
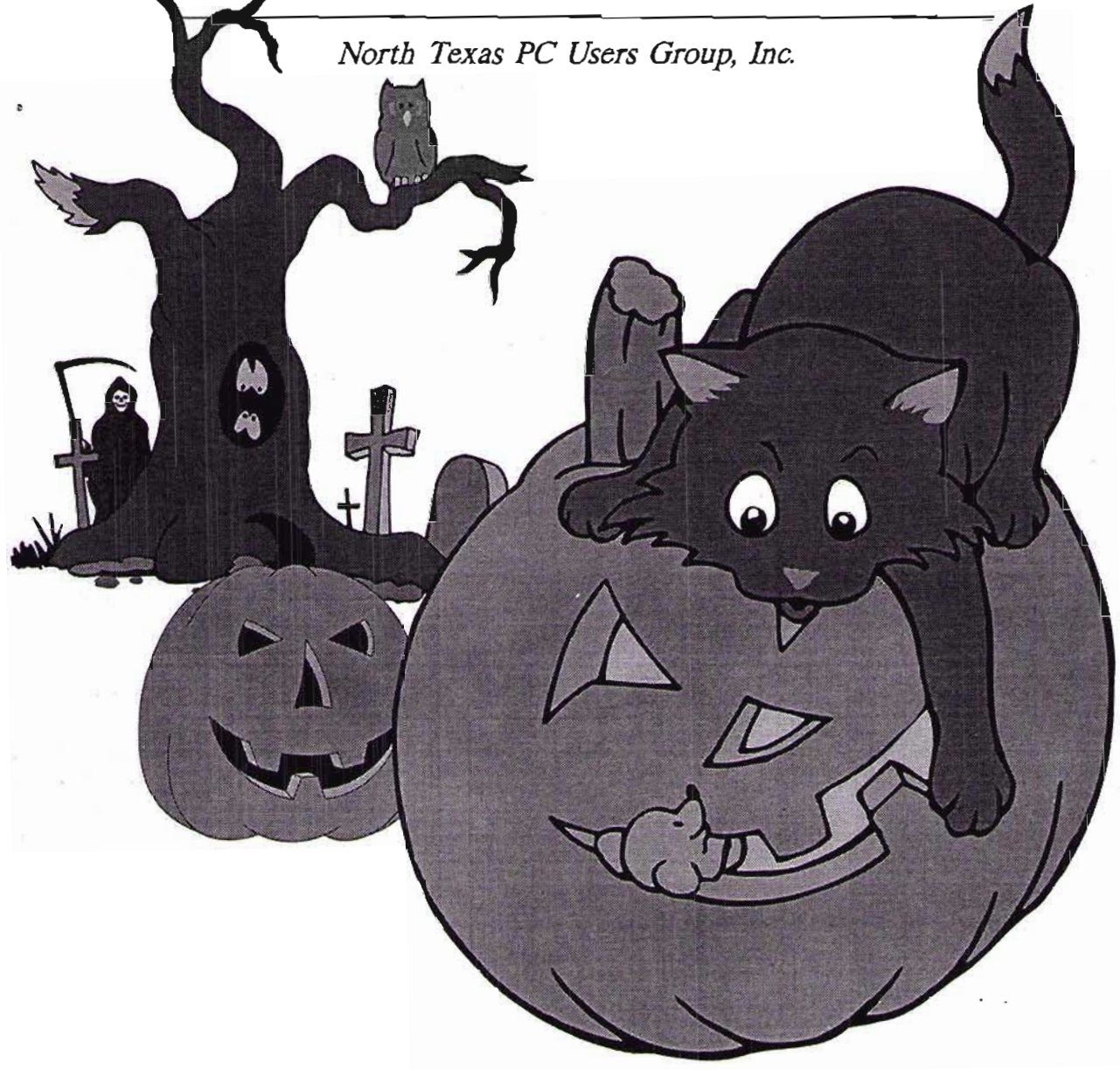


North Texas  NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.



October, 1996
VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 10



North Texas PC NEWS

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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2,375 last month.

Member distribution was 2,070; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Corel Ventura 4.2, Corel Draw 5.0, Arts & Letters Express 5.0, Micrografix Picture Publisher 5.0, Adobe Photoshop 3.0 and HP Scanjet IIp. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, Linho and Mistral.

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for November
North Texas PC NEWS:
Thursday, October 10th

Meeting Dates:

October 12, 1996 - 2nd Saturday
November 9, 1996 - 2nd Saturday
December 14, 1996 - 2nd Saturday



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Visit the North Texas PC Users Group web page:
<http://www.ntpcug.org>

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

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

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

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

Policies & Mechanicals:

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

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

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

"The State of the Market for Computer Books"
Wordware Publishing, Inc.

Jim Hill, Publisher

Come hear expert advice from a person with over 10 years of experience in the technical book publishing field. Jim has worked for McGraw-Hill, Sybex, Howard W. Sams, Microsoft Press, and Wordware in both editorial, marketing, and sales positions. He will give a brief historical overview of where the computer book market has been, where it is now, and where it appears to be going. Jim will discuss the importance of distribution, pricing, packaging, and timing to market. Then, he will detail some of the important characteristics of a successful computer book author. Ten (10) copies of LEARN OFFICE 95 (retail value of \$29.95) will be given away.

NTPCUG PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . .
TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

"Inside the Cyrix 6x86 and Beyond"

Cyrix Corporation

Bob McGhee, Manager Software Vendor Relations

A "brief" history of Cyrix from the 83D87 Math Coprocessor through the first x86 CPU to the Cyrix 6x86 will be made to establish what Cyrix has accomplished. Emphasis will be placed on the 6x86 design achievements: Superscaler and Superpipeline Architecture, Register Renaming, Data Forwarding, Branch Prediction, Out of Order Execution, Cache and TLB features, Register registers, and the P-rating system. The next Cyrix CPU, code named M2, with MMX and multimedia features will be discussed. There will be a drawing for free products.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:55 PM

"U.S. Robotics: 33.6 - The Only Time We Slow Down Is To Do User Group Presentations"

U.S. Robotics

John Carolan and Sara Smucker, Dallas Sales Representatives

Come learn all there is to know about modems, getting on-line and the latest technology. See the full US Robotics product line. Products covered will be the Sportster, Courier, MHz XJack and Wireless. John and Sara will be presenting the latest USRobotics technology. This is a meeting you won't want to miss. Some of the topics to be covered include: modem technology, ISDN, telephone and our new personal digital assistant. This is sure to be a fun, informative and exciting meeting. In addition, there will be a special discount on USRobotics products. There will be a drawing for free products.

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

October 12

SIGs NTPCUG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

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

11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.) Investors Graphics (Cont.) MS Works OS/2 - Q & A Roots III/IV - Genealogy Spreadsheets Windows Developers
11:30 - 11:55 Orientation
12:00 - 12:55 Alpha Four C++/Advanced C Communications Delphi Desktop Publishing 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!

972

Area code change. In an effort to keep from running out of telephone numbers in Dallas, Southwestern Bell Telephone added the 972 area code in the city and suburbs. The 972 prefix doughnuts the 214 center and brings to us the age of 10-digit dialing. For more information, check out SWBT's home page at <http://www.sbc.com/dfw> (thanks Chuck).

Please look elsewhere in the newsletter for changes in BBS phone numbers, Officers phone numbers, SIG Leaders' phone numbers and User-to-User phone numbers. [Ed. Note: We think we got them all, but let us know via E-mail if we missed you...]

2016

Membership in NTPCUG as of August 31, 1996. Membership Director, SIG Co-Leader and President-Elect, **Jim Hoisington**, provides us with the following statistics on how long you have been members.

What this indicates to us as leaders and members of the NTPCUG, is that we need to find new ways to retain members. Over half the Special Interest Groups today were not here when I joined seven years ago. We have more "Advanced" groups than ever, while maintaining the balance of "Introduction" groups for new members. If you have any ideas for retaining members, please let a Board member know.

10/29-31

Networks Expo Dallas '96 and Windows World Dallas '96 arrives on October 29th for three days. If you are on the Internet, you can register on-line at



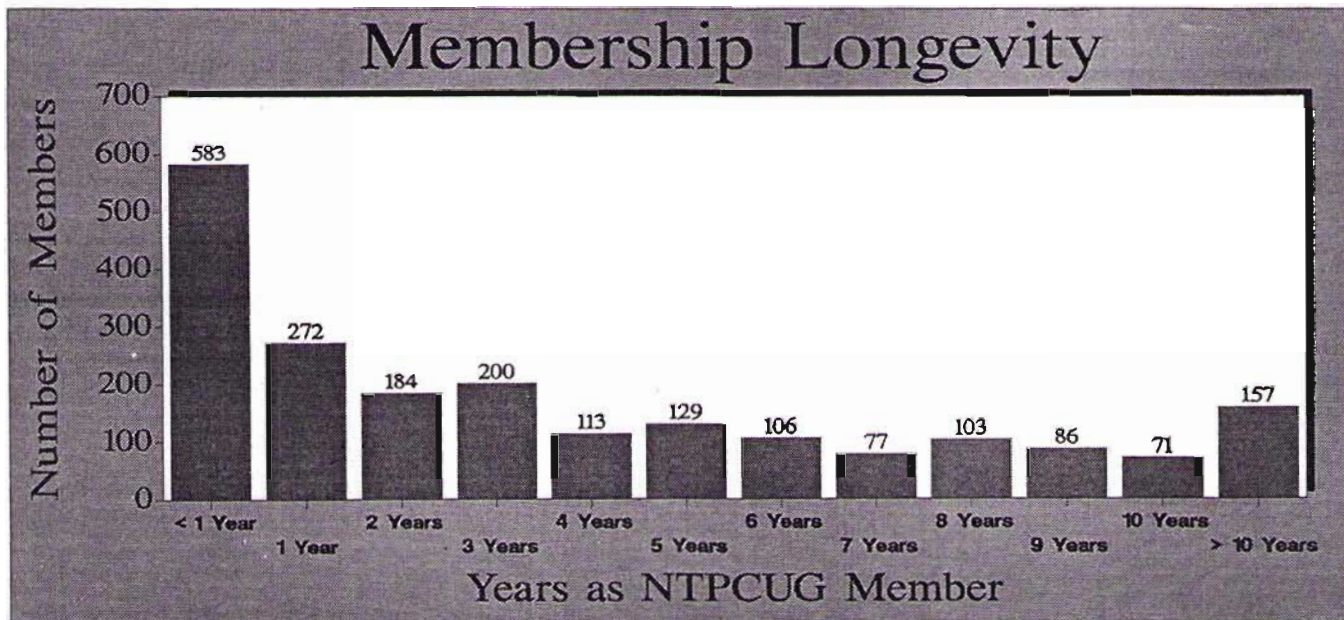
<http://www.shownet.com> or <http://www.comdex.com>. This show is a joint venture of the Blenheim Group and Softbank/Comdex.

If you are not on the Net, fear not, **Doug Gorrie** has secured complimentary exhibitor guest passes. We gave many of them away at the September 14th meeting, and will have the rest at the October 12th meeting.

If you want to help out and volunteer for an hour or two at the NTPCUG booth at this show, please contact Deborah Bean, Windows Applications SIG Co-Leader (phone numbers in the SIG section of this newsletter.)

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Former NTPCUG member and our 9:00am presenter in September spent 32 years with IBM, with much of that time as User Group Relations Director. I had the opportunity to renew acquaintances with Gene Barlow, who now holds the same position with the upstart company, PowerQuest Corporation. Gene says that he is having a lot of fun working for the Orem, Utah maker of *PartitionMagic* hard disk repartitioning software. Gene still



What does 'USB' stand for? Member Tips from the BBS *New Standard Coming...*

[Ed. note: the following was taken from a series of postings on the NTPCUG BBS by Assembly SIG Leader, Glynn Brooks. It is an important topic since many motherboard vendors are including 'USB' sockets on their latest releases.]

USB = Universal Serial Bus. It is the hardware industry's solution to IRQ, DMA and I/O Address conflicts that have plagued system upgraders since day one.

Similar to SCSI, you can plug one USB device into another USB device (a technique called daisy-chaining). USB is different from SCSI in that you can daisy-chain up to 127 devices (SCSI is limited to 7 devices), and

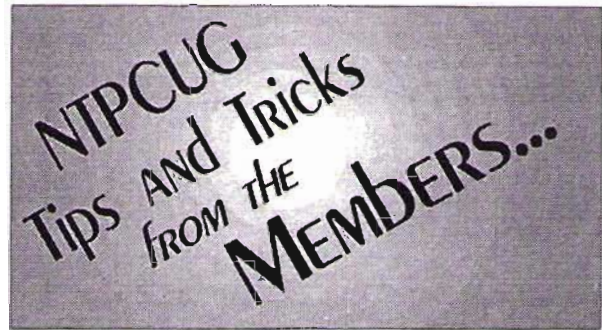
PREZ SEZ ... Ctd.

puts on a great presentation as evidenced by the number of people taking advantage of the special user group pricing on the product.

Bang

The discussion in the Business Meeting on September 14th revolved around the dues increase, the cost of the newsletter, increased postal rates, and ways to get us out of an operating loss. Fred Williams (Board Member, SIG Leader and BBS SYSOP) was not shooting down the suggestion that members who want to should be able to pick up their newsletters at the meeting. Fred only wanted to point out that to accomplish the task would take more volunteer effort and not for one month, but effort that is dependable and will extend through setup, testing, implementation and into perpetuity. The people, like Fred, who have made this group a success are predominately on the right half of the chart above. Been There, Done That.

Andy



the 4-wire USB cables can be up to 5 meters in length. [Ed. note: Users can have multiple SCSI controllers, each with six devices/per card with the controller itself as the "seventh" device.]

USB is also similar to a token-ring LAN in that devices wishing to communicate with the motherboard have to wait until the USB controller issues a token to start communication, at which point, the device has exclusive use of the connection.

USB No Speed Demon

USB is not meant for high-speed devices such as hard disk drives, but will handle medium- and low-speed devices quite well. The specs for bus-mastering SCSI (~20 MB/s) and EIDE (~16 MB/s) are faster than for USB (~12 MB/s).

The major PC hardware manufacturers will be selling USB monitors, keyboards, printers, telephones, modems, mice and other external devices beginning this Fall. Motherboards with USB are already available.

Once you have USB on the motherboard and begin to replace old worn-out components on your system with USB-capable components, they can be plugged into one another. For example, you could plug your USB keyboard into the USB jack on the monitor, and you could plug your USB mouse into the keyboard USB jack. Small or moveable devices (like a mouse) would not have a USB connector that other devices could plug into. There will also be multi-connection (fan-out) boxes for USB.

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Taking Control - A Review of ReportPrinter Pro, Version 2.0

By Fred Williams

I was recently asked to review, and do a demo of, a rather unique *Delphi* VCL library. In this article I will do the review, and I will also be doing a formal presentation of the product in this month's *Delphi SIG*, for those who wish to see the product in use.

The VCL library is a set of "code-based" report generation VCL's, *ReportPrinter Pro, Version 2.0*. Like myself, you are most likely scratching your head wondering, what is a code-based VCL?

When I first installed the VCL set to begin reviewing it, I thought, "Man this company has a problem here. There ain't no drag and drop, point and click, without a bunch of code needed to fill in all those gaps!" Once again, I overlooked the obvious.

Need Not Obvious at First

The need for such a VCL did not become crystal clear (no pun intended) until I set out to convert my company's invoice printing program from *dBASE/DOS Version 2.0*, to my new *Project Accounting* implementation I'm doing in *Delphi*. I first loaded up our August meeting's presentation VCL, *Piparti*.



UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUSE... Ctd.

USB will add a whole new dimension to what Plug 'n Play means. You will be able to add and remove devices to the USB chain without powering off the CPU. The USB controller on the motherboard will be sensitive to changes made to the configuration, and will dynamically load or unload appropriate driver software and vary the amount of current being carried on the daisy chain to support the added or removed device.

USB will also make it possible to do many major system upgrades without opening the computer case. You'll still have to open the case to do disk drive and CPU upgrades, but other than that, it should greatly simplify how things get done.

Glynn Brooks

For those who missed the meeting, *Piparti* is a VCL library intended as a "better" implementation than the native *Quick Reports* VCL's found in *Delphi 2.0*. *Piparti* is a nice little VCL set, but it took less than an hour to figure out that was the wrong tool for this one.

Next, I popped open my favorite report generator, *Crystal Reports*. Took about twice as long to realize that was not worth the effort either.

Seems my old, hand-coded, invoice-printing program has the ability to print "NEXT PAGE", in the "Total" box of the current page of a multi-page invoice. (like I send them every day!) The page header of continuing pages have a page number, as well as the client name

followed by, "(Continued)" as the billing address. Plus trying to manage the taxable/ non taxable, no charge, "(N/C)" printing, plus optional subtotal printing, and etc. just was way more than even *Crystal* and I could or wanted to manage!

First, Serious Look...

Then I took my first serious look at *ReportPrinter Pro*. This VCL provides a set of "cookie cutter", report skeleton VCL's only. For other than semiformatted file "dump" listing generation,

ReportPrinter Pro requires you to supply the bare metal print

line coding, plus all of the code for all those bells and whistles you just can't get to sing on key in a "canned" report generator, either VCL-based or stand-alone.

With a little luck, and a good tail wind, I will be able to actually demonstrate how you too can build a multi-page invoice for your Consultancy at this month's *Delphi SIG* meeting, as I hope to have my invoice printing code completed in time for the meeting. You too can then start pulling in the really "Big Bucks"!

On a more practical and realistic level, *Report Printer Pro* is a good example of just how much control you can have over *Delphi*, with liberal use of imbedded Pascal code. Something in this day and age of "RAD", that is not an openly discussed subject, it seems.

Kind of like having a brother that plays piano in a fancy house.

Fred Williams

NTPCUG and Networks Expo/ Windows World – 4th Year

by Doug Gorrie

It's coming again! October 29-31 will see the combined 1996 Networks Expo/ Windows World /Dallas 96 trade show at the Dallas Convention Center. The show will feature latest-technology seminars, hands-on training opportunities and a chance to see vendors latest networking and Windows products.

Key conference tracks will include focus on the Internet, Windows Directions, Windows NT, BackOffice and Multimedia. Show's agenda includes eight half-day tutorials, a SuperSession and over 40 conference sessions.

Keynote speeches from Steve Markman, Novell executive vice president and general manager of Novell Products Group and Richard Fade, vice president of Desktop Applications at Microsoft will highlight October 29th and 30th at the show.

NTPCUG Members Attend Free

At the September 14th User Group Saturday, NTPCUG handed out hundreds of Guest Passes to the 1996 Networks Expo event, taking place at the Dallas Convention Center October 29-31. More will be handed out at our October 12th meeting.

If you mailed in your Guest Pass by October 1st, a badge will be mailed to you. If mailed after October 1st, you can pick up your badge at the show. Or, you can just submit your form at the show and get your badge on the spot.

If you have Internet access, you can register online at <http://www.shownet.com>.

As usual, I'll be glad to mail a Guest Pass to any member who will send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail to:

Doug Gorrie
3325 San Simeon Way
Plano, TX 75023

NTPCUG has had a booth at Networks Expo for the past three years. We are always in need of volunteers there to hand out leaflets and explain the user group to passers-by. If you can assist for a few hours during the event, please contact Deborah Bean at 475-7463 (H) or 475-3124 (W).

If you have been wanting an opportunity to assist NTPCUG in some way, here 'tis.

Many Thanks

Doug Gorrie

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NTPCUG Member Survey Annual Survey — It's That Time Again And, We'll be 'Collecting' in October

by Fred Williams, Jim Hoisington
& Reagan Andrews

The Annual North Texas PC Users Group *Demographics Survey* is coming again — at the October 14, 1996, meeting, to be exact.

This is an annual effort on the part of the NTPCUG to get to know our members a little better. Data from the Annual Survey is used by the officers and members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors in planning for NTPCUG activities, the vendor presentations at meetings and SIG directions.

BOD, Officers In The Act...

For those members who haven't seen one in the past, i.e., haven't come to the October meeting — or didn't take the time and trouble to complete the form, it's a 'simple' survey designed to give the PCUG some idea of typical equipment in use by members at work and at home, some idea of who actually uses the PC and their level of PC expertise, and how members plan to spend

their money on PC's and peripherals over the coming year.

Except for the fact that the surveys remain anonymous, they would probably seem somewhat intrusive at first glance. However, the questionnaire is designed to foster privacy and ensure that no user can be identified on the basis of the form submitted during the survey. An additional safeguard for confidentiality is volunteer labor involved in compilation and analysis of the data.

Questionnaire Design...

Actual questionnaire is a coordinated effort by Club officers, primarily **Jim Hoisington** and **Reagan Andrews**, and is passed out to members at the meeting by SIG leaders and other volunteers with the assistance of **Alex Lilley**, Sig Coordinator, **Claude McClure**, Volunteer Coordinator, and **Timothy Carmichael** and **Chris Jung**. After the completed surveys are collected at the end of the meeting, they have *traditionally* (that means he wasn't paying attention when another officer volunteered him for the task) become the responsibility of **Fred Williams**, member of the BOD, for insertion in a database, and later by Jim Hoisington, President-Elect, for analysis. Finally, it comes to me, Reagan Andrews, for publication in *The North Texas PC News*.

Fred wrote the following observation(s) after compilation of the last (October, 1995) survey. I thought it was very readable and a good introduction to this year's effort.

Passing Observations

From the data entry trenches: After having done the data entry for the NTPCUG demographic survey for the last three years, I have formulated some very unofficial insight into our group's membership.

I thought I might share some of those observations with the rest of you, as I find these facts much more entertaining, and not near as dry, as the official results.

The nice thing about the following survey results is they are based on the overall context of the individual survey forms, including both what is, and is not, contained on a given form. This allows one the freedom to be very subjective and philosophical about the data interpretation, and to mostly disregard the facts.

Quite a fitting thing for this, an election year.

So here below, are the unofficial results of our recently completed annual survey:

Unofficial Results

- ❖ 1. Many holders of Masters of Business, and various Ph.D.'s do not necessarily know what day of the month it is.

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SURVEY OBSERVATIONS... Ctd.

- ❖ 2. A college degree does not guarantee the holder of same can properly calculate percentages.
- ❖ 3. Anybody claiming the title of either "Consultant" or "Programmer" either can't read, or doesn't bother themselves with such trivial details.
- ❖ 4. "Systems Analysts" do not understand, or follow instructions.
- ❖ 5. Many "Expert" users don't know how much disk space, or RAM memory, their 8088\80286 systems contain.
- ❖ 6. Many families have several "Primary" users as well as multiple "Primary" computers.
- ❖ 7. If you fill out page one on one survey form, and later fill out page two (because you forgot) on yet another form, you have just committed a supreme act of futility.
- ❖ 8. Nobody used a blunt crayon this year! But, there was a very shaky hand or two. I usually need a stiff one or two to steady my hand when I put that many lies on one piece of paper myself.
- ❖ 9. Your local phone company should drop by every once and a while and take you out for a beer. You are a very good customer.

I don't personally know anyone who has four phone lines in their home. Well, at least that admit they do. And I even know Doug Gorrie!

- ❖ 10. Quite a few "Single" people have "others" sharing a great amount of their computer resources.
- ❖ 11. Based on what many of you claim to be spending annually, on hardware and software, and also reviewing the list of what you have, may I be your computer vendor this year?

I got this old 1982 PC that could use a good home for about \$2400.00 plus tax. I'll even throw in a copy of DOS 1.1 for \$500.00!

- ❖ 12. Fear of the IRS is no media hype. Many people are even afraid to fill out an income range on an anonymous survey form.

An alternative may be presence of a soon-to-be 'Ex' spouse peering over your shoulder as you complete the form in the darkened auditorium...

Possibly even a 'replacement' in the same position.

Fred Williams

Disco daze

Patrick Dryden

Gone are the days when software samples arrived on cheap yet reusable floppy disks. What to do with all those unwanted CD-ROM discs? Here are the top ten recycling recommendations, culled from commentary in various Usenet newsgroups.

10. String them up as wind chimes.
9. Hang from fruit trees to scare birds.
8. Line a window box to reflect light on plants.
7. Reflectors for string of Christmas or party lights.
6. Binary arbitrator (i.e., high-tech coin toss).
5. Christmas tree ornaments.
4. Frisbee.
3. Substitute clay pigeon for skeet shooting.
2. Tape over the hole to make a drink coaster.
1. **Microwave fun!** Just two seconds on high creates blue lightning and chars a cool pattern in the substrate.

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Boston Computer Society — Gone Giant PC Users Group Folds After Almost 20 Years On Top

by Etoine Shrdlu

The Boston Computer Society (BCS) announced in September that it will "dissolve" itself after almost two decades of leadership in the PCUG arena. At the time of its decision, the BCS had approximately 18,000 users on its rolls, many of whom have declared they will continue in some form of organization.

BCS Founded in 1977

Founded in 1977 by a 13 year-old Jonathan Rotenberg, the BCS grew and grew and grew until it peaked at approximately 32,000 members in the early 1990s. We (NTPCUG) were aware of this growth in the mid 1980s and joined the Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG) as a defense against some of BCS' more predatory moves into the Southwest.

During its peak in the late 1980s - early 1990s, BCS wielded awesome influence among PC vendors and was often the stage for premier roll outs of PC hardware and software. Such power had a price and BCS began to see itself as *The* spokesman for the entire PC user community, to the point that BCS was unable to see/recognize directions within the community and became somewhat rigid in its approach to the outside world of users.

BCS Had 'Dark Side'

BCS' "Dark Side" kept us wary and away in the 1980s. The BCS organizational stance was simple. They approached smaller PCUGs and invited them to "join" the BCS and take advantage of its benefits for users.

All the user groups had to do was transmit their collected dues to BCS, who would then "budget" the funds to be returned to the PCUGs for operation. In re-

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Goodbye 214

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Will you be prepared?
(There will be a 6-month permissive dialing period.)

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Hello 972



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turn, BCS would assist the smaller groups with organization, vendor presentations and PCUG activities. In some instances, this worked quite well for the smaller groups.

NTPCUG didn't think BCS was a "good fit" for our operations/activities. Instead, we looked at the nascent APCUG and participated in the birth of the organization at a number of events at Microsoft and at Comdex in the mid 1980s. NTPCUG (then) President, Jim Hoisington, served on the early Boards of Directors for APCUG. As the NTPCUG grew from 900 members to 2,000+ members in the 1990s, BCS became somewhat less of a threat.

Who Are 'Giants' Now?

We're, NTPCUG, one of them. Also, you can't count out HAL (Houston Area League), Capitol PC Users Group (Washington, DC) or the Chicago Computer Society, either. Have to also consider several of the California PCUGs as well as at least one in Florida.

In spite of BCS' "mixed" history, it's sad to witness their demise. BCS put PCUGs on the vendors' maps and did contribute substantially to PC users as a whole.

Etoine Shrdlu

Corel Releases *CorelXARA* Upgrade Patch 1.2

Corel Corporation announced in August the release of *CorelXARA 1.2*, an upgrade to version 1.1.

Customers may download this free upgrade patch by visiting <http://www.xara.com>. The original version became a popular tool for Web graphics due to features such as smooth dithering and anti-aliasing, along with transparent and interlaced GIF support.

Web Improvements Featured

A number of Web-specific improvements have been added to *CorelXARA 1.2* which Web designers will find invaluable.

These include: palette optimization for GIFs, advanced diffusion dithering for GIFs, new support for two-color and 16-color GIFs with or without transparency (16-color GIFs can take half the space of normal GIFs), on-screen diffusion dithering option, pixel unit type for measuring exact screen sizes, animated GIF import and creation, direct Netscape Navigator and MS Internet Explorer palette support.



Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

By combining palette optimizations with an advanced new diffusion dithering technique, *CorelXARA* can be used to create near 24-bit quality GIF images.

In addition, support for frame by frame animated GIF import and creation makes *CorelXARA* one of the first graphics programs to support this increasingly popular picture format. Frame ordering management is included via the bitmap gallery.

Marsha Drebelbis

Computer Jobs

If you are a computer professional with the minimum 1 year of experience in the following areas:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| C | Oracle | Visual Basic | Telecom | Cobol |
| C++ | Sybase | Internet | Tech Writing | DB2 |
| Smalltalk | Informix | Object Oriented Analysis & Design | | |

we have a job for you! ISCF has multiple openings in different industries including: data processing, telecom, and game development.

ISCF - Information Systems Consulting Firm was established in 1989 and has been providing professional services in the Dallas/Forth Worth area ever since. We offer excellent salaries for contract and permanent positions, and a generous benefits package. Don't wait - send us your resume now!

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16990 Dallas Parkway, Suite 205, Dallas, TX 75252, www.iscf.com

Happy Times Are Here Again ... Election Year Follies

Again? Justice Department vs. Microsoft? Bill Says 'Been There, Done That — No Thanks'

Human Resources Take a Tumble Apple, AST and Novell Lose Officers, Data Vendor Swears Privacy Holds

Heading into Comdex/FALL '96, media couldn't be more interesting — or more confusing. Knew that flying lawyers were zipping around the media, followed closely by teams of PR/Marketing personnel trying for the best possible "spin" on the emerging stories. Not too unusual, given this is an election year and that means full employment for the opinion doctors.

Microsoft comes in as top news event again this month as the ravening hoards of Justice Department attorneys/ investigators vote to kill a really big bunch of trees, i.e., make a request for information. Have heard rumors that last round of the Justice Department vs. Microsoft Saga measured 'information' in tons of paper produced in Redmond, WA, and shipped to DC ('Foggy Bottom'). Was a bonanza for copier paper suppliers and trucking firms as well as attorneys involved.

(As a producer of regular reports for perusal in DC, I have some sympathy for Microsoft. They'll supply the paper, but will anyone really read its contents?)

Apple 'Bleeds' As Top Execs Continue Mass Exodus in Sep.

Meanwhile, Apple continues to 'bleed' top management talent as two officers, **Edward Stead**, Apple General Counsel, and **Kevin J. Sullivan**, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, announced their resignations in late August/ early September.

Both former Apple executives denied their departure was result of Apple's troubled business over the past three years, or the arrival of new Apple CEO, **Gilbert F. Amelio**. Apple's done a lot of personnel bleeding over the past two months, enough to hurt any organization, especially a partially-crippled Apple.

AST Takes Another Hit Latest CEO, Diery, Leaves After Very Short Stay

Not a full gestation, AST CEO **Ian Diery** resigned after only nine months on the job at AST. Media cited the resignation as a serious blow to AST, and a possible signal that South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. will assume further control over the foundering company.

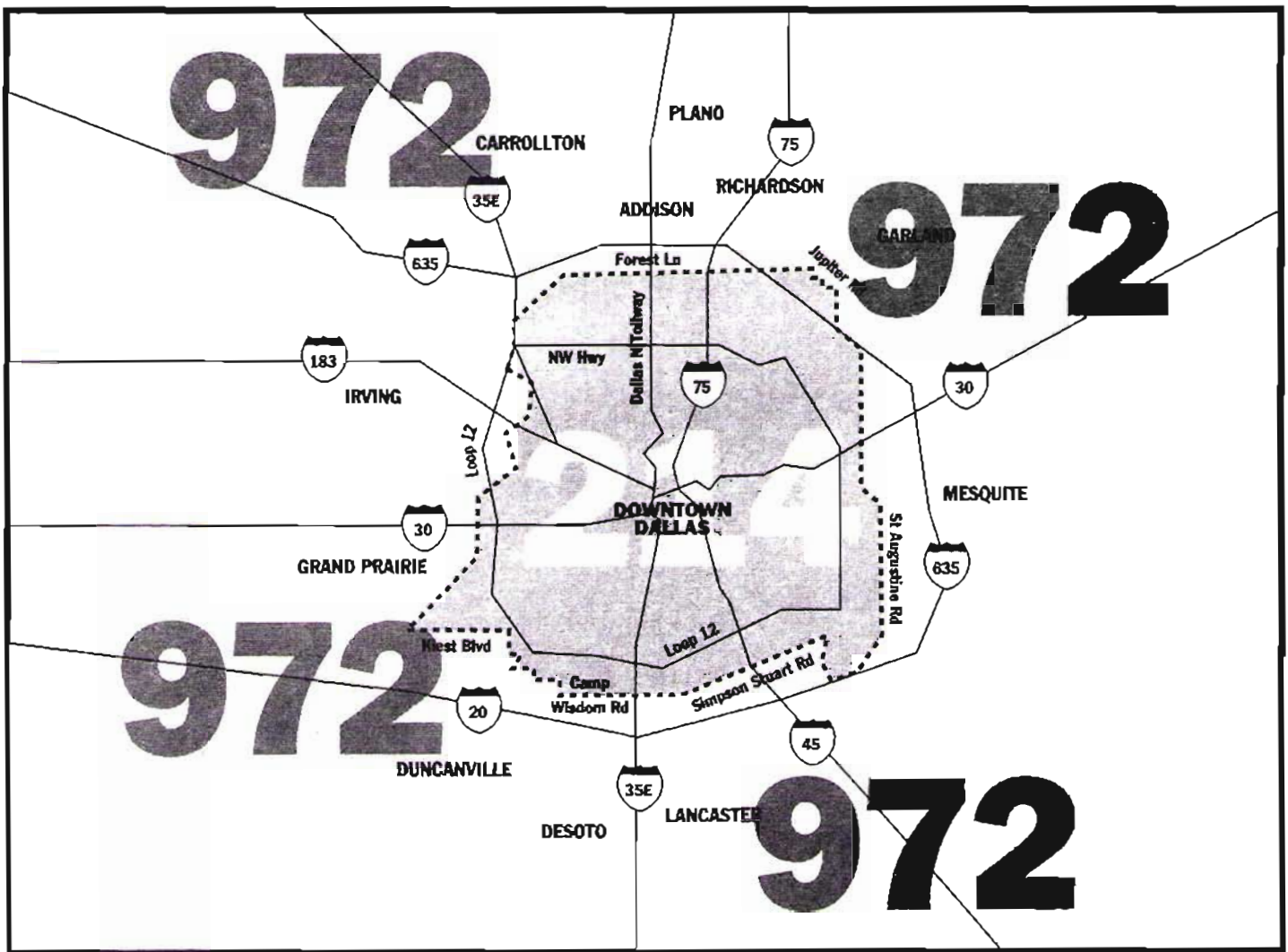
That seems likely since Samsung already owns 46% of AST according to *The Wall Street Journal*, and has "poured a total of \$678 million into the company."

Diery was described in the *WSJ* August article as a "hard-charging Australian rugby player" and also as a former Apple Computer Inc., executive who was expected to turn AST around. The piece concluded that the departure of Diery was a significant blow to AST and Samsung.

Novell's Frankenberg History Marengi Latest Network Czar In August Corporate Shuffles

Novell also made news with the unexpected departure of former CEO **Robert Frankenberg** in August, replaced by new Novell President, **Joe Marengi**. Media mavens contrasted former H-P manager Frankenberg's "plodding" management style with his successor's "take no prisoners" approach to Novell's current core business problems as reason for the

AREA CODE MAP



CURRENT 214 PREFIXES THAT ARE CHANGING TO 972 AREA CODE

EFFECTIVE 9/14/96

203	237	263	292	326	394	424	455	486	518	561	601	628	684	726	779	851	910	968
204	238	264	293	329	395	425	456	487	519	562	602	629	685	727	780	853	915	975
205	239	266	294	334	396	427	457	488	524	563	603	633	686	731	782	864	916	980
206	240	269	295	335	397	429	458	490	525	564	604	635	687	732	783	866	917	982
208	241	270	296	336	399	431	459	491	527	568	605	636	690	733	784	867	918	985
209	242	271	297	338	—	432	461	492	529	569	606	641	694	734	788	868	919	986
216	243	272	298	346	401	434	462	493	530	570	607	642	699	735	789	869	923	988
217	245	273	299	347	402	435	463	494	531	572	608	644	—	736	790	872	924	991
218	247	274	—	355	403	436	466	495	539	574	609	646	701	738	791	873	927	994
219	248	276	301	366	404	437	468	496	540	575	612	647	702	751	795	875	929	995
221	249	277	303	370	405	438	470	497	541	576	613	650	705	752	798	876	930	996
222	250	278	304	377	406	441	471	498	542	578	614	659	708	753	799	878	931	997
223	251	279	305	378	407	442	472	499	544	579	615	660	709	756	—	881	932	—
224	252	280	306	379	409	444	473	—	545	580	617	661	713	758	805	882	933	—
225	253	281	307	380	412	445	474	500	547	584	618	662	714	764	814	883	934	—
226	254	282	308	382	413	446	475	501	548	585	619	663	715	766	830	884	935	—
227	255	283	313	383	414	447	476	504	550	586	620	664	716	770	831	886	937	—
228	256	284	315	385	416	448	477	506	551	587	621	666	717	771	837	888	938	—
229	257	285	316	386	417	449	479	509	552	591	622	667	718	772	838	889	949	—
230	258	286	317	387	418	450	480	513	554	592	623	669	719	773	840	893	952	—
231	259	287	318	389	419	451	481	514	556	593	624	677	721	774	842	—	960	—
233	260	288	322	390	420	452	483	515	557	594	625	680	722	775	843	901	962	—
234	261	289	323	392	422	453	484	516	558	596	626	681	723	776	845	907	964	—
235	262	291	325	393	423	454	485	517	560	—	627	682	724	778	846	909	966	—

This list is subject to change without notice.
Source: Bellcore (8/22/96)

THE VARIETY STORE

shift. Others sense the long hands of former Novell CEO Ray Noorda as being involved in the rapid changes at Novell.

CALDERA TO RELEASE NEW DR DOS? SOURCE CODE IN PUBLIC VIEW/ARENA...

Noorda made news on his own account with announcement that Caldera would place the source code for DR DOS in the public arena as part of Caldera's opening shots at Microsoft. Caldera is the company that purchased the rights to DR DOS from Novell earlier, and apparently is working on a version for use in Internet PC's, joining the Oracle/SUN/SCO race to out-Microsoft Microsoft in a challenge for Internet supremacy.

BACK TO MICROSOFT VS. JD HOW DOES 10% IE EQUAL MONOPOLY?

Lots of media folks are shaking their heads over latest round between Microsoft and Justice. Doesn't seem to make a lot of sense for the minority player on the Web to be accused by the (85%) majority browser supplier of "monopoly." Struggle really isn't over percentages per se — really has to do with what Microsoft may gain in the future via their agreements with PC vendors over browser inclusion with PCs sold to the public.

NetScape is trying to assume the pose of the innocent, injured party here, claiming Microsoft is cheating by giving *Internet Explorer* away for free. Hmm... I don't know that many people who have actually paid for the NetScape product. Anyone has been able to download beta ver-

sions of *NetScape Explorer* for free from the NetScape URL.

Has to be really maddening for Microsoft, though. The Redmond, WA, giant has just made a near-miraculous strategic shift toward the 'World of the Web' and is running at full speed molding their efforts to the new arena when the Justice Department knocks at the door. Even Bill Gates has trouble keeping focus with all the static and legal "noise" providing unlimited opportunity for distraction. That's the real problem when the Feds get in your business — remaining on track and taking care of business strategies and planning.

Hmmm... Could that be Reback et al.,'s own strategy? Can NetScape, SUN and others distract Microsoft enough to make some fatal blunder? Add the snarling gnat (Ray Noorda) and countless attorneys from DC, most of whose salaries are probably paid in Microsoft taxes, and it would be hard to stay anywhere close to "centered."

ANOTHER MODEM SPEED RACE? 56K VERSIONS COMING SOON ACCORDING TO ROCKWELL

BUT ONLY ON CLEAN LINES...

Ain't technology wonderful? Rockwell, vendor of most modem CPU chips, announced that 56K versions aren't far from production quantities. The new chip set will approximately double existing "standard" 28.8K modem speeds, and really won't make that much difference to users unless they have really clean telephone lines.

Rockwell didn't announce "real" shipping dates, but did report they'd show the technology at Comdex in November of this year. Savvy users may question whether "typical" phone lines can handle the advanced modulation included in the new transmission methodology.

That's the nasty little secret the telephone companies have been hiding for some time — that it's often the quality of the users' telephone connections rather than the modem that limits data throughput. In this area, line quality is often questionable since so many of the exchanges rely on decades-old technology. Ask them, however, and they'll always point in some more convenient (and non-company) direction, usually inferring it's the user's fault that the lines are so "dirty."

YEAR 2000 PROBLEMS APPEARING IN SOFTWARE AS WELL AS HARDWARE

Hmmm... I'd thought the *Dreaded Year 2000 Plague* was primarily a menace to really old mainframes, their software and antique PC's. Guess I listened to Hoisington too much. Disease is even wider than thought.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, it's even being seen in some "new" PC software. Guess we can share the nightmare with the mainframe folks after all.

WSJ even mentioned a new Microsoft application as having problems with the transition from 1999 to 2000. That's in spite of Bill Gates' recent pronouncement that "Most PC users won't be affected," and went on to claim that Microsoft software won't have the problem. *Quicken* may also be a problem for users according to the *WSJ* September 18 article.

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 or to Connie Andrews, Special Interest Group Editor, before the 10th of the month)

Alpha 4/5 SIG

In the computer age, database systems have always been with us. In the main-frame world database storage went from punched cards (sorry, I just missed the board wiring phase), then to QSAM, ISAM, then on to IMS and DB2 systems. This stuff is the backbone of business processes.

Then came user empowerment with the PC, and the Visicalc spreadsheet was born. Spreadsheets were the best non-programmer tool around. So they were the hammer, and all the problems in the world were nails! Customer lists, invoice detail, sales history, etc. were all stored in spreadsheets.

PC-based database systems are now more widely used, but even today, databases are only included in the "Professional" version of the various suite packages. (I won't get on my soapbox here about ease of use for a powerful database, such as Alpha.) Time moves ahead, and the use for databases is ex-

panding. This finally brings me to our subject for this month!

Recently, Ron Jackson has been involved with helping a company develop a database-oriented document management system. They needed to maintain clipped news articles, PR information, company documents, etc., in a flexible, searchable, and retrievable system. Ron reviewed scanning system, OCR systems, and other capabilities.

He will demonstrate for us the use of the PaperPort scanner and OCR software to create objects that can be stored in a database, searched, retrieved, printed, pasted into other documents, etc. I have needed a system like this for some time and have been after Ron to show me a demo. I am very eager to see it and I hope you can be there as well.

Bill Parker and Ron Jackson

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 @ (972) 235-5968 h]
- Dallas Corel [Contact Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266]
- Hardware Solutions [Contact Charles Miller (903) 938-4220 h]

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

- Leadership** — at least one individual willing to lead the SIG, and an assistant.
 - Membership** — at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.
- If you have a group that meets these qualifications or would like help in finding others who might share your interests, please contact me at (972) 517-7430 (H) or (972) 960-4276 (W).

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h

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

ACT!

Jim Thompson (817) 261-6159 h
..... (214) 953-0051 w
Deborah Bean..... (972) 475-7463 h
..... (972) 475-3124 w

Access

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 hM
Jack Atkinson..... (817) 481-6623 h
Dianna DeCicco.. (972) 446-0639 h
Frank McCoy..... (817) 232-2483 h

Alpha 4 / 5

Ron Jackson (972) 276-3661 h
Bill Parker..... (214) 369-5889 h

Applications Developers (OLE & ODBC)

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 h
Linda Moore (214) 342-8833
Vince Prehn (214) 880-0000
Dan Ogden..... (972) 417-1916 w

Assembly Language SIG

Frank Cavalitto.... (972) 423-9221 h

Business Applications/DAC

Putt Shaw..... (972) 235-2559 h
Bruce Schubert... (972) 394-5328 h
..... (972) 233-8353 w

C++/Advanced

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

C++/Beginning

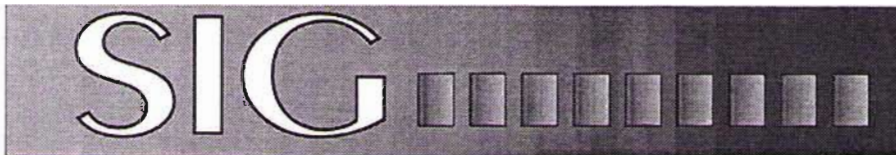
Tom Cook (214) 341-1890 w

CAD

Bill Sephton..... (972) 296-1799 h
..... (972) 387-3500 w
Neil Culver (972) 690-6552 h
..... (972) 235-3031 w

Communications

Alan Brosz..... (972) 548-7928 h
..... (972) 498-1237 w



ASSEMBLER SIG

Our September meeting featured a presentation by Frank Cavallito on RISC processors.

Since our October meeting will coincide with a number of major conferences in Dallas, I am going to try see if some of the conference attendees might want to give a presentation to the Assembler SIG while they are in Dallas. I have attempted to contact a number of local ASM types via the Net (I now know my messages are getting out - I'm just being ignored) and will keep trying until I get some response.

Glynn Brooks has volunteered to give a talk on USB (Universal System Bus). No date has yet been set for this, but will probably be settled before this appears in print.

Any scheduled vendor presentations, as well as upcoming talks are generally noted on the Club BBS - stay tuned for the latest details.

Hope to see you in October.

Frank Cavallito

C/C++/ADVANCED

At the September meeting of the Advanced C/C++ SIG, we continued our series of OLB automation and MFC. We started with a brief review of class factories (which we had discussed in August), and then moved on to discuss COM interfaces. This is one of the fundamental building blocks of COM and OLE, so we examined it in excruciating detail.

We started with the definition of an interface, as found in Microsoft's COM specification; looked at why language-independence obfuscates the details so badly; and finished up by dissecting MFC's implementation of the standard.

Along the way, we talked about how objects in general, and virtual methods tables in particular, are laid out in memory, and some of the portability issues associated with MFC's design. The debate was lively, the questions were insightful, and a good time was had by all.

Having talked about OLE for three months now, I'm ready for a break. (I have a sneaking suspicion that I may not be the only one!) Our October meeting will be unstructured, so we can discuss any C++ topic you'd like. I still have some OLE topics I'd like to cover, and I plan to resume the series in November. Please join us!

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

DALLAS COREL SIG

October Program - WEB PAGE DESIGN

By popular request, the October program will feature Web page design. Included will be a showing of Randy Tobin's videotape on this current hot topic. It will cover HTML, HotDog, tags, home pages, graphic file formats, text, links, forms and web toolbox. The video was produced just prior to Corel's release of Web design products a few months ago, but we will try to touch on them a bit too.

September Meeting in Review

Randy Tobin's videotape on Image Editing picked up where our July program on Power Scanning left off. Attendees



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

DOS

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Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h

Delphi

Fred Williams(972) 492-1315
Tom Browning.....(214) 692-9784 h
Frank Cavallito(972) 423-9221

Desktop Publishing

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

Emerging Computer Technologies

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

Fox Pro

Kevin White.....(972) 644-6008 w

Genealogy - General

Al Sanford(972) 278-7988 h

Genealogy - Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland ..(972) 272-2869 h

Genealogy - PAF

Joe Waldrop.....(817) 498-5856 h

Genealogy - Roots III / IV

John Wylie.....(972) 495-4410 h

Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

Jeri Steele(972) 306-1596 h
.....(972) 917-3917 w

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.....(972) 475-3124 w

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Ralph Beaver(817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson.....(972) 938-0344 h

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.....(214) 464-4568 w
Erik Leaseburg....(817) 265-7550 hM

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- Doug Gorrie (972) 618-8002 h
- (214) 464-4568 w
- Erik Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM
- Pat Hykkonen (214) 340-9621 h
- (972)-234-6400 w

Internet-WEB Developers

- Mark Camp (214) 583-9012
- David Maxwell (214) 977-7584 w
- (972) 299-6295 h

Introduction to the PC

- Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h
- (972) 960-4276 w
- Bob Russell (972) 422-4269 h

Investors

- Dick Richtman (972) 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... (972) 625-9680 h
- (972) 716-2704 w
- Bruce Wynn (972) 335-2507 h
- (972) 756-7832 w
- John McCrae
- Frank Drewes

MultiMedia

- Dennis Rice (972) 680-8299 h

Networking

- Leroy Tennison
- Francis Bright

OS/2 Developer

- James Dunn (972) 279-5712 h
- (972) 497-8978 w

OS/2 for End Users

- Bob Fermier..... (817) 481-6625 h
- (972) 444-2195 w

OS/2 Q&A

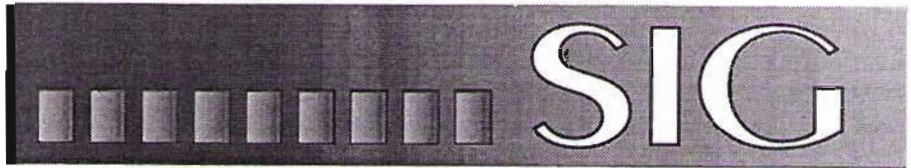
- Larry Truesdale .. (972) 684-4790

Paradox

- Fred Williams..... (972) 492-1315 h
- Tom Browning (214) 692-9784 h

Programmers

- Jim Hoisington (972) 416-3101 h



remember how helpful his scanning demonstration videotape was to us who are either new to scanning or who are veteran scanners.

In September Randy's videotape demonstrated editing principles used in image editing programs such as Corel PhotoPaint, Micrographx Picture Publisher and Adobe Photoshop. We learned advanced image editing techniques including: masking, tone balance, effects, object layering and image manipulation. We also touched on Kai's *Power Tools*. One lucky NTPCUG member in attendance won the coveted door prize: a copy of Kai's *Power Tools*. Thanks to **Susan Biggs** who made it available!

Marsha Drebelbis shared original photographic images which she scanned at high resolution, edited and then printed poster size on an Encad Novajet at 36x48 in full color. The results can be stunning.

Sneak Preview Announcement

Write this on your calendar now: on November 9, attend the NTPCUG main auditorium demonstration of CorelDRAW! 7.0. Yes, that's right, version 7.0. It will be released at the end of October and Frank Tomei of Corel Corporation has accepted our invitation to introduce it in Dallas at NTPCUG's November meeting. Full details will come next month.

The Past Year of Programs at Dallas Corel SIG:

-1995-

☆October - Demonstrations of Corel's Lens Feature and of PhotoPaint

☆November - Internet Surfing Demonstration Online

☆December - "Tubular" Demonstration in CorelDRAW 5

-1996-

☆January - Poster Artwork Created Using Corel

☆February - Tips and Tricks Demonstration on Corel 5

☆March - Windows 95 and CorelDRAW 6 Demonstration

☆April - Epilog Graphics Engraver Etches Corel Designs

☆May - SIG Members Showcase Their Work

☆June - CorelDRAW 6's "Other" Modules Demonstrated

☆July - Power Scanning Instruction

☆August - Fine Art and Corel

☆September - Image Editing Instruction

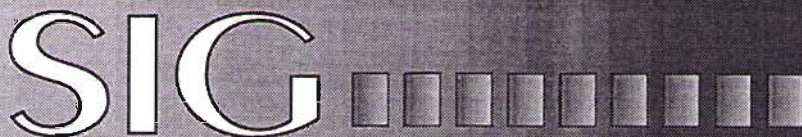
Marsha Drebelbis

IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

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

- ❖Technical Support Representatives 800-818-1848
- ❖G1 Release, CD-Rom only(latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products) 800-772-6735
- ❖Customer Service Representatives 800-772-6735
- ❖IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network) 613-728-1990
- ❖24 Hour Automated Fax System 613-728-0826 Ext.3080
- ❖Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays
- ❖To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

SIG



TIPS & TRICKS

From Laurie McCanna's Web page at <http://www.mccannas.com>. With the help of your Corel software, you already created a great background. Now you want to bring its contrast down. But you want to lose no detail, so using the contrast and color balance options are out.

Filters to the rescue: Open your file in Corel PhotoPaint. From the Effects menu, choose Mapping, then Smoked Glass. The Smoked Glass filter uses the foreground color you select, and overlays your image with the color in whatever percentage you select. As with all filters, your file needs to be in 24 bit mode in order to use the filter. To save your file as a gif, choose Image/Convert To/256 Colors, and then the best method to reduce color for WWW work is Error Diffusion, and Optimized Palette.

Marsha Drebelbis

Delphi SIG

If things went as scheduled, I did a demo of Youseful at the September SIG, followed by a standing ovation, by all present. NOT! Youseful is the shareware installation builder VCL set for Delphi 1.0, and soon to be 2.0. I have been using Youseful for a few months now and am quite happy with it. You may check the latest with Youseful by opening:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/WHITEWB>

The Youseful author's home page.

This month, October (In case the guy from the DFW news group, who ask when the next "First Saturday" event will be held, is reading this.), I plan on doing a presentation of a set of "code-based" report generation VCL's, *ReportPrinter Pro, Version 2.0*. Like my-

self, you are most likely scratching your head, wondering what is a code-based VCL?

With a little luck, and a good tail wind, I will be able to actually demo how you, too, can build a multi-page invoice for your Consultancy at the October meeting, as I hope to have my invoice printing code completed in time for the October meeting.

On a more practical level, the presentation should be a good display of just how much control you can have over Delphi, with liberal use of imbedded Pascal code. Something in this day and age of "RAD", that is not a common presentation subject, it seems. For a more detailed look at Report Printer Pro, please refer to the review of the product presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have still not received the *Access DAO* (I like to call it DOA, in front of the Microsoft crowd) VCL I have been promised. This one will, if the pre-release hype holds up, provide a VCL set for Delphi-native connectivity to both Access and *FoxPro Jet* and DAO database engines! This product has some real potential, as many companies seem to be starting a lot of in-house development in Access and quickly reach a point where they realize they need a "real" programmer to clean up the mess.

Should the DAO VCL arrive in time for review prior to the November meeting, I am planning on doing a presentation on it for that month's meeting. The initial release date for the VCL was set for mid August. I received notice of one delay, to the end of August. As yet, I have not received it. Wonder how that could happen?

If the DAO thing does not show up, I have a GPS (Global Positioning System) based mapping VCL that I might have some time to work with. This

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W. L. Harris.....(972) 291-7616 h
.....(972) 462-3676 w
Phil Faulkner.....(972) 239-0561 h
.....(214) 819-4446 w

Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev

Mark Gruner.....(972) 964-8174 h
.....(972) 605-8447 w
Adam Peterson....(972) 682-0725 h
.....(972) 864-2760 w

SQL Server

Ada Finigan.....
Steven DeSalvo... (972) 716-2684
John Penaska.....(972) 431-3979
Erin Welker.....(972) 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.....(972) 235-5968 h

Visual Basic

Ed Diehl.....(972) 687-9043 w
Jim Carter.....(972) 235-5968 h

Windows - Applications

Neal Berkowitz....(972) 475-7463 h
.....(972) 475-3124 w
Deborah Bean.....(972) 475-7463 h
.....(972) 475-3124 w

Windows - Developers

Art English.....(972) 618-1266 h
.....(214) 232-3310 w

WordPerfect / DOS

Dawn Hopkins.....(972) 613-8815 h
.....(214) 740-8085 w

WordPerfect / Windows

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

one was for another one of my infamous projects where the cooperating company ends up in Chapter 11 or 7, before I can get my project going. Luckily, I was still in the information gathering, high level design stage with this one when the wheels fell off!

Anyhow drift on by and see what is happening in the Delphi world. Have you heard the latest about Delphi 1.5?

Fred Williams

DOS SIG

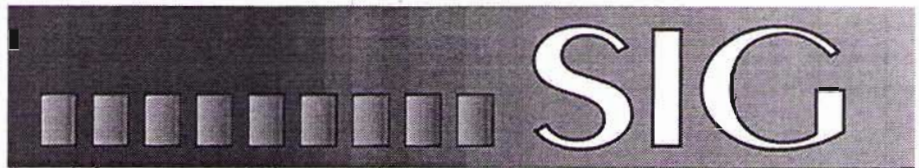
Onward and Upward! It's that time when lots of us get a little 'energy-boost' and decide to upgrade our systems. Remember though, the hardware setup has to be 'solid' before the operating system (OS) will function properly.

Used to be hardware setup was a relatively easy process for 'typical' AT-style machines running DOS and *Windows 3.1x*. All the user had to know was what devices got which IRQ and port address (in hex, naturally). Lot of it was easy, i.e., the IDE controller took IRQ 14, COM ports took IRQ 4 (COM 1 & 3) or IRQ 3 (COM 2 & 4), etc. Second printer went to IRQ 5 and we knew to stay away from IRQ's 2, 6, 7, 9 and 13.

Sound and CD-ROMs complicated things since they would ask for another IRQ or so, and more port addresses. If the user kept good notes when installing additional devices, was usually not that difficult to eventually get it all straight and working well.

That was then — 'Plug and Play' (PnP) is now.

We got a little 'help' from *Windows 95* and the BIOS/motherboard vendors. The whole game has changed with the 'smart' PCI bus and 'smart' PC BIOS sets. With 'automatic' assignment of IRQs in the interchange between PnP-aware operating systems and the new PnP-aware BIOS sets, the potential for setup disaster has increased exponentially.



I speak from recent and bitter experience.

PnP isn't perfect yet. Neither are the new BIOS sets. Add an OS trying to take control of the setup process that isn't all that perfect either and the user can windup with a nightmare rather than the improved PC expected. Add to this fact that all PC-related hardware profit margins are razor thin and vendors may let more marginal or 'bad' devices pass on to users and the situation is even further complicated.

It's very difficult to trouble-shoot a sick system in these conditions. I spent a week attempting to get things straight between a new motherboard and CPU, a new video card, new SCSI controller, new 2.1G disk and Windows 95. Have had this happen before when I was playing 'Mix n Match' with older components to assemble a PC for a relative or friend. These were all new, top-of-the-line (i.e., expensive) parts. I'd thought in the past I was pretty good at diagnostics. Not this time.

Source of the problems was a motherboard/BIOS set that was 'slightly' marginal. It was almost impossible to pin down, though.

Reagan Andrews

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

At our September meeting we had **Mark Camp** demonstrate how to install and connect to your Internet service provider using *Windows95's* built-in Dial-up Networking feature. Although Microsoft has made great strides in helping new Internauts get connected to the Internet (for example, providing a software wizard to lead you through the configuration steps), that first time can always be a little scary. Thanks Mark for putting our first-time Internet connection fears to rest.

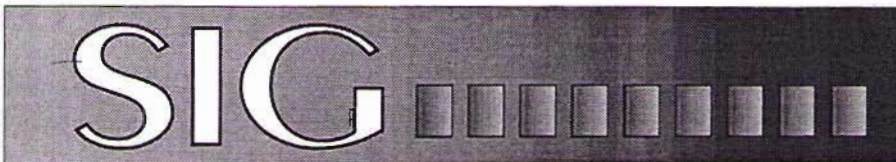
In October, two of the SIG leaders, **Doug Gorrie** and **Erik Leaseburg**, will reveal how to use the many Internet search engines (Alta Vista, Open Text, WebCrawler, HotBot, Lycos, Infoseek, etc.) available on the World Wide Web.

Internet search engines are analogous to your neighborhood library's computerized card catalogue system. However, instead of having to write down the books you are interested in on a piece of scratch paper and hope someone else has not checked them out, Web search engines give you a list of information sites on the Internet. To see the information that sounds most useful, simply click on the description, and just like "that," the information appears on your computer screen.

With the amount of information accessible on the Internet far exceeding even the Library of Congress (which you can also find using an Internet search engine), Internet surfers are finding the knowledgeable use of search engines to be crucial.

With the growing popularity of the Internet, we continually have new folks coming to the meetings wanting to learn the Internet basics: What is the Internet? How do I get connected to the Internet? What software and hardware do I need? How do I find what I want on the Internet?

The SIG leaders along with the much appreciated help of volunteer **Kiff Barnes** are in the detailed planning stages of an Internet Basic's course. The course will be split into several sessions which address the learning needs of new Internet users. Be on the lookout for more information in future meetings and this newsletter. Any ideas you may have for this new course would also be greatly appreciated.



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

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

INTERNET SIG - ADVANCED

At the September meeting there was a general Q & A session where we discussed the new 972 area code in Dallas and the Southwestern Bell Web site that gave more details. We also talked about up and coming Internet connection options like V34+ modems, ISDN, ADSL, cable TV, and others.

A major hindrance to the usefulness of the Internet as a means for delivering high quality multimedia information is the slow connection speeds offered by today's modems. These new connection technologies hold the promise of making travel on the Information Superhighway more like cruising the German Autobahn and less like puttering down a pothole-ridden farm road.

In October Charles Ragan of INS will give the group an in depth presentation on the history of the Internet Backbone from ARPAnet to NSFnet to today! With new Internet service providers (ISPs) popping up every day to sell individuals and companies access to the Internet, it becomes quite confusing knowing who is connected to who. More importantly, it is difficult to determine which ISP is most directly connected to the Internet Backbone and thus, most likely to provide fast, high-quality Internet access. Charles will help answer the challenging question, "Who is your ISP's ISP?"

The Advanced Internet SIG has added another co-SIG leader, **Pat Hykonen**, to help **Tom, Doug, and Erik** with running the group. Pat is also a leader in the *UNIX* SIG and brings many years of solid Internet and networking experience to the group. Be sure to say hello to Pat at the meeting in October and challenge him with your Internet questions.

*Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe, Pat
Hykkonen & 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.

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

December 14, 1996

- ❖ 9:00 Class 9
Hardware for the PC
- ❖ 10:00 Class 10
Printers for the PC
- ❖ Noon Class 11
Overview of Quicken Accounting Software
- ❖ 1:00 Class 12
Modems & Telecommunications
- ❖ 2:00 Class 12a
NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS)

January 18, 1997*

- ❖ 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

February 8, 1997*

- ❖ 9:00
Viruses and Their Prevention

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

Alex Lilley

PARADOX SIG

I had a discussion with **Tom Browning**, our capable Assistant SIG Leader, recently. We discussed the pros and cons of "keeping on, keeping on" with the North Texas PC Users Group Paradox SIG, even in light of recent events. Tom and I both agreed we feel like we owe it to Paradox, and our fellow Paradoxers, to try to continue on, for as long as we can.

I was stone sober at the August meeting of PUNT (Paradox Users of North Texas), but I misunderstood that group's future plans totally, it seems! Tom assured me that, for the foreseeable future, we were going to attempt to carry PUNT forward. Sure could use a **Kevin Williams** for that one!

Guess what I'm getting at here is kind of a "call to arms", and time to "rally round the flag", as the market seems to be pressuring Paradox in negative ways. If you are involved in Paradox, and think you will be for some time in the future, it is time to consider what your future support options could be.

It seems that Borland's interest in Paradox may be being overshadowed by the continuing success of *Delphi*. Borland is asking for input on yet another 16-bit Delphi release. In contrast, Borland has been less than forthcoming about the future of either version of Paradox for Windows. Again I say, it may be high time for those of us with an involvement in Paradox to start forming interdependent bonds.

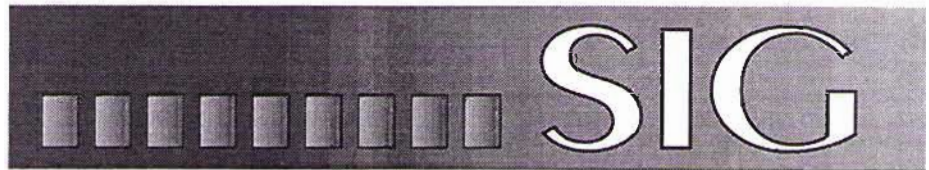
I continue to accept work involving Paradox DOS, if for nothing else than sentimental reasons. Plus the rate is back up to where it is worthwhile. (They're getting desperate.) And, I hope to gain additional work involved in developing Windows/Client Server-based implementations to replace existing systems.

So from a personal standpoint, I do have a vested interest in seeing a Paradox forum continue on. If you share that interest, it is a good time to let all of your fellow Paradoxers know by supporting both the NTPCUG Paradox SIG and our long-time sister, Paradox Users of North Texas. We may soon be standing alone.

Fred Williams

PRO SIG

October is Object Month. **Kent Cobb** led a discussion of Local versus Remote Objects. The presentation went well until **Leroy Tennison**, an advocate of RPG II, pointed out that there were no provisions in either type of Objects for OV indicators.



Join us next month as we learn how to use L1 through L6 indicators.

Jim Hoisington

SQL SERVER SIG

We will be continuing with our discussion of ways to fine-tune SQL Server.

Steven demonstrated several methods in our August meeting. Now it will be **Erin's** turn to show us some of the techniques she has developed for optimizing SQL Server's performance.

Join us at 9:00 Saturday morning to learn more of SQL Server's secrets.

Ada Finigan

VISUAL BASIC SIG - BEGINNING

The October meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 1996 and will feature the discussion of the many built-in functions in Visual Basic, especially the many built-in string functions. Most of the controls used to display information utilize strings and therefore, considerable manipulation of string data is required in Visual Basic. For those of you who have Gary Cornell's *The Visual Basic 4 for Windows Handbook*, Chapter 8 discusses the built-in functions available in Visual Basic 4.0. You can get a head start if you wish.

The September 14 meeting included the creation and debugging of the Mortgage Calculator program from Gary Cornell's text book. Since this is being written well ahead of that meeting, I can only assume that the presentation was well received.

Most Visual Basic programmers agree that the best way to learn to program in Visual Basic is to program in Visual Basic. The best applications come from your personal experience. Examples include (1) a database application whereby

you catalog your personal library of books and magazines, (2) an application that maintains a listing of your friends' and relatives' addresses and/or phone numbers, birthdays, etc., (3) an application which keeps track of individual and team scores on a bowling team, and any other activity you are involved in directly.

In this way, you understand the basic process and you only have to select the Visual Basic interface, properties, and code to create the application. Our two Visual Basic SIGs include some very talented programmers who would be more than happy to help you as you attempt to create your application. Give it a try, today!

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, October 12, 1996. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment.

Jim Carter

WORDPERFECT / WINDOWS SIG


Hello Everyone!

Hope you can make it this next month because I want to see what you are doing out there! Bring examples of creations you have made and show it off! Bring a sheet explaining what you have done to create your document and how you did it (please keep it to one page) and let's all share our ideas.

If time permits, we will have a Q&A time. So write down your questions on projects and let's clear them up. There are always questions that don't get asked each month so if you have kept track, bring them with you. This month will be very free flowing and will involve you. Bring a friend and I look forward to seeing you all there!

Tip of the Month

SIG



Ever had a merge file that didn't merge and you don't have a clue why? More than likely you have the data file on one screen, the form file on another and the merged results on another. The most common error made is that the

data file is not saved before the merge. If you import a file from *Paradox* and all looks well on the screen, if you do not save this file as a WordPerfect data file, merge will not see it! This is also true if you have an existing data file

and have made changes to it. If you don't save the new changes, the results will not appear in the merged document.

Merge on!

Cindy Adams

ATTENTION ALL SIG LEADERS!

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

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

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

- ❖ From the BBS Main Menu, select "F" — (F)ile Up/Download. That will take you to the NTPCUG Up/Download Menu.
- ❖ Select "T" — S(I)G 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

NTPCUG ON-LINE...Ctd.

to call the Net "liquid" is a bit of an understatement. At some point in time, "political" mechanisms may need to be put into place in order to "level" the playing field. But, I would hope, that would be the avenue of last resort, as we all know how well the post office works.

I hold out hope that advancing technology will continue to solve the Net's problems without resorting to political "solutions". MCI is now testing a new backbone leg based on ATM technology, which will provide a ten-fold increase in traffic flow.

Should this test work, (MCI claims it is working great. Naturally the competitors are claiming it is not.) MCI plans to shortly circle the country with ten of these new ATM links, with a cross connect between Chicago and Dallas to give a high level of fail-safe reliability.

I obviously have great faith in Cisco, and think that Cisco will rise to the occasion, and provide a better solution for router table management, to service this traffic increase. If not, Bay Networks continues to nip at Cisco's heels!

Hum, I kind'a enjoyed writing about this Net thing, Let me know at the next meeting, if you find this kind of thing of interest. I don't think it is too far off topic, in this day and age, but I need to hear from y'all.

Fred Williams

Tempus Fugit!
**Fred's 'Billable Hours'
 & Classic Car Fetishes**
 — Eating BBS Time

This billable work is killing me! And, just when I thought things were going to start slowing down, the weather improved. That left the old, "it's just too hot", excuse with nowhere to go.

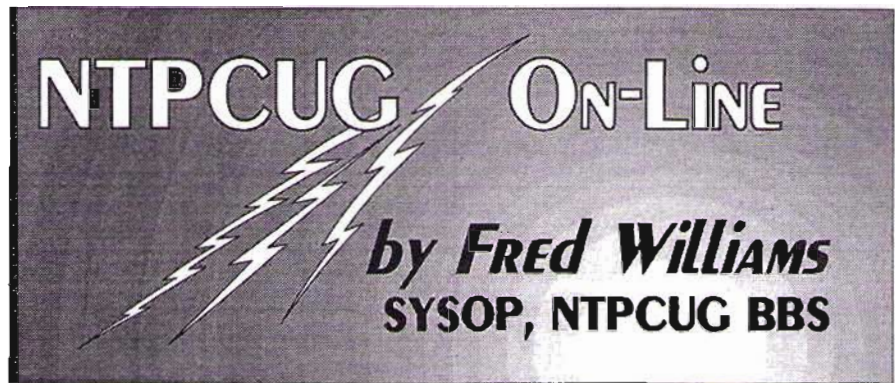
I am also in the almost full-time auto repair bid'ness of late it would seem. This old running them until the wheels fall off, does have its own kind of costs. If anybody is interested out there, I have in my possession a "classic" Seville that can be had for cash money, no checks! Where is, as is, with spare quart of power steering fluid included.

As you have guessed by now, not much has happened in my "all volunteer" department this month. Seems the Microsoft people are having greater success with NT 4.0 than they planned on as well. Haven't seen much out of them lately. I hope to chat with them at the upcoming September meeting.

The old BBS system has at least settled down, and is not causing any serious problems lately. I think I only had to make a couple of trips to Addison in August. Once was because the USR Sportster we are using to call OnRamp, went "stupid" and hung with the phone line off-hook. I have also personally suffered some intermittent phone line degradation during August. I don't know if phone line quality contributed to the Sportster's problem or not.

The old system is holding its own, but knowing what could be done with the new system is making me feel guilty about the continuing delays with getting the new setup cooking. I still feel the implementation is not that far away, given just a little time commitment from all of the parties involved.

I am modifying the current new user log on verification programs for use on the new system. The basic functionality will not change, there just needs to



be multiter considerations added to the existing code. Some other minor changes will also be required to better fit the NT log on environment.

On a totally different subject. I read an article in one of my industry "rags" the other day. It was an analysis of the current general state of the Internet and the apparent directions that are being taken by the larger "backbone" players.

I have always held the opinion that the idea of getting rich as an ISP was at best a questionable opportunity. I know that any time the little guys break new ground and sort out all the unknowns, the big guys will come along and steal the loin's share of the emerging market.

When I got my recent offer from MCI of five free hours of PPP connectivity a month, plus two fifty per hour over five, I knew my prediction was beginning to come true. The reason MCI is doing it is because AT&T started a very similar program, or maybe it was visa versa. Anyway, would you want



to guess who two of the largest players are in the business of Internet backbone services?

Well this article I read was talking about how the Net's routers are starting to sag under the burgeoning traffic load. Bad news for us Cisco Systems stockholders, I guess. The article went on to describe what some of the larger Net players, the ones that own the backbone routers, are evidently doing to reduce the switching load on the Net's routers.

Seems that the big guys are selectively blocking out router table changes, prompted by activity emanating from smaller ISP's, who tend to have a large percentage of dial in users. These actions are being taken during peak Net loading, and are the real culprit behind some of the smaller ISP's poor performance of late.

What some may not know is, every time a new system signs on or off the Net, network router overhead is generated. The sign on requires a router table change to acknowledge and assign a new IP address for the system, when the PPP connection is terminated, yet another router table change is required to de-allocate the IP address.

Seems now that the big guys are getting in the act, and it is their marbles (routers), they are making certain their customer base is protected, at the expense of those downstream. I would not really call that "fair". but then again, my ISP is MCI!

I look for continued pressure toward government intervention into the Net. This is a whole new ball game, and to

Continued on previous page.

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Those were the times we thought would never end. There is a company that is in the business of making chips and processors for computers that haven't been sold for ten years. They actually have a Web-site and salespeople, who must have a great sales pitch. I guess they would be able to make two hundred brand new 8088's for replacement in a computer for less than the cost of re-engineering and rebuilding the unit. That would be very important if it was a part of a much larger piece of equipment. As fast as the industry is evolving, it would seem the machines we recently bought are soon to be history.

One visitor to the information booth this month started talking about the CPM operating system and how its command line did some miraculous things (back then). I started thinking about the

accumulated knowledge of our members and how they could tell the story of Digital Research, Microsoft, DEC, IBM, and Intel from a front line viewpoint. There are probably lots of stories about punch card readers and programmers waiting for time to use the corporate main frame. Retelling some of this history might make a good SIG so get hold of Alex Lilly and ask him for me; while I wipe these tears away. Don't wait for that SIG though, there are plenty of good SIGs waiting for you now at the monthly meeting of the NTPCUG. Be patient if your SIG leader says monitors and keyboards are a handy addition to computing.

Thanks to the SIG leaders, assistant leaders and the other volunteers who add so much value to our monthly meeting. Many of the volunteers from our recent meeting are listed on this page.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yanis
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchor:

David Slavik
Kenneth Berg

Crew:

Ken Burns
Larry Miller
William McRae
Kenneth Tillman
Neal Van Pelt

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Chris Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:

Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

Anchor:

Ralph Beaver
Deborah Bean
Albert Champon
Lorin Cranford
Eleta Eta
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbaugh
Hank Holt
Cinda Lovil
David Martin

Bob McNeil

Foy J. Mills
Raymond Reyes
Paul Williams
Jean Waldrep

Booth Crew:

Diane Arnold
Freddy Arnold
John Arnold
Roger Bopp
Chris Brooks
Glyan Brooks
Randy Durham
James Gorak
Claude McClure
Martin Moomaw
Ken Sauter
Fred Toulmin
Matthew Williams
Jean Waldrep

Walkabout:

Linda Moore
Perry Slack

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:

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

DOM Desk Crew:

Richard Abreu
Michael Ashley
Douglas Athas
Bernie Baars
Richard Blair

Jim Boyce

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

With Special Thanks to:

Set Up Crew:

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

Inventory and Take-down Crew:

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

DOM Desk Scheduler:

Philip Bridge

Disk Production:

Gene Carleton

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (972)387-2751, (972)387-2752 or (972)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 (972) 661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler
Phil Bridge (972) 422-5400

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

Information Booth and General Information
Claude McClure (972) 867-0978 (h)

NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access				Internet - General			
	Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
Assembly Language					David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
	Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200	Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)			
	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200		Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
BASIC					.....		S-S 1000-2200
	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	LANs — Novell			
Beginner Problems					Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	— Lantastic			
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Brother's Keeper				Managing Your Money			
	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
C++ (the language)				Modems			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100	MathCAD			
	Doug Cochran	(972)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030		Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
CorelDraw				Norton Utilities			
	Linda Hume.....	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200		John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
	.....		S-S 1300-2200	OS/2			
Batch Files					Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	PC Tools/Win			
Borland C++					Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	Paradox			
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100		Fred Williams.....	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
CompuServe				PKzip/PKUNzip			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows				ProComm/ProComm+			
	Ted Gillam.....	(972)964-7923	7 0800-1700		Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308	
DOS					Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200	Publisher (Microsoft)			
DR DOS					Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Ramon Beaver	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700		Pat Cole.....	(214)522-1717 x266	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	517)524-9530	SS 0900-2100		.....	(972)424-1738	7 1000-2200
Hardware Help							
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400				

NTPCUG User — To — User PROGRAM

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Quicken			
	Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
Quilckbooks			
	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
SPFPC			
	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
TurboVislon			
	Don Cochran	(972)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030
UNIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus			
	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Visual Basic -			
	Jim Carter.....	(972)235-5968	7 1700-2130
	L.J. Johnson.....	(972)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman	(972)495-6342	7 1700-2130
Windows for Workgroups			
	Joseph Beasley.....	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
	Joseph Beasley.....	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Word for Windows			
	Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Works, Microsoft			
	Mike Firth.....	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200
XENIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
XTREE			
	John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200

The subject areas below do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Doug Gorrie at (214)464-7924 M-F 0800-1700 or Sa & Su 1000-1900 at (972)618-8002. Doug will send you a form on which you can list your qualifications and sign.

Areas Needing Helpers:

- Borland Turbo C*
- CAD*
- Dataflex*
- Delphi*
- 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*
- Pagemaker*
- Q & A*
- Roots*
- Smart Notes*
- Sound Blaster*
- Stacker*
- TurboTax*
- Corel Ventura*
- WordPerfect/*
- Windows*
- XTREE*

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

North Texas Users Group, Inc.

Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below		
Payment:	Membership,	Application Status:
Cash _____	Classification:	New Member _____
Check _____	Regular (\$30.00) ____	Renewal _____
Credit Card _____	Student (\$25.00) ____	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.)

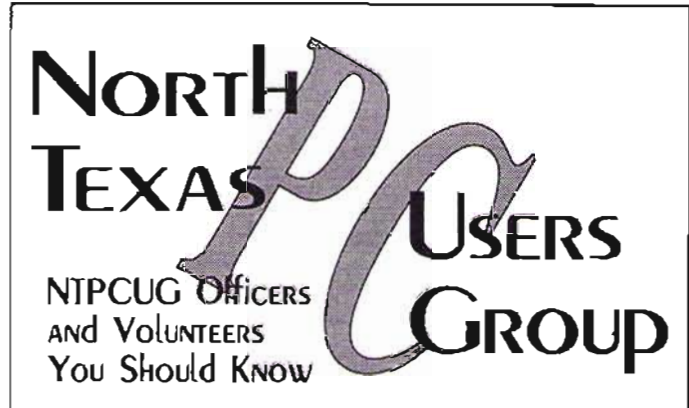
Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

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 972, use Area Code 972. (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)972-2751
..... (214)972-2752
..... METRO (214)972-9036

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

Password problems?

Call Doug at (214) 464-4568

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

Address Changes, etc...

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

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

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(972) 462-1896 h (972) 960-4215 w
President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(903) 569-2638
Secretary	John West	(972) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
Disk of the Month	Jan Parkhill	(214) 828-2216 h
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(972) 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

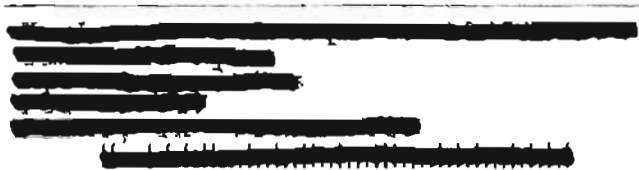


North Texas PC Users Group
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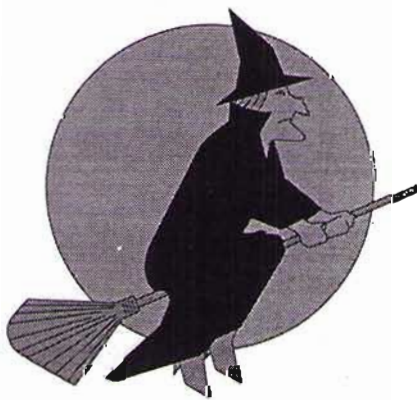
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North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:
12 October 1996

