!! Welcome to the Intel AT Command Online Manual. This manual is a hypertext document. This means that when you see highlighted text (a hypertext link), you can jump to more information on that subject.

The manual is divided into sections which contain cards. Each card covers one topic and can be from one line to several screens long. Each card has a number, which is displayed at the lower left of the screen. You can look at the cards in numerical order (press

gDn) or jump from card to card by selecting the hypertext links. You can navigate through the manual with the mouse or by using keyboard commands.

The main topics in the manual are:

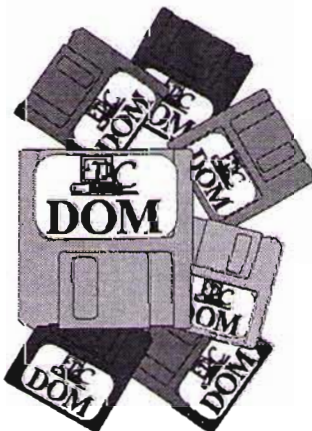
- How to Use the Manual
- Introduction to AT Commands
- Example of an AT command line
- Operating modes
- Attention code
- Commands and S registers
- AT command line
- Command buffer
- Result codes
- Error control
- Establishing the error control protocol
- Data compression
- Initialization strings
- AT Commands
  - Alphabetically by command name
  - By functional groups
- S Registers
- Result Codes
- Glossary of Terms
- Table of Contents

The source of this disk is NTPCUG member Jan Parkhill.

Disk 994. PEP: Picture Editing Package 1.5, 6/94 PEP: Picture Editing Package 1.5, Trionum Inc., PO Box 305, Kendall Sq., Cambridge, MA 02142. 1-800-TRIONUM, CompuServe 71344,356, Internet 71344.356@CompuServe.COM. SHAREWARE FEE = \$45 (\$75 extended).

PEP is an innovative drawing and layout program for the IBM PC and compatibles running under DOS. PEP is designed for the non-artist who needs diagrams, illustrations, or high quality drawings of any sort. PEP can be used to create logos, banners, forms, certificates, presentations, slide shows, flow charts, floor plans, and much more. PEP provides hard copy output via LaserJet, DeskJet, PostScript, and dot matrix printers, and file output to the popular PCX and EPS formats, so that PEP drawings can be used in most word processors and publishing programs.

PEP's super-fast display code and responsive user interface guarantee high performance on the oldest XT class machines as well as the newest and fastest computers. PEP's many features include: multiple windows, arbitrary zoom,



WYSIWYG display, background printing, infinite undo/delete, scalable fonts, decorative ornaments, rulers, grids, snapping, a powerful collection of menu driven commands, and complete on-line documentation.

PEP can also be used to annotate and enhance org chart graphics produced with Trionum's new org chart making software, ORCHIS. (A shareware copy of ORCHIS is included when you register PEP.)

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** PC compatible computer, DOS 2.0 or later, Graphic display: VGA EGA CGA or Hercules, 384K memory, and Hard disk (or floppy with at least 720K), (Mouse optional).

The source of this disk is NTPCUG member Jan Parkhill.

*This README prepared by John Puckette, edited by Willard Davis.*

Disk 995. ANSIPLUS Console Device Driver 4.0, 8/94 - ANSIPLUS Enhanced Console Device Driver, Release 4.0, August 28, 1994, Kristofer Sweger, P.O. Box 378, Larkspur, CA 94977. SHAREWARE FEE = \$25 (\$39 with manual).

The ANSIPLUS console device driver integrates major console elements missing from DOS and the personal computer BIOS into a single compact device driver that can easily be controlled and personalized. With ANSIPLUS installed:

- User interaction with the DOS command shell and many applications will be significantly improved.

- Screen output will be faster than with DOS's ANSI and non-ANSI drivers.
- The user will have complete control over colors and VGA/EGA capabilities.
- Users of MS-DOS, Windows, OS/2, DESQview or Novell DOS will have access to ANSIPLUS features in all windowed and full screen DOS sessions.
- The user will also benefit from all the other display and keyboard features provided by ANSIPLUS.

The ANSIPLUS driver efficiently integrates several useful console functions that in the past had to be provided by separate TSR programs or drivers. A screen saver monitors display, keyboard and mouse activity. Scroll-back lets the user examine lines that have scrolled off the top of the screen. The mouse can be used to select text from the screen or from scroll-back and then paste it to keyboard input or copy it to the Windows clipboard. Fast screen output can be frozen and released with the Scroll Lock key. Keyboard buffer size is increased and configurable. Undesired repeat keys are suppressed and several other key processing options are provided. Keys can be added to the keyboard buffer under program control for later consumption by programs. A timer-controlled beep tone generator allows user customizable tones.

The source of this disk is NTPCUG member Jan Parkhill.

*This README prepared by John Puckette, edited by Willard Davis.*



Disk 996. ProComm Plus Bonus Disk, 8/95 – Modem upgrades and Tech Bulletins by DataStorm Technology. Shareware Fee: None.

TBULLS.EXE - A self extracting file containing 101 technical bulletins from DataStorm to help ProComm Plus users with technical problems and explanations of operating problems encountered. This is a nice collection to have sitting next to your computer for quick reference when problems arise.

W2UM0895.EXE - A self extracting file containing the most recent modem upgrades for ProComm Plus for Windows.

D2UM0895.EXE - A self extracting file containing the most recent modem upgrades for ProComm Plus for DOS.

System Requirements: Any IBM compatible running Windows 3.x, ProComm Plus and a modem.

Shareware provided and submitted by NTPCUG member Doug Gorrie.

## Top Twenty DOM Disks

Want to know what's hot? These are the 20 most popular NTPCUG DOM Library disks - as of August 12, 1995.

- 958. . . . *Windows Bonus Pack* (FAQ and \*.INI guidance files, a must)
- 950. . . . *UN4WIN* (Windows Program Uninstaller)
- 955. . . . *VirusScan & VShield 2.17E* (Possibly the best virus finder)
- 969. . . . *WINFORMAT 1.0* (Windows Program Uninstaller, Plus)
- 941. . . . *Wintune 2.0* (Fine tune Windows for maximum performance)
- 972. . . . *Professional Screen Capture Systems* (Windows)
- 980. . . . *Modem Doctor 5.2* (Make that rascal perform)
- 944. . . . *POW 1.20* (Windows Offline Mail Reader)
- 954. . . . *INFOSPY 2.13* (What Windows Info do you want to see?)
- 982. . . . *Tips for Using Windows for Workgroups, 3.11*
- 984. . . . *WinZip 5.6* (Use zipped programs without unzipping them)
- 978. . . . *INTERNET Help Files*
- 891. . . . *Beginners Guide to the Internet*
- 959. . . . *F-PROT 2.16d* (Virus detection)
- 904. . . . *Microsoft Diagnostic (MSD) Utility*
- 973. . . . *This Day in History, 7/94* (World events on your birthdate)
- 986. . . . *CTS Serial Port Utilities*
- 979. . . . *HOT BUTTON for Windows*
- 967. . . . *AutoLog 1.1* Automobile Maintenance
- 991. . . . *WALL \$TREET, The Bottom Line*

## DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

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

Disk 997. ProComm Plus Upgrade, 2/95 – Upgrade PCP Windows, 2.0 to 2.11 by DataStorm Technology. Shareware Fee: None.

This is the most recent download from the DataStorm BBS people to upgrade your ProComm Plus for Windows version 2.0 to 2.11. It appears this will be a major upgrade, constituting a 1.2 Meg upgrade file.

On another disk issued by the DOM, you will find both the Windows and DOS version of the MODEM upgrade disk, dated 8/95 plus some technical bulletins issued by DataStorm that will benefit users of ProComm Plus Communications software.

System Requirements: Any IBM compatible running Windows 3.x with a modem.

Shareware provided and submitted by NTPCUG member Doug Gorrie.

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

Disk 998. DiskMan for Windows 3.0, 9/94 – Disk Manager for Windows by DiskMaster Software, 8506 Timber Hill Court, Ellicott City, MD 21043. CompuServe 73507,3505. Shareware Fee: \$35.00.

DiskMan is both a disk manager to allow you to keep track of all your floppy disks, and it's a labeling program that allows you to print labels for your diskettes.

When you first start DiskMan, the main disk storage box (Main) will open automatically for you. The first time

you are in the program, the Main storage box will be empty. To store or add diskette contents to DiskMan, select DISK, ADD from the pull-down menu.

To change which storage box DiskMan will open for you in the future, first arrange your desktop the way you like it by opening and closing the storage boxes. Then select SAVE DESKTOP from the pull-down menus and you will always open to the same desktop and storage box each time you enter DiskMan.

Once you have added a diskette to DiskMan, you may double click the file name and view all the files stored on that disk. Of course, a good search tool is included so you can find ANY FILE in a matter of seconds, telling you exactly where to find the file and what diskette it's stored on in your disk libraries.

Life is too short...let DiskMan help you maintain control of your floppy files.

System Requirements: Any IBM compatible running Windows 3.x, ProComm Plus and a modem.

Shareware provided and submitted by NTPCUG member Doug Gorrie.

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





## News from Corel

Corel Corporation now has a site on the Internet available to all users direct from Corel. It is <http://www.corel.ca>.

Are you an avid user of spreadsheets, databases, pims, and/or word processing? We have openings in our beta program for the 32-bit version of *CD Office Companion*. If you are interested, please call our faxback system at 613-728-0826 ext. 3080. Request document #1006.

### Notes on the International CorelDRAW User Conference

No registration is necessary to attend Technology Night at the Conference (at the Dallas Sheraton Grand Hotel). A small fee (\$5-\$10) gets you in for a night of fun. There will be lots of prizes, food, drink, all vendors present, and the tech support area (Help Desk) will be in operation. Oct. 23rd (7:30-10:30).

### On the Web and Lookin' at You!

This week I received my own Web address. I hurriedly put the pages I had been working on for the past few months up (translate: at the Web address), and with my tongue held just right, I pointed my Web browser to the new location. It really worked! I can view my pages and so can everyone else in the world. What a remarkable concept!

Most of my time lately has been spent trying to find all the little bits and pieces of HTML code so I can make my pages as snazzy as possible. But I've realized there



aren't that many bells and whistles in regard to the look of the page. HTML is specifically designed not to do real fancy stuff in order not to send much code along with the page. Which means your photos will be on the right margin, left margin or in the center. Period. There are some ways to get around the limitations and I have listed some of those sites below.

Want to find more information on various aspects of desktop publishing or designing for the Web? Point your browser here:

CorelNet: Chris Dickman's (author of *The CorelDRAW Journal*) with many resources: <http://www.corelnet.com/corelnet/resource.htm>

#### 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

A scanning primer:

<http://www.dopig.uab.edu/dopigpages/FAQ/The-Scan-FAQ.html>

David Siegel (the man who designed the font Tekton) and his design tips:

<http://www.best.com/~dsiegel/home.html>

Gary Priester (author of *Looking Good in Color*) and a CorelPhoto guru:

<http://www.slip.net/~themook/>

Philip Greenspun, a photographer, and his recommendations about photos on the Web:

<http://photo.net/photo/>

Adobe Photoshop tips:

<http://www.adobe.com/Tips/TT.html>

So come take a look at my pages. They were my concentrated effort for several months. The hard part (writing the content) was already available when I started. I just took promotional pieces and added some photos in order to make them more attractive. Hope you enjoy.

Sharon Chandler - 'now a Web Publisher':

<http://www.airmail.net/~chandler/index.htm>





## An Interview With 'Mr. Corel' - Rick Altman

The following is the conclusion of a two-part interview with Rick Altman in preparation for the *International CorelDRAW User Conference* to be held October 22 - 25 in Dallas. Although not an employee of the Corel Corporation, Rick is perhaps the best-known proponent and author of a number of articles and books on *CorelDRAW* and *Corel Ventura*.

JoAnn Elliott's questions were a compilation of questions by DACAD members Marsha Drebelbis, Susan Biggs, Linda Hume, Sharon Chandler, Rocky Stonewall, Michael West, and JoAnn, by E-mail.

*JoAnn: What about support for Corel5 or Corel4—can we still open old art—will it be backward-compatible per present versions of Corel?*

If any version of DRAW is not backward-compatible, then it is absolutely doomed to failure.

*JoAnn: Strong words.*

And Corel knows it—Corel has made this bed all by itself, by continuing to sell DRAW 3 and DRAW 4. Now, I'm not saying that it was a bad move—heavens, Corel has sold over 1 million copies of version 3 and over 800,000 copies of 4—but with so many

**COREL CORNER... Ctd.**

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sharon for sharing her Web journey with us in this column. This is the last formal article from her. Come to the September 16 meeting to hear Gary Biggs and Sharon Chandler show and tell us how to do the Web! See DACAD SIG report for details.

hundreds of thousands of users of previous, yet still current, versions, the first litmus test for any new version has to be its ability to open art from earlier ones. There can be no question or compromise about this.

*JoAnn: What type of hardware will really be needed?*

I do not dispute Microsoft's claims that '95 will run like 3.1 does. We are running it on Pentiums, DX4s, DX2, and old DXs, and it is no slower than 3.1. It's always good to have as much RAM as you can possibly afford, but if Windows 3.1 is running satisfactorily for you, expect the same for '95.

*JoAnn: Some question that Corel Ventura has a future as a professional tool. Many people lack confidence in Corel Ventura 5.0. Will Ventura 6.0 become again a viable leader in publishing?*

Ah, the \$64,000 question.

*JoAnn: And how much is your answer worth?*

Less than that (laughing). Nobody doubts the intrinsic value of Ventura as a professional tool, and yes, Ventura 5.0 has not exactly bowled over the desktop publishing community. It's probably safe to say that if Corel can't turn things around with version 6.0, Ventura's day might be done. And the people at Corel know this—privately, they have said this to me outright. The development team is pouring incredible resources into 6.0, but as of now (July), nobody has seen what it looks like. We just don't know.

*JoAnn: I noticed that Corel Corp. is asking for beta testers for a word processor. Is Corel planning to produce a word processing program?*

It appears so, as the company has acquired developmental code from *WordStar*.

*JoAnn: WordStar??*

Yup, good 'ol *WordStar*, and Corel is also asking for beta testers for a database application. They just never stop over there in Ottawa, do they?

*JoAnn: With so many new programs on the horizon, what is the future of CorelDraw? Will it continue to be raced out on an annual basis?*

(Groans) I'm afraid so, although I can always hope. By and large, the company shareholders love it, but few others do. Users don't like having to upgrade annually, and the resellers and distributors would rather the product have a longer shelf life, too. And we authors hate it. Have you ever tried to write a 1,000 page book every year?

*JoAnn: You're talking about your Mastering CorelDRAW book...*

That's right, and every spring, I practically have to go into hiding to revise, update, and republish the thing.

*JoAnn: The last question is a softball: Why should people come to your Conference?*

Besides to see my smiling face?

*JoAnn: Yes, besides that.*

Well, we have history now, and a sense of credibility and continuity. In all fairness, that can't be said about some of my competitors. Corel announced its own conference, and then canceled it two months later. Other organizations have tried to do this, but for one reason or another, have stopped. We drew over 400 our first year and almost 350 our second year, and I think it's safe to say that we are the single most significant event on the calendar for DRAW users.

*[JoAnn's interview with Rick is continued on Page 15.]*





## A 'Bad-Hair-Day' for Microsoft's Windows 95? WIN 95 Support Lines Overwhelmed 1st Day, Grab a Valium Folks — Much more to come...

*Real News in Combinations & Permutations*

Ohhhhh! Ain't we having fun now, Microsoft? Am seeing the first (of what promises to be a veritable flood) of angry notes from would-be *Windows 95* users who can't get the new operating system up and running. Know it will surely be a "flood" since WIN 95 exceeded everybody's 1st-day sales predictions.

Aren't the *OS/2 Warp* fanatics crowing over this? (Crowing, but only between the tears they're spilling over increasing evidence that IBM probably won't continue supporting *OS/2* on the Intel platform much longer.) They do remember all the nasty jabs they had to listen to and tolerate when many of us reported the problems many users were having installing *OS/2*.

**Now, it's Microsoft's turn in the end-user-support barrel.**

Early stories about life-essence-draining waits on Microsoft Windows Help lines are definitely making the local news. This in spite of a truly huge effort on Redmond's part to bolster the support activity to handle the anticipated tidal wave of callers in trouble with WIN 95 installations. (If you're looking for a job and know *anything* about PC's & Windows, please, call Microsoft.)

### Turn-About Fair Play?

I can't wait for the *OS/2* fanatics to giggle their way into the *Informat* September 16, spewing forth lurid and tragic tales of failed/botched WIN 95 installations. We'll (Windows supporters) have a lot of fun defending against the onslaught.

Seriously, both sides are right — and both sides are wrong.

Here's why. Release of *Windows 95* has been a mass-marketing effort, selling almost as many copies in the first day as IBM

was able to give away of *Warp* in six months. Level of technical expertise of many WIN 95 buyers is probably quite different than that of early *Warp* users who were by-and-large quite knowledgeable and experienced PC users. It's a totally-different crowd picking up WIN 95.

I think Microsoft was well aware that many first-time WIN 95 users would be doing their first operating system installation and that's why so much emphasis was placed on making the WIN 95 installation and

setup essentially a "no-brainer."

Unfortunately, they couldn't protect everyone who bought WIN 95 against their own carelessness or refusal to read the documentation that comes with their PC and software. Read on.

### A 'Bad-Hair Day'

A recent letter to *The Dallas Morning News* is an excellent example. The writer compared her attempt to install WIN 95 to "a bad hair day." She explained she'd kept getting an error message during her attempt to complete *Windows 95's* initial setup as a result of "a possible conflict with an anti-virus program" which she didn't understand, especially since she didn't think she even had an anti-virus program. (It's probably a "new feature" contained in her PC's BIOS setup.)

### Sorry, Both Were Right

Both programs were only doing what they were supposed to do — protect her and her system. Microsoft's SETUP program was "aware" that attempting installation with the anti-virus feature in operation would fail, and was telling her that. The anti-virus program "saw" an "intruder" beginning to make some very serious changes to the PC's disk, and did what it was supposed to do — protect her system from damage.



## THE VARIETY STORE

I do hope she knows more about her hair than she does about her PC. From re-reading the letter, I wouldn't bet serious money on it, though.

I could get "tacky" about the example above, but this is my month to be "PC." It does, however, serve to illustrate the level of PC expertise Microsoft will have to deal with in this upgrade effort, and, additionally, something about the level of PC expertise of *Dallas Morning News* editors.

She'd have been better served with a suggestion that she get in touch with the NTPCUG and attend the next meeting on September 16 — where she could obtain a lot of help in the installation of WIN 95.

### MSN & Internet Both choked by Bandwidth 'Crunch'

*The Microsoft Network (MSN)* was at the center of the debate over release of WIN95. AOL, CIS and Prodigy were screaming that Microsoft's MSN incorporation in the setup of WIN95 would amount to instant Monopoly for Redmond in the on-line arena. Having spent a fair amount of time with MSN, I can assure them that doesn't look probable.

It's too slow and frustrating at 14.4 KBPS available in Dallas to pose much of a threat. I find myself becoming increasingly angry waiting for the MSN opening-screen graphics to load just so I can go check my mail quickly and get out.

### Internet just as slow — Even at 28.8 KBPS

All the furor over *The Microsoft Network* makes me think of the Internet. As millions of new users sign on to the Internet and the World-Wide Web (WWW), have seen increased indications of bandwidth "crunch" on the service(s).

Browsing the news sites, find more and more nonsensical verbiage about meaningless topics — and equally meaningless "flames" from other users apparently bent on simply seeing their names (or aliases) in "print." Surest way to kill a good idea is to make it mundane, inane and boring. Think Internet's getting there.

One sign is the tendency for the brighter users to flock to "secret" pages and forums — or direct E-mail correspondence rather than the public forums.

### Mix 'n Match A Continuing Saga Symantec & Delrina

Symantec just couldn't resist the *Bill G.* screen-saver, so they reached out and bought Delrina Technology Inc., of Canada. Both sides are giving the usual stories about "no significant changes envisioned." I do know that both Symantec and Delrina are scheduled to host APCUG events at Fall Comdex and may provide some clues as to future directions for each of the parties.

Symantec has gotten some very positive press over their new utilities for WIN95, especially ability to make the desktop more "friendly" than the (Uggghhh) WIN95 UI users see after it's installed. And, Delrina's *WinFax PRO* is still considered to be the best of the Windows-based Fax programs available. Delrina's announced communications package may end the complaints that there's no really good Windows communications software.

### Adobe & Frame

Adobe, meanwhile, bought Frame Corp., publishers of





*FrameMaker* page layout software best known in mini and workstation circles. *Frame* specializes in large, departmental, document production and control software. Adobe still has *PageMaker* for the PC and Mac platforms, but may continue to market *Frame's* PC version of *FrameMaker* as well.

I had a demo version of *FrameMaker* distributed after a presentation at NTPCUG several years back. Then, it seemed clumsy, had a nonintuitive feel and wasn't that impressive in terms of speed. Understand that with power available in "contemporary" PC's, *FrameMaker* is pretty impressive.

### Quark Grabbing DTP Market

While all this is going on, *Quark* is rapidly taking over the desktop publishing market — coming to the front from relative obscurity three years ago. It's the universal page-layout/art software seen in service bureaus these days and is making dual platforms make some sense. Got a demo disk (CD-ROM) at Comdex last year and played with it some. Seemed very fast, and somewhat idiosyncratic compared to *PageMaker* and *Corel Ventura*.

Come to think of it, that's much better than "slow, buggy and idiosyncratic" which I've used to describe both in the last year or so.

### DRAM Makes News As Scams, Thefts Greet WIN 95 Users

This is getting serious. Thieves in California stealing DRAM and CPU chips from major vendors at gunpoint have become almost common in the news. Now, there's a new twist/worry



for users in addition to the skyrocketing prices of DRAM as a result of massive shortages brought about by 32-bit O/S's, GUI's and WIN95's release.

We're starting to get reports of theft of DRAM from PC's in offices. This appears to be primarily from server PC's, where you'd expect to find large amounts of DRAM, but may also work its way down to desktop PC's if the trend continues.

DRAM scams are making the news as well. We've known for a while we'd better check any DRAM purchased at outdoor flea markets, especially if there

are little colored tags or labels obscuring the chip part numbers. This is a ruse to sell low-speed DRAM for high-speed chips and isn't new.

What's new is that some folks are re-marking the slower DRAM chips with different brand names and part numbers. Evidently, this is not a "small" operation, but has taken in some major vendors in addition to smaller, gray-market customers. Extent of the practice is unknown, but "caveat emptor" does prevail in the DRAM market now.

*Reagan Andrews*

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### JoAnn's Interview with Rick Altman... Ctd. from Page 12.

*JoAnn: What about Corel's annual design contest and gala?*

A wonderful event, but it's more of an industry event, and of course, a showcase for Corel. There's nothing wrong with showcasing one's product—Corel deserves it—but it doesn't cater to the user. We are advocates for the user, not the software. We might like the software, but it is not our function to cheerlead. We don't try to sugarcoat anything; you've already bought the product. Now you want to understand it better and use it more effectively. You want insight and inspiration. You want to see how others use it, and you might want a shoulder to cry on.

These are the things that go on at an annual symposium, and while COMDEX and Seybold of-

fer them for the industry at large, our conference offers it just for CorelDRAW users. It's like the ultimate gathering point...at least that's my vision for it, and now in its third year, I think we're starting to see some of that vision become reality.

*JoAnn: And it's in our backyard.*

And this year, it's in your backyard.

Here's how to reach Rick:

Phone: (408) 252-5448

Fax: (408) 252-5451

Email: Rick@Altman.com

Literature by fax: (408) 252-5586

World Wide Web:

<http://www.altman.com/~rick/>

*JoAnn Elliott*

# INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

### SIG Leaders Bring Their Tools with Them

The NTPCUG leaders, and especially Alex Lilley (SIG Coordinator), provide much of the hardware we use during our monthly meeting. SIG leaders also bring those specific props they need to help them make their presentation. Armloads of printed study guides, flow charts and diagrams are carted up the elevators of the Infomart to the meeting rooms. Leaders sometimes give an extra bonus by providing a software sample of their presentation.

One recent example of this was when Glynn Brooks presented an interesting discussion of hard drives using Microsoft's *Power Point*. He later posted the outline to the Bulletin Board for others to use. His presentation

demonstrated the combination of skills we learn by attending monthly meetings of the NTPCUG. SIG leaders show us how to express our ideas and communicate with electronic tools.

Thanks to you SIG leaders who take time to help others. Thanks for planning and writing and often bringing your computer gear to meetings. Thanks for answering those improperly formed questions with your best advice while you are rushing to the next SIG hour. The 2200 members of the User Group benefit from your application of the tools of computing.

Thanks also to those listed on this page who volunteered to help last month.

**Infomart Liaison**  
Stuart Yarus

**Vendor Setup/Break-down**

- Anchors:**  
David Slavik  
Kenneth Berg  
Ross Jones
- Crew:**  
Jo Coke  
Scott Drach

**Auditorium Presentations**

- Timothy Carmichael  
Chris Jung  
Chris Carmichael

**Information/Registration Booth**

- Statistician:**  
Connie Andrews
- Scheduler:**  
Bob Wuller
- Anchors:**

- Ralph Beaver  
Cinda Lovil  
Eteta E. Eta  
Judy Griffiths  
Allan Harbaugh  
Hank Holt  
Bob McNeil (double)  
David Martin
- Booth Crew:**  
Deborah Bean  
Chris Brooks  
Albert Champon  
Lorin Cranford  
Tim Foster  
Foy J. Mills  
Claude McClure  
Carl Oehmann  
Ken Sauter  
Perry Slack  
Jean Waldrep  
Joe Whalen  
Frank Winans

**Disk of the Month (DOM)**

- DOM Shift Supervisors:**  
Joe Allen  
Roy Bales  
James Donlon  
Judy Griffiths  
M. Pat Henley  
Arnold Krusemark
- DOM Desk Crew:**  
Michael Ashley  
Bernie Baars  
Rob Bender

- Philip Bridge  
Don Chick  
Norman Dang  
William Farris  
Charles Fernandez  
Kent Haven  
David Huckabee  
Tom Jackson  
Duane Martin  
Mac McKeethen  
Nancy Ogden  
Jan Parkhill  
Bob Post  
George Read  
James Russel-Redman

**With Special Thanks to:  
Set Up Crew:**

- Mark Gruner  
M. Pat Henley  
David Huckabee  
Jan Parkhill  
Jerry Stone
- Inventory and Take-down Crew:**  
Richard Blair  
Martin R. Gluck  
Robert Hull  
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)



# 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)

### Access SIG

In September, Weston Rogers will conclude the presentation he began in August explaining how to *Make Macros Work for You*. Weston's presentation is particularly apt for the regular and "power" end users in our membership, who build their own applications but aren't "into" Access Basic. We who use more Access Basic can always profit from a little refresher course, too. Weston is a full-time employee of TI, an independent software developer, and Richland College's first and only Access teacher.

John Walton, an independent consultant, will also speak on the subject of Access and the Internet. John, by the way, arranged the July giveaway of a month of free Internet service from Unicom to three lucky SIG members.

Coming soon: Larry Linson on the Access 2 Developer's Toolkit and on adding the finishing touches to your application.

Would you be willing to present that interesting application, those useful hints and tips, or perhaps just demonstrate features of the Access product? You don't have to be an Access "researcher making startling breakthroughs" be-

### 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:

— *Delphi* -- Fred Williams @ (214) 492-1315

#### New SIG Leaders:

— CAD -- Neil Culver, Assistant Leader @ (214) 690-6552 h, (214) 475-3124 w

— *StarText* -- Bill Jones @ (214) 423-8486 h

— *StarText* -- Chuck Menke @ (817) 496-6579

#### 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!

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

#### 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

#### Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland .. (214) 272-2869 h

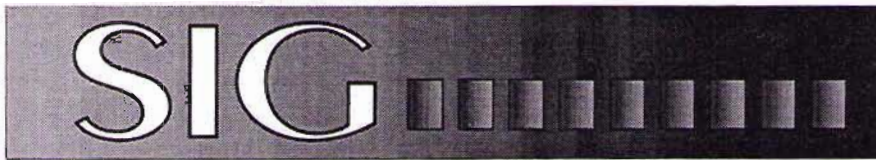
#### Business Applications/DAC

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

#### C++/Advanced

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





cause our goal is to have something for every level of Access user, from the person still deciding on a database to the experienced developer. We are particularly seeking a speaker for a Fall session who's had some early experience with the Access 7.0 release for Windows 95.

Between meetings, keep up with the group, and Access, on the NTPCUG electronic bulletin board system. The Internet "comp.databases.ms-access" newsgroup averages around a hundred messages each day, many of them with very useful answers. We also have our own local MS ACCESS message conference for questions, answers, keeping in touch, and just gossiping if the notion strikes us. Check inside the back cover of this issue for the BBS telephone numbers.

We look forward to seeing you at the September meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

### Application Developers SIG (OLE and ODBC)

Our guest speaker for September is Stewart Chance, of Medici Systems, a Microsoft Solution Provider specializing in client/server systems. Stewart will discuss *Using SQL Server for ODBC Development*. I'm told that Microsoft thinks so highly of Stewart's abilities in this area that they chose him instead of a Microsoft employee to conduct a main "Microsoft" SQL Server demo at a recent Microsoft "sneak peek at the future" event. We are very much looking forward to his insights on ODBC development with SQL Server.

Stewart's presentation gets us back on topic, after a couple of months of more general development topics that covered a broader range of application development. We'd like your feedback on that: do you want occasional topics outside our rather narrowly-defined charter, or do you prefer that we concentrate more strictly on OLE and ODBC issues?

Many thanks to Dan Ogden for his presentation in August on the subject of *Fixed Price Contracts*, and his patience with Larry Linson's interruptions to tell some "software war stories" to illustrate points. Thanks, too, to Jim Hoisington and the members of the Pro SIG for joining us and livening up the discussion.

This presentation was a "sneak preview" of the SIG on legal issues of computing for which Dan will be holding an organizational meeting this month or next - be sure to look for his meeting notice in the *North Texas PC News*. With qualified guest speakers on various issues affecting all of us who use, sell, or develop software, hardware, and computer-related services, that promises to be a very useful and valuable SIG and we are very much looking forward to it.

Come join us for the September meeting! If you have an interest in client/server solutions in general, ODBC as a method of using databases, and/or Microsoft SQL Server in particular, I think you'll find it productive, worthwhile, and very interesting.

Larry Linson

### SIG LEADER LISTING

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

#### C++/Beginning

Tom Cook ..... (214) 871-8177 w

#### CAD

Bill Sephton..... (214) 296-1799 h  
..... (214) 387-3500 w  
Neil Culver ..... (214) 690-6552 h  
..... (214) 235-3031 w

#### Communications

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

#### DACAD (Dallas Association of Corel Artists and Designers)

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

#### DOS

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

#### Dataflex

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

#### Delphi

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

#### 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

#### Hardware Solutions

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



**SIG LEADER LISTING**

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

**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**

Jan Patton ..... (903) 886-6249 h  
..... (903) 886-6466 w  
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 Tennison  
Francis Bright

**OS/2 Developer**

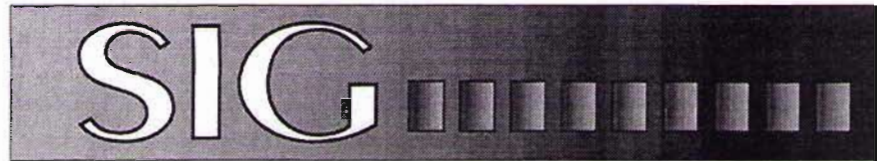
James Dunn ..... (214) 279-5712 h  
..... (214) 497-8978 w

**OS/2 for End Users**

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

**OS/2 Q&A**

Larry Truesdale



**Assembly Language SIG**

At the August SIG meeting we discussed *Getting Ready for Windows 95*. Thanks to all who contributed their testing experiences and gave us tips and pointers and things to avoid during the installation. The biggest warning is: don't use old DOS utility programs (Norton's DS, e.g.) with Windows 95; the rules have changed, and software that doesn't know about the new rules can really foul things up.

In September we'll be looking at a new class of software called *RAM Doublers*. They claim to "double the RAM available to your programs". Can they do it? How do they work? How well do they work? Which ones work best? What are the trade-offs? Come find out at the September Assembler SIG meeting.

In October we'll start a discussion of the *TCP/IP Protocol and Microsoft's Winsock API*. We will consider what TCP/IP is, why it is used so much on the Internet, and how Winsock helps programs communicate with one another using a network connection.

Glynn Brooks

**BASIC SIG - Beginning**

The Beginners BASIC SIG features GW-Basic & QBasic step-by-step program writing with small sample programs. Several pages of 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).

There are two Disk of the Month (DOM) available from the

NTPCUG DOM kiosk in the Computer Marketplace located in the Infomart basement. They are: DOM disk #846 which was released in August '93 with all the SIG material covered to then, and DOM disk #925 which was released in December '94 with SIG-class material.

Regular SIG members bring a 3.5" 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 ;early DOM disk.

Charles Jacobus

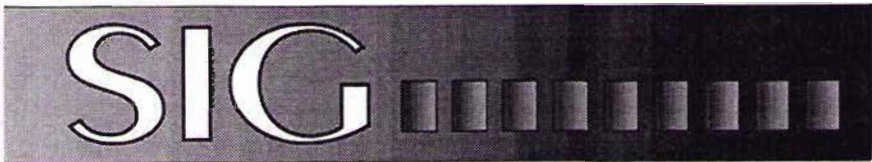
**Business Applications/DAC SIG**

After a Summer sabbatical in July and August, we are getting back into the swing of things with the September meeting of the Business Applications/DAC SIG. Bruce Schubert has just completed setting-up a client on *DacEasy Accounting for Windows v.2.0*, and will share with the SIG some of the things he has experienced in the process.

He will point out its features and describe some of its strengths. Bruce will also describe some of the areas in which he feels that the program may not measure up to his expectations or to the needs of his client.

Obviously, there's no such thing as the perfect accounting program which will meet the needs of each individual business. This will be an opportunity for those of you who are contemplating a brand new accounting program or a





switch from DOS to Windows to hear and ask questions about some of the things which may affect your decision.

For our October meeting, we expect to have a presentation of *Timeslips Deluxe for Windows Version 6*. I found it interesting that this new version can be linked to DacEasy Accounting and many other accounting programs, both Windows and DOS. All of the details haven't been worked out, but we will bring you up-to-date in the October issue. Look for details in next month's Selected SIG Reports!

Putt Shaw

**C++/Advanced SIG**

At the August meeting of the Advanced C/C++ SIG, Robert Martin gave a presentation on network programming. Robert described the ISO seven-layer model, showed us some sample code (in C/C++, of course!) illustrating each of his topics, and entertained questions from a highly intelligent, informed, and attentive audience.

In September, we will have representatives from Microsoft demonstrating some of their new Windows 95 development tools. I wish I could be more specific, but I don't yet have the definitive schedule. (MFC and OLE Controls have both been mentioned as possible topics.)

If you use Microsoft's development tools, this is an NTPCUG meeting you should not miss. There will be several sessions throughout the day, in the main auditorium, and in the Visual Basic, Windows Developers, Beginning C++, and Advanced Programmers SIGs.

Kent Cobb

**DACAD (Corel) SIG**

September Meeting:

*Internet/Web Page Creation Presentation Will Highlight September 16 DACAD Meeting*

Come to the September 16 meeting to hear Gary Biggs and Sharon Chandler show and tell us how to do the Web! Gary will give us the technical know-how of the Web. He will cover how to get connected to the Web and the basic terminology associated with it. He will explain e-mail and FTP (that's file transfer protocol). But mostly Gary will show how to create a Web page of your very own. Tools used will be *WordPerfect Internet Publisher* to write the Web HTML language, image editors *Corel Photopaint* and *LView Pro*, among others. Then he'll show us how to put it all together. Sharon will assist with any questions and answers and then escort us to her favorite graphic and designer sites on the Web. This is sure to be a fun and informative meeting for all who attend.

JoAnn Elliott



F1 - Get Help - Give Help

**Scan that Object!**

Need a quick illustration of a part, electronic doohickey, or keypad?. If you have a flatbed scanner you're in luck. Sticky the item directly on the flatbed and away you go. [Scanner doesn't know it's not a photo.] Adjust contrast and color controls until you have

**SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...**

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

**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**

- Bill Jones.....(214) 423-8486 h
- Chuck Mencke.....(817) 496-6579 h

**UNIX**

- Jim Stallworth.....(214) 789-3783 h
- .....(214) 604-2226 w
- Doug Scott.....(817) 261-4653 hM
- .....(817) 878-0367 wM

**Visual Basic — Beginning**

- Jim Carter.....(214) 235-5968 h

**Visual Basic**

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

**Windows - Applications**

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

**Windows - Developers**

- Art English.....(214) 618-1266 h
- .....(214) 232-3310 w

**WordPerfect / DOS**

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

**WordPerfect / Windows**

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



a reasonable reproduction light enough to draw over. Import into CorelDraw. Use Layers and lock on page position needed. Create a new layer for your illustration. Done—blow away layer with scan. Balls of clay, penlights, mirrors, and a box top lined with white paper are added accessories to play with.

Can also be used to get that quick "photo" for comp. Just remember, everything is upside down so often you have to be creative to get just the angle and placement needed.

*Linda Hume*

### Node Stretch

"Well I found how to do the node edit where all of your selected nodes move inward/outward...you must first select the desired nodes then press stretch, six square handles appear, from a corner one hold shift use left mouse button, move in or out."

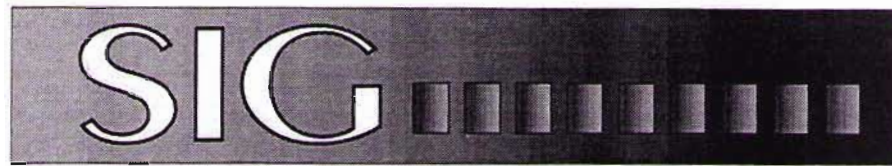
*Bill Cooley (CompuServe)*

*JoAnn Elliott*

### Delphi SIG

The second SIG meeting, held in July, was very well attended considering it is the summer doldrums. There was much more to talk about and cover than the time allotted allowed. **Frank Cavillito** and **Tom Browning** both did presentations which, shall we say, highlighted everyone's need for information sharing. I fully expect the excitement to have continued with the August meeting.

The SIG leadership is taking steps to put in place a mechanism which will allow long-range (more than one meeting) presentation planning. We are getting good vibrations from Borland's local reps, as to the support they are willing to provide to our SIG. Look for as many official and un-



official Borland presentations in the future as we can arrange.

As always, we are also very interested in presentations done by those within our own ranks. If you feel you want to show your stuff, please contact one of the leadership to formalize a meeting time. As demonstrated at the July SIG, please be aware that something that runs on one "industry standard" Windows machine most likely will not run on another "industry standard" machine. You might consider dragging along your personal hardware if you're doing anything with Multimedia.

As with Paradox, we seem to have another free-standing Delphi group forming in the DFW area. I encourage all to investigate and consider joining in with this new group. I have long been a member of both the NTPCUG and PUNT (Paradox Users of North Texas) and have found both memberships to be well worth the admission. I expect the same from the new Delphi Group (DUNT?) and look forward to working with them, as I have with the NTPCUG Paradox SIG and PUNT.

There are now three Delphi News-groups on the Internet which are very very active. I would suggest that you make plans to gain access to these groups as I have found many real tips and tricks posted there. The three groups are for Component Builders, Database Development, and Miscellaneous (general) questions and answers.

See y'all at the September meeting!

*Fred Williams*

### DOS SIG

DOJ didn't do the dirty deed (stop release of *Windows 95* on schedule), so we'll have **John McCrae**, Microsoft Support Engineer for Workgroup Applications, here to help users with their new Windows installations. We aren't planning on a "demonstration" — but will focus on "real" user problems with getting Win 95 up and running at its best.

Would imagine that getting DOS and older Windows-based applications and games running properly may be the hottest issue for the meeting. Probably will be closely followed by questions over some of the applications Microsoft has warned won't work properly.

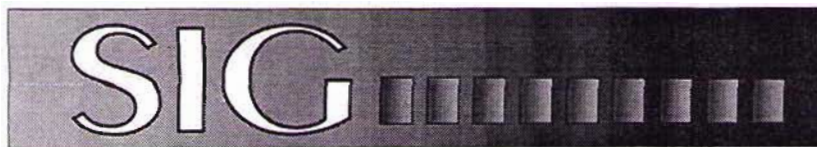
I think the DOS SIG Meeting will be fun and provide some much-needed help and assistance for NTPCUG users making the upgrade. It may be even more fun for users who have decided to wait until the x.1 version is released later this year.

### DOS Tip/Warning

DRAM is DRAM is DRAM — right? Wrong!, not all DRAM chips are created equal.

If you've read anything about Win 95 (and all the other 32-bit operating systems), you've been exposed to exhortations to increase DRAM to see significant speed improvements in existing systems. It's all true. PC's with "slower" CPU's, but with lots of DRAM often outperform PC's with "faster" CPU's and limited DRAM.





Solution, then, is to rush out (downstairs) and get the SIM's you want from the lowest-price vendor?

Absolutely not! We've re-entered into the world of proprietary DRAM configurations again. Some newer PC's will only operate with DRAM from the system vendor.

Although all the packages look alike, there are many more differences in DRAM design, operating characteristics and configuration than "speed" which used to be the major determining factor in DRAM selection. You can still buy DRAM at good prices, but you should buy with the understanding that the chips can be returned if they don't function properly. Tell the vendor what machine you are buying the DRAM for and ask for assistance in selecting the appropriate chips.

Just before the meeting, I may sneak downstairs and see if DRAM prices have risen the 25% - 40% some media pundits are forecasting. Am already hearing about DRAM shortages from new-system purchasers, and forecasts may not be that far off the mark.

*Reagan Andrews*

### Internet SIG - Beginning

Some of the more common questions asked at the Beginning Internet SIG deal with the very basics of Internet usage: How do I identify, much less *choose*, an Internet provider? What software do I need, which software is "best", and how much does it cost? What about shareware and Public Domain software - will it work reliably, and can a "newbie" like me *make* it work?

These are some of the issues being discussed at our September meeting by Kevin Marshall, Administrator and Internet aficionado of INTEX.NET. Intex is one of our local Internet Access Providers (ISP), and is somewhat unique in having combined low cost/no cost software into a package that they provide to their customers *FREE*, preconfigured to work with their service. Does it work? Kevin will demonstrate how easily the software loads onto a computer and dials into Intex. He will also answer your questions during the SIG, or afterward at the Intex booth in the Infomart basement. Don't miss this opportunity!

In August, member Erik Leaseburg continued his discussion on FTP (File Transfer Protocol), the Internet's way of uploading and downloading files of all kinds from systems next door or around the world. If you were there, you came away with a pretty good understanding of what FTP is all about and how it works. In the months to come, we hope to convince Erik to share more of his Internet experiences with the SIG.

See you September 16th !

*Doug Gorrie  
& Tom O'Keefe*

### Internet SIG - Advanced

Security of sensitive information on the Internet - a major topic among business and financial institutions. Several recent announcements have dealt with plans to develop security mechanisms that are effective on the highly popular World-Wide Web (WWW).

But one form of Internet security has been around for several years in various iterations, while encountering patent lawsuits and going head-to-head with the U.S. government's export controls. But it's available now, in both commercial and shareware versions (but because it is so good it still has export controls!).

The program is *PGP, Pretty Good Privacy*, and is the topic of our September SIG meeting.

Our presenter is Andy Piziali, referenced by co-leader Tom O'Keefe as "a PGP fanatic". In general, Andy will explain what PGP is, how it works, where to get it, and perhaps even elaborate on some of its colorful history. This should be a *very* interesting presentation, one you should not miss.

As an aside, I wrote these SIG notes with a copy of *PGP: Pretty Good Privacy*, published earlier this year by O'Reilly & Associates, Inc. by my side.

I felt that a few key phrases about PGP might hide my own lack of familiarity with PGP. I jumped straight to Chapter 4: A Pretty Good History of PGP, just to select a little info on the RSA encryption feature of PGP, and before I realized it, my 5-minute foray became an hour of truly interesting reading covering PGP from inception to current release!

The book's 15 chapters include cryptography basics in very good detail, cryptography prior to PGP's introduction, the U.S. government's perspective on "too-secure" encryption, the infamous Clipper chip, and several chapters on how to implement PGP's features and use public and private "keys". The book's 393 pages may well be the current definitive resource on PGP, and I'm very impressed with what I've read of it. It is technical only where it needs to be, yet makes great reading for



the novice. And if O'Reilly is willing, I might even have a couple of copies to raffle off!

See you September 16th !

*Doug Gorrie  
& Tom O'Keefe*

## Introduction to the PC SIG

To better reflect what the Personal Users SIG is about, the name was changed to "Introduction to the PC SIG." Everything else about the SIG is the same.

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.

### 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

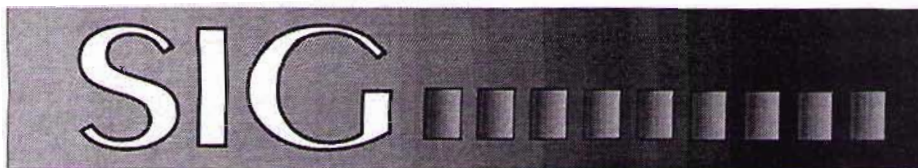
### October 7, 1995 *No Classes*

### November 18, 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

### December 16, 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

### January, 1996 (Date to be announced.)

- ❖ 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)

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

*Alex Lilley*

## Paradox SIG

The first totally Paradox SIG meeting, sans Delphi proponents, went smoothly. We seem to have been affected by the summer doldrums. I look for attendance to pick back up, now that the vacation season is over.

I am still very busy working on both Pdox\Win and Pdox\DOS projects and still too busy to devote much time to anything else. I suspect that the need for Paradox development will continue for some time into the future, even given the recent developments related to Delphi and Win 95. It is too soon to tell yet what Paradox's future is to be. Nothing has been forthcoming from Borland, except the claim Paradox is not a subject of discussion between them and

Novell, and that there will be a Paradox 6.0 release.

Delphi is an impressive development platform and Access is humping to develop a more robust database environment, but neither have the maturity and evolved database development power of Paradox, yet. Depending on Borland's future attitude toward Paradox there is no real reason for the situation to change. Actually it would probably be better for Paradox, as a product, to be sold to a Novell, as that would place true competitive pressure back on the development team, which may, or may not, be the case within Borland.

Nevertheless, I'm still covered up with Pdox work, so obviously not everyone is willing to rapidly cast aside the old soldier for the new kids on the block. Come see why there is a reason for this at the next Paradox SIG. After all, I'm certain Tom Browning, a.k.a. The Energizer Bunny, will be wowing us with yet some more "colorful" forms.

*Fred Williams*

## Pro SIG

Now that the football season is here, the Pro SIG will hear a paper presented by Stuart Yarus and Frank Cavalitto on how to win the office pool using a program consisting of only 200 lines of APL code.

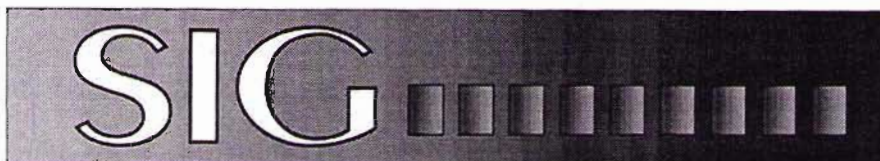
Join us in October when we will pass the hat to help the authors of the September paper pay off their football pool debts.

*Jim Hoisington*

## StarText SIG

StarSIG for July 15, 1995 was busy, with lots of activity and reports.





Paul Weiser (NOLIB) reported on the StarText day at the Fort Worth Zoo, an event that probably amused the residents as much as the StarTexans. These gatherings, sponsored by *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, are another benefit of our friendly BBS. Check our meetings for announcements of future events, meant for family participation.

StarText Business Manager Marla Hammond brought special guest Walter Wellborn, a database customer service representative from Oracle. He is helping StarText migrate from keywords to a true database, and asked for testers for the new system. Faster modems and Internet access are coming soon, and all this without dropping support for 300 bps modems on text-only systems.

Finally, Chuck Mencke (STAR-TIPS, CRUISIN) volunteered to be Assistant SIG Leader, filling a desperate need. It is possible that an offer of free pizza influenced him slightly.

*William L. Jones*

### Visual Basic SIG - Beginning

The September 16th meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will feature a presentation on the impact of Windows 95 on Visual Basic.

Assuming all went well, Microsoft rolled out Windows 95 last month and we will have had a few weeks to play with Visual Basic 3.0 in the Windows 95 environment. Microsoft has not announced the release date for the

next version of Visual Basic (Visual Basic 4.0 or Visual Basic 95?) but they have announced that it will have a 32-bit version and will support OLE (Object Linking and Embedding) controls.

Last month, we presented the semiannual *For Beginners Only* which outlined how to get started in Visual Basic. This presentation will be repeated in February 1996.

Future meetings of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will feature Relational Database Structure and Calls to the Windows API.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, September 16, 1995. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment.

*Jim Carter*

## Beginner's Internet I-Mail User's Guide

### I-net E-Mail on the NTPCUG TBBS BBS

by *Lewis Graber*

#### Table of Contents

- A. Restrictions on your messages
- B. How to Receive I-mail messages addressed to You
- C. How to Prepare an I-Mail message for Uploading to TBBS

(without using an off-line mail reader)

#### A. Restrictions on Your Messages

As of August 1995, these restrictions apply to I-mail (messages routed through the Internet) on our TBBS BBS:

1. Limit your outgoing messages to 9K or less. When or if this limit is raised, you will be happily notified.

2. Incoming messages should be limited to 2 Meg or less. Anything between 8K and 2 Meg will come to you in an "attached" or "enclosed" (TBBS terminology) file. Incoming messages over 2 Meg automatically incur the wrath of the cosmic shredder.

3. DO NOT SUBSCRIBE to any "mailing lists." Our system cannot handle that volume of traffic, and your TBBS ACCESS may be eaten by a grumpy SYSOP.

#### B. How to Receive I-mail Messages Addressed to You

Your Internet I-mail address

First, you will want to tell your correspondents how to reach you. If your name on your PC-News mailing label and on this BBS is Max Newbie, then your I-mail return address on our NTPCUG BBS is:

`max.newbie@ntpcug.org`

Your correspondents must enter your address exactly; "close enough" won't get it, and you won't either, with no error message to you.

Incoming I-mail traffic will be accessible to you exactly like normal internal TBBS e-mail. When you



## Beginner's Internet I-Mail User's Guide... Ctd.

first log onto TBBS, all your incoming message summaries (including I-mail shown as coming from UUCP MAIL) will display on your screen. You can choose to:

- a) read them at that time on screen, (but preferably with your screen capture turned ON for later off-line file viewing), and
- b) Cubbyhole them for later reading, or
- c) choose NOT to read them right away, in which case those message summaries will be displayed again each time you log on – until you read the messages.

### C. How to Prepare an I-Mail Message for Uploading to TBBS

(without using an off-line mail reader)

[If you don't know what one is, you don't have one]

Since our I-mail muncher (uh, processor) will look at the FIRST LINE of your message body text for the "TO:" info, start that first line with a LEADING SPACE in column one, followed by "To:" (not case-sensitive, and without the quotes), followed by a SPACE, followed by the Internet address of your intended recipient (in all lower case letters), as in this example:

To: elvis.presley@somewhereoutthere.com

Our mail muncher will extract the subject info from the SECOND LINE. Again, start with a LEADING SPACE, followed by "Subject:" followed by a SPACE, and then by subject matter description (all not case-sensitive), as in this example:

Subject: Message size instructions



Leave at least ONE BLANK LINE after your "Subject" line before starting the body of your message.

### Example I-mail Message to Upload

==example TBBS Message Header to key in==

TO: UUCP MAIL key in exactly as shown (all caps with space)

SUBJECT: Z key in any dummy character to keep TBBS happy

=====example Internet I-mail message to upload=====

To: elvis.presley@somewhereoutthere.com

Subject: Message size instructions

Hello, Elvis. In the event you can send me Internet mail, I want you to know that while I can only send you messages of 9K or less from our NTPCUG BBS, you can send me up to 2 Meg. Can you type that much?

Yours,

Roger Freeman

roger.freeman@ntpcug.org

====end of example Internet I-mail message=====

You will upload this message into the private E-mail area. When TBBS asks you for "To:" information, key in:

UUCP MAIL

All caps and the embedded space are REQUIRED. When TBBS asks you for "Subject:" info, anything will do. Since this info will be thrown away, we suggest using the letter "Z" – to fool TBBS into letting you proceed with the upload.

=====

May all your messages be delivered and may the cosmic file shredder starve a horrible death!

'=====

Lewis Graber



## At Last, I-net E-Mail! But, NTPCUG BBS 'Hobbled' by TBBS

I hope everyone is finding the recently added Internet e-mail feature a useful addition to the BBS. I personally have been finding more and more uses for e-mail every day. I have even reestablished contact with an old friend who is now working for Big Blue in England. I have promised Donna that we really will go visit them someday.

### Newsgroups — No Joy!

I wish I could say that the newsgroups have been as successful. At the time I am writing this, I have once again been forced to shut down the newsgroup feed. By the time you read this, I very much plan to have this nagging issue put well behind us, one way or another. Currently I have vowed not to restart the feed until I have some assurances from our provider that they can run UUCP for longer than two or three days in a row without screwing things up.

I would like to apologize to all of our users who have been utilizing or would like to utilize the newsgroups. This has been more than a very frustrating experience for your's truly. I am sick and tired of driving to Addison to unscrew the mail muncher every few days. A UUCP feed is not rocket science, and if it ain't broke it should not be messed with.

### Exit TBBS, Enter NT?

But enough on that. I'm researching the next major step for the BBS. What may actually replace the BBS may not be a BBS as we know it. I am currently looking into the potential and possibilities of implementing Windows NT Server using a Remote

# NTPCUG — ON-LINE

by *Fred Williams*  
SYSOP, NTPCUG BBS

Access Server front end. This would allow members, using Win95, to dial in and establish a remote client connection to the NT Server.

Many nontechnical issues must be addressed, like do we really need a nine hundred seventy-five plus network e-mail user software license? Or, will the "Exchange" client included in Win95 provide the required e-mail client services? Technically everything looks very straightforward and exciting, as it opens an environment that would allow some of our more talented developer members to create functions and services tailored specifically to our user group needs.

Many things follow on in a switch to WinNT. One big, and getting bigger, plus is that Internet connectivity is built in. And any and all network services and features

can be utilized as needed. I as a SYSOP\Network Administrator would gain almost unlimited flexibility to tailor the individual user's connections to suit individual needs.

This capability does not mean much to the average member BBS user, but those who make the NTPCUG function rely very heavily on the BBS as a full-featured communications media throughout each and every month. For a simple instance, this article was uploaded to the Newsletter editing staff by means of the NTPCUG BBS. It was then downloaded, edited, and passed along to the newsletter publisher, utilizing the file upload and download functions of the BBS.

The only thing that might delay our migration to Windows NT is the introduction of many very major enhancement announcements from the Author of TBBS, with a realistic and short delivery time. I am growing very tired of living within the ever-tightening constraints of TBBS. It was great BBS software — three years ago.

Stay tuned for further developments.

*Fred Williams*





# 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
<b>Access</b>	Larry Linson .....	(817)481-2350	M-Sa 1300-1500	<b>DOS</b>	Bob Russell .....	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
<b>Assembly Language</b>	Frank Cavallito .....	(214)423-9221	7 1800-2200	<b>DR DOS</b>	Ralph Beaver .....	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700
	Glynn Brooks .....	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200		.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100
<b>BASIC</b>	Mike Firth .....	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	<b>Hardware Help</b>	Charles Miller .....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
<b>Beginner Problems</b>	Jan Parkhill .....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	<b>HyperAccess</b>	Woody Pewitt .....	(214)230-3485	M-F 0800-1800
	Shirley Hudgens .....	(214)352-2800	7 0800-2000	<b>LANs — Novell</b>	Joseph Beasley .....	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
<b>Brother's Keeper</b>	Neil Sunderland .....	(214)272-2869	7 0900-2200	<b>— Lantastic</b>	Joseph Beasley .....	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
<b>C++ (the language)</b>	Bob Adams .....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	<b>Managing Your Money</b>	Glynn Brooks .....	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Howard Harkness .....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200	<b>MathCAD</b>	Bob Adams .....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	.....	.....	T&T 1800-2030	<b>OS/2</b>	Larry Truesdale .....	(214)442-7074	7 1000-2200
	Doug Cochran .....	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030	<b>PC Tools/Win</b>	Glynn Brooks .....	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
<b>CorelDraw</b>	Linda Hume .....	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200	<b>Paradox</b>	Fred Williams .....	(214)492-1315	7 1300-2100
	.....	.....	S-S 1300-2200	<b>ProComm/ProComm+</b>	Doug Gorrie .....	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700
<b>Batch Files</b>	Charles Miller .....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400		.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
<b>Borland C++</b>	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
<b>Comm Software</b>	Doug Gorrie .....	(214) 464-7942	M-F 0800-1700	<b>Publisher (Microsoft)</b>	Bob Russell .....	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900				
<b>CompuServe</b>	Bob Adams .....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900				
<b>dBASE III, III+, IV &amp; Windows</b>	Ted Gillam .....	(214)964-7923	7 0800-1700				



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

## NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

<b>Visual Basic - Beginning</b>			
	Jim Carter .....	(214)235-5988	7 1700-2130
	L.J. Johnson .....	(214)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman .....	(214)495-8342	7 1700-2130
<b>Windows for Workgroups</b>			
	Joseph Beasley .....	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley .....	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Bob Russell .....	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
<b>Word for Windows</b>			
	Bob Russell .....	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
<b>WordPerfect 5.x /Win</b>			
	Georgene Harkness .....	(817)267-6227	Sun 0900-1200
	.....		M-F 1800-2030
<b>Works, Microsoft</b>			
	Mike Firth .....	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200
<b>XENIX</b>			
	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 a non-profit independent organization of individuals learning to apply personal computers to practical problems. For additional information, call (214) 746-4699.

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE:(Check Preferred No.) Home \_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work \_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Ext) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**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              | OutletWrite           |
| Harvard Graphics     | Roots                 |
| LapLink              | Smart                 |
| Mathematica          | Smart Notes           |
| Modems               | Sound Blaster         |
| Money Counts         | Stacker               |
| Money Plans          | TurboTax              |
| Microsoft C          | Corel 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.	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
	(Acting)	
Publicity	Peyton Weaver	(214) 462-0552
Disk of the Month	Jan Parkhill	(214) 828-2216 h
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(214) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(214) 492-1315

### Members Emeritus

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

### 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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Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested

14.9

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

*North Texas PC Users Group*

*Next Meeting:*  
**16 September 1995**

