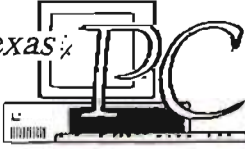


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North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

July, 1996

VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 7



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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 August
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, July 10th

Meeting Dates:

July 20, 1996 - 3rd Saturday
August 10, 1996 - 2nd Saturday
September 14, 1996 - 2nd Saturday



In this Issue . . .

President's Message	2
Andy Oliver	
Virus Alert!	2
DOM Squad	
Autorun.C Part Three (A C++ tutorial)	5-9
Fred Williams	
The Visual Basic Corner	4 - 10
Jim Carter	
The Variety Store	12-14
Reagan Andrews	
Attention all SIG Leaders! — Brief Guide to uploading SIG notes	22
Reagan Andrews	
BBS - On-line	25
Fred Williams	
The Corel Corner	26
JoAnn Elliott & Marsha Drebelbis	

Special Items:

Agenda, Meetings & Times	1
SIG Reports	15-24
New Disks from the DOM Squad	28-30
Volunteer Guide	27
User-to-User (Help)	31-32
Membership Application	32
Officers & People You should know	33

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North Texas PC News

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Ad Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
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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.

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9:00 - 9:55 AM

**"Internet 101
for Beginning Users"**
FlashNet Communications
Farley, ISDN/T1 Specialist

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NTPCUG PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . .
TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

"Laplink for Windows 95"

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Roff Bickham

Wherever you go, LapLink for Windows 95 gives you everything you need to access anything you want on your desktop or your network. You can use this single piece of software to read and send e-mail, run databases and custom applications, synchronize data and even transfer files. LapLink works the same way over modems, IPX and TCP/IP networks, serial cables, parallel cables, wireless, even the Internet without reconfiguring. The 16-bit version is built right into LapLink for Windows 95, so connecting to Windows 3.1 systems is no problem at all. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

No Presentation

* 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.

July 20

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-Generalogy 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 (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.

1:00 - 1:55

Access ACT!

Coming UP... Microsoft Internet User Group Tour

Check elsewhere in this publication for information on this event on Wednesday night, July 17th at the Infomart. The ad mentions the Holerith Room at the Infomart. Three of us went looking for it at the June meeting. Stuart Yarus finally called Janet Wright with Infomart, on the walkie-talkie, and Janet told us that it was room 7001, which we affectionately refer to as one of the "caves" on the 7th floor.

Microsoft has put a notice of this event on their home page, and the NTPCUG, similarly mentions it on our home page. Responses started trickling in about a month ago to my e-mail at work from people interested in attending. Most want to know how to sign up. I simply tell them to show up, and then launch into my sales pitch about the users group. That will teach them.

Viruses

Talk at the breakfast table centered on viruses. Three years ago, you heard about someone who knew someone who had a virus infect his computer system. Now the topic is which new virus has shown up at your place of business or on your home computer. We found one that McAfee and Norton do not have fixes for (well, maybe by publication of this newsletter, they will). I will not mention the name, because the virus criminals do this stuff for the glory. What bozos.

I hope what I heard is true, that software vendors and the federal government are actively pursuing the people who write viruses and plan on prosecuting them. I would suggest just locking them in a room with a group of network administrators who have to spend time eradicating the viruses perpetrated by these low-life criminals. Have them bring their computers, I'll issue the Louisville Sluggers.

Backup Tapes vs. Gold - Same Price

I received a tape backup unit for Father's Day (I think that is #7 on the list of "You know you are a computer weenie when...."). But of course, the manufacturer did not see fit to include a blank tape. Why should they? It would just double the price of the tape drive.



So we travel to the new CompUSA across from Vista Ridge Mall (My wife is considering picketing their corporate headquarters for building a location so close to my house.) The QIC-80 tapes were \$30 each and the Travan TR-1's were \$40 each. And all of this to store 800 megabytes? At work we use 4mm DAT tapes with a storage capacity of about 7 gigabytes at a cost of \$25 each. Of course, "manufacturing defects" have kept these in non-existent supply for 5 months.

The story does not end there. I come back to install the tape drive software and the floppy disk on my system acts like it is reading disks, but just returns an error message that says there is no disk in the drive. My wife hid my car keys, so I guess I'll go do some gardening.

Andy

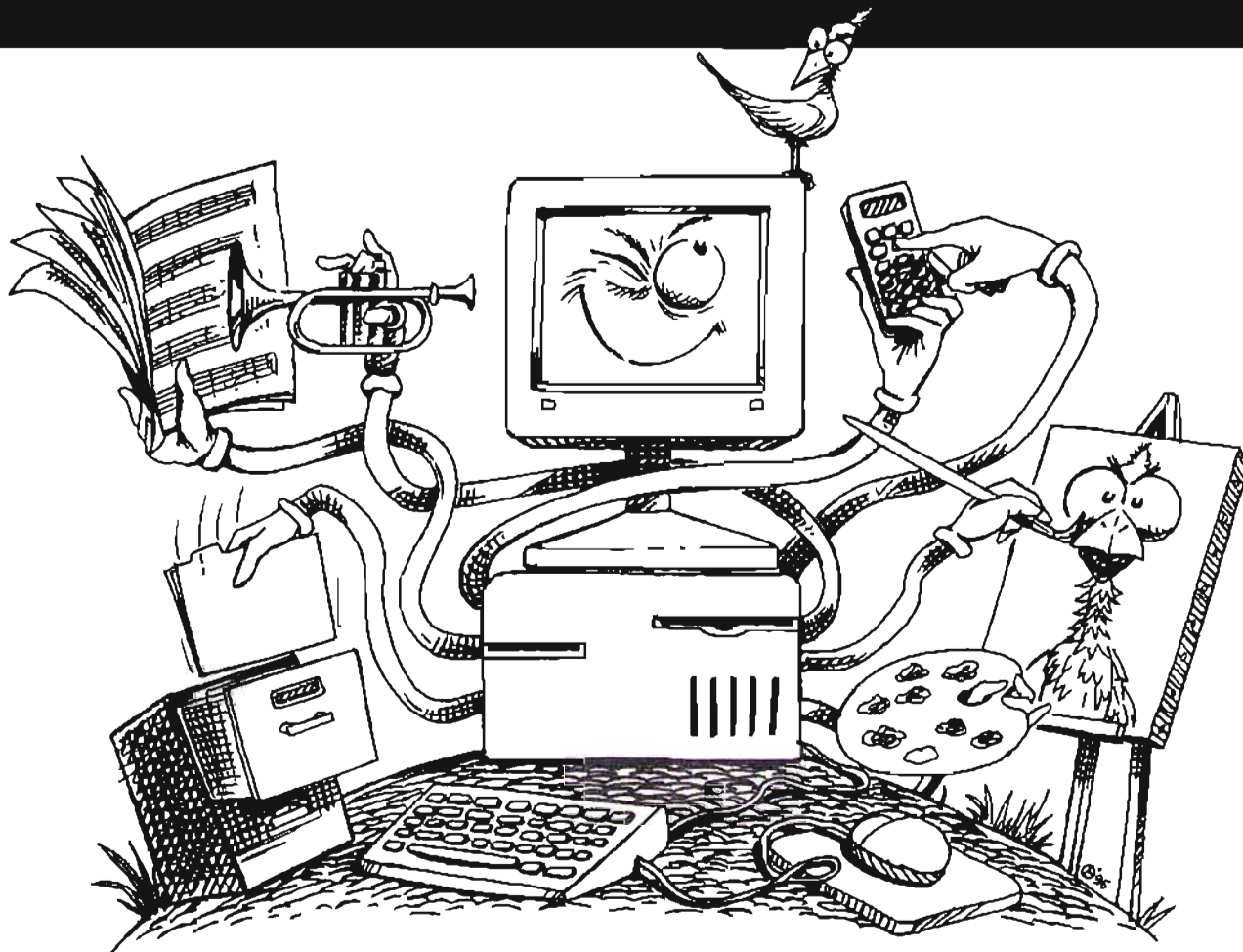
Anti-Virus Upgrades — Featured In July DOMs

NTPCUG's Disk of the Month (DOM) Group will be responding to the growing virus menace again in July. Jan Parkhill, DOM Leader, announced in

late June that latest versions of both the McAfee *Viruscan/Shield* and Command Software Systems *F-Prot* anti-virus software will be available at the NTPCUG DOM booth in the Infomart basement.

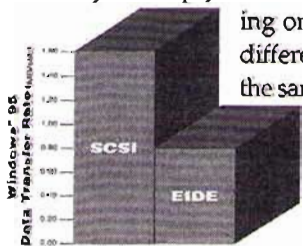
Parkhill added that latest versions of other anti-virus software may also be available in addition to the McAfee and Command Software Systems packages.

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Visual Basic Programmer's Guide To The Win32 Api— A Book Review

There are four distinct approaches to Windows programming with *Microsoft Visual Basic 4.0*. The most basic (no pun intended) is using only the controls that are provided with Visual Basic itself. A second approach is to supplement those Visual Basic controls with one or more third-party custom controls which are similar to the regular Visual Basic controls but have additional capabilities. One popular example of this is Sheridan Software Systems' *VBAssist*. A third approach is to design a custom control yourself (or have it designed for you) using *C++*, *Delphi*, *Pascal*, etc. A fourth approach is to make calls to the Windows API (Application Programmer's Interface).

Each approach has advantages and disadvantages in terms of development time, development cost, size of executable code, speed of executable code, etc. The first approach (Visual Basic forms and controls) certainly should minimize development cost and time, but may well yield unacceptable execution time of the code. The second approach (third-party custom controls) could solve the slow execution time, but might substantially increase the size of the executable code and increase the development cost. The third approach (design your own custom control) requires special design knowledge that could take quite a while to develop. Your application could be brought into compliance with execution speed and size of executable code, but at the expense of an extended completion date. The fourth approach (Visual Basic calls directly to the Windows API) offers significant programming power for a relatively small investment in programming techniques.

Dan Appleman's original publication, *Visual Programmer's Guide to the Windows API*, covered Visual Basic 3.0 and the API for the Windows 3.x environment. It was a huge success and established Dan as

The VISUAL BASIC CORNER

by *JIM CARTER*

the API "guru." His latest book is *Visual Basic Guide to the Win32 API* published by Ziff-Davis Press with ISBN 1-56726-287-7. This book covers the process of making calls to the 32-bit Win32 API from the 32-bit version of Visual Basic 4.0. Appleman leads you through the process and provides everything you need to know about the Win32 API as used in Windows 95.

Organization of the Book

Dan introduces his book with a statement that this book has the same principles and goals as the original (16-bit) work. This book is for programmers acquainted with Visual Basic 4.0, but not necessarily familiar with the Win32 API. Dan believes his book is accessible to even beginning Visual Basic 4.0 programmers yet has the depth to satisfy most experienced programmers.

The first four chapters of the book cover all of the core information you will need to use. The rest of the book includes porting your Win16 applications to Win32.

Chapter 1 describes (1) the DOS to Windows transition, (2) the advantages of dynamic versus static linking, and (3) the Windows API and its relationship to Visual Basic.

Chapter 2 (1) expands on the relationship between Visual Basic and Windows; (2) describes Windows characteristics in terms of class and style; and describes other Windows attributes like Parent and Child relationships, sibling relationships, the Z-Order, and focus. Chapter 2 also covers the Windows function and the processes of superclassing and/or subclassing these Windows functions.

Chapter 3 discusses the Visual Basic - Windows interface in detail. The syntax of the Declare State-

Continued on page 9

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Autorun.c — Part Three

Wrapping Up & End of the Series

This is the last in a series of three articles describing the design and development of a simple C program. This is a production program, currently in daily use by the user's group BBS system. In this final segment, I will cover the main task launching loop which the previous articles have been preparing for.

To begin, please refer to Listing 1. Prior to launching into Autorun's main continuous loop, we need to preload our "last time" check, "lt". We then fire off the randomizer for later screen display control. Once these two tasks are done, we clear the monitor's screen and enter a while() loop. The while loop is controlled by the value stored in an integer "e". While "e" is zero the loop will continue forever.

The first thing we want to do each main loop iteration is check to see if it is time to launch a task. This is done by a call to the function chktime().

Upon entering chktime(), the first thing we do is fetch the current time. Since all of our time checks are being done to the nearest minute, the time is converted to minutes since midnight, as are all other times used in Autorun. Once we have the current time, we are ready to check all of our task launch times, to see if any are scheduled to go.

We load the list "anchor" address, "ts", into our working "task" pointer, "tl". We then initiate a while() loop whose execution is dependent on a non zero address in our working pointer "tl". Note that if there are no tasks linked our linked list, ts = 0, then our while() loop would immediately terminate.

For each "task" structure in our linked list, we first check to see if the requested execution time is zero. If the current task shows a launch time of zero, this means the task is to be executed once each loop iteration, or as designed, once every five minutes.

If the current task time is non zero and the current task's status flag "tstat" is FALSE, we first check to see if the requested launch time is older than thirty minutes. If the task launch time is older than thirty minutes, Autorun assumes that we are recovering from a system crash

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Autorun.C... Ctd

event and sets the current task's status flag to TRUE.

If the current task's launch time is non zero, the current task status is FALSE, and it is less than thirty minutes after the requested launch time, the task command line string is used as the parameter of a system() function call. The system() function submits the command line contained in the function parameter to the DOS command line interpreter, as if it had been keyed in at the keyboard.

When the task launched by the system() function call completes, control is returned to Autorun at the next statement following the call to system(). At this time, we then set the current task's status flag, "tstat", to TRUE. A status flag value of TRUE will prevent Autorun from re-launching the current task, at the current time plus thirty minutes, in future loop iterations.

We are now finished with the current task time instance and are ready to move on to the next instance in the linked list. We accomplish this by loading our working task structure pointer, "tl",

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with the pointer stored in the current task structure's "next" pointer. If the "next" list pointer is zero, our task launch checking is completed for this pass, and our when() function is satisfied.

Before returning to our main controlling loop there are a couple of things left to do. First we convert our last time check to minutes past midnight and compare the last time to the current time. If the current time is less than the last time check, the clock has rolled past midnight and we are now beginning a new day. If it is a new day, we fire up a while() loop and iterate through the entire task time linked list, resetting each task's launch time status flag to FALSE. The last thing to do before returning to the main loop, is to set our last time check value equal to our current time.

Back at our main loop, the next thing we do after returning from a time check, is to call a function ishere(). The function ishere() (see Listing 2) is what we use to tell a passing human to leave his hands in his pockets, because Autorun is controlling this baby. In an effort to prevent CRT "burn in" we use a set of random numbers to control the positioning of our warning message on the system monitor screen.

The message display location is changed randomly with each main loop pass. In the function ishere(), this is accomplished by first clearing the monitor's screen. Next a call to the random() function with a value of twenty-three, (23) maximum for the row location, and again with a maximum of seventy-nine, (79) minus the length of our warning message, "tsk", for the column position. The random row position value returned is adjusted to a base of one, as is the column value.

Once we have the new cursor locations calculated, we issue a gotoxy() to move the cursor to the new screen location and follow with a console string write, cputs(), to place our warning message at the

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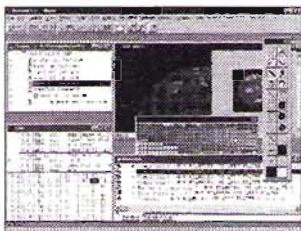
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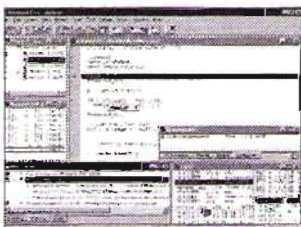


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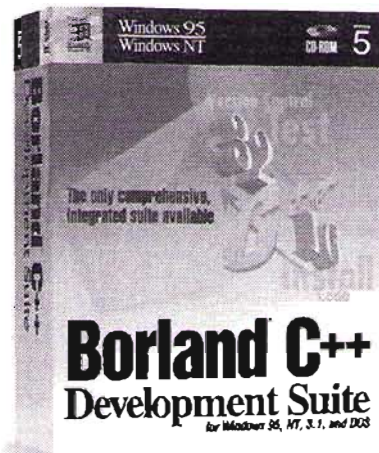
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VBX support for both 32- and 16-bit applications	✓	✓	—
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Windows 95 controls supported under Windows 3.1	✓	✓	—
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new location. With our warning message repositioned, we return to the main program loop.

Please refer back to Listing 1. The last thing Autorun has to do in the current loop iteration, is wait a predetermined time period before checking again for task launch times. This is accomplished with a for() loop. We want our for() loop to end after waiting a predetermined number ("DELAY" holds the magic number) of six second intervals, or when our main program termination flag, "e", is set to TRUE.

There must be a method available to stop Autorun's execution short of rebooting the host computer. This is accomplished by having Autorun check the keyboard every six seconds during a loop delay cycle. If a key has been struck on the system keyboard, Autorun fetches the key code and examines it to see if old "fat fingers" hit the "Esc" key. If the key value is "Esc", Autorun sets our main program loop termination flag value to TRUE. If not he checks the keyboard until no more key codes are to be read. If no

"Esc" key is found, Autorun waits six seconds and continues with the next iteration of the for() loop.

Autorun.C... Ctd

When the main program termination flag, "e", is set to TRUE, the main while() loop of Autorun will terminate. When this happens, it is time to clean up our mess and call it a day. We first clear the system monitor screen. We load up our linked list working pointer, "tl", with our list anchor address, "ts", for the last time. Next we initiate a while() loop, once again dependent on the value of our working pointer address.

This time we will be making a final pass through our linked list, freeing our previously dynamically allocated memory for each list structure instance. Lazy programmers would just let the program terminate and count on the host system OS to clean up memory. Since I only like to see tidy programming practices, I always try to clean up my messes before handing control back to some other poor slob's code.

Take special note that we save the pointer value contained in the current list instance's "next" pointer before we "nuke" the memory reference with a call to free(). One can terminally shoot one's self in the foot, if this vital step is omitted. Once the current list instance's memory is freed, we recover our previously saved "next" pointer and move on to the next list instance.

With our previous memory allocations all tidied up we are ready to return control to the host systems OS. We do this by a call to return() with the value of "e" as our termination value.

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Autorun.c — Code Listing 1 & Listing 2

```

...
_dos_gettime(&lt);
randomize();
clrscr();
e = FALSE;
while(!e) {
    chktime();
    ishere("AUTORUN");
    for(d = 0; d < DELAY && !e; d++) {
        while(kbhit())
            if(getch() == 0x1b)
                e = TRUE;
        sleep(6);
    }
}
clrscr();
tl = ts;
while(tl) {
    ts = tl->next;
    free(tl);
    tl = ts;
}

return e;
}

void chktime(void)
{
    long    cm, lm;
    int     i;

    _dos_gettime(&ct);
    cm = ct.hour * 60 + ct.minute;
    tl = ts;
    while(tl) {
        if(tl->ttime == 0)
            system(tl->taskname);
        else
            if(!tl->tstat && tl->ttime <= cm - 30)
                tl->tstat = TRUE;
            else
                if(!tl->tstat && tl->ttime < cm) {
                    system(tl->taskname);
                    tl->tstat = TRUE;
                }
    }
}

```

As I mentioned in the introduction to this series, this is not an overly complex program, but we have used a surprising number of C coding techniques and programming algorithms to accomplish Autorun's program specification. The concept of linked lists is a very strong and useful programming construct.

As with any C programming exercise, there are a multitude of different approaches which might be taken to implement a particular program construct. I tend to use what pops to mind at the time. Also I tend to rely much more on global storage than most C purists. Well that's nice, but I have a working program that meets the design specification. And yes one could invest several more hours of development time "improving" the implementation, but what the hey! I leave the placement of curly brackets and other earth shattering C coding practice arguments to those C coders among us who have more time for such trivia than I.

If I really wanted to take the time, I see areas that could be improved slightly, should I chose to make the required coding changes. Fact is, you might notice that this is revision 3.2. The last major enhancement was modifying Autorun so he would not "falsely" re-launch every task after a system crash or reboot event. He will still re-launch anything that ran within the last half hour of a restart event, which is better, but not perfect.

If the reader gains an understanding of linked list manipulation from this series, I feel I have

Autorun.C... Ctd

```

        t1 = t1->next;
    )
    lm = lt.hour * 60 + lt.minute;
    if(cm < lm) {
        t1 = te;
        while(t1) {
            t1->start = FALSE;
            t1 = t1->next;
        }
    }
    lt.hour = ct.hour;
    lt.minute = ct.minute;
}

```

Autorun.c — Listing 2

```

void isbere(char *task)
{
    int r,c;

    clrscr();
    r = random(23) + 1;
    c = random(79 - strlen(task)) + 1;
    gotoxy(c,r);
    puts(task);
}

```

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accomplished the majority of what I initially set out to do with the description of Autorun's construction. The side benefit of the program design, is that it relies quite heavily on the C "pointer" concept and gives the programmer a real workout in pointer usage. Once the reader understands Autorun, he will have developed a pretty solid understanding of some very useful programming techniques that may be applied to many future program development tasks.

Fred Williams

The Visual Basic Corner... Ctd.

ment, used to call a DLL (Dynamic Linked Library) function, is described. The topic of DLL parameters is discussed in great detail to help us understand how to create argument lists for DLLs.

Chapter 4 examines API programming techniques including (1) writing programs for both 16-bit and 32-bit platforms, and (2) porting existing 16-bit applications to 32-bit platforms. The chapter concludes with a section on debugging API code.

Dan Appleman is a stickler for detail and spent a great deal of time debugging the text (especially the code!) that his book contains. API programming is a bit more risky than Visual Basic programming. The conclusion of Chapter 4 includes Dan Appleman's latest edition of the ten commandments for safe Windows API programming. These have become "words to live by" for API programmers over the past several years.

Chapters 5 through 15 divide up the core API functions into eleven subsets and discuss each one as a group. The early part of each chapter gives the explanatory text you need to understand the Windows API functions included in that chapter.

The Visual Basic Corner... Ctd.

This text introduces key concepts and summarizes the API functions relating to that chapter. Next there will be some sample programs to demonstrate the functions introduced in the beginning of the chapter. Finally, the chapter will include a "Function Reference" section which will describe how to use those API functions.

How to Use the Book

The author recommends that you read Chapters 1-4 completely. These chapters will provide you the core information to utilize the Windows API and port your Win16 applications to Win32.

Then read the initial portions of Chapters 5-15. This will give you an overall view of the core API functions you can address from Visual Basic. You can then investigate those API functions that are of the most interest to you.

Companion CD-ROM

The book contains a CD-ROM with an electronic edition for fast electronic searching. A very handy addition.

Conclusion

Daniel Appleman says of his book, "This is a big book. Okay, it is a very big book." Dan was referring to the page count of over 1500 pages. I don't disagree, but this book is BIG in its impact on serious Visual Basic 4.0 programmers. You will not survive as a Visual Basic programmer without a firm understanding of the Win32 API and how to address it through Visual Basic 4.0 effectively. This book is the best, by far, in teaching us the in's and out's of the Win32 API and how to port Win16 applications to the Win32 API environment/platform. Even beginners to Windows programming will learn a lot about the Win32 environment with this book. In short, *Daniel Appleman's Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Win32 API* is a "must have" book for all serious Visual Basic programmers.

Jim Carter

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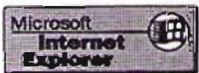
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At A User Group Near You!

Houston, TX, June 11, 7:00pm
Sheraton Astro Dome, 8686 Kirby,
Houston Area League of PC Users, E-Mail: noel@hal-pc.org

WA D.C., June 12, 7:00pm
The Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, WA D.C., 999 9th Street N.W.,
Advanced Systems User Group, E-mail: ckelly@cpcug.org

New York, NY, June 13, 7:00pm
Park Central Hotel, 870 7th Ave. at 56th St.,
NY City VB Large User Group E-mail: george@objectsoftcorp.com

Newton, MA, June 18, 7:30pm
Aquinas College Auditorium, 15 Walnut Park,
Boston Computer Society, E-mail: davew@qm.bcs.org

King of Prussia, PA, June 20, 7:00pm
Valley Forge Convention Center, 1200 1st Ave.,
Philadelphia Area Computer Society, E-mail: friedman@libertynet.org

Cleveland, OH, June 25, 7:00pm
Cleveland State University/Main Classroom Building Auditorium,
1899 East 22nd Street (at Euclid Avenue)
Greater Cleveland PC User Group, E-mail: 76662.3350@compuserve.com

St. Paul, MN, June 26, 7:00pm
Software Technology Center/Atrium, 1450 Energy Park Drive Suite 110,
Twin Cities PC UG, E-mail: johnwahl@maroon.tc.umn.edu

Louisville, KY, July 9, 7:00pm
Hurstbourne Hotel & Conference Center, 9700 Bluegrass Parkway,
Kentucky-Indiana PC User Group, Inc., E-mail: steve.goldberg@tfd.org

Winston, Salem, NC, July 11, 7:00pm
Wake Forest University/University Theater, 219 Scales Fine Arts Center,
Piedmont Triad Microsoft Users Group, E-mail: 71551.2724@compuserve.com

Denver, CO, July 16, 7:00pm
Mariott City Center, 1701 California St.,
Windows on the Rockies, Rocky Mtn NT UG,
E-mail: dennism@winntmag.com or csarson@msn.com

Dallas, TX, July 17, 7:00pm
Infomart, 1950 Stemmons Freeway, The Hollerith Room,
North Texas PC User Group, E-mail: 6818151@mcimail.com

Oklahoma City, OK, July 18, 7:00pm
Kirkpatrick Center/Auditorium, 2100 NE 52nd St.,
Oklahoma City PC Users Group, Email: dicka@inthenet.com

Sacramento, CA, July 23, 7:00pm
Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H. St.,
Sacramento PC Users Group, E-mail: Mfhull@ucdavis.edu

Santa Clara, CA, July 24, 7:00pm
Santa Clara Convention Center/Multi-media Center, 5001 Great American Pkwy,
Software Forum, E-mail: VBguy@msn.com

Costa Mesa, CA, July 25, 7:00pm
Orange County Red Lion, 3050 S Bristol,
North Orange County Computer Club, E-mail: sw.krilltours@uniglobe.com

Seattle, WA, July 30, 7:00pm
University of Washington, Kane Hall #120
Pacific Northwest IBM PC User Group, e-mail: wyldbill@aol.com

Dania, FL, August 1, 7:00pm
Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton, 1870 Griffen Road,
Gold Coast User Group, E-mail: joe@hornick.com

Rosemont, IL, August 6, 7:00pm
Clarion International, 6810 North Mannheim Road,
Chicago Computer Society, E-mail: howard@mcs.com

Toronto, ONT, August 8, 7:00pm
Toronto Congress Center, 650 Dixon Road,
Toronto Developer User Group, E-mail: ann@developers.com

For additional tour information please visit:
www.microsoft.com/devonly/community/events/ugtour.htm

Slow Summers? Not This Year!

PC Price War(s) Continue, Cyrix & Cringely Sue, TI Announces 0.18 Micron Traces and DRAM Prices Continue to Plummet in June

What could possibly be better for the PC user?

Prices on almost everything associated with PC's are falling so quickly that prices advertised in the newspapers are "old" before the ink dries on the newsprint! DRAM prices have fallen through the basement, spurring charges that Korean/Japanese/Taiwanese vendors are "dumping" again by America vendors. DRAM prices are nothing compared to CD-ROM drive prices which have fallen precipitously since production caught up to demand by users — especially on the IDE/EIDE units.

Biggest news (most fun) comes from the legal front with two landmark suits pressed by a national media "star" and a local (Richardson, TX,) CPU design house (Cyrix). Both are going after the media with a vengeance, but each with different grounds/reasons, and each against "giants" in their fields.

CRINGELY CLAIMS NAME BELONGS TO HIM AFTER EIGHT YEARS AT IDG

I was always a fan of "Robert X. Cringely" a star columnist for *Infoworld* for eight years. Forgave a lot of shortcomings/ inaccuracies in *Infoworld* because of the column and his writing (well, mostly because of his description of 'Pammy').

I never believed that was his real name, though. Turns out there were at least three (3) people who wrote the column over the years, longest-lived of which was Mark C. Stephens (who appeared at the NTPCUG some years back and predicted that Apple Computer Co. would win their suit with Microsoft). Fun part of this is fact that (1.) IDG, publishers of *Infoworld*, doesn't have a single attorney on their staff, and (2.) there's a lot of confusion as to who owns what, and how it can be used.

Triumph of the Nerds, the Public Broadcasting System special on the founders of PC computing and Silicon Valley, is/was focal point of the dispute between Stephens and IDG. TV special was based on Stephens/ Cringely's book, *Accidental Empires*, a somewhat cynical and caustic history of the PC business. IDG claims Stephens has "stolen" the Cringely name, and Stephens claims IDG used his work (as Cringely) outside of IDG publications without authorization/permission.

Both sides are suing. I can't wait for the outcome. Best review of the drama comes from Don Clark's story in the June 14, 1996 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

CYRIX — NOT HAPPY WITH WARNER'S CHOICE OF VILLAINS IN VIOLENT/TECHIE MOVIE

Don't think Cyrix, Richardson, TX, CPU design house, is happy with all the "free" publicity they may receive in the new Warner

THE VARIETY STORE

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

BY REAGAN ANDREWS

Bros. Summer release, *Eraser* with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

They don't believe in the "old" PR axiom that "any news is good news as long as your name's spelled correctly."

Film was scheduled for release June 21 and *The Dallas Morning News* ran a June 11, story describing Cyrix' displeasure over the frequent reference in the film to "Cyrex" — the really-bad guys in the film — coupled with a logo

supposedly similar to that of Cyrix.

According to the DMN, Warner tried to "fix" the problem by changing "Cyrex" to "Cyrec" as name of the "high-tech enterprise engaged in criminal activities." Cyrix was apparently not terribly pleased with such a similar spelling and pronunciation of *their* registered trademark and proceeded toward litigation in Texas courts.

I haven't seen the film yet, will probably wait until it's available in the local tape stores or on video disk. Would assume that whatever hits the screen, given the timing involved, will probably only add fuel to the Cyrix fires of indignation/outrage.

TI ANNOUNCES 0.18-MICRON TECHNOLOGY MAKING 'PC ON A CHIP' POSSIBLE SOON

Was it Coco Channel who said "You can't be too rich or too thin?" Both factors are important in the silicon fabrication business as well as the high-fashion business.

I apologize if this gets too 'techie,' but it's really that important. Texas Instruments (TI) announced a breakthrough in IC fabrication technology that will allow 0.18 micron traces in future chips. TI's PR release speculated that chips with 40 - 50 million transistors would be attainable via the new technology, thus making the dream of a "PC on a chip" realizable in the near future.

For comparison, the densest Intel Pentium Pro CPU chips are fabricated using 0.35 micron trace widths and contain approximately 8.5 million transistors. The original IBM PC's 8088 CPU was fabricated with 3.0 micron technology and contained 29,000 transistors.



This breakthrough is important for a number of reasons. The thinner trace widths also allow lower voltage operation at higher speeds and reduce "waste" heat in addition to producing smaller CPU die sizes. This last allows a somewhat higher number of CPU's to be placed on a single silicon wafer, thus reducing production costs and/or increasing production rates.

Users may see a breathtaking decrease in the size of things "PC" while experiencing a simultaneous increase in speed and functionality in the near future.

TRY A LAVENDER MOUSE ... PRETTIEST, CHEAPEST AT COMPUSA IN JUNE

I couldn't resist this when I saw it in the isles at the new CompUSA on Central Expressway.

It's a beautiful, lavender mouse that screamed "buy me" as I walked by. Outside of the color

(one of my favorites) it's a pretty ordinary, standard "Dove bar" shaped pointing device.

Price tag said "\$1.95" which I figured was about a one decimal place mistake since most of the "plain" mice were selling in the \$15 - \$25 range and weren't nearly so pretty. Grabbed one for me as a "replacement" in case one of my "normal" mice went bad late at night. (That's really a lie since I've never had a mouse "suddenly" go bad.)

Discovered when I got to the cashier that the price was real, not a mistaken marking. Got home and plugged the new mouse into a PC. It worked.

It's a little stiff and the buttons certainly don't have the "feel" the Microsoft mice have, but it did work and was cheap as well as beautiful to behold.

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COMPAQ STRIVES FOR NEW FDD STANDARDS WITH 3.5" 120 MB FD DRIVES IN NEW MACHINES

The other shoe had to drop. Compaq, famous for making the ATA/IDE hard-disk drives the PC "standard" with introduction of the first 386-powered PC, is striking another blow with introduction of their 120 MB, 3.5" FDD as standard on several new PC's. In direct competition with the Iomega Zip drives, the new drives from Compaq feature 20% more capacity and ability to read/write to the "older," 1.44 MB, 3.5" disks .

Compaq claims increased speed as well as 120 MB capacity with the new drives. That means another controller standard and board (and probably another IRQ) in addition to, or replacing, the original FDD controller and standard.

This could be a bounty for users — or a real albatross if it doesn't become a real "standard." Compaq is in competition with a number/variety of FDD formats released in the last several years, especially the Iomega drives that have become the darlings of the graphics users in both the PC and Macintosh communities.

CYRIX PROBLEMS WITH WINDOWS SEEM OVERSTATED RUMORS - IN LIGHT OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Have heard rumors that Cyrix CPU's have problems with *Windows 3.1x* and *Windows 95*. Don't know where these come from (probably from disgruntled technicians who find it easier to

blame a "new" CPU than their own ineptness), but do know that hasn't been my/our experience at all.

Are we a Cyrix shop? I didn't think so — until I began looking around. My main "production" PC is a montage with Genoa motherboard, Cyrix 486DX2/66 and 32 M DRAM running (mostly) in *Windows 3.11 for Workgroups*. Backup PC is a "mama-san" motherboard with a Cyrix 5x86/100 with 32 M DRAM running in *Windows 95*.

Late-Breaking News!

Intel & Quantum Announce 33 Megabyte/s ATA/IDE Interface Protocol — Ultra DMA/33

Intel and Quantum announced a new protocol for the ATA/IDE hard disk drive interface they claim "doubles the current burst data transfer rate to 33 megabytes (MB) per second." According to the June 14, 1996 press release from Intel, the new protocol was developed with cooperation and backing of a number of disk and chip-set vendors.

Patent to the new interface will be held by Quantum according to the Intel release, but will be licensed "At no charge to peripheral and chip-set vendors." Intel reported it plans to support the Ultra DMA/33 in future chip sets and claims it will allow PCs to "Take advantage of the unprecedented ATA/IDE data transfer speeds."

For users at the "low end," this promises to bring the data transfer rates formerly found only in the SCSI arena. Use of "low end" is probably not appropriate

Connie's PC is running with a Cyrix 486Dru2 33/66 CPU and 8 M DRAM, while my PC at the VA Medical Center is my "original" Lucky 386DX/25, but with a Cyrix 486Dru2 25/50 CPU — which gave it another two - three years' usefulness.

Both of these machines are equipped with Cyrix math co-processors and both have been running *Win 3.1x* with the Cyrix CPU's for two - three years without problems.

So much for excuses/rumors from disgruntled technicians.

Reagan Andrews

any more since "home" PC's have tended to look an awful lot like "serious" business PC's over the last two years or so.

Intel's release stated that the new standard had been endorsed by IBM, Maxtor (Hyundai), Seagate Technology, Western Digital and VIA Technologies. In addition to speed, Ultra DMA/33 will require no changes to cables or termination, no increases in peripheral device pricing and promises to enhance data reliability through Cyclical Redundancy Check (CRC) data protection verification not implemented in "legacy" ATA/IDE modes.

The proposed standard will be submitted by Quantum to the ATA standards body in October. Free licensing will begin at that time and PC systems taking advantage of the new feature are expected to begin shipping in early 1997.

Reagan Andrews

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 again be hosting and conducting the meeting. The topic for the meeting had not been set by our publication deadline, but you can look forward to an interesting and informative presentation with Jack "at the helm".

Revised Thank-You: At our May meeting, Gene Harris, Tetron Software, demonstrated his company's *Team Access* version control software product and discussed Access Code Tools from FMS, Inc., which Tetron uses. Both are useful products for Access developers and should improve our productivity. Thanks to

Gene for an outstanding presentation and to Tetron for the copy of the *Team Access* software they donated for a giveaway.

Larry Linson's discussion of the subject of application frameworks for Access, using his Address Book Example and Moss Micro's product, *Start Developing for Access*, was deferred from May to our August meeting. It's not object-oriented programming, but packaging frequently-used components with needed support code can save development time, effort, and cost. Moss Micro has provided a review copy of their product and donated an additional copy for a giveaway at the August meeting.

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]
- Dallas Corel [Contact Marsha Drebelbls (214) 951-0266]
- Hardware Solutions [Contact Charles Miller (903) 938-4220 h]

New SIG Leaders:

- Desktop Publishing — Mark Stuert @ (214) 528-5311 h
- Visual Basic — Ed Diehl @ (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

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Bruce Schubert... (214) 394-5328 h
..... (214) 233-8353 w

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Kent Cobb..... (214) 343-3862 h
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C++/Beginning

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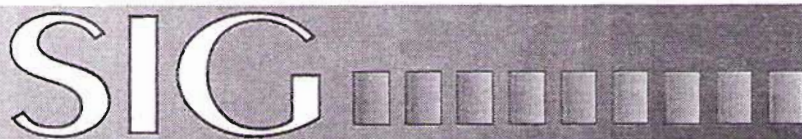
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SIG



Tom Lukers announced at the June meeting that he is exploring interest in a new SIG: Access Beginners, featuring tutorials based on a popular Access self-study book (or books). If you are interested, be sure to let one of us know, or, even better, send Tom an Internet e-mail message at tlukers@onramp.net. Look for Tom to present a "sample session" here at the Access SIG, perhaps as early as September. If scheduling considerations for our demo machines and meeting times don't work out for a new SIG, Tom will present additional beginning tutorials here at the Access SIG.

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, answers, 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) *free*ware, that you can download to use to read the newsgroup.

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

Larry Linson

Application Developers (OLE AND ODBC) SIG

Again in July, Dan Ogden will be host for our meeting. Plans were not yet firm by our publication deadline, but Dan is pursuing arrangements for topics that should be of interest and use to all OLE and ODBC application developers.

We are entering the "new age of OLE and ODBC" as Microsoft extends the concepts for use on Internet applications. The Internet extensions and supporting software, all in Beta, but all widely demonstrated, aren't quite ready for prime time. That's no barrier to a hardy bunch of OLE developers who were "quick to catch the wave", though. We'll be looking for some useful and entertaining presentations on these subjects in the near future.

We'll also continue to explore using OLE and ODBC in our traditional desktop and network environments. Too, we'll cover topics of more general interest to developers, such as our past coverage of fixed-price contracts and obtaining and documenting user requirements.

Come join us for the June meeting!

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

The May 1996 Assembler SIG featured Scott Clinton of Borland discussing Assembler - what Borland uses Assembler for (their compilers are written in Assembler) and what they see as the future of Assembler. Borland realizes that there will always be ap-

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..... (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 Richtman (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

OS/2 Q&A

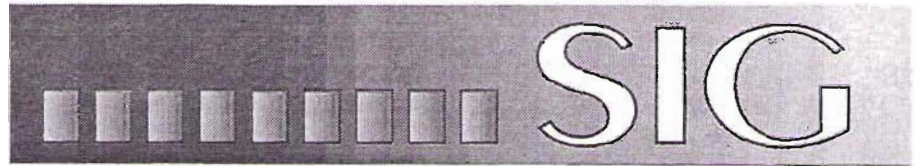
Larry Truesdale .. (214) 684-4790

Paradox

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

Programmers

Jim Hoisington (214) 416-3101 h



plications that require optimized ASM code, and will therefore continue to provide development tools for that market. Scott asked for suggestions on product improvement and in response to a suggestion that TASM include an IDE, indicated that an IDE will be present in an upcoming (if not the current 5.0) release.

Our June meeting did not have a prepared presentation. We discussed ideas for the ASM SIG portion of the NTPCUG Web Page, as well as topics for upcoming meetings. Your suggestions for presentations are welcome.

I am working with Cyrix to have them give a fairly technical presentation to the SIG. Information on this presentation will be made via the newsletter, club BBS and SIG meetings.

Hope to see you in July.

Frank Cavallito

C/C++/ADVANCED SIG

At the June meeting of the Advanced C/C++ SIG, **Howard Harkness** brought us up to date on the new ANSI C++ spec, describing the new "dynamic" casts that have been added to the language. The debate was lively, the questions were insightful, and a good time was had by all.

In July, I'll be starting a series on OLE automation and MFC. OLE is of special interest to C++ programmers because of its object-oriented aspects; the MFC connection provides an interesting case study of how Microsoft has wrapped a non-object-oriented API in several C++ classes. We'll start out in June with a discussion

of some basic OLE terminology and concepts, and then look at how they're implemented in MFC.

Even though my focus will be narrower than Tom's (in his MFC talks in March and April), I plan to go deeper into the MFC code, looking at some of the techniques Microsoft uses repeatedly. Barring total rebellion by those in attendance, I expect we'll continue the discussion in subsequent months. Please join us!

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

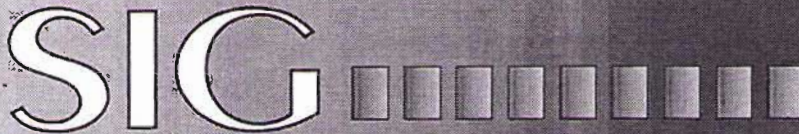
COMMUNICATIONS SIG

At our July meeting, the topic will be offline mail readers (OLMR), specifically, the *Blue Wave* reader. NTPCUG member **Gordon Huff** uses the product, and has agreed to demonstrate it to the rest of us. For those not familiar with OLMRs, a short discussion may be appropriate.

An OLMR is a vehicle for reading and creating electronic e-mail without having to be connected to the associated online service. Two computers are involved - the Bulletin Board System (BBS) that handles your mail, and your PC.

Most BBS software now includes the ability to identify and collect your e-mail, compress it, and transmit it to your PC. On the NTPCUG BBS, the process that does this is called QSO (QWK Support Option). The data within the compressed file is stored in QWK format, a "protocol" written specifically for this purpose. While the download from the BBS must happen while you are dialed into the BBS, that connection can be disconnected

SIG



once the QWK packet has arrived on your PC. Now, we switch to your OLMR.

Start the OLMR, and point it at the directory where your QWK file(s) are being received. The OLMR will decompress the file, then let you read each mail message almost as though you are still connected. Depending on the capabilities of the OLMR, it will let you read and delete each message, create a reply message for the message's originator, or forward the message (or a copy of it) to one or more "others". You may also create new messages from scratch, and in most cases even attach a file to the message for uploading to the recipient.

During the OLMR process, all of this original and/or reply mail is inserted into a new QWK formatted packet, then compressed. When you next connect to the BBS, you upload the QWK packet, whereupon it is decompressed, and each message is distributed to the user(s) and/or conference areas that are indicated in each message. Once you have performed this upload and download process a few times, and worked with the OLMR, you will find it easy to do.

The predominate advantage of using an OLMR is to reduce the number of phone lines needed for our BBS. Since you may be online only long enough to upload your new mail packets and download messages sent to you, you release the line for use by others very quickly. OLMRs are also important if you must incur long distance charges in connecting to the BBS - the quicker the call, the less you spend.

While it is still your choice whether you manage your e-mail using an OLMR, we have made an OLMR a requirement to receive Internet Newsgroups. These newsgroups are frequently *very* large, and an OLMR was deemed necessary so phone lines would not be in short supply.

For a first hand demo, join us on July 20th.

Birl Smith & Doug Gorrie

Dallas Corel SIG

[Editor's note: The Dallas Corel SIG meeting notes will be found this month in the "Corel Corner" column on page 26.]

Delphi SIG

Well things did not go exactly as planned in May. Seems when I called Alex Lilly to get the lobby overheads corrected for the May meeting, I must have said Delphi when I meant Paradox. Seems the Delphi SIG ended up in the Auditorium and the Paradox SIG ended up in the normal meeting room with no one there, oops!

Anyhow, for the June meeting I brought in a small Delphi project and covered some of the tricks and traps I learned during development. At least that is the plan, as I write this.

Our long range planning of SIG topics seems to have hit a dry spell. All three of the leaders seem to be extremely busy, and evidently not working with Delphi full time. I'm trying my best to do as much as possible with Delphi, but not as much as I would like.

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

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

Pay Hykonen
Doug Scott.....(817) 261-4653 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

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

We are always open to volunteers for session topics. Please don't be bashful. So far some of our best presentations have come from SIG attendees. Just see either **Tom Browning**, **Frank Cavallito**, or myself, to reserve a time.

If I can get the logistics in place, I am hoping for a demo of the WISE installation system for the July meeting. If not, I'm certain something can be learned, with such a robust, configurable, environment as Delphi to work with, I guarantee there is something someone knows worth sharing with the rest of us. So come on by in July, and be prepared to learn something slick!

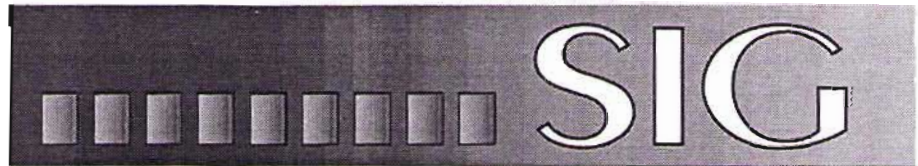
Fred Williams

DOS SIG

Will we get FAT in the DOS SIG? Last month (June) we looked at the constraints DOS' FAT-based file system places on available disk/volume sizes. That's an issue Microsoft, IBM, and SCO thought their advanced operating systems (OS's), *Windows NT* (NTFS), *OS/2* (HPFS) and *Unix*, respectively, had solved years ago.

Problem is that "low-end" users still running *Windows 95* and *Windows 3.1x* are also buying the "huge" hard disks that were once the province of kings and professional/business users. Blame truly-bloated applications software and games, games, games for the pressure taking the "casual" user into the market for really-big disks — and making *Windows 95* appear prematurely obsolescent.

Microsoft announced a partial "solution" for Win 95's FAT constraints in June. It's called *FAT32* and will allow disks and volume sizes up in the Terabyte range (none of which are for sale yet.) We'll look at the new specification(s) in July. And, without any experience at all with the new "standard," attempt to discuss



the "pros and cons", i.e., compromises, involved in user adoption.

Time for a new name?

I'll ask the question again: Is it time for a new name for the venerable "DOS SIG" — a new SIG name more descriptive of our real business?

Jim Hoisington and I have looked at what we really talk about/ discuss in SIG meetings (outside of the usual gossip, fabulized speculations and sly innuendo) and "DOS" seems to be pretty far down on the list. We are apparently primarily-focused on the core issues and problems involved in daily operations of the PC and DOS is only one among many such issues of interest to our members. We are open to discussion.

Plan to be with us in July for the fun when the CP/M crazies discover we moved SIG meeting locations two months ago and they have been staging protests at the Internet SIGs.

Reagan Andrews

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

At our July meeting, we had originally expected to have **Kevin Chenette** of Netscape Communications Corporation give us the "beginner's tour" of the Netscape browser. (Netscape is the pre-dominant browser in use today to ease the task of "surfing" the World Wide Web.) At the June meeting, Kevin advised that job duties required him to be unavailable on July 20th, so we have tentatively rescheduled his presentation to August 10th. A specific topic in its place has not yet been determined.

At our June meeting, we continued with the real Internet basics as begun at the May meeting, stressing Q & A. We plan to have these "rank beginner" sessions more frequently in the future, and build on these beginnings in the months afterward.

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.

See you July 20th!

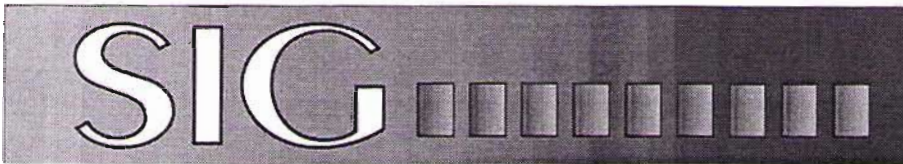
Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe & Erik Leaseburg

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.

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



**MS Word for
Windows SIG**

Reagan Andrews substituted for Janet and I last month. June turned out to be one of those "Murphy" months. Janet had to be out of town and I was taking a class to prepare for another Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) exam. By the time you read this I should have my Product Specialist Certificate and be gearing up to take the next round of tests.

I can remember back when a person graduated, they stopped going to school. Those days are gone forever. It seems that even if all you want to do is stay where you are, you've got to run (constantly learn) just to stay in place.

Constant learning is the order. That's why so many of you are coming to the SIG. Believe me, each of you are appreciated, and the biggest frustration that I have is that I know that all of you can't see the screen. There is an answer, we just haven't found it yet.

Speaking of training, it's a real tragedy that so many companies don't "have the time" to train their people, yet have the time (and apparently the money) to waste as their employees do things the wrong way. I can't begin to estimate how many billions of dollars are being frittered away by short-sighted companies (spell that executives) who can't see the benefit of training for their employees.

So here's the tip of the month:

Internet. If you don't already have a service provider (ISP), get one as fast as you possibly can. Get at least a 14.4 modem. Many ISPs can't run any faster than that, so investing in a 28.8 is, perhaps, just a smart investment for the future. Keep this in mind, you can only receive what your provider

❖ 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

- ❖ 9:00 Class 17
Viruses and Their Prevention

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

November 9, 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

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

Alex Lilley

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!

can send and if it can't go full-tilt 28.8, why waste your money?

Internet. It is where tomorrow's free support will come from. Support is expensive-VERY expensive. Figure it out for yourself. Most software suppliers estimate that each phone call costs \$25.00. That's for the telephone equipment, the technician or engineer's time, the customer service representative's time...the whole kit, cat, and caboodle.

If you buy a piece of software that costs, say, \$99, and you call four times for support...that certainly doesn't leave anything for profit, does it. By the time a customer calls the fifth time, the company in question has lost its money on that customer.

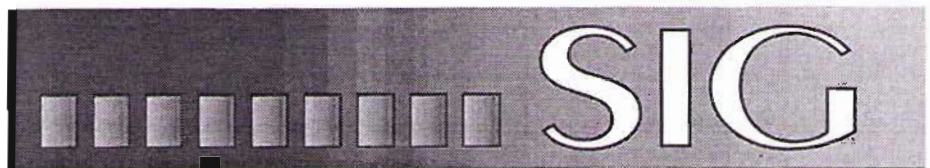
So companies will increasingly do two things, 1. Charge for support, and/or 2. Offer "one to many" support. What choice do they have?

"Oh yeah? Well I want free support and an 800 phone number and..." Kiss those days good bye. The only 800 numbers around soon will be for help via FAX. How soon? Probably in less than six months.

Help by FAQ, however, will increasingly become the order of the day. If you don't know that FAQ stands for Frequently Asked Questions, it only intensifies the urgency of your need to get on the Internet.

Content pages are currently being developed by Microsoft at a dizzying pace. One of my assignments at work is to develop materials that will be on the Web as you read these lines. To enter the wild, wild world of Word for Windows support, head your browser to www.microsoft.com/msword and you'll see the future of support.

One-on-one support will probably never come to an end-heck we offer it through our own NTCPUG User-to-User program (see the last



two white pages in this and other issues). Software companies will continue to offer direct support, too, but will charge after X number of "incidents" or X number of months have been reached.

So where does that leave the rest of us? Depending on each other and depending more and more on the 'Net.

As a support professional, I couldn't be more delighted because I can help more and more people with just one well-written (and constantly updated), illustrated article.

Before bringing this "editorial" to a close, I'll let you in on four other forms of help that are either presently exiting or on their way. On-line help, two-way help, computer-based-training (CBT) and motion pictures (on the Internet) that will show exactly how to step through a given function.

So what's up for July? Help on Help and CBT...and more? Invite someone you like to attend.

Bev Kurtin and Jan Patton

PARADOX SIG

Well things did not go exactly as planned in May. Seems when I called Alex Lilly to get the lobby overheads corrected for the May meeting, I must have said Delphi when I meant Paradox. Seems the Delphi SIG ended up in the Auditorium and the Paradox SIG ended up in the normal meeting room with no one there. Sorry for the screw up, but I hope you did go on down to the Auditorium and catch the *ReportSmith 3.0* presentation as I had planned.

For the June meeting, I am hoping Tom Browning will have done a

presentation on his Pdox 7.0 insights. I know Tom has been working with Pdox 7.0, as we recently ended up stumbling through an InstallShield configuration for the 7.0 runtime, together.

Tom does not have the two inline updates which have already been released for 7.0, so we were working with pre update Paradox. I looked specifically for the imbedded style sheet hard coded drive and subdirectory reference in the delivered form we were working with, and it was still there! Bummer. That is the one undocumented feature in the full release that I told Borland would specifically prevent me from ordering or using the 7.0 update.

I think it is a bit premature to rule on the condition of the 7.0 Runtime. Just from what little I saw of it, I cannot tell for sure if improvements were made. I do know that the move to InstallShield did complicate the runtime install design considerably.

I am hopeful that this increased complication helps address many of the shortcomings that were present in the 5.0 Runtime. Maybe by the July SIG meeting, Tom will have had some additional time to dig deeper into the runtime.

By the time the July SIG meeting rolls around, I am planning on all future demos and presentations to be done using Pdox 7.0 either 16 or 32 bit. I'll shoot for 16 bit, as that should be the most flexible for demo purposes.

I'm beginning to feel that there is not going to be a landslide movement to 32 bit architecture in the commercial arena until after the release of *WinNT 4.0*, in my humble opinion. And, I do not expect that



to pick up any great momentum until a year or so after the commercial release date of WinNT 4.0.

Fred Williams

Pro SIG

Chris Balthrop had planned to demonstrate a new box that sampled reflected impedance of analog telephone lines connected to cross-bar switches. However, the

demonstration went awry when the box began picking up signals from another planet. Just before the connection was broken he received the a message containing only one word: T O P V I E W.

Jim Hoisington

SQL SERVER SIG

Some of the resources named in our April meeting were *The SQL Server Professional*, a publication of Piranacle Publishing, Inc., (sometimes to be found in computer stores but more reliably available with a subscription), *Access/Visual Basic Advisor* magazine from Advisor Publications, Inc. (available at most computer stores) and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Visual Basic*. We are waiting for the release of the second edition of this book - the first edition was published by the author, the second edition is being published by Microsoft.

Our May meeting covered some of the features of the soon to be released *SQL Server 6.5*. This program proved to be so full of new and enhanced features that our June meeting was also be about *SQL Server 6.5*.

Future sessions will include ways to access your *SQL Server* data using such popular tools as Microsoft's Excel and non-Microsoft products like Power Builder and Delphi. And would you like to see a couple of interesting ways to present your data to the user? Also, there will be presentations on other flavors of *SQL Server*, including Sybase and Gupta.

In July we will demonstrate how to get to your *SQL Server* data using Excel and ODBC. You all probably have users who require warehoused information on an ad hoc basis or need to be able to manipulate that information from a spreadsheet application. It definitely can be done and by the end-user, not the administrator.

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(IG) Happenings 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

Join us at 9:00 Saturday morning to see how one group of users is doing just that.

Ada Finigan

UNIX SIG

Since the departure of Jim Stallworth from this group we have somewhat let the presentations we had planned slide a bit. No, we have not lost direction. Well not completely, anyway. It is just that we had come to depend a great deal on Jim's leadership and presentation skills. It has taken us a little while to get things together again.

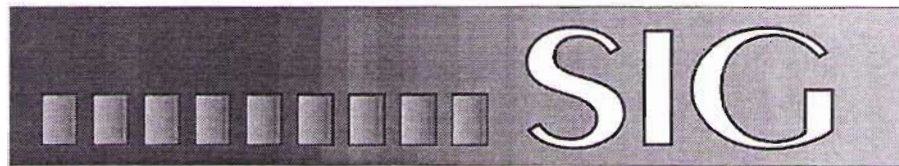
Hopefully in June we will have gotten back on track with a presentation on UNIX Processes. In July we will be doing UNIX File Processing. That should get us to using UNIX with a network by August. With any kind of luck we shouldn't have to resort to discussion meetings again before the end of the year.

Doug Scott

Visual Basic SIG — BEGINNING

The Beginning Visual Basic SIG meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 20th will introduce this subject of classes in Visual Basic 4.0. We will discuss the purpose and technique of developing class modules within Visual Basic 4.0. For those wishing to "study ahead," read Chapter 11 of *The Visual Basic 4 for Windows Handbook* by Gary Cornell and an article in the July issue of *Access/Visual Basic Advisor* called "Visual Basic is Best in Class," by Paul D. Sheriff on page 72.

Last month we continued our exploration of the Visual Basic 4.0 IDE (Integrated Development Environment). We examined several of the sample programs.



We continue to remind our members that evidence of current membership is required to be eligible for door prizes at the SIG meetings. We have been quite fortunate to receive copies of the latest Enterprise Edition of Visual Basic 4.0 from Microsoft for recent door prizes. Keep your membership current and bring proof to the meetings. Proof of membership can be (1) membership card, (2) newsletter with mailing label, or (3) receipt from the Information/Registration Booth in the Infomart lobby.

Next month's meeting on August 10, 1996 will feature our "For Beginner's Only" format. Anyone wanting to go back to the beginning of Visual Basic and trace its evolution to today, be sure to attend the August 10 meeting. We will try to get you started in this form of programming in Windows.

Bring your beginning Visual Basic questions to our meeting on Saturday, July 20, 1996 at 8:00 A.M.. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment

Jim Carter

Windows Developers (Microsoft Visual C++/MFC) SIG

Last month the meeting topic was applications using the MFC WinSock classes. This month the meeting topic will be developing Java applications and applets using Microsoft Jakarta.

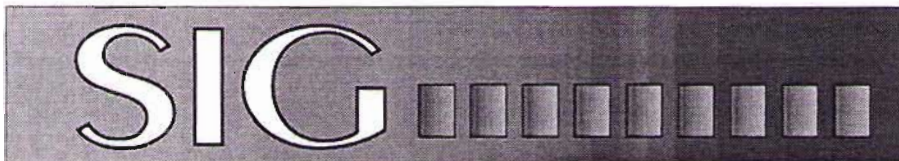
Since I missed the last issue of the newsletter, here is our meeting description for May: In May, I did a presentation on using bitmapped graphics developed using Adobe

Photoshop in both MFC applications and Internet Web pages. I overviewed Photoshop's most important features—especially how layers can be used for developing sophisticated graphics. Don Thomas was our guest speaker on Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) documents. Don showed us the ins and outs of creating PDF files. He also gave us a business-use case study to show why PDF files are important for using as electronic distributable user documentation and Internet documents.

At the June meeting, we looked at how the MFC WinSock classes can be used to develop an MFC application. At this meeting, we overviewed the structure and features of the MFC CAsyncSocket and CSocket classes. We also looked at a sample program that shows how the WinSock classes can be used to develop a basic Internet application.

The topic for the July meeting is: Using Microsoft Jakarta to develop Java Applets and Application. At this meeting I plan to reuse the presentation I did at Microsoft Developer Days on Jakarta in Dallas on June 5th. The presentation will give a more in-depth overview of the Java language than the April meeting—plus give you a live demonstration of what Jakarta looks like and how it works. You can get a copy of my presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint format by going to the following URL on the Internet: http://www.artistry.com/pages/nipc_windev.htm.

Here are the meeting topics that have been scheduled through September:



August - Using the Microsoft Development Studio (MDS) Component Gallery This presentation demonstrate how easy it is to use the MDS Component Gallery to add functionality to your MFC applications. We will show you how you can use the Component Gallery to add components to your application such as: splash screens, right mouse button context menus, ActiveX controls, progress dialogs, etc.

September - Using Stingray Software Class Libraries and Components to Bolster your MFC Application. Stingray software publishes MFC class library extensions that you can easily bolt on to MFC. The Stingray Objective Grid++ is an MFC class library extension that implements a full featured grid control that is powerful-but easy to implement. Their general purpose class library extension to MFC, SEC++, is a wonderful set of goodies that you can use to enhance your MFC applications. SEC++ includes classes for working with bitmap images (SECDib, SECGif, SECJpg, SECPcx, SECTga, and SECTiff), classes for extending and altering the MDI user interface, a CView zooming class, Classes to implement Excel-like tabbed windows, and more.

Arthur English

WORDPERFECT SIG

This month you are in for a *real* treat! Lori Quinn is going to teach us MACROS! Yes, the "M" word! Lori will explain some of the most common features used in macros. Features like Labels,

If, EndIf, and Go. Macros can make your life much easier in many ways . . . repeat keystrokes faster than you can manually, ask you questions, and give tremendous power to Templates (which we will get into next month). She may even have time to show us how to create a dialog box . . . who knows! Hope you can make it because Lori is one of the best!

Try it First!

If you want to experiment with Macros before you arrive, one thing you can do is take something that you do often and capture those keystrokes by recording a macro. For example, I have a data file with the City, State and Zip code in the same field. I really would like to have these pieces of information in separate fields. Which means I have to find the comma and space that follow the city and delete them. Then insert an EndField code. Then find the two spaces in front of the zip code, delete them and insert an EndField. Then insert another EndField after the zip code. It's probably not a big deal if I have just a few records. But if I have, let's say...2000! That's a lot of work! So let the macro do it.

Create a file similar to the one I've described above. Be sure that you created a data file (you'll know because the Merge Feature Bar will be displayed near the top of the screen). Position the insertion point at the top of the document and click Tools _ Macro _ Record and type a name for the macro you're about to record. At this point, everything you do is being recorded. You'll notice that you cannot use the mouse to

move the insertion point, so you'll have to use other ways of moving around.

Click Edit _ Find and Replace. For the Find, type a comma and a space, then click the Find Next button. Since the comma and space is already selected as a result of the find, just touch the delete key and then insert an EndField code (you can click on it with the mouse). This positions the state and zip code on the next line.

If you're sure the city is only one word for all your addresses, just press {Ctrl}{Right Arrow} to position the cursor on the first letter of the zip code. If you're not absolutely sure that the city is one word (like in Trophy Club), then work backwards. Press {End} to position the cursor at the end of the line and press {Ctrl}{Left Arrow}. Even with a 5+4 zip, the cursor will land on the first number of the zip code. Press {Backspace} twice to delete the blank spaces and insert another EndField. Now the zip code is on a line by itself. Press {End} and insert yet another EndField.

That's it! Stop recording the same way you began it. Click Tools _ Macro and unmark the Record option. You have just recorded a macro! To test it, click Tools _ Macro _ Play and the name of the macro. To repeat it for the rest of the document, use repeat: Edit _ Repeat then type the number of times you think you want it repeated and press {Enter}. Now click Tools _ Macro _ Play (or click #1 since it's the last macro you played).

Have fun and I hope to see you on Saturday!

Cindy Adams

Is Alternate-Month News Really News? Newsgroup Feed 'Bugs' Feed Fred's Frustration

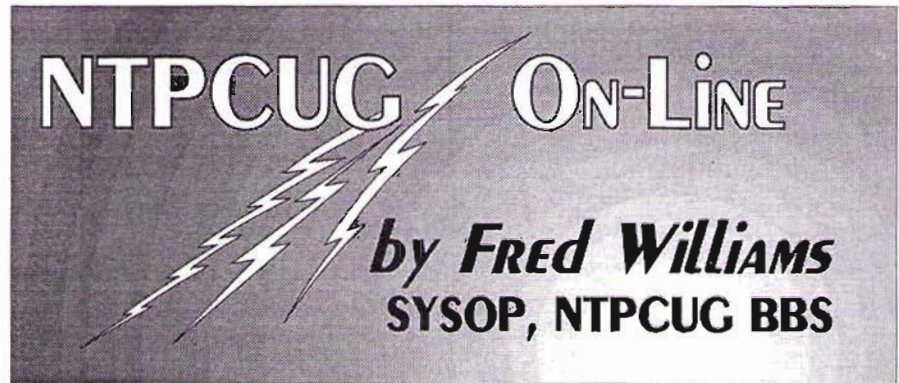
Windows NT looms on the BBS horizon and it looks like I'm going to be forced to spend some User Group money and build up a mona san. By the July meeting date I WILL have a system. My patience has expired with the current BBS configuration.

Doug Gorrie is working right now attempting to decipher what OnRamp has done again to hose the news group feed. I told him to nuke the @\$@% thing permanently, but he insists on trying to fix it again. I heard he also laughs at the prospect of Chinese water torture.

Speaking of Chinese Water Torture, Gorrie BBS' New 'Diplomat'

I have an excuse and a request. The excuse first. Due to the continuing and ongoing pitiful condition of the current BBS setup I have just about lost it totally. I really, really hate doing a poor job, even in my "spare" time and for free. To prevent further eroding the BBS user base, I have turned day to day official BBS user communications over to Doug Gorrie, the resident BBS diplomat. Remember, I told you he can handle Chinese water torture.

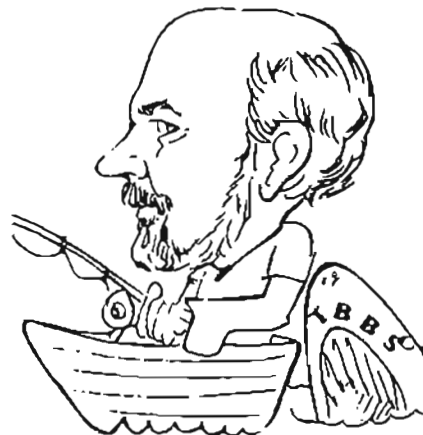
Now the request. I don't know if many users don't read the "All" and "BBS Directions" conferences on the BBS, or they just like to send messages to the SYSOP's asking questions that have already been answered with posts in either of the above two conferences. But, whatever the reason, due to the stressed BBS system, and staff, it is counterproductive to be answering questions personally when the information has al-



ready been publicly posted on the BBS.

So, to aid your humble SYSOP staff in our hour of trial, I am requesting that all BBS users check both the "All" and "BBS Directions" conferences for an answer prior to sending the SYSOP a message. As things that affect all users, or even subsets of users, occur and are recognized, I make a habit of quickly posting an explanatory message in either the "All" or "BBS Directions" conferences. The reason I do this, is to attempt to avoid being zapped with a pile of messages, telling us (SYSOP's) what we already know, or having to make multiple explanations for known strange things.

Once you have checked both of the above mentioned conferences, and you have not resolved an issue, please do post a message to the SYSOP, as it is obviously something we are unaware of. Doug



Gorrie will get back to you when he can.

Internet Update News Group Feed Redux, Redux...

I know Doug is working to restore the news group feed, but I do not hold much hope for an improvement in reliability. So far the news groups have tanked about once every other month, and it seems to take a minimum of about another month to "fix" the problem. Should Doug actually prevail this time, I do not see any evidence that the feed will remain stable for more than another month or less.

The good news seems to be that in spite of all the news group problems the Internet email connection remains in service, except when the mail muncher hangs with a problem caused by the malcontent news groups. If all else fails, we should at least be able to retain email integrity until the switch to NT.

I just forwarded to, Raymond Reyes, NTPCUG Treasurer, our invoice for the yearly fee required to retain our domain name. So one thing is for certain Internet-wise, our domain name is secure for yet another year.

Fred Williams

Dallas Corel SIG

May Meeting in Review - It's always interesting to see how others use CorelDRAW! in their work (and in their play). Pictured are some who generously showed their work and shared their production tips with the group. It's fun to learn from others. Maps, promotional brochures, "doctored" photographs, engineering drawings for catalogs, corporate identification/logo design and large format color output were a few of the many examples we enjoyed seeing. Kudos for all who participated!



Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

June meeting in Review— JoAnn Elliott demonstrated some of the "other" modules from the *CorelDraw 6 Suite*. But mostly the group showed its appreciation for all JoAnn has done, both behind the scenes and up front, for the past 18 months as SIG leader. This was her last meeting before she moves to Florida, so we presented her with several mementos. We unfurled a 36"x48" large format color aerial photo print of her new community. She quickly

pointed out her new home. Other members had prepared an artful certificate in her honor and a custom T-shirt with the colorful "Dallas Corel SIG" logo. Thanks, JoAnn. Keep us updated online!

July meeting - Scanning

Learn how to get predictable scanning results and choose appropriate settings and file types for your intended use. We'll see the excellent Power Graphics video tape on scanning by Randy Tobin and then we will share tips in a Q&A session. It may be your quickest trip to scanning success yet.

We want your input — and leadership

Dallas Corel is now ripe for a new SIG leader and other volunteers to bring interesting future programs together.

Meet interesting people and learn valuable tips along the way, too. Call Marsha Drebelbis at 951-0266 or Alex Lilley, SIG Coordinator, at 977-7584.

Marsha Drebelbis

Tips and Tricks

If you own CorelDRAW! 6.0, update number 176 is now the latest version. Call Corel Corporation at 1-800-772-6735 to get it free. Instructions request completely uninstalling the original 6.0 and a total new installation of the new version.

JoAnn Elliott



JoAnn Elliott, (above) is leaving the Dallas Corel SIG and the NTPCUG for Florida. At Right, Dallas Corel SIG members; (left to right) John Coleman, Hal Huiber, Tony Ledbetter and Richard Blair, join JoAnn Elliott and Marsha Drebelbis at the June SIG meeting which was JoAnn's last as SIG Leader



IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

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

- ❖ Technical Support Representatives800-818-1848
- ❖ G1 Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products)800-772-6735
- ❖ Customer Service Representatives800-772-6735
- ❖ IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network)613-728-1990
- ❖ 24 Hour Automated Fax System 613-728-0826 Ext.3080
- ❖ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Hi-Tech Volunteers

The volunteers for the NTPCUG have been communicating for this month's meeting by using e-mail, bulletin board, voice mail and it's forerunner, the humble answering machine. That communication is how members from all over the Metroplex plan, schedule and develop the great services and programs we enjoy at the Infomart. This newsletter carries reports, schedules, and SIG event information to every group member. The newsletter is collected by modems tuned to the NTPCUG bulletin board editors, and is then given life and form through the use of sophisticated publishing software and lots of low tech elbow grease.

This group is an organization of non-paid volunteers who bring their best talents to work for the benefit of the users. They are the same capable workers you find in the high technology business world and we thank them for that contribution of time, energy and know-how that lifts our meetings to the high level we enjoy every month.

It is a pleasure to be able to thank our many volunteers for giving us a meeting day of education, training and fun. Many volunteers from our recent meeting are listed on this page. Take a moment to thank one of them when they do some service for you at the next meeting.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt
John Ivers
Ned Keig
Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Raymond Reyes
Paul Williams

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

**Vendor Setup/
Breakdown**
Anchors:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Ross Jones
Crew:
Joseph Denison
Ken Burns (double)
Larry Matzek
Dat Pham
Kenneth Tillman
Neal Van Pelt

Booth Crew:
Diane Arnold
John Arnold
Chris Brooks
Tim Foster
Foy J. Mills
James Gorak
Claude McClure
Ken Sauter
Matt Williams

**Auditorium
Presentations**
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Chris Carmichael

Walkabout:
Linda Moore
Perry Slack

**Information/
Registration Booth**
Statistician:
Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)
Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors:
Al Aston
Ralph Beaver
Deborah Bean
Glenn Brooks
Albert Champion
Lorin Cranford

**Disk of the Month
(DOM)**
DOM Shift Supervisors:
Joe Allen
Roy Bales
Don Chick
James Dordon
M. Pat Henley
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Crew:
Richard Abreu
Michael Ashley
Douglas Athas
Bernie Baars
Richard Blair
Jim Boyce

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)

DOM Disks Released In June

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

DOM Disks Released in June:

Disk 1052. *Time & Chaos 4.07a* (11/95) - Personal Information Management iSBiSTER International, Inc.

Disk 1053. *SUPER WinWARE, Vol 6 - Windows Magazine Programs and Utilities.*

Disk 1054. *Power Toys for WIN95.* Copyright © Microsoft Corporation.

Disk 1055A&B. *Time & Chaos 5.1.3* (5/96). Personal Information Management for WIN95. iSBiSTER International, Inc.

Disk 1056. *VGACOPY* (2/94) - High Speed Disk Duplicator Thomas Monkemeier.

Disk 1057. *Silly Little Mail Reader (SLMR)* version 2.1a. Greg Hewgill. No Fee.

Disk 1058. *LFNSORT* (4/96) - DOS or WIN 95 Directory Sort. Author: Duncan Murdoch.

Disk 1052. *Time & Chaos 4.07a* (11/95) - Personal Information Management. iSBiSTER International, Inc. 1111 Beltline Road, Suite 204, Garland, Texas 75040. Shareware fee: \$29.95 + \$5.00 S&H

I have tried and reviewed several PIM (Personal Information Manager) programs and found them to be intimidating, difficult, akin to "overkill" and generally lacking in pizzazz or plunk! Here comes PIZZAZZ & PLUNK....!!

My personal need for this type program is for telephoning without having to dial the telephone number. Up until now, I really didn't have much "to do" or many "appointments" to keep. I found this program so com-

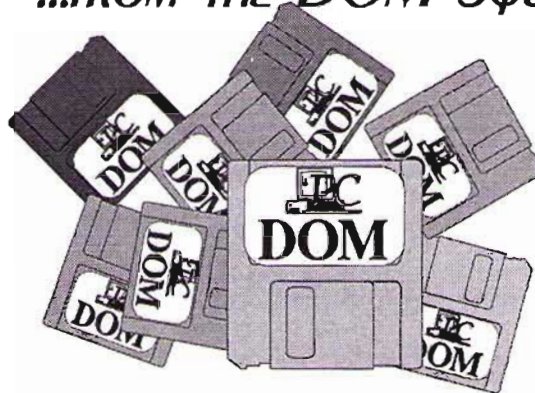
plete in its design that I now have Notes, TO DO lists and Appointments all the time!

TIME & CHAOS has taken control and eliminated the "Chaos" by placing everything you need on your screen at one time...no more jumping from screen to screen to find the 'TO DO' list or the phone book. You also have a "white" and a

need to do, group or categorize your contacts. You may even write a letter (using your own word processor) and print envelopes automatically, using your installed addresses and contacts.

You can dial the phone and even schedule a meeting of several other busy people. The alarm feature will give you plenty of time to pre-

New Disks ...FROM THE DOM SQUAD



by
JAN PARKHILL

"yellow" pages listing to help you separate your personal and business phone numbers and addresses. The customized "categories" allows outstanding searches using the "filter" system, not to mention the very capable search feature to ferret out addresses, names, etc. The best part is the simplicity with which it all works! You can instantly switch to any other day, to see what you did or what you will be doing. Schedule recurring activities at various intervals, prioritize the thing you

pare for an appointment and instantly remind you who it's with.

Time & Chaos is network-compatible and allows several users to share common yellow pages calendar sets, keeping your personal information (white pages) private. You may share data, schedules and interlink business scheduling problems so meetings can be arranged easily and completely.

BONUS: Included with this disk is a module for all the 1996 Holiday dates.

After installing Time and Chaos, in Windows Program Manager, click FILE, RUN and enter C:\TCHAO\HDay_96. Follow the instructions.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows 3.1 or better, 386 Enhanced Mode, 900kb disk space, and a copy of VBRUN300.DLL in your Windows\System directory. The DOM also offers a 32-bit version of Time & Chaos for WIN95 on Disks 1055A&B.

This software was provided by the North Texas PC Users Group.

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

Disk 1053. *SUPER WinWARE, Vol 6 - Windows Magazine Programs and Utilities.* Provided by Windows Magazine Especially for 1996. Shareware fee: \$0.00

This disk is loaded with popular software from Windows Magazine. There are programs to help you customize and organize your computer, and unique fonts to add eye appeal to your letters. Even screensavers, sound files and games so you can have a little fun.

We've made it possible to install each of the Super WinWARE programs, screensavers, fonts or sound wave files individually so you can use the ones you desire. A short listing will give you some idea what's in store for you on the disk:

- Installation help
- Documentation on all files
- Shareware programs
- Utilities to customize your system
- Sounds (.WAV files)

- Unusual and unique Screensavers
- Fonts
- Games to make idle time more enjoyable

We think everyone will find something of interest on this disk and can enjoy using your computer more because of it. Computers don't have to always be for working, right?

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 3.1 or better

This software was downloaded for use by the North Texas PC Users Group.

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

Disk 1054. Power Toys for WIN95. Copyright © Microsoft Corporation, 10/19/95. Freeware

Microsoft's shell team has made these utilities available to us "power users."

1. HTML Printer driver enables you to print HTML documents (web pages!) from any application. Please read 'HTMLdrv.txt' for more information.

2. TapiTNA (telephony taskbar notification application)

A menu from this icon enables you quick access to: change your current TAPI location, bring up dialing properties, run Phone Dialer.

3. With TweakUI, you can change: menu speed, mouse sensitivity, window animation and sound, shortcut appearance and default names, which icons appear on your desktop, create new templates, boot parameters including whether or not to start the graphic user interface.

4. **FAST FOLDER CONTENTS** - get a cascade menu that shows you all the contents of that folder, one-level deep.

5. FlexiCD is a taskbar notification icon that makes controlling audio CDs a breeze.

6. CABFILE Viewer shell extension, you can browse right into a CAB file and see all of its contents, and perform normal shell operations on the files inside.

7. **ROUND CLOCK** makes your analog clock round.

8. QuickRes: change DPI and bit depth without rebooting.

9. **SHORTCUT TARGET MENU.** Finally, you can get the properties for a shortcut's target

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95

Please send your comments or feedback on the Internet to <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/software/PowerToy.htm>

This software was provided by the North Texas PC Users Group.

This README prepared by Gene Carleton

Disk 1055A&B. Time & Chaos 5.1.3 (5/96). Personal Information Management for WIN95. iSBiSTER International, Inc., 1111 Beltline Road, Suite 204, Garland, Texas, 75040. Shareware fee: \$45.00 + \$5.00 S&H

See review of Disk No. 1052 (the 16-bit version of this software).

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95.

This software was provided by the North Texas PC Users Group.

DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

Disk 1056. VGACOPY (2/94) - High Speed Disk Duplicator. Thomas Monkemeier, Alte Amaleinstrasse 32, Deutschland, 26135 Oldenburg. Shareware fee: DM - 50 (Approx. US \$34.00)

This disk at first glance may seem like a host of Disk Duplication shareware programs being offered. Let me be the first to correct that thinking and to explain why this program is different.

Other programs familiar to the editors of the DOM do not offer the ability to allow backup copies to be made of certain software programs currently on the market. In particular, Win 95 disks and some other programs will deliberately report a virus (or multiple instances of virii) are on the disks being copied. Due to built-in virus detection techniques, these disk duplicator programs will shut down and refuse to continue performing a backup copy of your disks. VGACOPY is a program that will perform your backup chores for you without the problems encountered with the disks reporting a virus problem.

There is one slight hitch, but it's easily overcome. VGACOPY was written by Thomas Monkemeier in German language only. The good news is that once you are

logged in (you are required to type the numerical code number that's printed on your screen to log on), then the voice you will hear through your PC Speaker or Soundblaster will be in English and the buttons necessary to operate the program are easily understood. You should have no problems unless you attempt to read the help files where only Deutsche is provided. Another small problem is this program does not like running in a Windows Shell nor as an ICON. It was found best to exit windows completely, perform the backup copying and return to Windows.

Try this program if you have experienced any difficulties while making backup copies of your program disks. I think you will agree this belongs in your utility toolbox. Danke Schön!

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
DOS, 386er mit 4 MG RAM, Maus und eine VGA carte.



DOM DISKS ...CONTINUED

This software was downloaded for use by the North Texas PC Users Group.

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

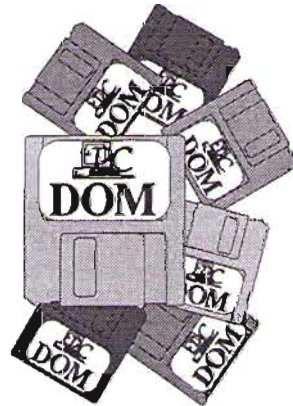
Disk 1057. Silly Little Mail Reader (SLMR) version 2.1a. Greg Hewgill. No Fee.

Silly Little Mail Reader has been a popular program for several years. It was originally sold as shareware. When the author, Greg Hewgill, went to work for Mustang Software, he stopped accepting registrations and registration fees for SLMR. Instead, he asks that, if you like SLMR, you take a look at the shareware successor program that he wrote for Mustang, called "Offline Express (OLX)" (which is also available, in a trial version, from the Disk of the Month operation of the North Texas PC User Group). I did that, but didn't find enough improvement to entice me to use OLX instead of SLMR.

SLMR is a solid, stable, and capable mail reader program for QWK-format files, the kind you download from many electronic bulletin board systems -- including the TBBS QSO option on the NTPCUG BBS. There is no registration fee, there are no annoying nag screens, and there's no "surprise" lurking when you exceed some arbitrary trial period. What's the catch? Of course, there has to be one: there isn't any support available, either. (Then again, in several years of use, I've

never needed any support, so it hasn't been a big drawback to me.)

This is a DOS program, subject to DOS' normal lower memory limitations, so don't overload it with thousands of messages. You may use the editor that's included (SLME.EXE), or specify your favorite DOS editor. If you have a DOS mouse driver installed on your system, you'll find that's supported, too, but if you don't,



you can navigate just fine from the keyboard. In addition to reading, writing, replying to, printing, and saving messages to your choice of disk files, SLMR has even more options: you can view the index of a message group to choose message by sender or title, jump to a reply message from an original (if they are in the same "batch" of messages), handle attachments, and steal taglines, among others.

Documentation is on the diskette, and help is only an F1 keypress away.

Give SLMR a try; if you like it, it'll certainly be difficult to beat the price.

This software was donated by Charles Miller.

This README prepared by Larry Linson, edited by Gene Carleton.

Disk 1058. LFNSORT (4/96) - DOS or WIN 95 Directory Sort. Author: Duncan Murdoch, 337 Willingdon Ave., Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 4J3. Internet: dmurdoch@mast.queensu.ca. Shareware fee: \$10.00 Simple level, 20.00 Upgrade level, 45.00 Source Code level — Plus \$5.00 S&H

LFNSORT was written to sort Directories in Windows 95, but it also runs well with DOS. Sort order may be by

gram called DS (Directory Sort) which could sort your DOS directories according to your preferences. Later versions included a graphical interface so you could manually move files around.

When Win 95 came out with the VFAT long filenames, Norton's DS stopped working. It hadn't been written to include the new directory records. LFNSORT has been written to help fill that void left when DS no longer would sort your directories and keep your housekeeping chores in hand.

An example of how LFNSORT works looks like this. You type:

```
LFNSORT EN C:\ /s
```

and you have sorted the entire Drive by extension and name order. You must read LFNSORT.TXT for all the syntax, sortkeys and switches.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Any system running DOS or Win 95

This software was downloaded for use by the North Texas PC Users Group.

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

name, extension, time/date, file size or any custom order you personally desire. LFN stands for Long File Names so the features of this program are certainly recognized at a glance.

The original Norton Utilities had an outstanding pro-

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<http://www.abaol.com>

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>	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100				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 Cole.....	(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
- Datalflex
- 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
- Q & 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) _____

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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 _____
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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.)

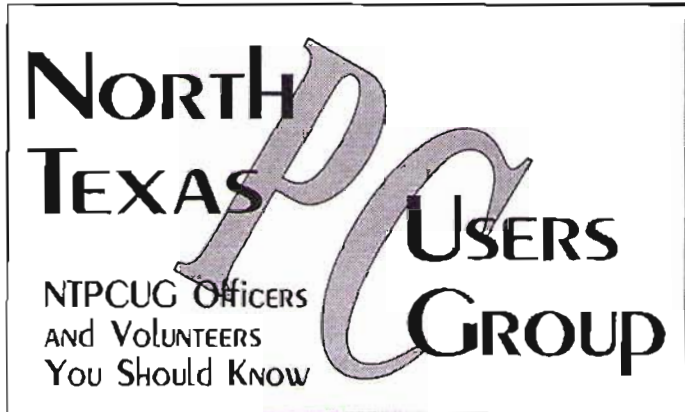
Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

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 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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(214) 462-1896 h (214) 960-4215 w
President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(214) 416-3101 h
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	(Open)	
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

Address Changes, etc..

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

NTPCUG Membership Director
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 Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

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

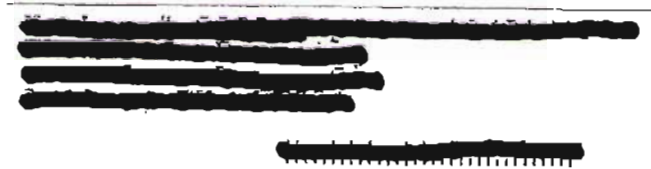


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North Texas PC Users Group

*Next Meeting:
20 July 1996*

