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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.

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for July
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, June 10th

Meeting Dates:
June 15, 1996 - 3rd Saturday
July 20, 1996 - 3rd Saturday
August 10, 1996 - 2nd Saturday



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<http://www.ntpcug.org>

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

Ad Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
2-Page Spread	\$400	\$325		
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Half Page (7 x 4 1/2)	150	125	110	100
Qtr Page (3 1/4 x 4 1/2)	100	80	65	55
Business Card (2 x 3 1/4)	65	50	40	35
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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.

9 AM - 9:55 AM

**"MOVIEGAMES(tm)"
Powerhouse Entertainment**

Dominick Vitris

Come see the smash-em-up action thriller *Collision*, the first live-action MOVIEGAME from Powerhouse, set for release in August. The twitch-style PC game takes players to post-apocalyptic America where they must smash their way out of a city made up of more than 6,000 crushed and abandoned cars, and dodge hell-raising rebels and weapon-toting vehicles. Powerhouse will also launch their famous children's book series on CD-ROM, *Little Golden Book Interactive Stories* featuring music, sound effects and quality animation. The interactive tales introduce children to a world of characters base on the 50-year-old book series. There will be a drawing for free products. *

NTPCUG PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . .
TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

10 AM - 10:55 AM

"The Easiest Way to Create Home Pages for the Internet"

Adobe Systems Inc.

Sarah Clayton, Account Manager and David Evans, Applications Engineer

Adobe PageMill is an integrated HTML authoring tool that makes creating error-free web pages as easy as producing a word-processed document. With PageMill, users can make edits and format changes and view exactly how the page will appear in popular browsers without seeing HTML code. Adobe PageMill supports advanced HTML features including clickable image maps, fill-in forms, text/check boxes and pop-up menus. Version 2 due this summer will include extensive table support, spell checker, HTML source editing, find/replace, advanced text handling and inline support for multimedia data types such as PDF, Quicktime, and sound. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1 PM - 1:55 PM

"Catch a Wave With Mozilla"

Netscape Communications Corporation

Kevin Schenette, Senior Systems Engineer

Netscape Communications Corporation intends to be the premier provider of open software that enables people and companies to exchange information and conduct commerce over the Internet and corporate 'intranet'. The presentation will provide an overview of the full line of Netscape clients, servers, development tools and commercial applications. It will also present the advanced messaging and collaborative technologies now available from Netscape. 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.

JUNE

SIGs NTPCUG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:55 Internet - WEB Developers Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning MultiMedia	9:00 - 10:55 Dallas Corel
8:00 - 9:55 Hardware Solutions	10:00 - 10:55 BASIC - Classic CAD Fox Pro Database Graphics Networking Internet-Beginning PAF-Genealogy Paradox Introduction to the PC WordPerfect/Windows UNIX
9:00 - 9:55 DOS Emerging Technologies General Genealogy Internet-Advanced SQL Server Introduction to the PC Quicken StarText Visual BASIC Windows Applications WordPerfect/DOS	11:00 - 11:55 Assembly Language Brother's Keeper CAD (Cont.)

11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.)

- Investors
- Graphics (Cont.)
- MS Works
- OS/2 - Q & A
- Roots III/IV - Genealogy
- Spreadsheets
- 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
- The Master Genealogist

1:00 - 1:55

- Access
- ACT!

1:00 - 1:55 (Cont.)

- Business Apps./DAC Easy
- C++/Beginners
- OS/2 Developers
- Introduction to the PC

1:00 - 2:55

- Word for Windows

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.

Good People — Doing Good Work

One such person is Gerald Davis, Director of Technology for the Dallas Computer Literacy Program. The DCLP still accepts donations of computer equipment for refurbishment. Then, they place the equipment into service in our inner-city neighborhoods bringing "Community Based Education Through Computer Technology".

Not only does DCLP need donations, they especially need volunteers to help make the equipment usable and people to teach the computer classes. To donate equipment or your time to DCLP, contact Gerald at 214-746-4888 or fax him at 214-746-4889, or check out DCLP's home page at info@dclp.org.

Dallas Can! Academy

Another good organization that accepts computer equipment as a charitable donation. The Dallas Can! Academy helps at-risk teens. They can be reached at 214-824-4226.

SeniorNet

A nationwide organization, SeniorNet focuses on assisting Senior citizens. One of our members approached me at the April meeting and said that he taught introduction to the personal computer classes to SeniorNet participants.

SMU provides facilities for the SeniorNet classes. Contact the SMU Director of Public Relations.

Microsoft DeveloperDays

June 5th was the date slated for Microsoft *DeveloperDays* in Dallas. The courses included Internet Development, Intro. to the ISAPI component of the Win32 API, Jakarta, and Writing a Great Internet Application.

Thanks go to the NTPCUG volunteers who assisted with registration and the North Texas booth.

If you missed it and want to catch it in another city, check out their home page at <http://www.microsoft.com/devdays/>



Microsoft's Internet Strategy

Check elsewhere in this publication for information on this event on Wednesday night, July 17th at the Infomart.

Andy

NTPCUG Walkabout

NTPCUG holds *Walkabout* tours of the SIGs and Infomart at every meeting. The purpose of the Walkabout is to familiarize new members with how User Group Saturday works. Membership benefits such as the BBS, Introduction to the PC SIG, User-To-User Program, *North Texas PC News*, magazine discounts, job bank and resource networking are also discussed.

Walkabout groups will depart from the Information Booth in the Infomart lobby—check there for scheduled tours.

While this is open primarily to new members, anyone is welcome to come join us in the Walkabout. Whether you have been a member for a while or you have not yet joined, come to the Walkabout and learn more about what NTPCUG offers and how User Group Saturday works.

This Walkabout project will need volunteers, so if this appeals to you, please give me a call at 342-8833. I think this is a really fun project and I encourage every member to think about volunteering for it.

Linda Moore

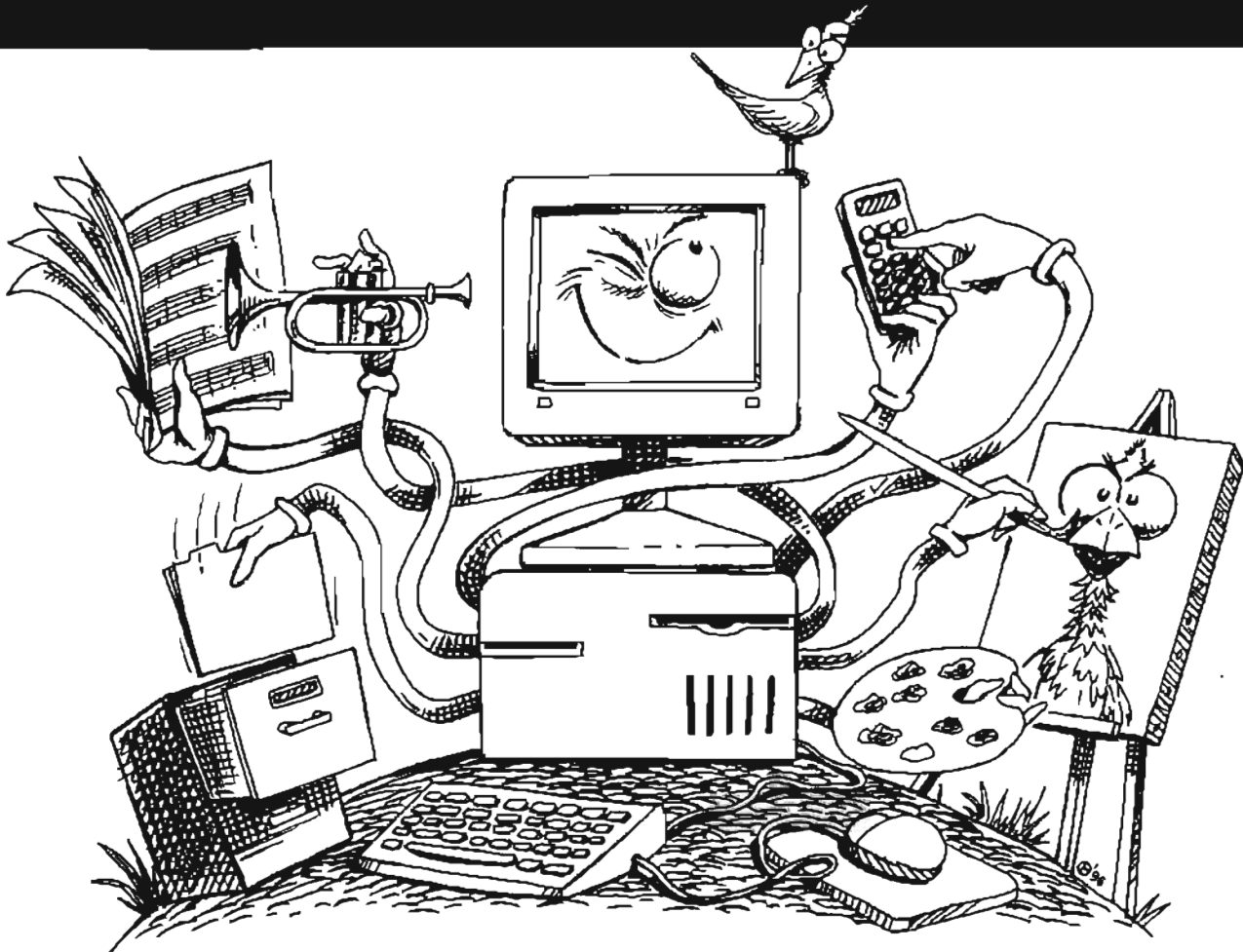


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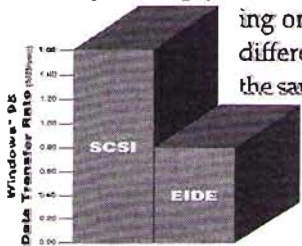
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Microsoft Internet Tour Visits North Texas PC User Group!

July 17, 1996 – 7:00 PM – Infomart

Microsoft Corporation and the North Texas PC Users Group invite you to Unlock the Potential of the Internet by taking part in Microsoft's 19-city Summer User Group Tour! Whether you are an Internet novice or a "Webhead" this meeting will provide you with all the information necessary to take advantage of the Internet and the activating capabilities of Microsoft technologies such as *Internet Explorer version 3.0*.

Representatives from Microsoft will demonstrate the tools and technologies available to access the Internet as well as take advantage of the powerful and rich content that the Internet provides. By attending this meeting you will learn Microsoft's complete Internet strategy from browser to server (and you may win a T-Shirt too!).

* **Internet Explorer 3.0** – Learn how easy and fast getting on and browsing the Internet can be, then watch the Web come to life with the excitement Microsoft's new *ActiveX* technologies bring to the Web.

* **ActiveX Technologies** – If you are currently working on the Internet or developing Windows-based applications, you will see how Microsoft's *ActiveX* technologies will leverage your current investments made in developer tools and training.

ActiveX will allow you to move the Internet beyond static documents to a Web page that is rich, exciting and useful.

* **Front Page** – Once you've seen how easy and cool the Internet can be we'll show you how to utilize Microsoft FrontPage to build your own

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ANNOUNCEMENTS NTPCUG & Special Events

Website which will enhance your business and communications.

This meeting is co-sponsored by the North Texas PC Users Group and will be held on *July 17, 1996 at 7:00 pm at the Infomart* at 1950 Stemmons Freeway, the Hollerith room, Dallas. Admission is free and open to the public. We recommend arriving early as seating is limited. Hope to see you there!

Andy Oliver

Don't Forget! Netscape – 2 Hrs Drawings at 2 p.m.

Netscape's June 15 presentation in the Alexandria Auditorium will be a 2-Hour affair from 1:00 until 2:55 p.m. Several of the 2:00 - 2:55 p.m. SIGs will not be meeting as a result, but do encourage their members to attend the Netscape demonstration.

Format for this presentation is a little different as well. Demonstrations and speakers will take place in the 1:00 - 2:00 time frame.

Drawings for prizes will take place at 2:00 rather than at end of the Netscape program as is usually the case. Members will be able to obtain tickets for drawings beginning 10 minutes before the presentation is scheduled to begin, and ending 15 minutes after the presentation starts.

Last part of the presentation is scheduled after the drawings and will be devoted to an extended Question & Answer session on the Internet and Netscape products demonstrated earlier.

Reagan Andrews

Autorun.c — Part Two

by Fred Williams

This is the second installment of a series of articles describing the coding techniques used in implementing a production program for the users group BBS. In this installment we will begin detailed analysis of the program code.

I guess the best way to approach examining the various programming features of Autorun, is to

pick a place and dive right in. For the less experienced among the readers, I recommend that you have your favorite C programming tome close at hand. I'm going to proceed with the assumption the audience has at least a reasonable understanding of basic C programming, including the dreaded, all powerful, pointer.

I'll start at the top of main() and proceed from there, covering anything of interest that we stumble across along the way. I think that is what's known as a "Structured Walk-through" in your more professional circles.

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Oh, before we proceed, a note about the Copyright notice in the heading of the source. I only ask that no direct commercial use be made of my source or executable generated. I encourage any and all to make as full a use of Autorun as possible, for their own personal systems. Autorun does not really have the robustness nor flexibility expected of a commercial piece of software, although it does provide a pretty solid base from which a full scheduling program might be built.

Piracy is theft. Plagiarism is how we keep from reinventing the wheel!

So here we go! Please refer to, "Listing 1", to begin.

The first thing Autorun expects is a command line parameter, telling him where to find his task list file. If no file specification is supplied as a command line argument, Autorun displays usage instructions and terminates with a return code of, one, (1). If he finds a parameter on the command line, Autorun attempts to open the file name supplied in the parameter. If the file open fails, Autorun terminates with a return code of, two, (2).

Once the task file is successfully opened, the first task linked list pointer, "ts", is set to zero. This will be our list "anchor" address. I then call possibly the most interesting function in the program, bldtimes().

Autorun.C... Ctd

The code contained in `bldtimes()` can be found in, Listing 2. `Bldtimes()` is the function that will

read the task file records, scan out the task command lines and start times, and place them all in a dynamically allocated singly linked list in memory.

The first thing we do in `bldtimes()` is pre-read the first record from our task list file. Remember your structured programming principles. We will then enter a `while()` loop which will allow us to continue to process and read task file records until that last record has been read and processed. An example task list file was shown in, Figure 1, of last month's article.

In the `while()` loop, we first examine the current record to check to see that the record is not a "blank" record, (length of zero) or that the first character is not a semicolon. Both blank lines and comment lines, (lines beginning with a semicolon in record position one, position zero in the C world) are allowed in the task list file. If the record is either blank or a comment, we just skip it and read the next record in the file.

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Once we have established we have a task scheduling record, we must scan out each record parameter element and store them in a dynamically allocated linked list of tasks. The first entry in a task file record is expected to be the task command line.

All task record elements are separated by commas. Therefore, the first thing we do is use the initial call to `strtok()` to establish a pointer "p" to the task's command line image. We then establish a pointer "t" to the first start time's hour digits. Once we have established our initial string pointers we are ready to enter a `while()` loop which will continue until there are no more task start times, for the current task, to be stored in our linked list.

The first couple of things that must be done in our task start time `while()` loop, is the hour and minute string digits must be converted to integers on order to allow use in later time calculations. Once those simple tasks are done, we are ready for the good part, inserting the task and related start times into our memory resident linked list of task structures.

First a word about linked lists. Linked lists are a set of instances of objects, which by use of special address storage techniques, allow the dynamic building and later traversing of the collection of objects. What the heck does that mean?

Well, first let's look at our task time structure, "task", located above the `main()` section of Listing 1. Note the first element in our "task" structure is a pointer to, a "task" structure type. The pointer is named "next". So what we have here is a location within our "task" structure which will allow us to store a pointer (address) to another instance of our "task" structure. Yes, you can do that! The remainder of the elements in our "task" structure are the actual data items which define our task time list entry.

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Autorun.C... Ctd

So, back to how to build a list entry, in Listing 2. The first thing we need to do is allocate memory

to provide sufficient storage for our "task" structure. This is done with a call to `calloc()` which returns a pointer, "sp", which contains the address of the freshly allocated chunk of memory.

Now, if this is the first "task" structure in our list (`ts = 0`), we place our new memory pointer, "sp", in, "ts" or list anchor address. Next, we save the current list instance pointer in the "last" list pointer, "tl". Bear with me, this all should make more sense next pass.

Each task time data element is formatted and stored in the freshly allocated memory structure, pointed to by, "tl". It was my call to use "tl" and not "sp" as my "current" list location pointer. I picked "tl" as the current location pointer. I could have just as easily picked "sp". We also set the current structure's "next" pointer to zero. This is done so that later, when traversing the linked list,


we will be able to recognize the last object in the list has been referenced.

Now let's proceed on to the subsequent passes through the task time list building exercise. The major difference between inserting first list entry and all the list entries that follow, is the first list entry does not require setting the previous list entry's structure pointer, "next", to point to the current list structure.

To see how the second and following list instances are "linked" into the list, look at the `if()` statement immediately following the `calloc()` statement, in Listing 1, where we allocated memory for the current list entry. If this is not the first entry in our list, we use the pointer to the previous list entry, saved during the last pass in pointer "tl", to load the address of our current list instance in the previous list entry's "next" pointer field. Please make special note of the, `tl-next = sp`, in the `if()` statement under discussion.

Once we have scanned out and stored all the task start times for the current task file record, we go fetch the next record and soldier on, until all the task file records have been processed. Once the task file end of file is recognized, program control is returned to `main()` where the task file is closed. We now have our task time linked list built in memory, and we are ready to start monitoring the clock and launching tasks at the designated times.

Tune in again next month when we will cover the portion of code that does the time monitoring and launching of our tasks contained in the linked task list we have just completed building.

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Autorun.c — Code Listing 1 & Listing 2

```

/*
  autorun.c

  Continuously monitors the system clock and spawns tasks from a
  task/time table.

  The task table is built from records contained in an ASCII text
  file whose filename is passed as a command line parameter.

  Unexecuted time scheduled tasks older than thirty minutes are
  flagged as executed. This feature reduces false executions
  after a system restart.

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  Rev: 3.2                               Date: 8/14/95
*/

#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <conio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <time.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <process.h>
#include <dos.h>

```

```

#define FALSE 0
#define TRUE 1
#define DELAY 50

void bldtimes(void);
void chktime(void);
void ishere(char *s);

struct Task {
  struct Task *next;
  long       time;
  char       taskname[65];
  int        tstat;
};

struct Task  *ts, *tl;

FILE  *tf;
struct dostime_t  lt, ct;

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
  int  d, e;

  if(argc < 2) {
    puts("\nAUTORUN Ver: 3.0 4/6/95\n");
    puts("\nUsage: AUTORUN taskfile\n");
    puts("  Where: taskfile -
    [pathname of ascii file of tasks to run\n");

```


EDO vs. DRAM, Parity vs. Non-Parity Memory Questions Answered

The following is a discussion of contemporary memory seen in new PC's and replacement motherboards. It was taken from several messages on the NTPCUG BBS, lightly edited, and is printed with permission of the writer, Michael Griego.

EDO RAM faster than DRAM

To start with, EDO RAM is faster than conventional DRAM by around 10%. This is accomplished by eliminating the DRAM refresh wait state. Conventional DRAM requires what is known as a wait state. DRAM memory is really made up of a bunch of tiny capacitors which hold a charge. Any electronics buff can tell you that capacitors lose their charge after a certain period of time. The processor, therefore, has to take time away from the system to refresh the capacitors in DRAM memory every so often.

EDO RAM eliminates this wait by using a different method of storing the bits of data. This eliminates the wait state and speeds the system up significantly.

Parity vs. Non-Parity DRAM issues

I will go ahead and attempt to demystify Parity vs. Non-Parity memory. The only real difference between Parity and Non-parity memory is the ad-

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dition of a single bit in a Parity SIMM. The difference comes in on how this extra bit is used.

When newer computers are first booted up, the BIOS determines whether memory is parity or non-parity. If the memory is non-parity, the computer uses normal memory transfers to the CPU. If the memory is parity, the computer uses the extra bit to tell the CPU whether a byte of data coming through is numerically even or odd. The CPU then checks each byte of data with this bit. If the results do not match (i.e. the byte is even and the parity bit says it should be odd) the CPU resubmits the memory request to correct the error in the transmission. This is not a fool-proof method of protecting against memory errors, but it does work.

[Ed. Note: IBM set the standard, parity-based error checking, with introduction of the original IBM PC in 1981. That's why DIP memory arrays always had a multiple of nine (9) chips in each bank. Eight for memory use and one parity bit. Users can usually tell if they have parity-based

```
puts(" Task File Format:\n");
puts(" Standard ASCII text file with one task per record.");
puts(" Each record must have the following format:\n");
puts(" task,time1,[time2,...,time(n)]\n");
puts(" Where: task - [path]filename to execute");
puts(" time(n) - military times to execute\n");
puts(" Enter 00:00 to force execution each cycle.\n\n");
exit(1);
}
```

```
if((tf = fopen(argv[1],"rt")) == NULL)
    exit(2);
ts = 0;
bldtimes();
fclose(tf);
```

Autorun.c — Listing 2

```
void bldtimes(void)
{
    char r[128], *p, *t;
    int hr, mn;
    struct Task *sp;

    fgets(r, 127, tf);
    while(!feof(tf)) {
        if(strlen(r) > 1 && r[0] != ':') {
            p = strtok(r, ".");
            t = strtok(NULL, ":");
            while(t) {
                hr = atoi(t);
                t = strtok(NULL, ".");
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Autorun.C... Ctd

```
mn = atoi(t);
sp = (struct Task *) calloc(1, sizeof(struct Task));
if(!ts) ts = sp; else tl->next = sp;
tl = sp;
tl->next = 0;
tl->tstat = FALSE;
strcpy(tl->taskname, p);
tl->etime = hr * 60 + mn;
t = strtok(NULL, ".");
```

```
    }
    fgets(r, 127, tf);
}
```

Fred Williams

NTPCUG Member Benefit – Excellent Magazine Resource

I'll bet that most NTPCUG members subscribe to at least one magazine, whether it be computer oriented or not. Some time ago, through our membership in the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG), we began participating in Delta Publishing's User Group plan. Through Delta, most magazines are available at rates significantly less than available elsewhere. Examples: *PC Magazine*-\$22.95, *Byte*-\$14.95, *Windows*-\$13.95, *Internet World*-\$11.95.

In addition, when you advise that you are ordering through NTPCUG, your User Group gets a 10% rebate of the purchase price. This is definitely a "win-win" situation, since you get some of the lowest rates available, without our rebate causing any increase in rates to you.

As a dedicated cheapskate, I look for the bargains on almost everything. I hate paying retail. Delta is the best deal I've seen to date, always beating Publisher's Clearinghouse and others. But if you can find a better rate, please take it, and let me know!

EDO vs. DRAM ... Ctd.

memory if number of chips on a SIMM is "odd," i.e., three or nine.]

Is Parity-Based Checking Necessary?

Now, the question of who needs Parity memory. Most people do not need to pay the extra money to get parity memory as these types of memory errors do not usually occur. Tasks that require the best possible protection against data errors, though, such as Novell file servers and the like, will definitely reap benefits from knowing that the data coming through from the memory is correct.

Michael Griego

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Design Contest!

Win a free, one-year membership to the NTPCUG! Redesign the NTPCUG Tri-fold. Pick up a copy of the current one at the Information/Registration Booth, the redesign it!



Submit your entries there or to any board members, or mail to the NTPCUG address shown on the back of this newsletter!

Good Luck!

How do you order? Generally, we try to have Delta's forms available at the Information Booth at each meeting. The form lists rates on several of the more popular magazines available. Alternately, you can call them at (800) 728-3728 and request the NTPCUG rate for whatever magazine you are interested in (they carry most of them). Be sure to advise that you are an NTPCUG member, even when renewing.

I'll even go a step further. Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and I'll send you their current form(s). Mail to me at: 3325 San Simeon Way, Plano, TX 75023. And in the near future, I hope to be able to put a mechanized listing on our BBS.

Feel free to tell others about Delta and/or pass them copies of the ordering forms. As long as they reference NTPCUG, we get our rebate. And don't forget to tell them that almost all publications are available, not just computer "geek" subscriptions.

One note of caution: Delta should confirm your order by mail within two weeks. If it does not arrive, call them and request one. Delta does occasionally drop the ball, as some of our members (myself included) have attested to. But they insist that they want to provide good customer service, so they should be eager to correct any error. If you don't get the respect you deserve, ask to speak to Herman Segal, and let me know the details of how it went so I can provide them with this feedback.

Doug Gorrie

Speed Reigns!

Promises Abound in CPU FAB World as Vendors Push the Silicon-Based Limits with Faster Chips, Improved Architectures, Lower Prices and MMX

Apple Press — All Bad this Month

Wow! Do I feel sorry for MIS folks this month!

I'm glad I don't have to make the decisions they're forced to confront concerning hardware and software. I only have to satisfy 2,200 readers — none of whom write letters or telephone me, especially after my comments last month about "purple Haze," etc., about my glowing prose.

Not to worry! I've cut back on the diphenhydramine this time...

MIS-types, on the other hand, live in a treacherous zone, a tiny island of semi-solid firmament surrounded by deep, unfathomed crevasses. All sides are filled with the tormented flames of desire and despair billowing up from the solid lava/magma flow of discontent with life in general and the MIS in particular.

USERS SCREAM THE LOUDEST AS MEDIA HYPES ALL THE 'SUPER' HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

Loudest wails of anguish come from grumpy, disgruntled *users* on one side of the crevasse, all screaming their PC is too old, needs to be upgraded to a *Pentium-Super-Gee-Whiz-500 MHz*, 256M DRAM, 27" 1280X1024, 16-million color monitor, 100T-byte disk-equipped monster so they can peruse their E-mail in style (and play the latest iteration of *Doom*).

BEAN-COUNTERS MAKE UP OTHER SIDE — PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY PAY THE PC BILLS

The other side of the crevasse is inhabited by numerous (bean-counter types) who scream — even louder — about the endless waste, useless expenditures for new equipment "when their PC does *GEM*-based, *Lobotomized CAD* and *Easy-Writer 1.0* just fine on an 8088," and why does the

actuarial department really want to upgrade their TRS-80's when they are less than 15 years-old?

If I were cynical, I'd also mention that the Manager for Human Resources, (Personnel) the Chairman & CEO's daughter-in-law, had a dual *Pentium Pro 200-MHz* server-box by her desk that had never been turned-on since its acquisition eight months earlier.

(You could make substitutions for title, department, relationship to the CEO and gender in this, but I really didn't want to be sexist in this column.)

What are these hapless MIS's fighting?

Wave upon wave of media hype about the latest microprocessor and how it's going to "revolutionize" the corporate sphere, make life "wonderful" and cure hemorrhoids at the same time. It's all aimed at the end-user.

THE VARIETY STORE

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE PC INDUSTRY,
NEW HARDWARE OPERATING SYSTEMS,
SOFTWARE AND APPLICATIONS

by REAGAN ANDREWS

Bet few if any of the decision-making (flip a dart at the chart and pray) management staff ever see much of this advertising. Not true. Can't be a "real" manager without your daily fix of *The Wall Street Journal*. No way.

WHO ADVERTISES THERE? LOTUS/IBM AND DIGITAL. THAT'S WHO.

So, what do we read? Not *WSJ*, but *Computer Currents*, *PC Magazine* and *The PC News*. We see the 6-color, 2-page ads and want

the absolute latest and damn the costs — if the *Company* is paying the tab.

PC PRICE WARS STILL RAGE, BUT REAL BATTLE VICTORY HINGES ON FEATURES

What we're seeing is rapidly declining costs coupled with equally-rapidly increasing PC-power. Look around at local vendor ads, and you'll see the same prices you saw a year ago.

Difference is that the price is for *Pentium* 120's instead of the 486DX2's we saw last year, 1.0G disks instead of 420M disks, 4xCD-ROM's instead of 1x or 2x drives and minimum of 8M DRAM rather than the 2 - 4M standard a year ago. Price is the same, power is doubled or quadrupled.

All except the monitors which are somewhat boring in price stability.

Thank Intel, Cyrix, AMD, Western-Digital, Seagate, Maxtor, Ti, NEC, Toshiba, Hyundai, etc , for the price drops. Especially in CPU chips and DRAM. This market is going crazy rapidly.

Not as crazy as CD ROM drives though. Saw a vendor in the Infomart selling SCSI cases with four (4) 1xCD ROM drives for \$75. Same drives cost twice that much *apiece* last year at this time. Was a good idea, though.

FUTURE LOOKS EVEN MORE CONFUSING FOR PC BUYERS STANDARDS SHIFT TO MMX

It's going to get worse and more confusing in the future. CPU market will definitely shoot off into the stratosphere or the basement — depending on your perspective. Both Intel and Cyrix made very significant announcements this month concern-



ing next-generation CPU's, speed ratings and "MMX" capabilities for their CPU chips. AMD/NexGen are definitely also-rans so far. Would suggest readers look at John C. Dvorak's column "Inside Track" on page 87 in the June 11, 1996 issue of *PC Magazine* for his analysis of the impact MMX will have on the PC community. If he's right, it's scary.

Cyrix and Intel are both on the verge of announcing 200 MHz CPU's at the "plain" *Pentium* level, with Cyrix touting their 150 MHz CPU's at the "200+" level. Speed wars are certainly in full swing as Intel is approaching the .25 micron trace capability and Cyrix (IBM/SGS Thompson) chip FAB units are close behind.

LINE BETWEEN PC'S AND RISC-BASED WORKSTATIONS RAPIDLY VANISHES AT 200+ MHZ

Intel is expected to announce 250 - 300 MHz CPU's (*Pentium Pro*'s) in 1997, while Cyrix's "M-2" CPU can't be far behind. Incorporating "MMX" capabilities will essentially double or treble graphic manipulation capabilities of all these chips.

May even exceed performance levels "claimed" by Motorola/Apple/IBM for the *Power PC* CPU machines. That's a sad story all by itself. The consortium flew into Comdex/Fall '94 with some of the more impressive hardware at the show (next to the DEC "Alpha" machines) and everything they have done since seems to be anti-climactic, even disappointing.

IBM's role is perhaps the most tarnished of the group in 1996 with no real support for OS/2 for the *Power PC*, and only limited support for AIX, *Windows NT* or the Macintosh OS on the once-believed "superior" platform. IBM has, grudgingly, agreed to license the Mac OS for the *Power PC*, but primarily for sale to other vendors?

Apple, once a premier player in this league, is falling further and further behind.

APPLE NEWS SEEMS FILLED WITH 'WOE' AS MEDIA HAMMERS

If you go by media reports, Apple just can't do anything "right" this month. Even Gil Amelio, Apple CEO, is getting hammered. Guess that's expected — since nobody gets real happy when the head of the company continues to talk cutbacks in product lines — and employees. Makes us wonder where all the really talented Apple programmers/ designers are headed...

Problem(s) seem to be with media's need for "sensational" headlines and Apple's unfortunate timing. We all knew Apple was going to have some bad quarters. Apple/Amelio told us this months ago. My question for the media is "Why are you acting surprised when Amelio predicted this fact in a number of venues?" I'm not a rabid Apple or Macintosh "fan," as anyone who's read this column knows, but Amelio and Apple have paid their dues and tried to be as honest as possible.

THE VARIETY STORE

Why the apparent *vendetta* against Apple?

Did SOME Media MAVEN Have an Apple Laptop?

On the other hand, crashing laptop PC's can't help very much as Apple announces recalls for "cracked plastic housings and AC power connectors." At least these don't appear to be setting fires as the laptops of another vendor were reported to do in some circumstances.

Apples' hardware problems seem to be mounting as sharp lens of various media sources focus on the Cupertino, CA, company. Has to be some explanation for all the negative press of late. Even the 'nastier' media sources are beginning to question amount and texture of the avalanche of articles seen about Apple lately. Even me...

AOL LONE 'ALTERNATE' SURVIVOR As MSN, CompuSERVE AND, Prodigy Fall BEFORE INTERNET

And then, there was one. *America Online* (AOL) is the sole online service provider remaining from the "Big Three," *CompuServe* (CIS), *Prodigy* (sold by IBM and Sears), and *America Online*. CompuServe folded in May, Microsoft Network (MSN) in April as their respective owners announced 'merging' on the Internet as 'content providers.'

Biggest surprize was CompuServe which had one of the most varied and visited vendor networks. Final straw may have been Microsoft's announcement that they were withdrawing from CIS as a

major source for MS support, information and upgrades. Or, MS may have been following the crowd and acknowledging the inevitable.

Until *Prodigy* shakes out and gets its act together, AOL is all that's left of online sources for users not interested/invested in the Internet. Lot of us felt that Prodigy's negative press as result of online censorship disclosures was beginning of the end for the failed, IBM/Sears project.

NETSCAPE FOCUS OF LATEST 'SECURITY' RUMORS - ROGUE JAVA 'VIRUS' FEARED by GOV

Got this off of "Forum" the VA/GOV internal BBS/Intranet/E-mail system. Rumors flew in April that there were 'rogue' Java applets lurking on the Internet and ready to cause havoc on 'innocent' users' PC's if they were hapless enough to visit the 'wrong' Web site.

Wasn't really a "Tempest in a Teapot" since Netscape has been plagued by 'Security' problems almost since its creation, most of which have been reported by Netscape first.

Since I'm one of those — Federal employees — I wonder where they get the time. I can barely keep up with my Hospital E-mail, much less spend a lot of time on the Internet.

WANT GOOD END-USER SUPPORT AND SERVICE? Try ADAPTEC AND H-P

These last two 'blurbs' are reprinted from last month since several readers — including Andy Reese of Apple

Corps fame — complained the type was 'too compressed to read.'

Had recent "service experiences" with both Adaptec and Hewlett-Packard (H-P) that were very gratifying and unexpected. First of these was with H-P "the other disk vendor" concerning a 1 G SCSI hard disk that apparently was "losing" sectors. Discovered this when installing *Windows 95* and kept receiving numerous error messages after the installation was supposedly completed.

Phoned H-P, explained the problem to one of their technicians in Colorado who agreed it sounded as if the disk was faulty. She suggested that H-P would send me a new disk under warranty via UPS and I could return the old disk via UPS. 36 hours later, the new disk arrived complete with a return UPS ticket courtesy of H-P.

ADAPTEC EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE

Had a similar experience with Adaptec and one of their SCSI-II adapters. Talked at length with Adaptec's technician about the board and tried a number of suggestions put forth by the young man to no avail. We struggled with a number of hardware, software and BIOS parameters via telephone until he suggested that the board was probably bad. He offered to repair the old board or send a new board within 24 hours of receipt by Adaptec of the old board. I had the new board back within 48 hours.

I was impressed with Adaptec since there was no point in the discussion(s) where any attempt was made to blame me, the end-user, for the problem, nor was there any lack of concern or courtesy in the process. That's service.

Reagan Andrews

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

The Open Doors

The door to the Infomart is opened Saturday morning by setup volunteers of the NTPCUG. The parking is easy at 6:15. This is just the first of many doors to be opened to members of the user group by fellow volunteers.

SIG leaders are constantly up-dating their scheduled topics to include the newest user tips to open the door to product features. Auditorium presentations make group members into wise buyers with helpful question and answer sessions. Downstairs, vendors open the door to savings on every aspect of computer merchan-

dise as well as the best assembly of shareware offerings you will ever find. Members of NTPCUG and other groups supply volunteers to make the Computer Marketplace a reality. Personal Users can explore the world of computing through the door of a sixteen class session taught by knowledgeable volunteers.

The 2000+ members give a welcome to all who want to learn and will also give directions through the Walkabout, orientation session and Information Booth. The opportunity is open to join this group of volunteers, many of whom are listed on this page.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Break-down

anchors:

David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Ross Jones

Crew:

Joseph Denison
Neal Van Pelt
Ken Burns (double)
Larry Miller

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Chris Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:

Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

anchors:

Ralph Beaver
Deborah Bean
Glenn Brooks
Albert Champion

Lorin Cranford
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt
John Ivers
Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Raymond Reyes
Paul Williams

Booth Crew:

Chris Brooks
Tim Foster
James Gorak
Claude McClure
Ken Sauter
Matt Williams

Walkabout:

Linda Moore
Perry Slack

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:

Joe Allen
Roy Bales
Don Chick
James Dornon
M. Pat Henley
Arnold Krusemark

DOM Desk Crew:

Richard Abreu
Michael Ashley
Douglas Athas
Bernie Baars
Richard Blair
Jim Boyce
Philip Bridge

Linda Campbell
Gene Carleton
Norm Dang
William Farris
Brad Ficke
Martin R. Gluck
Tom Jackson
Tom Jones
Mac McKeethen
Mark Miller
Nancy Ogden
John Primm
George Read
Jim Russell-Redman
Oscar Tyler
Lee Williams

With Special Thanks to:

Set Up Crew:

Mark Gruner
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
David Huckabee
Jan Parkhill
Jerry Stone

Inventory and Take-down Crew:

Richard Blair
Mark Christopher
Brad Ficke
Martin R. Gluck
Arnold Krusemark

DOM Desk Scheduler:

Philip Bridge
Disk Production:
Gene Carleton

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

Phil Bridge (214) 422-5400

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

Jack Atkinson will be hosting and conducting the June meeting. Although the topic for the meeting had not been set by our publication deadline, look forward to an interesting and informative presentation.

At our May meeting, Larry Linson spoke on the subject of *application frameworks* for Access. It's not object-oriented programming, but packaging frequently-used components with needed support code can save development time, effort, and cost. Many thanks to Moss Micro for providing review and giveaway copies of their

product, *Start Developing for Access*.

Volunteers are still needed to speak on Access and Access-related subjects for future meetings. We're also still hoping you'll donate Access examples and other Access-related software for an Access SIG freeware disk for the NTPCUG Disk of the Month operation.

Check inside the back cover of this issue for the NTPCUG electronic bulletin board system telephone numbers and keep up-to-date with the group, and Access between meetings. There's a local MS ACCESS message conference where you can post questions, an-

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- Networking [Contact Bernie Van Roekel @ (817) 451-4540 h; (817) 461-4120 w]
- Visual Basic [Contact Jim Carter @ (214) 235-5968 h]

New SIGs:

- Emerging Computer Technologies - Dick Vedder @ (817) 481-6457 M
- Internet - WEB Developers - Mark Camp @ (214) 583-9012

New SIG Leaders:

- Desktop Publishing - Mark Stuert @ (214) 528-5311 h
- Visual Basic - Ed Diahl @ (214) 687-9043 w
- Healthcare Computing - Dawn Gracey @ (214) 964-0954

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

Leadership - at least one individual willing to lead the SIG, and an assistant.

Membership - at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley (214) 517-7430 h

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

ACT I

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

Access

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 hM
 Jack Atkinson..... (817) 481-6623 h
 Dianna DeCicco.. (214) 446-0639 h
 Frank McCoy..... (817) 232-2483 h

Alpha 4 / 5

Ron Jackson (214) 276-3661 h
 Bill Parker..... (214) 369-5889 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

Business Applications/DAC

Putt Shaw..... (214) 235-2559 h
 Bruce Schubert... (214) 394-5328 h
 (214) 233-8353 w

C++/Advanced

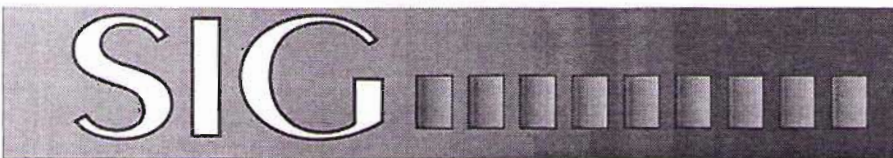
Kent Cobb (214) 343-3862 h
 Tom Cook (214) 341-1890 w

C++/Beginning

Tom Cook (214) 341-1890 w

CAD

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



swers, or announcements and the Internet newsgroup "comp.databases.ms-access" (the newsgroup is available for downloading only; you can't view it on-line). Attached to a message in the MS ACCESS message conference, you'll find a copy of *Silly Little Mail Reader* (SLMR), good, solid, and (best of all) *freeware*, that you can download to use to read the newsgroup.

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

Larry Linson

Application Developers (OLE and ODBC) SIG

Dan Ogden will be the host for our June meeting. The topic and presentation were not yet decided at our publication deadline, but with Dan at the helm, you can plan on a useful, informative, and entertaining presentation.

Thanks to Dan for his presentation, at our May meeting, on the subject of OLE Structured Storage, one of the more exciting improvements in the new world of Windows 95 and Windows NT.

When we began the OLE & ODBC SIG, we noted that the available implementations of OLE (in Windows 3.1, Windows NT, and Windows applications of the time) might be a little "rough around the edges", but we would take the opportunity to learn together. Both of these disciplines have now matured, with later releases of the operating systems and applications, so you can be looking for additional opportunities to use them in your own applications.

Don't forget, though, that OLE and ODBC are practical and useful tools in the Windows 3.1 environment, too. SIG Leader Larry Linson, on a recent project, needed a smooth interface to functions in a third-party Dynamic Load Library, one that could receive and respond to Windows messages (not possible in *Microsoft Access 2.0*). Kent Cobb, of Software Design and Development, leader of our NTPCUG Advanced C++ SIG, came to the rescue by packaging appropriate functions in an OLE Automation Server that Larry could invoke from Access. It works as smoothly as Larry had hoped and the client is pleased with the result. That same project also makes use of the *Intersolv "Q+E"* ODBC drivers to connect Access to an *Informix* database on a *Unix* server, set up by Rob Kelley, of Kelley Microsystems.

Come join us for the June meeting!

Larry Linson

Dallas Corel SIG

April Meeting in Review

In April Rob Alschbach demonstrated the Epilog Graphic Engraver. Members brought their own .cdr files and watched this amazing equipment engrave their images in plastic, glass, metal, wood and other materials. All attendees also took home a handsome pen with their name engraved on it. Thanks, Rob! Mine impresses everyone who sees it. Several local business owners who offer engraving services with this equipment were also on hand to answer questions.

SIG LEADER LISTING

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

Communications

Doug Gorrie (214) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-4568 w
Birl Smith..... (214) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 220-9388 w

Dallas Corel

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Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266
Susan Biggs..... (214) 340-7794

DOS

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

Delphi

Fred Williams (214) 492-1315
Tom Browning..... (214) 692-9784 h
Frank Cavallito (214) 423-9221

Desktop Publishing

Mark Stuert..... (214) 528-5311 h

Emerging Computer Technologies

Dick Vedder (817) 481-6457 w
Lynn Peterson & .Walter Johnston

Fox Pro

Kevin White..... (214) 644-5008 w

Genealogy - General

Al Sanford (214) 278-7888 h

Genealogy - Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland .. (214) 272-2869 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

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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
Dawn Gracey (214) 964-0954

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Doug Gorrie (214) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-4568 w

Internet-Beginner Ctd.

Erik Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM

Internet-Advanced

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Doug Gorrie (214) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-4568 w
Erik Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM

Internet-WEB Developers

Mark Camp (214) 583-9012
David Maxwell (214) 977-7584 w
..... (214) 299-6295 h

Introduction to the PC

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

Investors

Dick Fichtman (214) 437-0322 h

MS Word for Windows

Beverly Kurtin (817) 355-9594 hM
Jan Patton (903) 886-6249 h
..... (903) 886-6466 w
Bob Rice (214) 885-0202 w

MS Works

Ralph Logan (817) 498-9746 hM

Microsoft Networking

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

MultiMedia

Dennis Rice (214) 680-8299 h

Networking

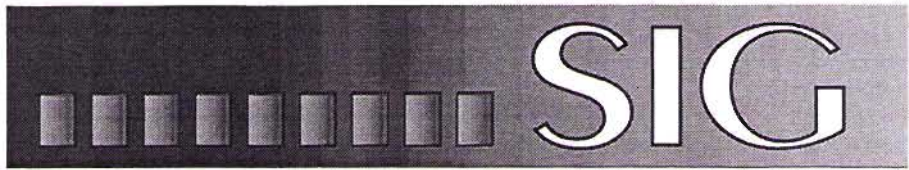
Leroy Tennison
Francis Bright

OS/2 Developer

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

OS/2 for End Users

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



June 15 meeting - Demonstration of Corel's "Other" Modules

June's program will feature products in the CorelDraw 6 Suite, "other" than DRAW. Demonstrations of *Corel Presents*, *Corel Dream 3D*, *Corel Motion 3D*, and *Corel Depth* will initiate those of us who have yet to treat ourselves to these new bells and whistles in version 6. Happily JoAnn Elliot, our SIG leader, will demonstrate. Regrettably this will be her last program presentation for our SIG. Her husband is retiring and they will move to Crystal Beach, Florida this summer. However, she will still be available to customers and promises to keep in touch with friends over the Internet!

July meeting - Scanning

Learn how to get predictable scanning results and choose appropriate settings and file types for your intended use.

We want your input — and leadership

Dallas Corel needs your leadership. Our monthly planning meeting is held second Wednesdays at the Luby's Cafeteria just north of LBJ on Midway Road, from 11:30 a.m. to whenever. So if you cannot get there until a bit later, come anyway. Open to all! Yes, we really do value your input!

Marsha Drebelbis



Tips and Tricks

When designing a screen for software or a Web page, the key is to keep it simple. Design your elements, i.e.; logos, buttons and soft-

ware elements, to perform well even on the lowest capability monitor. Use the easiest colors to see by staying with the 16 windows colors. If you don't know what they are, in PhotoPaint, open *.ico file and use it. Then "save as" a new palette called basic 16. Set your system to VGA 16 colors to test the results.

JoAnn Elliot

Delphi SIG

If things went as planned in May, everyone gained some intimate insight into things Delphi, straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak. The plan was to have the Borland presenter drop by for a special session with our SIG between formal auditorium presentations.

Meanwhile, I was out of the way, giving a BBS presentation to the Communications SIG. Probably best, as I would have most likely said something tacky about Delphi 2's help file fiasco. Seems to be a lot of message traffic in the Delphi news groups discussing and cussing the evident "rush to release" 32 bit Delphi.

For the lack of planning, I will most likely be giving the June presentation. I have just delivered a fairly simple application to a division of a very large retailer. The application was originally sort of developed in Paradox. I was brought in to finish the project and package the thing with Paradox Runtime for delivery to 17 sites across the US.

After facing one undocumented feature after another in Paradox Runtime, I finally abandoned

SIG

Paradox altogether, and rewrote the application using Delphi. In the process, I ended up using a large number of interesting features of the Delphi development process.

I thought others might find having the application dissected at the source level educational. There are examples of some very nice Delphi database development concepts imbedded in the source.

I also had to come up with a viable application installation utility in a very short time. But that is a whole different subject for perhaps another SIG meeting.

Meanwhile, if we can find a sucker, er ah, volunteer, I'll be more than happy to take a seat in the audience!

No matter, be sure and drop on by to see if there is an answer to that burning question being asked on the Net, "When the H@## are the corrected Delphi 2 help files going to be ready to download from the FTP site?"

Fred Williams

DOS SIG

Hope you enjoyed Bob McGhee's *Cyrix 6x86* presentation at the May meeting. Bob is Cyrix' Applications Engineering Manager and did an excellent job of looking at Cyrix' new CPU's from an architectural view. He was assisted in the setup for the presentation by Cyrix Senior Technical Support Specialist, Allen Russell who arrived really early and did his best to overcome equipment limitations/problems resulting from fact we (NTPCUG)

supplied VGA LCD plates for the demo. Blame that one on me, since I *assumed* VGA and *didn't ask* if the higher, SVGA standard plates would be necessary. *Mea Culpa!*

First winner was a treat, and one highlight you may have missed — first *Cyrix 6x86* in the drawing was won by NTPCUG's former President, Member Emeritus and current DFWX Corp. President, Stuart Yarus.

On to June.

We're going to take another look at BIG hard disks and DOS/ WIN 3.1x/ WIN 95 operation. You'll kindly notice I didn't include *Windows NT*, *OS/2* or *UNIX* in this cast of characters.

2.1G — Magic Limit

Most popular disks today are IDE/ EIDE since they are (sometimes) easier to install than SCSI disks, and all are cheaper than corresponding SCSI units. The IDE/EIDE camp is about where SCSI-II was several years ago — i.e., bumping heads with the "magic" 2.1G limit found in DOS-based systems and most PC BIOS sets now. Even with SCSI disks, major problem lies in the DOS 16-bit FAT system of allocating disk space.

Any bigger than 2.1G, and the user is going to have some real problems unless they limit volume size to below 2.1G. Even then, most PC BIOS, especially those over one year-old, will be problematic since most "older" BIOS sets are hung with 528M IDE limits unless users install their big disks with disk managers such as *Ontrack Disk Manager*.

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

OS/2 Q&A

Larry Truesdale ... (214) 684-4790

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

SQL Server

Ada Finigan.....
Steven DeSalvo... (214) 716-2684
John Penaska.....(214) 431-3979
Erin Welker.....(214) 462-6033

StarText SIG

Chuck Mencke.....(817) 496-6579 h
Jim Boughton.....(817) 478-6665 h
.....(817) 265-8044 w

UNIX

Jim Stallworth.....(214) 789-3783 h
.....(214) 604-2226 w
Doug Scott.....(817) 281-4653 hM
.....(817) 878-0367 wM

Visual Basic — Beginning

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

Visual Basic

Ed Diehl.....(214) 687-9043 w
Jim Carter.....(214) 235-5968 h

Windows - Applications

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

Windows - Applications... Ctd.

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

**SIG LEADER LISTING
CONTINUED ...**

Legend: h = Home #, w = Work #

Windows - Developers

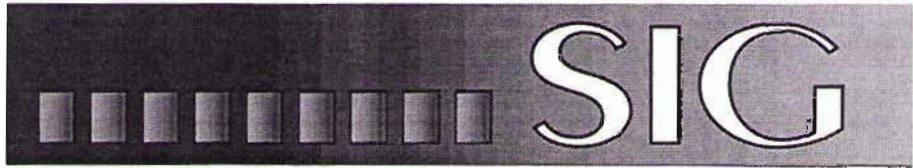
Art English.....(214) 618-1266 h
.....(214) 232-3310 w

WordPerfect / DOS

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

WordPerfect / Windows

Cindy Adams.....(817) 481-1300 wM



Users need realistic Partitions

2.1G is a reasonable partition size — if the user is managing huge (for a home PC) data files such as large, high-resolution, 30-bit color graphics. Placing a lot of small files in such a volume can result in lots of wasted space since the smallest cluster size (the smallest amount of disk real-estate DOS can recognize) is 32K.

You have to drop the partition below 1,024M to get down to a 16K cluster, and below 512M for 8K clusters. Dropping further to below 256M yields 4K clusters, and DOS' smallest cluster size, 2K, limits maximum volume size to less than 128M

Users on WIN NT, OS/2 and UNIX can chortle now ...

Reagan Andrews

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

This SIG's primary purpose is to explain the Internet to those unfamiliar with it. This includes such things as how to choose and access an Internet Service Provider (ISP), what software options are available, hardware needed, and what all those acronyms and buzzwords really mean.

At our May meeting, we got down to the real basics, explaining what the Internet is and what you can do with it. We plan to have these sessions more frequently in the future, and build on these beginnings in the months afterward.

Special Note: Look at page one of this newsletter, and you should see that Netscape will be our 1 PM auditorium presenter. Netscape is considered one of the

premier browsers for "surfing" the World Wide Web. It also eases the task of doing file transfers using FTP (File Transfer Protocol), and includes facilities for accessing e-mail and Usenet news over the Internet. If you are new to the Internet, I strongly suggest that you attend this 1 PM presentation.

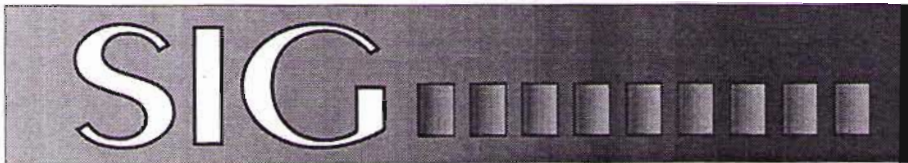
See you June 15th !

*Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe &
Erik Leaseburg*

INTERNET SIG - ADVANCED

For those that attended the May meeting, you know that our plans to discuss Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) were postponed to the June gathering. The folks at GTE, who were certainly eager to talk about their ongoing ADSL trial in Irving, were unavailable in May. I prematurely assumed that their interest in presenting also meant that they had a presenter lined up, and that was inaccurate on my part.

As a reminder, ADSL is possibly the next reasonably-priced bandwidth tool that the telcos will offer. Still in its infancy, GTE has a trial underway to test its performance, reliability and user acceptance. Throughput can reach 6 megabits/second upstream and 576 kilobits/second downstream, although results could easily be less. All this occurs over your existing telephone line. And while the necessary associated equipment may still be priced beyond what most folks would pay, it has the potential for coming down fast.



GTE will bring us up to speed on what ADSL is, how it works, what can be expected from this technology, and how the trial is progressing. And if you want to get familiar with ADSL prior to the meeting, go visit GTE at <http://wcn.gte.com/adsl>.

See you June 15th.

Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe & Erik Leaseburg

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

The following is the tentative schedule for SIG classes that will be offered as an Introduction to the PC during the next listed months.

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

June 15, 1996

- ❖ 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

July 20, 1996

- ❖ 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)

August 10, 1996

- ❖ 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

September 14, 1996*

No Classes

October 12, 1996*

- ❖ 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

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

Alex Lilley

PARADOX SIG

I'm assuming everyone went to see the ReportSmith 3.0 presentation in the main auditorium in May.

I think my urgent request for bug report submittal in last month's SIG notes was too little, too late, as not long after submitting the text to the newsletter staff, word spread on the Net that Pdox 7.0 16bit was shipping. Unfortunately it sounds like the old random printer mismanagement fea-

Design Contest!

Win a free, one-year membership to the NTPCUG! Redesign the NTPCUG Tri-fold. Pick up a copy of the current one at the Information/Registration Booth, then, redesign it!



Submit your entries there or to any board members, or mail to the NTPCUG address shown on the back of this newsletter!

Good Luck!

Register Now!

7th Annual Borland Developers Conference

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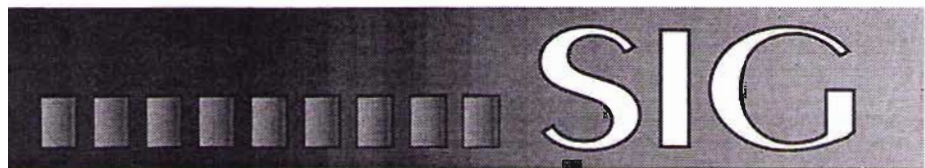
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Borland
Development Eas



ture still remains. I'm curious to see if the style sheet drive misdirection in both delivered forms and hard-coded paths in lookup table definitions still remains.

I'm waiting for a client to request 7.0 development before committing to the upgrade. I'm going to visit with someone with a 7.0 copy, to check to see if the above bugs have been addressed. If so, I will start recommending clients seriously consider the upgrade. If not, I see no real reason to rush to upgrade.

By the time this month's meeting rolls around, we may have 7.0 on the SIG computer. I plan on checking with Borland's user group relations staff while they are here in May.

In the past we always received a copy for use by the users group. Well, up until the Borland earnings debacle, that is. Now that times, they are a improving, I'll see if Borland intends to renew the tradition.

I'm certain Tom will have something interesting to show everyone. If not, I can drag along a C - Padox Engine data acquisition application I just recently completed for a large chicken processor. It's a good example of what can be done with the Paradox Engine in a real time environment.

Anyway drop on by the SIG and see what's new. It just might be 7.0!

Fred Williams

PRO SIG

June's Pro SIG Meeting is cancelled! Instead, join us at the Infomart Alexandria Auditorium for the Netscape presentation from 1:00 - 2:55.

May was the month of the *Annual Programmers' Tug - 'O- War* at the creek behind INFOMART. Opposing teams representing Object Oriented Languages and Non Object Oriented Languages were chosen by Robert Hilliard. The three judges were chosen because they use languages that are neither object oriented nor structured:

Stuart Yarus — APL

Leroy Tennison —Novell's
LOGIN Scripting Language

Jim Hoisington — PICK BASIC

Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The June 15, 1996 meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will continue to focus on the integrated development environment (IDE) in Visual Basic 4.0. We will demonstrate some of the sample programs that are included with Visual Basic 4.0 and how they can be modified to meet other needs.

Last month, Ed Diehl (Visual Basic SIG Leader) filled in for me to demonstrate some of his techniques in using the Visual Basic 4.0 IDE. Thanks Ed for filling in.

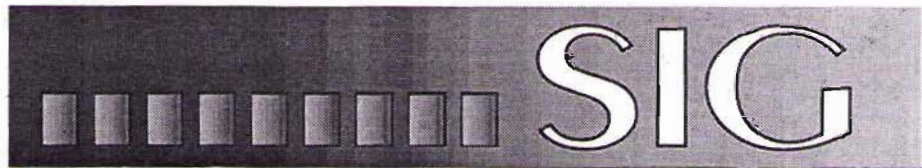
I finally have received my copy of Dan Appleman's new book entitled *Visual Basic Programmers Guide to the Win32 API*. I plan to spend many hours with it this month. Hope to have a review in next month's newsletter.

In recent meetings, we have conducted door prize drawings for copies of Visual Basic 4.0 Enterprise Edition thanks to Microsoft. Be sure to bring proof of member-

ship to show your eligibility for any future drawings.

Bring your beginning Visual Basic questions to our meeting on Saturday, June 15, 1996 at 8:00 A.M. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment

Jim Carter



WORDPERFECT FOR WINDOWS SIG

This month we are going to take a look at InfoCentral. This product can enhance your productivity in your everyday life at the

PC. InfoCentral is the perfect way to organize your people, places and things and then link entries together in the way we generally think. (i.e., I met a person at the Infomart in December, but I can't remember her name. If I had linked this person, [Putt] and the Infomart, I could look up the Infomart, and from there I could locate Putt. You've got to see it to truly understand it. It's great!

But InfoCentral is much more powerful than just keeping track of people. You have Putt's address information in InfoCentral, but you need to write a letter to her in WordPerfect. You can actually start the letter from within InfoCentral with a *related file*, which will *launch* WordPerfect. You type your letter, print it, and InfoCentral keeps up with it. Anytime you look up Putt's name, the related file (your letter) will be connected to Putt - until you delete it. It's an excellent way of tracking your letters.

Tip of the Month

Have you ever wanted to capture and use a particular screen that you are viewing for future reference either in documentation or a handout? This is relatively easy to do.

You can capture an active screen by pressing {Alt}{PrintScr}. The image is stored in the Windows clipboard and is a Bitmapped Image. You can paste it into Presentations to make changes, if necessary, or paste it directly into your document.

Cindy Adams

ATTENTION ALL SIG LEADERS!

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

It's easy and quick. After you have written your SIG note, sign it at the bottom and give it a file name that will help the editors know what it is. A good naming convention would be four letters identifying your SIG, date of publication and followed by .SIG suffix.

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

- ❖ From the BBS Main Menu, select "F" — (F)ile Up/Download. That will take you to the NTPCUG Up/Download Menu.
- ❖ Select "I" — S(I)G Happerings upload for newsletter, located in the Upload area in the bottom half of the screen.
- ❖ Then, select "S" to submit. You'll be asked for the 12 character filename which is DOS's familiar "8.3" naming convention, then you'll be asked to write a brief description of the file you are going to upload to the SIG area.
- ❖ Next the screen will show the name of the file you are uploading and the default file-transfer protocol. If you haven't selected a "default" protocol in the user menu, it will be X-Modem.
- ❖ At this point, you should give your communication software's upload command and select the file transmission protocol to match the one the BBS thinks you will use. The BBS will tell you when the transfer is completed.
- ❖ Most problems users experience are either a failure to match protocols, i.e., using Z-Modem to upload when the BBS expects X-Modem, or not having the file to be uploaded in the appropriate upload directory. Another source of difficulty (for mixed-use shops) is inadvertently sending a Macintosh file to a PC BBS or vice versa.

If you want to make doubly sure that your note gets to the *PC News* — after you've sent it to the SIG Upload Area — you can also include it as a (F)ile attached to a BBS E-mail message to me, Reagan Andrews. You might *also* post this on your SIG's BBS Conference area in addition to the above.

Reagan Andrews

TBBS Strikes Again! UUCP 'Mail-Muncher' Craters BBS Hard Disk

*Fred Resorts to
Strong Language,
Red Label & ASA**

A lot has happened since last month's column. The mail muncher machine trashed its disk drive, prompting a busy Saturday night after the last meeting. Finally got the thing back on line around midnight.

The bad news was we lost all of the attached files for the message base. The good news was we were able to recover to a fully-operational condition in a very short time. We now have a brand new Conner 1.6gig drive in the mail machine.

This little event made me wish once again that the NT replacement would magically appear out of the cyber mist. Great progress has been made, and little progress has been made.

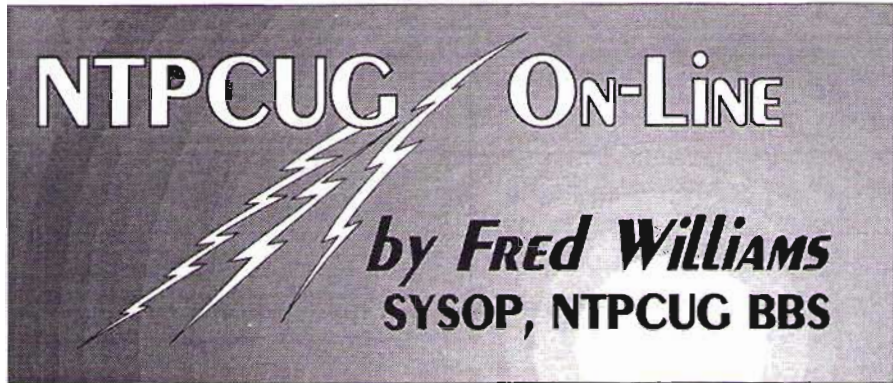
Both the new Microsoft Exchange Server and the Internet connectivity tools have arrived! Thanks once again are owed to Debbie Lenhart, dynamic Microsoft person and Hill Country land baroness!

If Wishes Were MIPS...

Alas, little progress has been made on receiving a donated server system. Once I have exhausted my Cyrix contacts [Ed. Note: Fred's a shareholder in Cyrix], we may be in the market to purchase said hardware. I thought we might even be getting a DEC server, but that seems to have also fallen through.

I am hoping the forward-thinking Cyrix crowd will appreciate the

* ASA is the acronym for aspirin, "Red Label" is another *analgesic*.



opportunity to have one of their premier systems supporting some very PC-literate users 24 hours a day in one of the hottest PC markets in the world! Well, it sounds like a super PR plan to me.

But back to the things we've actually got. I've been looking over the new Exchange Server, and it looks very, very promising for replacing the entire messaging and informational sections of our current BBS. One downright exciting bit of news is the ability to support MS-DOS based clients.

This is pure music to my ears as my greatest fear was that continuing to support our DOS-based users was going to require retaining and supporting some part of the old BBS. With the ability to support DOS clients on the new system, I have no problems with pulling the plug on the old system, when the time arrives.



It is a bit mind-boggling to go from a very closed environment (TBBS) where almost no third-party support and enhancement products exist, to an environment (NT) that is rife with products of every conceivable description.

Also, the one major reason I am looking forward to the switch is the ability to develop any custom pieces to the puzzle using any tool imaginable.

I have had to work around TBBS in all manner of ways, just to do a less than robust implementation of the simplest enhancements. TBBS is the reason you must wait overnight to become approved as an NTPCUG member-level user on the current BBS. I never was able to work around that one.

One of the few custom features needed for NT will be a robust sign-on functional extension of the standard NT Network sign on. I will be able to develop this new sign-on procedure using my new favorite tool, Delphi (sorry Microsoft). I expect this new function to be everything I wanted on the old system, plus much more.

I wish I had a "spare" machine sitting around the office. I am very anxious to begin developing our new "NT BBS". All I've been able to do so far is load up the various NT CD-ROMs, peruse the various help files and CD-ROM resident manuals, and say "WOW" a lot!

Fred Williams

DOM Disks Released In May

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

DOM Disks Released in May:

Disk 1048. *MULTIMEDIA 1 (7/92)* - Audio/Video Presentation Software

Disk 1049. *PLUG-IN FOR WINDOWS 2.60, 8/95* - For Windows and Windows 95

Disk 1050. *ROGER'S RAPID RESTART 3.30, 2/95* - Windows Exit Utility Shareware

Disk 1051. *Mail/NewsGroup Beta 1, 3/96* - Win95 Addin Utility

Disk 1048. *MULTIMEDIA 1 (7/92)* - Audio/Video Presentation Software C.M.S., Inc. 3005 Glenmore Ave., Baltimore, MD. 21214, (800) 847-0309. Shareware fee: \$59.00

MULTIMEDIA 1 is software written to help you design and utilize high quality presentation skills for business meetings, school projects or sales tools and tutorials to train your sales staff.

This software will allow you to use sounds, voice and high quality images in your presentations to get across your ideas in the most direct manner. You can actually create you own diskette for each member of you sales staff and distribute those disks for on the road sales presentations that will accurately portray your product to prospective clients.

You may find that you have students or employees that are in need of systematic training and that objective can be accomplished by creating/making a tutorial designed to educate people regarding your company policies.

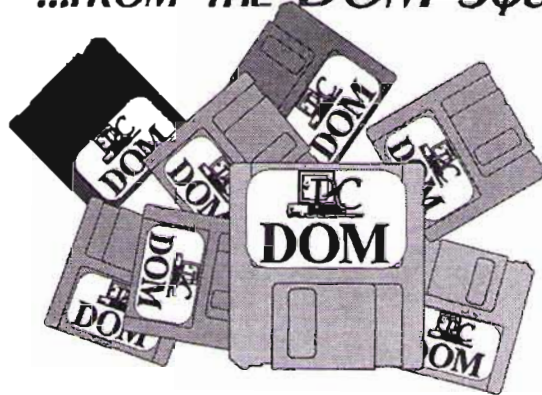
MULTIMEDIA 1 allows a user to link pictures, sound and music. It pulls information out of linear, page flipping books to an exciting multimedia world of presenting ideas. The user will find that they can link web after web of associations so the viewer of the presentation becomes interactively involved and that encourages further exploring.

Create a directory on your hard drive and copy the ZIP file to that directory. Unzip the MULTIMED.ZIP file. Then type RUNME.

Shareware downloaded and submitted by NTPCUG member, Raymond Reyes.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Gene Carleton.

New Disks ...FROM THE DOM SQUAD



by JAN PARKHILL

bringing information to life.

MULTIMEDIA 1 has a nice feature that allows this program to work with almost any computer system...it will work with only a PC speaker. You may also add .VOC files if you have Soundblaster capabilities.

System requirements:

IBM AT or better computer, VGA monitor, hard drive and DOS 3.0.

Installation:

Disk 1049. *PLUG-IN FOR WINDOWS 2.60, 8/95* - For Windows and Windows 95. Piannet Crafters (D. Mandell), PO BOX 450, Alpharetta, GA 30329, (770)998-8664 - FAX: (770)998-8197, Internet: 73040.334@compuserve.com, dmandell@aol.com. Shareware fee: \$20.00 + \$2.00 S&H.

This new and upgraded version (Windows 95) might be best introduced by listing the many great enhancements you will have to make Windows desktop user friendly. I like the EXIT choices when you

close Windows; you may Exit, Restart Windows or Reboot your Computer. I like the Scheduler with sounds for notifying me a message has popped up. Let's list some of the other useful features of this outstanding desktop enhancement program:

PM Enhancements: Program can be relegated to standby status with PlugIn serving as your main Shell. Nested groups & group management, customizable Group icons and PM titles, menus of all group items, save settings now button.

Custom Cursors: Change shape and size, enhance bolding, sizing, cursor wrap at screen edge, reverse colors.

QuickRun Menu: Instant access to any application, an Install software command that searches all drives and CD-ROM for SETUP files.

Title Bar Display: Date, time, resource alerts, stopwatch, color and style.

Alarms and Scheduler: GREAT Reminder program with a pop-up dialog box; schedule programs to run while you are away from machine and .WAV sounds to remind you.

Sound: Talking clock, chimes and event sounds when you close, open, minimize or move applications. You will be amazed how you can assign .WAV for tasks.

Miscellaneous: Screen saver enhancements such as instant-on and never-on plus a shortcut key. Plug-in for Windows uses a central control panel from the title bar where you make all your configurations at one time!

If you use shareware with Windows...Scrap The Rest and Go With The Best...!!

Any PC running Windows 3.1, WGFW 3.1., Windows NT or Win95.

System requirements:

Installation:

Top Twenty DOM Disks

Want to know what's hot? These are the 20 most popular NTPCUG DOM Library disks — as of May 18, 1996.

- 1026.. *IDE Identification* (Have you forgotten your hard drive parameters?)
- 1021.. *PC-CONFIG 7.31* (Make your system hum)
- 1030.. *SoLaTor Suite 1.2* (Five Solitaire games)
- 1029.. *Caller IDS 5.3* (Caller ID system for telephone)
- 1038.. *WinTune 95* (Win 95 tuneup and troubleshooting kit)
- 1039.. *WinZip 6.0* (ZIP/UNZIP/Check-Out Software utility)
- 1027.. *WINZIP FAQ* (Helpful Q&A about running WinZip!)
- 1040.. *WinZip95* (Windows95 version of WinZip Check-Out program)
- 1031.. *Wisdom of the Ages 2.1* (Quotes for windows to spice up your speech)
- 1033.. *CD Quick 1.11* (Quick cache to improve CD-ROM speed)
- 1043.. *F-PROT 2.22* (Very good virus detection with nice menu)
- 1024.. *PLUG-IN FOR WINDOWS 2.11* (What Windows should have had!)
- 1008.. *VirusScan & VShield 2.26E* (Virus protection, perhaps the best one)
- 1007.. *CopyQM 3.22* (One-pass diskette duplicating made easy)
- 1032.. *Internet Phone* (Telephone calls on the Internet made easy)
- 1009.. *VirusScan-Windows/OS2, 2.26E* (Virus check for Windows or OS/2)
- 1014.. *PGP 2.6* (Pretty Good Privacy...did you say Private E-mail?)
- 1020.. *BUTTONS FOR DOS 6.0* (Make DOS more user friendly)
- 1036.. *Disc Detective 2.84* (CD Disk Diagnostics made simple)
- 1034.. *Eudora 1.4.4* (Internet E-mail Software for Windows)

DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

Unzip the compressed file to a directory named \PLUGIN. From Windows, FILE, RUN, enter the path and SETUP.EXE. Press Enter.

Shareware submitted directly to the NTPCUG by Plannet Crafters, Inc.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Gene Carleton.

Disk 1050. *ROGER'S RAPID RESTART 3.30, 2/95* - Windows Exit Utility Shareware Plannet Crafters (D. Mandell), PO BOX 450, Alpharetta, GA 30329, (770)998-8664 - FAX: (770)998-8197, Internet: 73040.334@compuserve.com, dmandell@aol.com. Fee: \$10.00

Roger's Rapid Restart v3.3 gives you total control over exiting and restarting Windows. Roger's "instant action" key lets you out with no fuss. You might choose to display RRR as an icon on your desktop and exit Windows instantly by RIGHT CLICKING on the icon. There are lots of options and configurations to help customize RRR to your needs. RRR allows you to:

- Exit Windows.
- Restart Windows without first going back to the DOS prompt.
- Exit Windows, run a DOS application, and restart Windows without further

user intervention. Great for DOS games!

- A must for developers (Instant switch between debug and retail binaries.)
- Exit Windows and reboot your computer.

You can utilize the Rapid Restart™ feature to exit or restart Windows without the delays involved when each application is asked if it's OK to exit. This is particularly handy if you are running applications that always ask before terminating (such as DOS applications.) You can also run RRR with passed-in parameters and have full access to its command set.

Some programs are designed to make life a little easier and this is moving in the right direction! How to close Windows correctly!

System requirements:

Any IBM PC running a minimum 386 processor with Windows 3.1.



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

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

VOLUNTEER to share it with us!!

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

There are two easy ways to VOLUNTEER and deliver your shareware to the DOM. First, you can deliver your donation on an old disk and drop it off at the DOM booth during our monthly meeting date. (The DOM booth is located in the far right corner of the basement area during the computer vendor show.) If you prefer the "High Tech" method, you can attach a zipped shareware file to a private E-Mail message (put it to my attention) on the TBBS board and I will take it from there. This is an easy and enjoyable way to VOLUNTEER each month and it only takes a few minutes.

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

README Help available

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

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

Best regards,

Jan Parkhill
DOM Squad Leader
(214) 828-2216

Installation:

Unzip the compressed file to a directory named \RRR. From Windows, FILE, RUN, enter the path and SETUPEXE. Press Enter.

Shareware submitted directly to the NTPCUG by Plannet Crafters, Inc.

This README prepared by Jan Parkhill, edited by Gene Carleton.

Disk 1051. Mail/NewsGroup Beta 1, 3/96 - Win95 Addin Utility. Microsoft, Inc. Freeware.

PLEASE NOTE — THIS IS A BETA RELEASE!!

These two addin's are for WIN95. They will replace the Microsoft Exchange Inbox and Free Agent News group reader.

I have been using each of these programs for several weeks now with no problems. I like the new format.

The Mail addin has a very nice presentation. It may take a little time to find all the neat features but it is very clean. It's screen is di-

vided into two sections; message titles and message text. I think it works a little quicker than Exchange.

The Newsgroup reader gives an entirely different screen than Free Agent. I found it easier to get the new listings for the groups. The screen is divided into two sections; headings and text of selected headings. I haven't erased my FREE AGENT yet.

Both these programs installed with no problems. The questions they asked, default settings, were straightforward and clear.

System requirements:

Any PC running WIN95.

Installation:

Copy the MAIL-NEWS.EXE program to a temporary directory. This is a self-extracting, self-installing program. Type MAILNEWS.

Freeware submitted by the NTPCUG.

This README prepared and edited by Gene Carleton.



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.

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access	Larry Linson	(817)481-2350	M-Sa 1300-1500	DR DOS	Ralph Beaver	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700
					.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100
Assembly Language	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-9221	7 1800-2200	Hardware Help	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200	Internet - General	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200		David Martin	(214)717-0523	M-F 1900-2200
Beginner Problems	Jan Parkhill	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)	Bob Wilson	(214)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
	Shirley Hudgens	(903)439-9780	7 0900-2000		.....		S-S 1000-2200
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland	(214)272-2869	7 0900-2200	LANs — Novell	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		— <i>Lantastic</i>		
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Doug Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030	Managing Your Money	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
CorelDraw	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200	Modems	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	.....		S-S 1300-2200	MathCAD	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
Batch Files	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	OS/2	Larry Truesdale	(214)442-7074	7 1000-2200
Borland C++	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	PC Tools/Win	Glynn Brooks	(214)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100	Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315	7 1300-2100
Comm Software	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700	PKzip/PKUNzip	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900	ProComm/ProComm+	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700
CompuServe	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows	Ted Gillam	(214)964-7923	7 0800-1700		Bill Green	(817) 731-1308	
Delphi (Borland)	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100				
DOS	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200				
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200				

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
	Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Publisher (Microsoft)			
	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Pat Cote.....	(214)522-1717 x266	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(214)424-1738	7 1000-2200
Quicken			
	Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
Quickbooks			
	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
SPFPC			
	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(214) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
TurboVislon			
	Don Cochran	(214)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030
UNIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus			
	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400

NTPCUG User - To - User PROGRAM

Visual Basic -

Jim Carter	(214)235-5968	7	1700-2130
L.J. Johnson	(214)495-9067	7	1700-2130
Gene Hamelman.....	(214)495-6342	7	1700-2130

Windows for Workgroups

Joseph Beasley	(214)225-8752	7	0800-2400
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Bob Russell.....	(214)422-4269	7	1900-2200

Word for Windows

Bob Russell.....	(214)422-4269	7	1900-2200
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WordPerfect 6.x /Win

Georgene Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	7	1000-2100
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Works, Microsoft

Mike Firth.....	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200
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XENIX

Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200
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The subject areas below do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Doug Gorrie at (214)464-7924 M-F 0800-1700 or Sa & Su 1000-1900 at (214)618-8002. Doug will send you a form on which you can list your qualifications and sign.

LEGEND:

7..... All 7 days of each week M-F ... Monday through Friday
 T&T ... Tuesday and Thursday M-Sa .. Monday through Saturday
 S&S... Saturday and Sunday (*). Caller should incur any Long Distance charges

Areas Needing Helpers:

- Borland Turbo C
- CAD
- Dataflex
- Desktop Publishing
- Easy Text
- First Choice
- First Publisher
- Fox Pro
- Harvard Graphics
- LapLink
- Money Counts
- Microsoft C
- Microsoft C++
- Microsoft Visual C++
- Microsoft Word
- MKS products
- Norton Utilities
- PAF
- Pagemaker
- O & A
- Roots
- Smart Notes
- Sound Blaster
- Stacker
- TurboTax
- Corel Ventura
- XTree

North Texas Users Group, Inc. Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below

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

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

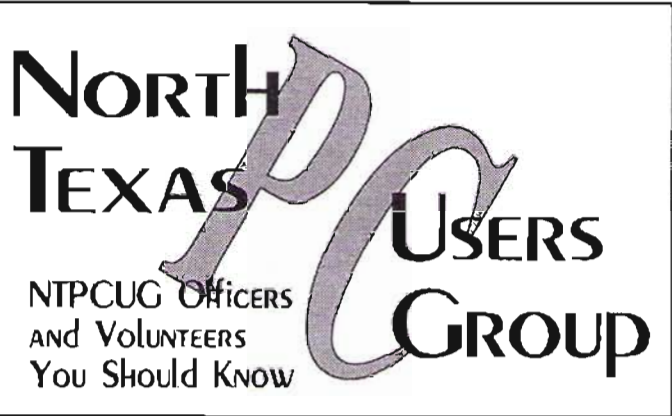
Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Phone (214) 746-4699 for recorded information about the North Texas PC Users Group and scheduled meeting date times and locations. Please leave a message if you would like specific information about the Group. Or, visit our Web Page at: www.ntpcug.org

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, Inc. Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(214) 462-1896 h
President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101 h (214) 960-4215 w
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(214) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(903) 569-2638
Secretary	John West	(214) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	JoAnn Elliott	(214) 231-5332
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 Timothy Carmichael

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:

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

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

Password problems?

Call Doug at..... (214) 464-4568

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)

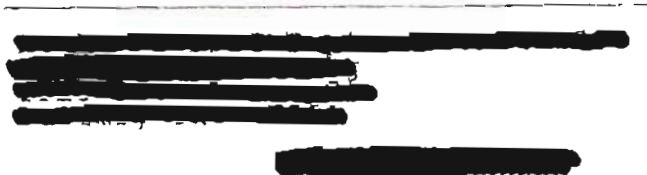


North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

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Address Correction Requested

15.6



North Texas PC Users Group

*Next Meeting:
15 June 1996*

