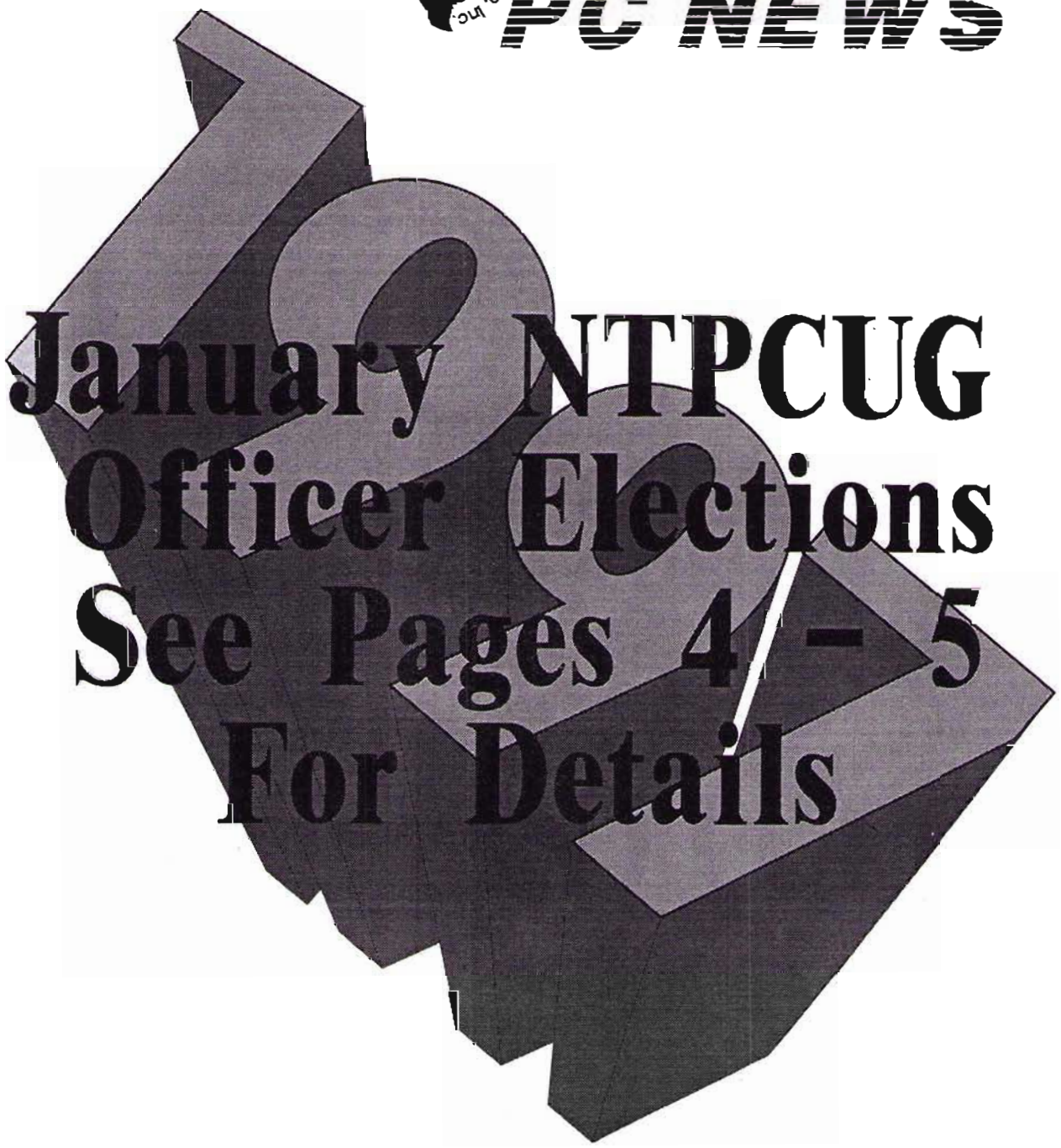
Price $3.00

North Texas PC NEWS



January NTPCUG Officer Elections

See Pages 4 - 5 For Details

January, 1997
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 1

North Texas PC NEWS

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Send address changes to: Membership Director, NTPCUG, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066.

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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 2,030; 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 6.01, Micrografx Picture Publisher 5.0, Adobe Photoshop 4.0* and HP ScanJet IIp. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica, Add. Cafe, French Vogue, Lithos and Mistral.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for February *North Texas PC NEWS*: Friday, January 10th

Meeting Dates:
January 18, 1997 – 3rd Saturday
February 8, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
March 22, 1997 – 4th Saturday

Member
APCUG

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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.

NTPCUG Programs & Presentations . . .

Timothy Carmichael

There are no Vendor Presentations scheduled for January

JANUARY 18

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM **NTPCUG Business Meeting**

Please Remember to vote in the North Texas PC Users Group Elections today You will find a Ballot Box at the Information/Registration Booth where you may place your ballot.

SIGs NTPCUG Special Interest Group Meeting Schedule

8:00 - 8:55
Internet – WEB Developers
Microsoft Networking
Visual BASIC - Beginning
MultiMedia

8:00 - 9:55
Hardware Solutions

9:00 - 9:55
DOS
General Genealogy
Internet-Advanced
SQL Server
Introduction to the PC
Quicken
StarText
Visual BASIC
Windows Applications
WordPerfect/DOS

9:00 - 10:55
Dallas Corel

10:00 - 10:55
ACT!
CAD
Emerging Technologies
Fox Pro Database
Networking
Internet-Beginning
PAF-Genealogy
Paradox
QuickBooks
Introduction to the PC
WordPerfect/Windows
UNIX

11:00 - 11:55
Assembly Language
Brother's Keeper

11:00 - 11:55 (Cont.)
CAD (Cont.)
Investors
Graphics
Microsoft FrontPage
OS/2 — Q & A
Roots III/IV - Genealogy
Spreadsheets
Microsoft Visual C++/MFC

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

1:00 - 2:55
Word for Windows

1:30 - 1:55
Orientation

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers
ActiveX Developers
[was – 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.

Happy New Year!

Let me be one of the first to welcome you to the year 1997. As I write this column, it is early December and the outside temperature is 71 degrees. Doesn't seem quite right but when you read this I'm sure it will.

Thank You Very Much

Let me also echo **Andy Oliver's** thanks to all the people who volunteer their time to run NTPCUG. And a very special thanks to Andy. Being Prez intrudes on personal and work time. It takes a very special individual to be willing to sacrifice that time for NTPCUG. Thanks Andy.

DFW Exchange Corporation

Thank you **Stuart Yarus** for another year as President of *DFW Exchange Corp.* and thanks to all of those people who regularly attend the Board of Directors meetings. These are another of those behind-the-scenes jobs that take a lot of time. We've been through a lot of changes recently and Stuart has managed to keep all of us informed of the situation. I'd like to especially thank him for putting up, for still another year, with the *Evil Vice President of DFW Exchange.*

Elections

Please take time to vote. We're often criticized because we don't have a lot of choices. This year it was up to me to take nominations from the group; there were none. I'm calling around this week to see if I can get some good people to run for the Board so that I can give you a choice.

The reason nobody wants to run against Andy is that he does such a good job that nobody wants to run just to lose. Early on, I twisted arms to get two candidates for the president-elect's position. I saw some of my friends hurt because they lost to a popular candidate. I've given up trying to persuade people to run for President-Elect. If you want to volunteer next year, call Andy Oliver next November, or earlier.

Quick *PCN* Turn-arounds

February is coming fast! We'll be meeting January 18, and then, three short weeks later, February 8. That will be a very short period between newsletters, especially for SIG leaders.

Reagan Andrews, *PC News* Publisher, informed me that he will be putting the February issue of the *North Texas PC News* "to bed" on the Monday following the Janaury 18, 1997 meeting in order to have issues in the hands of most members before the February 8 meeting. SIG Leaders — please try to get your February meeting plans to the BBS by January 10 if at all possible. If you can't plan that far in advance, do what the Pro SIG leader does, lie.., er, "speculate" on an agenda.

Good Article

If you want to read an excellent, humorous, article on the year 2000 problem, check out the article *Panic in the Year Zero* by Jeff Duntemann in the Dec/Jan 1997 issue of *Visual Developer.* Did you know that the average engine controller chip in a car has over 100,000 lines of code.? Hmmm! I wonder if my car will start on 1/1/2000.

Jim...

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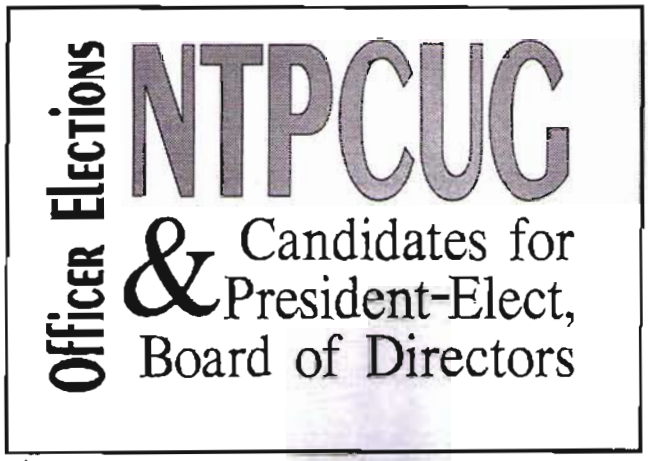
NTPCUG President–Elect & Board of Director Elections

The North Texas PC Users Group will hold elections for President-Elect and five members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors (BOD) in January. The President -Elect is a member of the BOD and serves in that role for one year, then becomes President the following year. The five other Members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors serve one-year terms.



Candidate for President-Elect

Andy Oliver

Andy is the current President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG. Andy was also President in 1994 and 1992, and has served as President-Elect in 1991, 1993 and 1995. Andy became active in the NTPCUG in 1985 and has served as SIG Coordinator and Information Booth Anchor in the past. He is a member of the Microcomputer Managers Association and Dallas NetWare Users Group. Andy is now Information Systems Director for the Staubach Company in Dallas.

Candidates for North Texas PC Users Group Board of Directors

Reagan Andrews

Reagan is currently a member of the Board, and a past NTPCUG President. He is Co-leader of the DOS SIG and stepped in three years ago to become "temporary" Publisher of the *North Texas PC News*, a tremendous volunteer task. The *Variety Store* column in this newsletter was his idea and has become a mainstay of keeping on top of industry news. Reagan works for the Dallas VA Hospital as a Clinical Psychologist treating veterans suffering from delayed stress syndrome. Reagan and his wife, Connie, continue to be ambassadors to APCUG at COMDEX.

Timothy Carmichael

Timothy currently serves as Program Chairman of the NTPCUG and has done so since 1989 when took over the job of arranging and scheduling vendor presentations for NTPCUG. Timothy is a current member of the Board of Directors and is a Member Emeritus. As the Program Chairman, he is responsible for arranging the Auditorium vendor presentations at our Saturday meetings and Timothy continues to do an excellent job for us. In his real job, he is an electrical and biomedical engineer doing research, applying computer hardware and software for medical measurement and diagnostic systems.

Marsha Drebelbis

Marsha Drebelbis is currently SIG Leader of the Corel SIG, author of the *Corel Corner* column, and came to the NTPCUG in March, 1995, when the Corel group merged with us. She currently operates two design houses, Marsha Drebelbis Studios, a graphics design firm, and Litigation Graphics which serves the le-

gal market with design of demonstrative graphics in Dallas. Marsha earned Bachelors degrees in Art Education and Fine Arts from the University of Kansas, and serves in a Pro Bono capacity with the Dallas Theater Center and Old East Dallas Renaissance Coalition.

Doug Gorrie

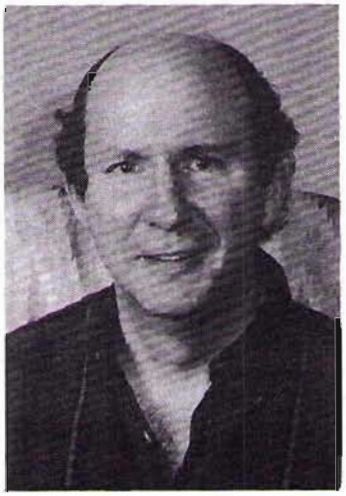
Doug was the 1993 President of the NTPCUG. He is the Co-leader of the Advanced Internet SIG and is involved in the day-to-day support of our Bulletin Board System. Doug was instrumental in efforts to establish the NTPCUG Home Page and continues to serve as Webmaster He has spent the past 27 years with Southwestern Bell Telephone, 17 of those were working with IBM mainframes. Currently, Doug is working with wide-area-network implementation and support for SWB.

Chris Jung

Chris Jung has been a member of NTPCUG since 1988, and is easily recognized since he joined NTPCUG Program Chairman Timothy Carmichael as Assistant Program Chairman working on Auditorium Presentations in1989. This year, he added the role of Assistant Webmaster , working with Doug Gorrie on the NTPCUG Home Page, the ***www.ntpcug.org***. Chris works in LAN Administration and as Assistant Webmaster for Tarrant County.

Alex Lilley

Alex has been the Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator for the past three years and is also the SIG Leader for the *Introduction to the PC* series of



classes on use of personal computers. Alex is the room scheduler for all computer groups that meet at Infomart. In addition, Alex coordinates all audio-visual and white-board equipment used at the DFW Xchange meetings at Infomart. Alex is married with two grown children and works as an IS for a local commercial real estate company. He is a Certified Property Manager and graduate of Texas A & M University.

Fred Williams

Fred is a current BOD member and has been a member of NTPCUG since its founding in 1982. He has been SIG Leader for the Communications and LAN SIG's, and is the founder and current leader of the *Paradox* and *Delphi* SIGs. He chaired the BBS Steering Committee which reorganized the BBS support staff, and he provided project management and technical services while converting the BBS software to the current TBBS.

Fred is SYSOP of the BBS and helps maintain the system. He has been an independent software developer of communications and database systems for personal computers since 1982.

Please See the NTPGUG 1997 ElectionBallot on the next page...

North Texas PC Users Group — 1997 Election Nominees

Quicken Financial Planner Version 2
CD ROM version

by Dave Guier

Quicken's new *Financial Planner Version 2* (QFP) is like other Intuit products. It is easy to use and comprehensive. Suggested retail is $39.95. System requirements are 486/33 or higher, 8MB Ram, 10Meg Free Disk Space, Speakers (helpful) and any Windows 3.1 supported printer.

QuickPlan vs Full Plan

You can take 15 minutes or less and work up a reasonable plan using the "Quick Plan" feature. Or you can spend an hour on the full plan in pursuit of more detailed goals and objectives. Data entry is a step by step set of questions you answer. It's possible to do the "quick and dirty" plan first to get a general idea and then transfer that information to the full plan. This eliminates the need to enter the same information twice.

Jane Bryant Quinn-Expert

A sincere competent professional planner can make a big difference in the development and execution of a financial plan. A good package can be a big help in doing your own planning. QFP CD ROM does provide narration on planning topics by Jane Bryant Quinn, *Newsweek and* newspaper personal finance columnist and best-selling author. She explains concepts, terms and ideas relevant to creating a financial plan. She covers items such as tax rates, social security, life expectancy assumptions among others.

Quicken Data Sharing

If you are presently using Quicken for your personal financial records, it is possible to import your data. You can import all your data or you can choose to import your investment information only.

College Costs

QFP provides access to several relevant data bases. If you have children and want to incorporate the expense of college in your plan, QFP provides cost information on almost 1,700 colleges from the College Board annual Survey of Colleges Data Base. It helps you estimate expenses and decide how to pay for them.

Mutual Fund Finder

Access to *Morningstar reports* on Mutual Funds is available. Morningstar, Inc. is a credible, well known provider of investment information on some 4,400 funds. You can view this information by selecting Mutual Fund from the menu. This information can be updated quarterly at a "low price" through the Quicken Financial Network. Jane Bryant Quinn provides narrative on the various types of mutual funds. QFP helps

North Texas PC Users Group
Official 1997 Election Ballot

(Detach and use original ballot — Copies are not acceptable.)

Nominees for President-Elect:
(Vote for 1 — at right)

- ❑ Andy Oliver
- ❑ _____

Nominees for Board of Directors
(Vote for 5 — below)

- ❑ Reagan Andrews
- ❑ Timothy Carmichael
- ❑ Marsha Drebelbis
- ❑ Doug Gorrie
- ❑ Chris Jung
- ❑ Alex Lilley
- ❑ Fred Williams
- ❑ _____

Mail Ballot to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066, or bring to the January 18 Meeting. All ballots must be received by the secretary no later than January 21, 1997.

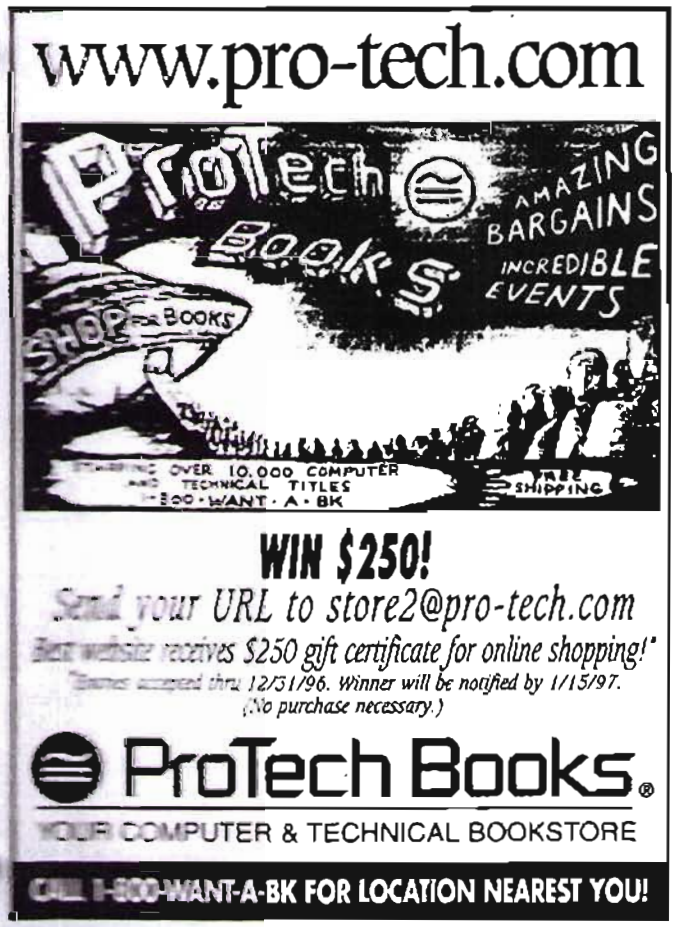
provide additional criteria on how to select the best mutual fund for you.

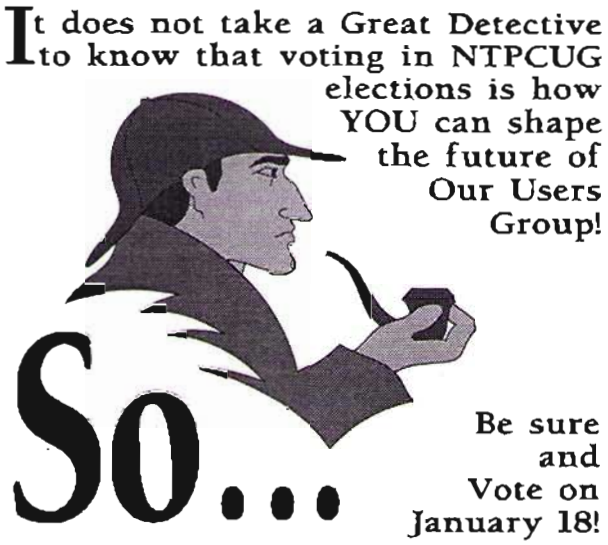
Life Insurance, Internet Access

QFP asks about your existing life insurance policies both term and cash value. It provides an independent assessment of your life insurance needs in the *Action Plan* it prints out. QFP is also a member of the Quicken Financial Network, a free area, on the World Wide Web. This site offers news and information on financial planning. A Netscape Navigator Intuit Edition is available for upgrading to gain full access to the World Wide Web, E-mail, and News groups and forums on the Internet.

What-if, Changing Assumptions

One of the fun things to do while planning is changing assumptions like retiring at 50 and having your spouse work 10 years more. What does that do to your plan? Since that looks good in the long run but is hazardous to your short-term health, you might look at changing your contribution amounts or increasing your rate of return. All these factors and more can be changed and you can immediately see the impact on the achievement of your financial plan's goals.





Graphs and Reports

QFP provides different output formats in an effort to give you seemingly every possible angle in viewing the plan you put together. You have to pick and chose the output that conveys the information that is pertinent and useful to you and your situation. The one problem is that there is a good deal of output even on the QuickPlan. It just serves as a reminder that this whole process is important and not to be taken lightly.

Printed Personalized Plan

When it's all said and done, QFP will print out a Personal Financial Plan with a summary section, assumptions and alerts (e.g., my assumed rate of return was unrealistic based on their experts' opinion). Also included in the printout is a Cash Flow analysis over my projected lifetime, Net Worth Analysis showing available income generating assets. Of course an action plan is also generated to tell me what steps are to be taken to reach my goals. These steps include automatic investments, itemization of investments within QFP to improve performance evaluation, life insurance suggestions, potential tax issues, etc.

Conclusion

This program is an excellent start on getting your financial plan together. It seems to ask the right questions (everyone's situation is unique). The expert feature is helpful in understanding concepts and jargon. The ability to change assumptions easily and see the results quickly is very useful.

In short, this is a very useful tool to those of us trying to get a solid sense of where we are now financially and what it will take to get to our goals.

Dave Guier

The Visual Basic Corner

by Jim Carter

Is Your ENTER Key Doing Enough in Your Application?

Want to have the ENTER key enter the data into a text box and then move on to the next control in the form? The Microsoft user interface guidelines, assign this action to the TAB key.

If you want to ensure that future generations of Visual Basic do *not* interfere with this code, do *not* implement.

Further, if you are using a text box with the multiline property set to True, you will not want to modify the normal behavior of the ENTER key. The proper functioning of a multiline text box requires a properly functioning ENTER key.

However, many users find this a very intuitive action and point to the operation of the ENTER key in Excel as an example. Assuming you want to implement this feature in your code, read on.

How to Illustrate Procedure

The technique described here uses the KeyPress event procedure of the text box control to (1) sense the fact that the ENTER key has been pressed, (2) send a TAB command to simulate the pressing of the Tab key, and (3) canceling the effect of the ENTER key by setting its value to 0.

Open Visual Basic with a new project.

1. Add two text boxes (Text1 and Text 2) to Form1

2. Enter the following code in the Text1 KeyPress event procedure:

```
Sub Text1_Keypress (KeyAscii As Integer)
    If KeyAscii = 13 Then
        SendKeys "{tab}"
        KeyAscii = 0
    End If
End Sub
```

Enter the following code in the Text2 KeyPress event procedure:

```
Sub Text2_Keypress (KeyAscii As Integer)
    If KeyAscii = 13 Then
        SendKeys "{tab}"
        KeyAscii = 0
    End If
End Sub
```

Run the program and notice that pressing the ENTER key causes the focus to move between the two text boxes.

Summary

For additional information, see the Knowledge Base article Q85562. There are several ways you can access the Visual Basic Knowledge Base [Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN) CD, Microsoft TECH NET CD, Internet, CompuServe, Microsoft Download Service (MSDL)]. For details on how to access these sources look up Knowledge Base in your Visual Basic Help File.

Jim Carter

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- Corel Presentations
- Paradox
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- and more, including powerful Internet applications

A Message from Mike Cowpland, Corel's President & CEO

1996 was an eventful year for Corel. With the acquisition of *WordPerfect* and *Paradox*, Corel welcomes a number of new User Groups, which now include members of the Macintosh community world-wide. Forward movement continues in several areas, including the latest development in JAVA applications, expanding Multimedia titles and expected growth in both the PC graphics and Office Suite markets.

Ventura Summit in Dallas, April 13-16, 1997

The 1997 Ventura Summit promises to be the single most important event of the year for anyone who wants to learn about the exciting new release of Corel Ventura, Version 7.

Since 1989, thousands of Ventura users have joined host Rick Altman for this three-day user conference, dedicated to showing you all the secrets and shortcuts of this powerful publishing program. The Summit takes place April 13-16 in Dallas, TX, and Rick is extending the following offer to all members of User Groups: Take $25 off the registration fee of $450. If two members register together, a third can attend for free. So three User Group members can attend for the price of two. For more information about the Summit, you can reach Rick at his toll-free Corel Hotline, 888-DRAW-NOW, or visit him on the Internet, www.altman.com.

Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

CorelNET

Corel, in conjunction with CorelNET and Chris Dickman, hosts an on-going series of Internet chat events on a variety of topics. Guests are invited to join the chats and ask Corel representatives questions about the featured topic of discussion. While visitors to Corel's home page who use a Java-enabled browser can use the Java chat applet provided at http://irc.corel.com/corelcom/index.htm, any IRC chat client will do. If you prefer to use an IRC client, connect to irc.corel.com on the channel #corelnet. Below is a list of upcoming Corel chats, moderated by Chris. Transcripts of past events are available at http://www.corelnet.com/corelnet/talk.htm Stay tuned to CorelNET (www.corelnet.com) and Corel's home page (www.corel.com) for updated chat schedules.

Beta & Technical Support Information

For those interested in beta testing Corel's products, visit http://eng.corel.com. Check out the new Technical Knowledge

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- 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

Base at http://www.corel.com/support/kbase/kbase.htm.

CorelDRAW technical support has just opened Corel's first technical support newsgroups through its Internet homepage. Corel technical support staff will monitor and moderate the newsgroups to ensure the smooth flow of information and ensure messaging guidelines are maintained. Users are free to exchange advice among each other, but users must use discretion when receiving technical information from individuals who are not Corel staff. These newsgroups are, at present, only for Corel's Graphics and Publishing applications. They do not include, (as of yet) Multimedia, WordPerfect, or SCSI products. Check it out at http://www.corel.com/support/newsgroup.htm

Important Corel Web Locations

Product Info: www.corel.com/products

Web Mall / Photo CD's forDownload:http://commerce.corel.com/

Press Releases: www.corel.com/new

Service & Support: www.corel.ca/support/

Partners/ Developers: www.corel.ca/partners_developers

Free Stuff & Fun Stuff: www.corel.ca/freefunfantastic/

Special Offer from QualiType

QualiType, a current CorelNET sponsor, is providing a special offer on its font management software to the CorelNET community. This takes advantage of Draw 7's support for font auto-installation. In QualiType's words:

"QualiType Font Sentry is the first program of its kind: intelligent software for automatic font management. Font Sentry makes Windows actually smart about your fonts, enabling them to be AutoInstalled on-the-fly, as they are needed by programs or documents. In addition, Font Sentry gives you total control over the font list in your application programs, for Short, Long, or "Special" font lists in each. This feature for "virtual installed" fonts allows you to access uninstalled fonts from directly within your applications!"

Details on this special offer, and a free demo version, are at:

http://www.corelnet.com/corelnet/sponsors/qt/qtcorel.htm

Marsha Drebelbis

'Huge' hard disks force hard PC backup choices

by Etoine Shrdlu

Typical PCs being sold to users today are equipped with hard disks in the 1000MB (1.0G) range and computers with 1.6G - 2.1G storage capacity are now common.

Result of the above constitutes a major problem for users and that is how to backup their data and program configurations. Just thinking about backing up (and restoring) a 1G+ drive to 1.44M floppies is horrifying.

Tape backup, the new, high-density, 100MB - 120MB floppy disks or a second, "backup," hard disk are the three best candidates available for backing up the large hard disks now in use. Each medium has its advantages, and each has disadvantages.

Tape still a good choice

Tape has been the most popular media in the past and still appears to be the better choice now, since FD's would require frequent disk changes during the backup process and a second hard disk used for backup might also be damaged or inaccessible following catastrophic damage to the PC.

After selecting tape as a backup medium, users are presented with an array of types and sizes that can make choosing the most suitable model difficult. In order to help with this selection, here are the most important areas:

- Tape size (capacity),
- Tape type, i.e., .25" QIC, QIC-Wide, Travan, and DAT,
- Tape Interface,
- Internal "fixed" vs. External "portable" drives, and,
- Backup software,
- Costs of drive and media..

Size - If the user wants to do unattended or automated backups, the native tape capacity should be at least 10% larger than the hard disk. Tape drive vendors usually advertise their units in *compressed*, not native, capacities, typically at 2:1 compression ratios. This means a drive (and tape) advertised as "3.2G" usually holds 1.6G of data without compression.

"Real" compression ratios vary with the type of data being compressed. If the user's disk has already been "compressed" via one of the "disk doublers," this usually won't compress at all. The same thing is true for individual files which have been compressed, such as .ZIP, .ARC and .LZH files. Large database files, text files, uncompressed graphics files, etc, can yield very high

Continued on Page 13

Shades and Shadows of the Comdex past... *Scrooge* spurs memories of PC's, 'Big Blue' and, how far we've all come since 1985

And, a little SWAG for '97

1997 Promises to be a year of massive change in the PC community. But, before we speculate on directions and dimensions (SWAG*), let's look at the tidings rung in by 1996 and blasted forth by Comdex/FALL '96 in November.

NC's (Network Computers) *didn't* take the industry by storm and I didn't hear a lot of excited or even complimentary comments about the semi-smart terminals being promoted by a number of MS haters/wannabes. May be way too early to judge the outcome of this struggle. Thought SUN Microsystems would be at Comdex to show off their new NC units, but was disappointed on this score.

Windows CE was fun but my fingers were just too big for tiny keyboards and I couldn't tolerate trying to use a wordprocessor by striking each letter with a ball-point pen. Talked with a number of others in the pressroom who described same problem with the Casio handhelds Microsoft was lending to press for duration of the show. Yes, they did want them back.

Power PC Pavilion was just as loud as last year, but Apple's shaky OS issues and IBM's lukewarm attitude toward Win NT after announcing no OS/2 for the chip seemed to cast a pall over the pavilion in spite of Motorola's persistent and boisterous enthusiasm.

Looming on the horizon? former aerospace/defense outfits aim at consumers

Saw this a little at Comdex in years past, but saw a lot more this year. Several major military/aerospace R&D companies were showing really advanced graphics-oriented designs on the showroom floors. Rockwell, Raytheon and others were showing advanced graphics and display technology aimed squarely at the multimedia markets.

Last year, the military/aerospace vendors were displaying 'niche' products with somewhat limited consumer appeal even if I was very impressed with a Raytheon very high definition thermal printer — until I heard the projected price of this machine.

Consumer products? One of these was a new graphics chip that could set the PC vendors tumbling to catch up if the chip can be produced at reasonable costs. It was that fast and really made 3D graphics jump out of the screen.

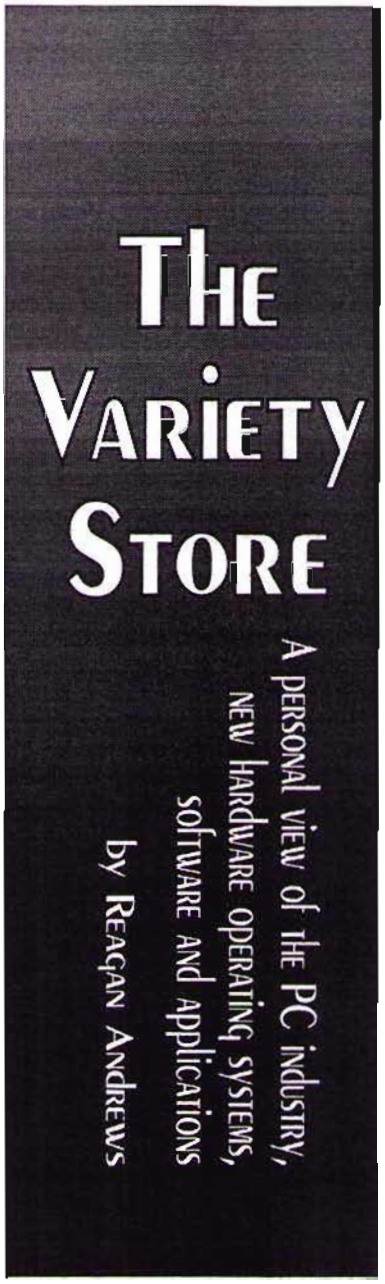
These are vendors who are accustomed to NASA and DOD as customers, not the manufacturer who counts the pennies on the board.

Scrooge may be an appropriate metaphor for IBM

It's that time of year and I'm thoroughly addicted to *A Christmas Carol*. Look at past December issues of the *PC News* if you need proof — all those Victorian woodcuts aren't there by accident.

IBM & Ebenezer Scrooge? IBM sponsored one of my favorite versions of Charles Dickens' classic with George C. Scott in the lead role circa 1985. I taped it then, and we watched it again this year, still enchanted by Dickens' magic. We were also grabbed by the commercials with all those original PC/XT's with 10MB hard disks and monochrome monitors, and PC/AT's with 20MB hard disks running at 8 MHz so proudly featured and displayed — when IBM was still the leader in the PC world.

Just as Scrooge lamented all his 'bad' decisions in the past in Dickins' classic story of human redemption, wonder what Gerstner thinks now if he sees the original commercials?



The Variety Store

SWAG (Scientific Wild-A__-d Guesses) rules in '97 forecasts

Since everyone else is doing a "What's ahead in '97..." piece, thought I would give it a try as well. Word of warning here, though. If I'd been a civilian and had the money, I would have bought an *Edsel*.

I think it's going to be a year of consolidation and emphasis on areas driving consumer interests, i.e., anything 'Internet' will be driven until the public is sickened by the name. Do think the consumer community is also going to revolt over another aspect of current PC use, the hideous tangle of wires and cables behind the PC box.

May drive two trends I'm already seeing. First is more consolidation of components into a single unit such as the monitors with built-in multimedia speakers, or the multimedia PC's that are reminiscent of the early Macintosh computers. Second would be rapid adoption of the USB (Universal Serial Bus) standard by vendors who see a single daisy-chained cable as preferable in consumers' eyes to separate cables and ports for each external device.

Borland on the block? Scotts Valley would never be the same...

Also think this may be Borland's last year in independent operation having fallen prey to a much larger concern who really needs the technological savvy to bolster their own efforts.

Last month, I humorously mentioned Symantec as a suitor. May be a good bet, but both parties will have to get over the 'Gene Wang' incident of a couple of years ago.

Think being absorbed by a bigger concern may be Borland's best hope, but also feel the PC user group community will lose a very good friend and ally should that occur this year.

See stable memory prices during the coming year — except for very large units

First, I don't think DRAM prices are going to fall substantially. Both US and off shore DRAM producers have significant excess manufacturing capacity and unless there's some sort of conspiracy, market just isn't there (this year) for significantly higher chip prices.

Exception is in the area of very large memory chips — 256M and 1G chips which will bring premium prices when available.

Also, users may get nicked when the newer, speed-boosting DRAM configurations settle into one or two standards and are adopted by motherboard and BIOS vendors.

Digital High-Definition TV may create massive demand, eliminate DRAM 'surplus'

Recent FCC approval of a high-definition TV (HDTV) standard may start an avalanche of demand for DRAM (or other memory products) next year (1998) when the new sets begin entering the consumer market. These beasts are anticipated to start at the $1,000 level and escalate rapidly in price as 'features' are added. And, it's the 'advanced' features that will consume massive amounts of memory.

Although initial color TV sets were equally expensive, they rapidly achieved sufficient market dominance in only a few years after introduction. You only see B&W TV's now in very small sets or in specialized applications.

Flat-panel displays will become '97's 'Executive toys'

Remember the days when we all joked that the biggest, fastest PC in the department always sat on the manager/director's desk — and was never turned on? The next 'Executive Toy' will be the first wave of flat-panel display monitors. Only these will definitely be used since yesteryear's managers who were 'above' using a computer are history.

Other group who will embrace the new displays and pay the premium prices for them will be the technical and graphics design users who will gladly adopt the distortion-free images in place of the CRT-induced approximations of the real images they are working to achieve.

Rest of us will probably have to wait two or three years before the prices drop enough to be truly competitive at the consumer level. Sigh.

ISDN in typical users' homes this year? not at current prices

As I get older I want things faster since I hate waiting for anything. Thought ISDN had a lot of promise, but simply can't afford the local pricing for this technology in light of new modem capabilities that are almost as fast as ISDN. It just doesn't offer enough speed to offset the cost.

Even if it did, the Net has become so bogged-down by the rapidly mushrooming user base that I doubt I'd see it anyway. Hearing lots of formerly very enthusiastic Web users bemoan the long waits they are experiencing over the last several months

to connect to the major Web sites as a result of the growth. Many are reporting similar experiences to those described by Fred Williams in his BBS column this month and also admit to resorting to going to companies' BBS's for driver upgrades since the Net has become so slow and unreliable — even on ISDN lines.

Home Page explosion? software vendors, ISP's make instant 'designers'

Back to the Internet and Home Pages. We definitely will see an explosion in personal Home Pages this year as several large ISP's give space with their connection packages and many, many Page creation programs are filling store shelves. This software has become almost universal with each 'office' suite offering at least rudimentary Page creation capabilities somewhere in the package.

Good Page design isn't simple and it ain't easy either in spite of the software vendors' claims.

Coming avalanche of "Personal Pages" makes me shudder as I remember the initial impact of low cost page layout programs and the total lack of design sense displayed by

The Variety Store

many users fascinated by ability to use clip art and many, many, many type fonts.

Might be interesting to start a contest this time next year for the "Absolute Worst Web Site." (We would exclude the DOS SIG Page from consideration, of course.)

Reagan Andrews

Tape backup choices...

Continued from Page 10

compression ratios, above 3:1 in many cases.

A useful "rule-of-thumb" would be to assume you will double your existing disk capacity within a year and look for a tape drive with a native capacity slightly larger .

Interface – There are three "mainstream" interfaces available from, older, very slow QIC PC floppy-disk interface to very fast SCSI and EIDE driven tape drives. In the middle are QIC drives that have hardware "boosters" that can take speed into the 20MB/minute range under "ideal" conditions and drives that use the SCSI/parallel interfaces. Interface choice will depend on the user's own hardware configuration.

Internal vs. External – If you will be backing up several PC's, you might consider one of the "piggyback" portable tape drives instead of an internal unit. A number of these are available using the PC parallel port and there are also several external SCSI tape drives on the market as well. Major drawbacks to the externals are need for backup software on each machine and that each machine have an external port available and easily accessible.

Backup Software – Most tape drives come with appropriate backup software. However, the user needs to make sure that the software will work with all their operating systems, including DOS, Windows 3.1x and Win 95. A very important issue is availability of "Emergency-disk" restoration capability. This is *very* important with Win 95 and Windows NT.

Costs of Drive and Media – Prices for drives and media usually are a function of size. There are a number of very good drives on the market with $150 prices for some QIC 3.2G drives locally. Largest tapes currently available are the Travan TR-4 cartridges with 4G native capacity and cost $35 - $45 apiece now. Shop carefully — I've seen several drive "kits" that appear quite reasonably priced, but don't include a backup tape and aren't such "bargains" after the price of a tape is added.

Etoine Shrdlu

The Systems Group, Inc. has achieved record growth and has been recognized as one of Dallas' Top 100 fastest growing companies for the third year. More importantly, we have demonstrated our ability to retain the quality employees that have joined TSG during this period. We have an impressive client base that is continually expanding and providing exciting career opportunities.

With three dynamic pay plans and a comprehensive benefits package to choose from, all of our consultants come out on top. If you are an IS professional with experience in any of the following areas, contact us today to be a part of our continued growth. We have development and support opportunities available in the following:

- Windows 3.1
- Windows 95
- Windows NT Workstation
- MS Office
- UNIX Administration
- OS/2
- Microsoft Networking
- Novell 3.x, 4.x
- Microsoft C
- Microsoft C++
- OLE/ODBC
- MS Visual C++/MFC
- MS Visual Basic 4.0
- MS Access
- MS SQL Server
- Internet - WEB
- Fox Pro

THE SYSTEMS GROUP, INC.
3030 LBJ Freeway, Suite 910, Dallas, Texas 75234
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e-mail address: dallas@thesysgrp.com
Home Page: www.thesysgrp.com
MEMBER NACCB EOE/M/F/V/H
MICROSOFT SOLUTION PROVIDER

DOM Disks Released In December

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

Disk 1076. F-PROT 2.25, 12/96 – Virus Detection/Protection Program

Disk 1077. PKZIP for Windows 2.50, (11/96) – Compression Utility

Disk 1078. SysBench, Benchmark Program for d-Time95

Disk 1079. SYSCHK v4.3 - System Info Checker. 22-Jun-1996

Disk 1080. Screen Thief 95 TD v1.02 (7/23/96) Windows 95 Screen Capture

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Disk 1076. F-PROT 2.25, 12/96 – Virus Detection/Protection Program, F-PROT 2.25, Virus Detection/Protection Program,Command Software Systems, Inc (USA Agent), 1061 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter, FL 33477, 1+800 423-9147, 1+407-575-3200, 1+407-575-3026 FAX, sales@commandcom.com, http://www.commandcom.com

This program has been consistently rated as one of the top computer virus scanners. The English-language shareware version of the F-PROT anti-virus program is free of charge for any individual using it on his/her personally owned computer, which is not used for commercial purposes.

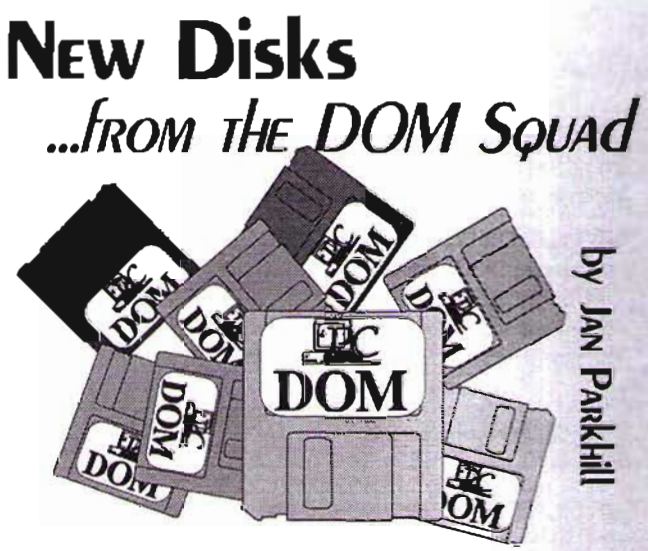
The F-PROT anti-virus package contains a virus scanner combined with a disinfection program, as well as a resident monitoring program for intercepting known viruses. This program is free of charge for private users, but others are required to register (see ORDER.DOC). It provides virus scanning, disinfection and information. Several levels of virus detection, including Heuristic Analysis, are available. Most users will find the menu-driven interface to be very user friendly. Command line options are available for use in batch files. F-PROT first performs a self-test, to see if it has been infected with a virus, and then it loads the search strings into memory. The next step is to search for viruses in memory, then on your disks.

VIRSTOP.EXE is to intercept known viruses - it will prevent the execution of any program infected with any of the viruses it recognizes.

Documentation having the extension .DOC (actually text files) are included as well as a file containing information on computer viruses in general.

This software was downloaded from the DATA FELLOWS Internet site.

This README was prepared by Mark Gruner *and edited by* Gene Carleton



This version also includes F-MACRO a scanner and disinfector for MS Word document macro viruses. F-MACRO is a DOS program which searches Word 6.x and 7.x document files for known Word macro viruses and disinfects them by disabling and overwriting the viral macros.

VIRSTOP.EXE (Put this program in your AUTOEXEC.BAT). The function of VIRSTOP.EXE is to intercept known viruses - it will prevent the execution of any program infected with any of the viruses it recognizes.

Disk 1077. PKZIP for Windows 2.50, (11/96) – Compression Utility, PKZIP For Windows 2.50, PKWARE, Registration Fee: $49.00, http://www.pkware.com

PKWARE released PKZIP for Windows 2.50 in both 16-bit and 32-bit versions. The 16-bit version is an enhanced version for Windows 3.1 users. The 32-bit version takes full advantage of the 32-bit operating system in Windows 95 and Windows NT.

PKZIP has the following important features:

- Create self-extracting Windows archives. This allows creation of archives that do not require PKZIP for Windows to extract files from the archive; self-extractor can create a program group and register extensions in Win95. - Create spanned .ZIP archives. A spanned .ZIP archive exists over more than one diskette or other removable media. Span self-extracting Windows archives.

- Drag and drop files from the File Manager or Windows Explorer into an open archive within PKZIP. Recognize .ZIP archives imbedded with authenticity verification by PKZIP for DOS v2.04g.

- Retain and restore Windows 95 and Windows NT long filenames. Create new, open and test existing, and extract files from .ZIP files within the Windows 95 and Windows NT v.4.0 Explorer.

- Click the right mouse button to activate a menu of the most often used features in PKZIP for Windows. Have multiple .ZIP archives open simultaneously.

- Quickly and easily copy or move files between different .ZIP archives without having to extract those files. Convert archives to, or from, a normal .ZIP, a Windows self-extracting or a DOS self-extracting file.

- View files from within an archive without extracting individual files. Add, edit and view .ZIP archive comments. Easily uninstall PKZIP for Windows, restoring your system to the setup previous to installation.

PKZIP for Windows is compatible with other versions available for the DOS, OS/2 and OpenVMS Alpha/VAX platforms.

The PKZIP 2.50 files on disk include:

PK250W16.EXE 16-bit version for Windows 3.1

PK250W32.EXE 32-bit version for Windows 95 and Windows NT.

This software was downloaded from the PKWARE Internet site by Mark Gruner.

This README prepared by **Mark Gruner**, *edited by* **Gene Carleton.**

Disk 1078. SysBench, Benchmark Program for d-Time95, CD-ROM acceleration software for Windows 95 August 1995, Acceleration Software International Corporation. Formerly Ballard Synergy, 999 3rd Avenue, 38th Floor, Seattle Wa 98104, Contact us at (360) 697-9260, Email: support@accelerationsw.com

This is an excellent freeware utility to determine how a user could benefit from a faster CD-ROM without buying a new CD-ROM. This freeware program is provided by Ballard Synergy which is the inventor of CD-ROM accelerator technology (d-Time 95).

This software will benchmark the speed of any or all of your system's hard drives and your CD-ROM's. Improvements in how quickly CD-ROM drives can transfer information to the computer (data transfer rate) have outpaced improvements in how quickly they can find the information in the first place (access speed).

Sysbench measures both the data transfer rate and access speed to compute an overall performance value for your CD-ROM drive. Do not be alarmed if your CD-ROM drive's access speed is slower than its data transfer rate. This is very typical and the access speed is usually a notch or two below the data transfer rate.

Sysbench also measures how fast all of your hard disk drives are. In almost all cases, the hard disk will be significantly faster than CD-ROM drives. The access

speeds of even the slowest hard disks are significantly faster than even the fastest CD-ROM drive.

This freeware is provided to show users the benefits of using the commercial software d-time 95. d-time 95 is designed to work with Windows 95 and will accelerate all CD-ROM drives that are supported by Windows 95. d-Time 95 uses your computer's hard disk drive to store the most frequently used information from the CD-ROM. Because most hard drives are significantly faster than even the fastest CD-ROM drives, this will provide a significant performance boost for most people who use CD-ROM's.

The faster your hard disks are, the faster d-time 95 will make your CD-ROM drive. If you upgrade your hard drive, you effectively upgrade your CD-ROM.

This software was downloaded from the Ballard Internet site by **Linda H. Moore.**

This README prepared by **Linda H. Moore**, *edited by* **Gene Carleton.**

Top Twenty DOM Disks

Want to know what's hot? These are the 20 most popular NTPCUG DOM Library disks.

1064 .. *PKZip* for DOS, WIN, OS/2 + Utils
..... (*PKZIP 2.04g* and other Toys)

1054 .. Power Toys for WIN95 (Utilities)

1053 .. SUPER WinWARE, Vol 6 (Windows
..... Magazine Programs/Util's)

1065 .. *Waste for Windows 1.5* (H/D cluster
..... diagnostic utility)

1049 .. PLUG-IN FOR WINDOWS & WIN95
..... (Desktop enhancement utility)

1066 .. MS Excel Interactive Tutorial

1067 .. *F-PROT 2.24c* (virus protection)

1063 .. *ViruScan/VSheild DOS, 2.2.12* (McAfee's
..... DOS-based Anti-Virus program)

1070 .. *HotDog 1.004* (HTML Editor with tables, etc.)

1055A&B *Time & Chaos 5.1.3* for Windows 95 (PIM -
..... Personal Information Manager - for WIN95)

1048 .. Multimedia 1 (Audio/video presentation
..... software)

1057 .. *SLMR 2.1a* (Silly Little Mail Reader - Off-Line
..... Mail Reader)

1030 .. *SoLaTor Suite 1.2* (Five Solitaire games)

1056 .. VGACOPY (High speed disk duplicator)

1045 .. Easy Reminders (display schedules)

1062A . *ViruScan, WINDOWS 3.x-OS2 2.2.12*
..... (McAfee's Anti-Virus for Windows 3.x
..... and OS/2 systems)

1039 .. *WinZip 6.0* (ZIP/UNZIP/INSTALL utility)

1062B *ViruScan, WINDOWS 3.x-OS2 2.2.12*
..... (McAfee's Anti-Virus for Windows 3.x
..... and OS/2 systems)

1046 .. DD 4.08 (DIR replacement)

1026 .. IDE Identification (What IDE hard drive
..... and settings do you have?)

Disk 1079. SYSCHK v4.3 - System Info Checker. 22-Jun-1996, Advanced Personal Systems, 105 Serra Way, Suite 418, Milpitas, CA 95035, Phone: 408-298-3703, FAX: 408-945-0242, AmOnLine: AdvPerSys, CompuServe: 70323,136, Internet: www.syschk.com

How well do you know what's inside your PC? Do you know what kind of UART is on your serial port? Do you know which chip set your video card uses, or who manufactured your hard disk? Odds are you don't. If you want answers to those questions and far more, then SysChk is for you. This Sherlock Holmes of the shareware world snoops under your system's hood and gives you a complete rundown on what you have. Despite its sophistication, it's remarkable easy program to use.

System information program that tells you a lot about your system. An advantage to SysChk is that it comes with the SCSI and IDE identification information not found in most other programs of this type.

SysChk provides you with a complete report on devices installed in your system. This allows you to do a complete inventory of your system, check compatibility when adding new hardware, or simply verify your installation. You can view your system configuration on screen or print out a complete report on your system.

This software was downloaded from the ADV PERS Systems Internet site.

This README was prepared by Gene Carleton.

Disk 1080. Screen Thief 95 TD v1.02 (7/23/96) Windows 95 Screen Capture, Screen Thief 95 Test Drive v1.02 (7/23/96) Windows 95 Screen Capture, Nildram Software, 23A High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 6AF, United Kingdom, Tel: +44 (0) 1442 891331, Fax: +44 (0) 1442 890303, Email: sales@nildram.co.uk, Internet: http://www.nildram.co.uk

The ultimate screen capture system for the Windows 95 operating system. Whatever your reason for wanting to capture a screen or just one part of it, Screen Thief can handle it. The feature list makes other screen grabbers look primitive in comparison, as in addition to the expected desktop, window and user defined area captures this program adds a couple of new twists.

You can capture a complete application including all of its windows but not, amazingly, all the other windows or icons littering the desktop, plus you can 'hijack' the clipboard every time an image is placed there. Captures can then be sent to printer, automatically copied to the clipboard, saved to disk in one of several popular formats or held in an image window for further manipulation.

Images captured to a window may be zoomed in and out and cropped down to an exact size, and the page preview feature allows easy image positioning by simply dragging with the mouse. Another unique feature is automatic color reduction so that image files are always as small as possible. Supported formats are BMP, RLE, GIF, PCX, PNG and TIFF.

This software was downloaded from the Nildram Internet site.

This README was prepared by Gene Carleton.

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

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

VOLUNTEER to share it with us!!

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

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

README Help available

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

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

Jan Parkhill
DOM Squad Leader
(214) 828-2216

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)

Access SIG

Plans for our 1997 Kickoff meeting in January are not firm as I write this article, but you can look forward to our starting the New Year with a celebration, and perhaps even a *Bang*. Strong possibilities include a presentation, tutorial, or software review by **Jack Atkinson**, **Larry Linson**, or **Tom Lukers**. Who knows? Maybe you'll see something from each of them.

Perhaps we can find someone (hint, hint) to demonstrate the *Preview* version of *Office and Access 97*. Some of our members, I know, have copies of the Preview, but I don't know if they are allowed to show it in public. The release date for Office 97 has been set for January 22, we hear "on good authority". Less authoritative is the rumored March date for the *Developer Edition* of Office 97 which will include the Access Developer Toolkit (runtime engine) and other Office developer features. Recent issues of some of the trade magazines (particularly *Access / Visual Basic Advisor*) have featured articles on Office 97, and it certainly sounds as if there have been major improvements to Access.

Just as the article deadline approached in early December, I had e-mail from **Gene Harris**, of Tetron Software, L.L.C., of Edmond, Oklahoma, our scheduled speaker, letting me know that he was ill and would not be able to be with us as planned. I sent him all our best wishes for a speedy recovery and an invitation to come and tell us about the *Team Access* software for "version control", when he's able to do so.

We are still looking for speakers with an Access-related subject of interest to share with us. It doesn't have to be *rocket science*: Access 2.0 and later ver-

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

New SIG:

— **Microsoft *FrontPage*** [Contact Robert Masters @(972) 462-7490 hw]

SIG Name Changes:

— ***ActiveX* Developers** – was – **Application Developers (OLE & ODBC)**

— **Microsoft Visual C++/MFC** – *was* – **Windows Developers**

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

— **Introduction to the PC** [Contact Alex Lilley @ (972) 517-7430 h]

— **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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator
Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h
Legend: h = Home #, w = Work #
M = Metro #

ACT I
Jim Thompson .... (817) 261-6159 h
..... (972) 487-8499 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
Tom Luckers ..... (972) 423-4308 h

Alpha 4 / 5
Ron Jackson ..... (972) 276-3661 h
Bill Parker..... (214) 369-5889 h

ActiveX Developers
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 Cavallito.... (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
Birl Smith..... (972) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 220-9388 w

SIG

sions, anything from items of interest to beginners (or to refresh the memory of the more experienced) to advanced tricks for developers. We're also still looking for donations of Access examples and other Access-related software for an Access SIG freeware disk for the NTPCUG Disk of the Month operation.

Don't forget our local NTPCUG BBS has an 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 online). The NTPCUG electronic bulletin board system telephone numbers are inside the back cover of this issue. 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 January meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Developers SIG

Due to a last minute need to be in Redmond, our planned December presenter, **Kari Koehler** of Microsoft, has been rescheduled for January. Kari will discuss using the object technology in Microsoft Office 97 for application development, *including Visual Basic for Applications 5.0*. Since Office 97 is scheduled to be on the retail shelves on January 23, the date of her presentation will be very timely. Please see the December newsletter for more info on Kari's presentation.

Additionally, we have lined up our February speaker, **Steve DeSalvo**, also of Microsoft. Steve will talk about database development on the Web along with some other exotic topics. Be sure to check out the February newsletter when it comes out for further detail.

As mentioned last month, we are planning on posting last minute changes or additions to our monthly meetings on the WebDallas site, www.webdallas.com. We are still working out the mechanics of that so please be patient if you check that site and don't find out any info posted yet. Also, you may have noticed our SIG title has changed from "Application Developers" to "ActiveX Developers". Please review the November and December newsletters for more info on why the name change, etc.

We are always looking for presenters to discuss their experiences in developing applications based upon ActiveX, OLE and ODBC technologies as well as participants who are interested in learning how to leverage these technologies to develop applications to solve real world problems. Come join us as we explore these subjects in greater detail over the next several months!

Dan Ogden

Assembler SIG

Our December meeting featured a presentation by **Frank Cavallito** on timing and optimization issues. Two methods of timing instructions were discussed - counting cycles using the RDTSC instruction on Pentium processors and using Abrash's ZEN timer on all processors. Cycle counts don't tell the whole story.

Our January meeting will feature a discussion on reverse engineering Windows and OS/2 16 bit DLLs to see if one can figure out how to call the DLL routines without documentation. This topic was suggested by a colleague at work.

SIG LEADER LISTING

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

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

DOS
Jim Hoisington ....(972) 416-3101 h
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..(972) 612-0604 h

Fox Pro
Kevin White.....(972) 644-5008 w

Genealogy - General
Al Sanford.....(972) 278-7888 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

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

Hardware Solutions
Charles Miller.....(903) 938-4220 h
Ralph Beaver.....(817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson.....(972) 938-0344 h

Internet–Beginner
Tom O'Keefe.....(972) 247-8812 h
Doug Gorrie.....(972) 618-8002 h
.....(214) 464-4568 w
Erik Leaseburg....(817) 265-7550 hM

Internet–Advanced
Tom O'Keefe.....(972) 247-8812 h
Doug Gorrie .....(972) 618-8002 h

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M = Metro #

Internet–Advanced Ctd.
..... (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 w
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

Microsoft *FrontPage* SIG
Robert Masters... (972) 462-7490 hw
Jeff Cooper .....

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 .....

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC
Art English ..... (972) 618-1166 h
..... (214) 232-3310 w

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

SIG

I am still trying to arrange a talk on MMX programming, hopefully for February.

We hope to see you in January. Suggestions (and volunteers) for presentations are always welcome.

Frank Cavallito

Dallas Corel SIG

January Program

Our SIG has received a copy of *Web.Graphics Suite* and *DRAW 7*. We will try to have them loaded on our PC in January and ready for a hands-on exploration in Room 7007. Come to learn and share Web.Graphics and DRAW tips and questions with others.

December Meeting in Review

Susan Biggs is the first in our SIG to get DRAW 7 installed on her computer (Corel only started shipping it mid November). In December she generously agreed to share her enthusiasm for the new version with a hands-on showing of some of its impressive new features to our SIG. Right away she was pleased with its faster performance. Included in the box are DRAW, PHOTO-PAINT and DREAM 3D. Of course the OS for 7 is either Win 95 or NT. It includes 3 books and 3 CDs. Also enclosed is a CD with a 30-day trial version of CorelCAD. Whew! The new online tutorials (run from the CD) offer great assistance to helping users learn some of the complex procedures fast. So Susan and the SIG attendees started by exploring several of the tutorials together. Thanks, Susan, for giving us a glimpse of the amazing and powerful experience we Corel artists are in for with 7. Even this first release is reportedly stable. The word is RUN, don't walk, to get this new version now.

The upgrade from any previous version to DRAW 7 is $249. The lowest upgrade street price we found so far is from Tiger Software at $224.99. Phone 1-800-888-4437.

One lucky attendee won the door prize which was a video tape on "Color" Maybe next month is your turn to win.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG:

☆**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** - Corel 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

☆**October** - Web Page Design Instruction on HotDog

☆**November** - Web.Graphics Suite and CorelDRAW 7 Introduction by Corel Corp.

Dallas Corel is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

SIG

☆December - Corel 7 Tutorials and Demonstration

Marsha Drebelbis

TIPS & TRICKS

WEB RESOURCES*

HTML Editors

In Context *Spider* (purchase)
HotDog Professional (www.sausage.com)
Corel *WordPerfect 7.0*

WYSIWYG HTML Editors

Adobe *PageMill*
Asymetrix *Web Publisher*
Claris *Home Page*
Microsoft *Front Page*
Macromedia *BackStage*
Macromedia *BackStage Studio*
Corel *Web Designer*
Corel *Web Graphics Suite*

(these can be purchased through most retailers)

Goodies

Corel *Web Gallery*
Corel *Xara*
Image Club *Web Morsels* (purchased through Image Club Graphics - www.imageclub.com)
Artbeat *Web Tools*
ClickArt *www.art*

(Above 2 can be purchased through retailers)

Tools

**GIF Construction Set* ($6.99 + $3.00 ship-
Alchemy Mind Works, 1-800-263-1138)
MapThis! (Image Mapping) - free ware galadriel.ecaetc.ohio-state.edu (Todd C. Wilson)
**Ulead *GIF & JPEG Smart Saver* (compression)
**Ulead *GIF Animator*
**Ulead *PhotoImpact Web Extensions*
***Applet Ace* (Java applets and animations) - Macromedia Shock wave plugin (www.macrome dia.com)
WebMotion (Astound) - *Web Anima tor* (Downloadable Beta Version at www.astound.com)

*You can reach the Internet site for each of these by accessing the download section in www.corelnet.com where they point you to a number of resources for the Web.

Books

Creating Great Web Graphics, Lauri McCanna
Designing Web Graphics, Lynda Weinman
Creating Killer Web Sites, David Siegel
Graphics and Web Page Design, Laura LeMay

Web Resources on the Net

CorelNet Web Page
CorelMag Web Page
Ulead Systems Web Page

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 LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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

Programmers
Jim Hoisington.....(972) 416-3101 h

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

Quicken
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
Pat Hykkonen.....(214) 340-9621 h
.....(972) 234-6400
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) 479-3124 w
Deborah Bean.....(972) 475-7463 h
.....(972) 475-3124 w

***WordPerfect* / DOS**
Dawn Hopkins.....(972) 613-8815 h
.....(214) 740-8085 w

***WordPerfect* / Windows**
Cindy Adams.....(817) 481-1300 wM

Astound Web Page
Macromedia Web Page
Corel Corporation Web Page
PowerGraphics Web Page
Unleashed Productions Web Page
Blakes Electronic Publishing Series

Search Engines

Lycos
Yahoo
CorelNet
WebCrawler
InfoSeek
NLightN

(begin with www. - end with .com)

*This list is by no means complete.

Another source on the Internet which has a zillion (I'm not kidding) different graphics utilities resources, many geared to the Web. Here it is:

http://desktoppublishing.com/graphicsutil.html

Susan Biggs

Delphi SIG

Well, I guess two months in a row was way too much to expect. Maybe I'm not supposed to do the *ReportPro* demo. Seems the December meeting was the latest attempt. That turned out to be the Saturday for my son's UNT graduation celebration.

I'm writing this before the events, but I expect there to be some hard partying by all concerned, as it is a toss up as to who of the many will be the most excited. It has been a long pull for both my son and his wife. Anybody know of any openings for a history major?

Meanwhile, back at the SIG, **Tom Browning** or **Frank Cavallito** will most likely come up with an interesting replacement presentation in my absence. I'd tell you more, but this is being written prior to the December meeting.

As to the meeting this month, I am planning on going ahead with the presentation of Opus *Direct Access*. The DAO, VCL I mentioned in last month's SIG notes. I have downloaded the

SIG

product from the Opus Web site, www.opus.ch. No, I don't think it is in China, just one of those "odd" Web site suffixes.

If anybody wants to snag a copy prior to the meeting, go ahead. Maybe you can keep me honest, or at least we can compare notes at the SIG.

I'm hoping Frank is still planing on the WinSock-related presentation for February. If he does it in December while I'm away, I will have missed out.

Yet another rather significant event may be occurring for the January meeting. At this point, the future of the *Paradox* SIG is very much in question. It is very possible that as early as the January meeting, the Delphi SIG meeting may be moved to the 10:00 AM time slot previously held by the Paradox SIG.

Please come early for the January meeting, just to be on the safe side. If you don't, and happen to walk into the room at the old time, most likely you will find yourself surrounded by a whole covey of Access weenies. What a disgusting proposition!

Fred Williams

DOS SIG

What's under the hood? Answering that question is a good way to start 1997 in the DOS SIG. Borrowed from the auto world, the metaphor applies to PCs and DOS equally well and will be the thrust of the January DOS SIG Meeting.

We'll look at the PC underpinnings that make everything work — or *not* work.

Since Plug 'n Play (PNP) isn't "perfected" just yet and lots of our members still have some "legacy" ISA-based modules such as sound cards, network interface cards (NICs), SCSI interface cards, Fax modems, etc., etc., etc., they want to continue using, configuration has become somewhat challenging.

January DOS SIG will focus on the challenge and provide some trouble-shooting tips that may be helpful to users. Means you'll hear (and see) more than you ever wanted to know about IRQs, port addresses in hex, upper memory blocks (UMBs) and other sources of conflict and crashes. We do anticipate a lot of information flowing the "other way", i.e., coming from members' own experiences and the solutions they've discovered.

Should be both a fun and profitable meeting, one you will enjoy.

Which *DOS* are you really using?

It's a new year and time for refreshing our view of the world around us. DOS demands a new perspective as well. This time I'm using "DOS" to mean *MS*, *PC* or *DR DOS*, the disk operating systems most frequently called "DOS."

May be time to take a look at some of the aspects of DOS we tend to overlook or ignore.

First is the question of which DOS is actually being used. Sounds simple enough, but *Windows 95* and *Windows NT 4.0* (and even *Windows 3.1x*) tend to confuse the situation for the user. And, this confusion can mean the difference between a "legacy" DOS application running well or going down in flames.

Most DOS applications will run quite well in Windows 3.1x — if the user takes the time to "tweak" the PIF file via Windows' *PIF Editor*. There are a number of information resources available to help, including Windows docu-

SIG

mentation and the appropriate *Windows Resource Kit* published by Microsoft.

Win 95 is a totally different game, however, since there are two (or three) DOS's available depending on the installation. If you (or the vendor) installed Win 95 on top of DOS 6.22 and Windows 3.1x and kept them intact, they constitute the "third" DOS at hand. First of these, Win 95's *MS DOS Icon* in the Programs menu, creates a DOS "box" for the DOS application and tries to "fool" it into thinking it's really running in DOS — until the application tries to get to the hardware. That's when most of these crash.

Fast-fingered users can hit the [F4] key during Win 95's boot up and be given a choice of several DOS and Win 95 options, including *DOS 7.0* and DOS 6.22 (if installed). DOS 7.0 isn't a "box" and may be able to run the misbehaving DOS application when the Win 95 DOS "box" crashes. Inspection and "tweaking" of the application's configuration files may lead to better "behavior" and ability to run well in this mode.

Last resort is the fallback to the "old" DOS 6.22, if the user kept it when Win 95 was installed. The user will lose multitasking and the protection of Win 95, but will regain use of the DOS application.

Makes a multiple-boot program look a lot better to have around.

Reagan Andrews

Internet SIG - Beginning

At the December meeting **Erik Leaseburg** discussed the many features of Microsoft's *Internet Explorer* Web browser and compared these features with those found in *Netscape Navigator*. Frequently a new user's first exposure to surfing the Internet is through a Web browser. However, Internauts can do much more with a Web browser than just view information on the World Wide Web.

Erik showed how to customize and configure Internet Explorer to send e-mail, peruse newsgroups, and download files. All in attendance found the information very interesting.

In January we will hold our much anticipated "Introduction to the Internet" course. This course is designed for the rank beginner, who knows very little about the Internet. The course will be broken into three 1-hour sessions, which will be held back-to-back. Expect the course to begin at 12 or 1 pm and run to 3 or 4 pm, respectively.

The course will include an introduction to and history of the Internet; choosing an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to connect to the Internet; familiarization with common Internet applications to view the World Wide Web, send e-mail, download files, and read newsgroups; and creation of your own Web page to put on the Internet.

This course will give new folks the chance to ask those basic questions about the Internet that they may have felt uncomfortable asking in the general meetings. We hope to see you there.

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

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.

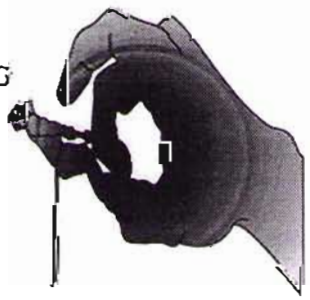
January 18, 1997

- 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

Don't Forget to Vote !

It's important to you — and to us. Make a choice of who you think will represent you best — and VOTE . . .

If you don't vote at the January 18 NTPCUG Business Meeting — or mail in your ballot for the President-Elect and your choice of candidates for the five (5) members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors, you'll lose your voice in how the NTPCUG is run!



Please see Pages 4 ~ 6 for more information.

- 2:00 Class 12a
  NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS)

February 8, 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

March 22, 1997*No Classes

April 12, 1997*

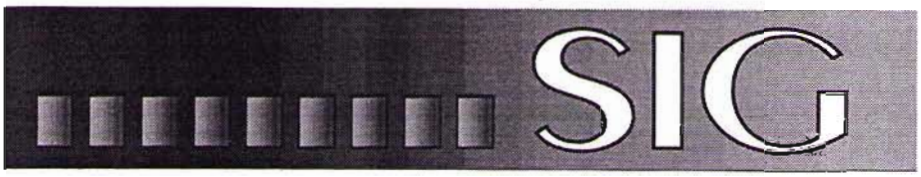
- 9:00 Class 1
  Introduction to the SIG and the Personal Computer
- 10:00 Class 2
  Working with Files & Directory Structures
- Noon Class 3
  Disk Operating System (DOS) - Part I
- 1:00 Class 4
  DOS - Part II

May 17, 1997*

- 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



Microsoft FrontPage SIG

Web publishing isn't just for Webmasters anymore! If you're one of the several hundreds of thousands of users that are currently using Microsoft FrontPage, or if you're wanting, or needing, to publish some Web content for the Internet or your company intranet, here's a SIG for you! With Microsoft FrontPage you don't have to be a software developer to be able to create a really nice Web site with features like a full text search, table of contents, forms, clickable images, frames and more. If you are a developer, FrontPage provides a great foundation to extend with your own cgi scripts, custom html, Java, ActiveX controls, etc.

In this SIG we will cover FrontPage Web publishing, Web development and Web administration-related topics for both end users and developers.

Make sure to attend the our second SIG meeting during the January NTPCUG monthly users group meeting. The January meeting will cover features of the new FrontPage97 Editor. We'll show how to use the Editor to do things such as changing fonts, tables, image mapping, and forms creation without HTML programming. Come prepared to share your own experiences with the product. Look for us on the meeting schedule at 11:00 in the same room as the Internet - Beginners SIG.

Mark your calendar and be sure to attend so that we can all benefit from our collective experience as Microsoft FrontPage users!

Robert Masters & Jeff Cooper

Paradox SIG

As I mentioned in the last Paradox SIG Notes, I had an initial discussion with the Corel SIG leadership at last month's Board of Directors meeting. If you ever want to see how close you can come to throwing a genuine "Graphic Artist" into total shock and speechless horror, just offer them the "opportunity" to take over leadership of your average database SIG!

I have chosen the hasty retreat plan of action, now that the initial bomb has been dropped. Hopefully, time will help overcome the initial shock. But, no permanent decisions have been made at the time of this writing, I will proceed with the understanding there will continue to be a stand-alone Paradox SIG meeting in January.

Please do check the overheads in the Infomart information area. I fully expect the room location to change, as we can no longer justify retaining the "SIG" computer. I plan to have both a copy of Paradox 7.0 and a laptop available for the January meeting, so loss of the SIG computer should not be significant.

BEWARE! Also a time change is most likely. I expect it to be later in the day, but what I expect and what I get seldom match.

Fred Williams

Pro SIG

Can you believe it, the Evil Vice President of DFW Exchange Corp. not only stole our white board and punch in December, he also stole the basement of INFOMART! The vendors are now upstairs and the information booth is in a side room. Fortunately we have a room scheduled for January. If he doesn't steal that too, the topic for discussion will be Jeff Dunteman's excellent article "Panic in the Year Zero" in the Dec/Jan 1997 issue of *Visual Developer*.

Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - Beginning

The January meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG is scheduled for Satur-

SIG

day, January 18, 1997 and will feature a discussion of adding a Help file to your Visual Basic application. This can be a very complex subject, but we will give you a broad overview of the topic. For those wanting a head start, this subject is covered in Chapter 13 of Gary Cornell's *The Visual Basic 4 for Windows 95 Handbook*.

In December, we covered the design of Menu bars for an application. We also had a very active Q & A session.

I continue to receive calls from folks that are looking for Visual Basic programmers. If you want me to give them your name and phone number, please sign up at the meeting. It is rare that they are looking for beginners, however. But, maybe you can convince one to take a chance!

I continue to look for volunteers to make presentations to our Beginning Visual Basic SIG. If you are interested, please see me at the meetings or give me a call in the evening at (972) 235-5968.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 18, 1997. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment.

Jim Carter

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 inadvertantly 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

WordPerfect / Windows

Hope all is well with everyone now that the holiday season has passed. This month we will be discussing Tables and their functionality versus tabs. We will explore the reasons why some people think that tables are a logical alternative to tabs. If you have ever had to create a detailed form (such as an application), the decision between tables and tabs sometimes never even enters the picture. However, tables can offer more flexibility due to the fact when you change a column size, you are not leaving a "code" in a different place each time. The small amount of "codes" is preferred due to the fact it will not bog down the file or the printer.

We will also look at how tables have or have not changed in WordPerfect 7. So come and join us for an interesting discussion on how tables can make your life *very* easy! Don't forget . . . bring a friend!

Tip of the Month

How many of you have hundreds of fonts? Any time you want to create a pizzazzy document, you scroll up and down your font list until you find *just* the right one? Many of us I am sure! Well, WordPerfect shipped with a macro which could make your life easier. It is called "allfont.wpm." What it will do is do the alphabet both upper and lower case, as well as the numbers (upper and lower case) in each font that

Graduation, Sick 'Blue,' Slow Web, Dead NICs...

Fred's Strange Month...

Wow, here it is December already! Well, actually this will be published in January, but it is still December right now. I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season. Looks like the Williams family is going to begin this year on a couple of high notes. This here chicken bid'ness ain't too bad! Plus my son has now officially attained the title of "Degreed Individual". Quite an exciting time for us all.

Days of Primer and Roses...

I've given up on ever getting the backyard building painted with the finish coat. Maybe the neighbors will believe I intended to paint it white. The latest fiasco has been the Chevy Pickup Truck blues.

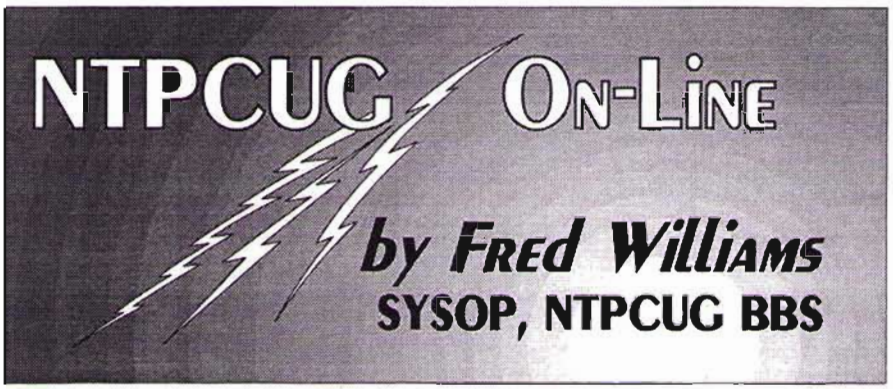
Seems Ol' Blue started running rough when the engine warmed, and it has been downhill ever since. I finally did so much shade-tree mechanics work on it. I ended up having to get it towed to the professionals. They have had it for over a week now, but they are optimistic. Meanwhile, I'm driving a Thrifty

is on your system. Next time you need to look up a font, you have it right in front of you!

I would recommend that you save this file for future use. If you have several fonts, your printer may not be able to handle all of these fonts at once, thus printing one page at a time may be your only option. Enjoy and keep creating!

See you there!

Cindy Adams



Rent-a-Rocket, (Dodge Cirrus, 24 valve, overhead cam, V-6) and bracing myself for the impending bill.

A Two-Hour Job...

The departure of Blue gave me the time I needed to spend upgrading the office network. A two-hour job for a "hero" such as myself. Well it is Sunday of the following week now, and I finally have two of the systems up on the new "Cat-5" twisted pair. So far I have gone through two "small office" hubs and three new NIC's, while discarding two "old" combo NIC's that refused to sing on twisted pair..

Forbidden Territories

Late yesterday I started moving toward my wife's system with a new PCI NIC, but was stopped short. I believe the words were something like, "Leave mine alone! I need to get some homework done tomorrow."

So today I'm harmlessly doing my monthly rambling for the newsletter.

Dropped Connections

One thing I am really liking about Web access is the ease of driver acquisition. One of the things I am learning to hate about the Web is the inability to hold a "connection" for the duration of a file transfer. One of the upgrade drivers for my wife's HP Scanner was four megabytes plus. After about the fifth attempt, I finally bit the bullet and signed on to the HP BBS, long distance. I got it in about thirty minutes of late night LD charges.

It took two attempts yesterday to get the latest drivers for the NIC's I was installing. This morning it took two more tries to get the pre-release of Microsoft's WinNT 4.0 Fax software. I never have figured out why the connection always seems to die at around 98% complete. I guess the Web is not exempt from Murphy's laws.

Fred Learns Patience

I'm still attempting to schedule a professional review of the BBS wiring installation since the recent unfortunate weather event. There are three things one learns when working within an all-volunteer organization, they are patience, patience, patience.

Hopefully, we will have completed any recommended changes before the onset of next spring's inevitable foul weather.

Fred Williams

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Volunteers in Action

by Claude McClure

Looking Back... & Looking Forward

Last year has passed with the speed of comet Shoemaker-Levy. It is hard to believe twelve meetings of the NTPCUG have taken place, plus some special events like Microsoft Explorer Roll-out and Networks Expo. We have seen some great volunteering during these events; sometimes mildly heroic. Too bad we don't have a silver star or campaign ribbon to give, for those special times of service when a volunteer single-handedly does a job usually done by a team of people. Thanks to those of you who made that effort to not only fill your assignment, but to be an example of performance to us. 1996 has been a good year for NTPCUG because of dedicated voluntary workers like you.

And now we look to the new year with confidence that volunteers will be doing their best to give us good meetings, helpful information and timely instruction. We will have a dozen opportunities to learn more about computing. There will be presentations by leading companies and experts in computer knowledge, brought to us by volunteers who search out, review and arrange a complete program. It is no accident, that we belong to one of the best organizations of this kind in the country (maybe in the universe). It is a future I want to share with you; as we watch, listen and serve during the twelve meetings of 1997.

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

Infomart Liaison
- Stuart Yarus
- Robert Hilliard
- Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
- Anchors:
  - David Slavik
  - Neal Van Pelt
- Crew:
  - Roger Crutchfield
  - Mark Guyer
  - James Guyer
  - Daniel Guyer
  - Aaron Burton
  - Larry Miller

Auditorium Presentations
- Timothy Carmichael
- Chris Jung
- Chris Carmichael

Newsletter Labels
- Charlie Fernandez

Information/ Registration Booth
- Statistician:
  - Connie Andrews
  - Ralph Beaver (Assistant)
- Scheduler:
  - Bob Waller
- Anchors:
  - Ralph Beaver
  - Deborah Bean (Double)
  - Albert Champon
  - Eteta Eta
  - John Ivers
  - Cinda Lovil
  - David Martin
  - Bob McNeil (Double)
  - Foy J. Mills
  - Carl Oehmann
  - Raymond Reyes
  - Paul Williams
- Booth Crew:
  - Roger Bopp
  - Randy Durham
  - Judy Griffiths
  - Claude McClure
  - Ken Sauter
  - Fred Toulmin
  - Matthew Williams

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
  - 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
  - Howard Hamilton

With Special Thanks to:
- Set Up Crew:
  - Mark Gruner
  - Kent Haven
  - M. Pat Henley
  - David Huckabee
  - Jan Parkhill

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

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

Information Booth and General Information
Claude McClure..... (972) 867-0976 (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
Access				
	Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F	1300-1700
Assembly Language				
	Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7	1800-2200
	Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F	1700-2200
BASIC				
	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7	0800-2200
Beginner Problems				
	Jan Parkhill	(214)828-2216	M-Sa	0900-1700
	Shirley Hudgens	(903)432-9780	7	0900-2000
Brother's Keeper				
	Neil Sunderland	(972)272-2869	7	0900-2200
C++ (the language)				
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	7	1000-2100
	Doug Cochran	(972)578-9258	T&T	1800-2030
CorelDraw				
	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F	1900-2200
			S-S	1300-2200
Batch Files				
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7	1900-2400
Borland C++				
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	7	1000-2100
CompuServe				
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows				
	Ted Gillam	(972)964-7923	7	0800-1700
DOS				
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7	1900-2200
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7	2000-2200
DR DOS				
	Rich Beaver	(817)336-0570	M-F	0800-1700
		(817)624-9530	SS	0900-2100
Hardware Help				
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7	1900-2400

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
Internet - General				
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7	2000-2200
	David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F	1900-2200
Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)				
	Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F	1900-2200
			S-S	1000-2200
LANs — Novell				
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7	0800-2400
	— *Lantastic*			
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Managing Your Money				
	Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F	1700-2200
Modems				
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7	2000-2200
MathCAD				
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa	0900-1900
Norton Utilities				
	John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa	0800-2200
OS/2				
	Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7	1000-2200
PC Tools/Win				
	Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F	1700-2200
Paradox				
	Fred Williams	(972)492-1315	7	1300-2100
PKzip/PKUNzip				
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7	2000-2200
ProComm/ProComm+				
	Bill Green	(817) 731-1308		
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7	0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Publisher (Microsoft)				
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7	1900-2200
	Pat Cote	(214)522-1717 x266	M-F	0800-1700
		(972)424-1738	7	1000-2200

NTPCUG User — To — User Program

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS	HOURS
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
		(972) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
TurboVision				
	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
	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

LEGEND:

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

The subject areas below do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Doug Gorrie at (214)464-7924 M-F 0800-1700 or Sa & Su 1000-1900 at (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

North Texas PC 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 any corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in this newsletter, and send with $30 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 second or third Saturday. See inside front cover for date, time and place of the next North Texas PC Users Group meeting.

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
President-Elect		
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**

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:
..... (972) 387-2751
..... (972) 387-2752
..... METRO (972) 263-9036

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

Password problems?
Call Doug at ..... (214) 464-4568

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

Address Changes, etc...
Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

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

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

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

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U.S. Postage Paid
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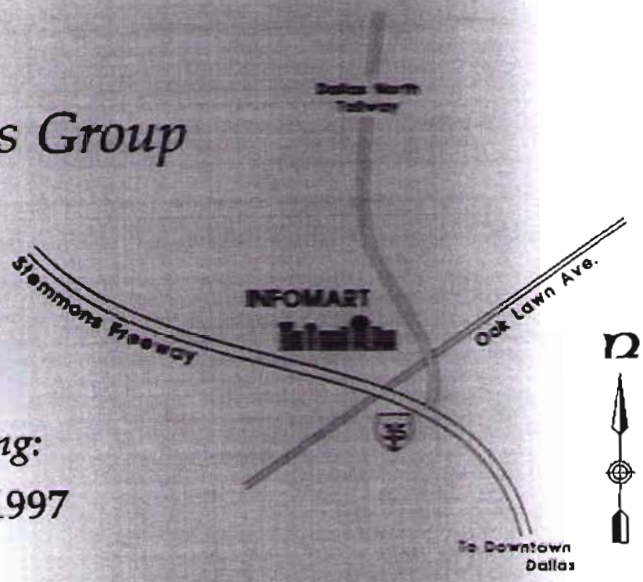
Permit No. 823

16.1

North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:

18 January 1997