

North Texas



PC NEWS

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BEGINNER'S



Guide

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DEADLINE

Copy deadline for March
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, February 10th

Meeting Dates:

February 8, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
March 22, 1997 – 4th Saturday
April 12, 1997 – 2nd Saturday



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Visit the North Texas PC Users Group web page:
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North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

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

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

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

Policies & Mechanicals:

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

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

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

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NTPCUG PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . .
TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

Micrografx Graphics Suite 2.0
Micrografx

Ryon Packer, Product Manager

Micrografx will soon release their new Micrografx Graphics Suite version 2.0, and you can get a first look at this presentation. This new version includes Picture Publisher, Designer, Media Manager, FlowCharter, Simply 3D and Quicksilver. Graphics Suite 2.0 is Microsoft Office compatible and is a great foundation for building critical information solutions. It can be tied into desktop, network and Internet/Intranet systems projects using OLE automation, VB Script and Java Script. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:55 AM

The Mobile Spider CDPD Modem
Inect Corporation

Mark Lund, Technical Software Sales

(More information will be available in the Meetings Conference of the NTPCUG BBS.)

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

NTPCUG Business Meeting *

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

FEBRUARY 8

SIGs NTPCUG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:55 Internet - WEB Developers Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning MultiMedia	9:00 - 10:55 Dallas Core!
8:00 - 9:55 Hardware Solutions	10:00 - 10:55 ACT! CAD Emerging Technologies Fox Pro Database Networking Internet-Beginning PAF-Genealogy Paradox
9:00 - 9:55 DOS General Genealogy Internet-Advanced SQL Server Introduction to the PC Quicken StarText Visual BASIC Windows Applications WordPerfect/DOS	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 - 1:55 (Cont.)

QuickBooks

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Andy Oliver, past President and President Elect, was not at the January meeting because he and his wife, Pat, were returning from Hawaii, where they celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to both of you.

SECOND SATURDAY

Some members of the boards of the North Texas PC Users Group, the Apple Corps of Dallas, and DFW Xchange were at INFOMART this morning to help us move the items we have in our store room to a different room. I'm writing this column on January 8th, the second Saturday of January.

There were an impressive number of people who showed up to buy things in the vendor area. We explained to them that we aren't always able to meet on the second Saturday of the month and that they really needed to get a schedule of our meeting dates or to check our Web sites.

And, if you're wondering, the Evil Vice President of DFW Xchange actually showed up and helped us make the move.

MORE CHANGES

Another thing that is changing are the Special Interest Groups or SIGs.

All that we require to form a new SIG is ten interested members, a leader, and a backup leader. SIGs are usually formed to discuss a special piece of software, like Word for Windows. Sometimes they handle a class of software like Spreadsheets. Interest in these areas comes and goes. If a SIG has attendance consistently below ten members, we usually ask them to meet informally somewhere else so we can use the meeting room for another SIG.

Alex Lilley is our SIG coordinator. He puts together the meeting rooms for the SIGs. And, he has one of



those jobs where you can't just please everybody. Thank you Alex for all your hard work.

It always pays to look at the room schedules to see where the SIG that you want to attend is meeting. The schedules are displayed on three overhead projectors near the elevators on the ground floor of INFOMART.

Missing Election Results

We have traditionally published the results of the January NTPCUG elections for President-Elect and members of the Board of Directors in this issue of the Club's newsletter. Members will notice that the election results are not here this month.

The reason for the missing election results is the newsletter deadline imposed by the February 8, 1997, NTPCUG Meeting combined with the January 21, 1997, deadline for receipt of ballots mailed to the NTPCUG P.O. Box before the BOD meeting where the votes are officially counted and election results confirmed by John West, Secretary.

The February issue of the *PC News* had to be delivered to the printer on the morning of January 20, 1997, in order for NTPCUG members to receive their newsletters by the February 8 NTPCUG meeting.

Jim...

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MFC source code included		✓	✓
New ObjectWindows™ Library 3.0 with DCX and MAPI support		✓	—
ANSI/ISO Standard C++ Library, including STL		✓	✓
WinSock, ODBC 2.0, and OLE 2.0		✓	✓
Point-and-click install expert with prebuilt components		✓	—
Automatic uninstall support for Windows 95		✓	—
Detects bad pointers, even outside of API calls		✓	✓
New Intel-engineered 32-bit Pentium™ optimized code generation		✓	—
Automatic detection, location, and diagnosis of memory bugs		✓	✓
Full color visual differencing of source code version		✓	—
Free integrated Java™ tools for the Internet, including GUI debugger		✓	—
AppAccelerator™ for up to ten times faster Java code		✓	—



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BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE INTERNET, 2ND Edition

Erik Leaseburg

Email Address: erikleas@ix.netcom.com

Over the past several years the popularity of the Internet has exploded. You cannot seem to get through a day without seeing an advertisement on TV, in the newspaper, or hearing one on the radio encouraging you to visit a company's web site or send them your comments via email. Your coworkers, friends, and relatives are talking about all this neat "stuff" they found while surfing the Net. So, why do so many feel like outcasts from this global village the Internet has helped create?

The problem is that the Internet seems so big and vague that most do not even know where to begin or what questions to ask. If this describes your predicament then read on. In this article the following questions will be raised and their answers given:

What is the Internet?

What equipment do I need? How do I connect to the Internet? How much will it cost me? What can I do on the Internet? What do all these strange-sounding Internet terms mean (web, email, etc.)? Where can I go to learn more about the Internet? These questions are the most common ones asked by beginning Internet users. By seeing these questions and their answers, this article hopes to bring a few outcasts into the Internet community.

WHAT IS THE INTERNET?

In a nutshell, the Internet is the largest computer network in the history of mankind, allowing millions of people to communicate and share information with one another. The amount and diversity of information available on the Internet is enormous, exceeding even the United States Library of Congress. The beginnings of the Internet started in the 1970's when the United States Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency sponsored a computer network called the ARPANet. This network connected several government and university labs together allowing researchers to

communicate and share information and computer resources. The original ARPANet has long since been replaced, and the government no longer owns or runs the Internet.

Today, parts of the Internet are owned and run by numerous commercial companies. No one organization owns the Internet. The important thing to remember is that the Internet is more than just a bunch of networks and computers. It is people communicating and sharing thoughts and information with other people. The computers and the network are just there to do the grunt work of moving the information between those on the Internet.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED?

Since the Internet is just a big, complex computer network, you will need a properly equipped computer to use the Internet. The following list gives the typical minimum requirements and optional hardware your PC should be equipped with before you venture out onto the Information Superhighway.

Making sure your system meets or exceeds these requirements will help you avoid a big pothole found on the information onramp.

Minimum Requirements

- 486 PC Compatible
- MS Windows 3.1, 95, or NT
- 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 4MB of RAM (8MB or more preferred)
- 14400 Baud Modem (28800 or higher preferred)
- Standard Analog Phone Line
- 10MB of Free Hard Drive Space



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Optional Hardware

- VGA/SVGA Monitor and Graphic Card
- CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster Compatible Sound Card

How Do I Connect To The Internet?

To be able to communicate and find information on the Internet, you have to first connect your computer into this global network. This requires both hardware and software. The hardware involved in making the connection is your computer's modem. A modem is a device which allows your computer to dial phone numbers and send and receive information over a standard phone line. You simply plug your phone line into your computer modem and the hardware part of the process is complete. A later section will detail who your computer must call to connect to the Internet.

Installation of software on your computer is the next step to connecting to the Internet. When people wish to speak to each other, they have to agree on a common language. Remember that since the Internet is a computer network, you have to configure your computer so that it can understand what other computers on the Internet are saying. This "common language" is called a protocol, which is simply an agreed upon approach by which two systems plan to communicate with one another. Nearly every type of computer imaginable is connected to the Internet, and they can all share information because they all use the same protocol, TCP/IP. Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol is the basic communication protocol that forms the foundation of the Internet. All other Internet protocols (FTP, HTTP, explained later) are built on top of TCP/IP. To connect to the Internet you must install software on your PC which translates the TCP/IP protocol to commands your computer can understand and transmit over a phone line. The software protocol used to perform this job is called the PPP, Point-to-Point Protocol. You may occasionally hear references made to a predecessor to PPP called SLIP. The Serial Line Internet Protocol is an older, less sophisticated protocol which has been replaced by PPP.

So, who do you have your computer call to connect to the Internet? That would be your friendly neighborhood ISP. An Internet Service Provider is a company which sells you a connection to the Internet. ISPs own their own computers which are connected to the Internet 24 hours a day. ISPs pay big fees so that they can connect to the Internet. These big fees are paid to commercial companies like Sprint who own a portion of the Internet. ISPs then spread that cost over all their customers, people like you, who dial into their comput-

ers to connect to the Internet. In summary, the process of connecting to the Internet involves you having your computer make a local call to your ISP's computer, which in turn connects through a part owner to the Internet.

Once you have the hardware and software installed properly on your computer, you are ready to begin making your connection. First, you have your modem dial the local phone number of the ISP. The phone is answered by a bank of modems connected to the ISP's computer. After the computers determine that they can talk to one another using a common protocol, you are prompted on the computer screen to enter your personalized name and password. This is done to identify to the ISP's computer which of their customers is wanting to connect to the Internet. Once you enter this information correctly, you officially become a computer on the Internet.

How Much Will It Cost Me?

The price of connecting to the Internet is made up of several costs. First, you must have a computer. Second, you may have to augment your system with the ap-

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propriate equipment required for logging on: a modem, sufficient RAM, etc. The third is a fee charged by the ISP for Internet access. If you already own or have access to a computer, a decent 28800 baud modem costs \$100 - \$200. Note, the higher the baud rate of the modem, the faster your computer can receive and send information over the Internet. Faster is always better unless the cost of the modem is prohibitively high. Most ISPs support modem speeds up to 33600 baud. Check with your ISP first before buying the latest, greatest, and fastest modem to make sure they can support the higher speeds on their end. Otherwise, you are stuck driving a really fast car in a school zone.

WHAT FEES ARE INVOLVED?

The fee for connection to the Internet is typically a setup fee plus a monthly or yearly fee charged by your ISP. The setup fee is a one-time cost the ISP charges for signing you up and sending you the software needed to connect to their services. This fee is usually \$15 - \$30. Most ISPs have several connection plans from which to choose, but they typically fall into two main categories: hourly access and unlimited access. Hourly connection plans charge you a given rate for each hour you are connected to the Internet. Unlimited connec-

BEGINNER'S

Guide

tion plans charge you a fixed fee per month or year no matter how much time you spend on the Internet. Typical price figures for the hourly plans are \$10 per month for the first 5 hours, and then \$3 per hour after that. The unlimited plans average \$20 per month. Many unlimited plans will let you pay for a year of access in advance at a reduced rate of around \$120 (a deal at \$10 per month).

Finding ISPs in My Area

How do I find the phone numbers of ISPs in my area? The latest edition of your yellow pages should have a section titled "Internet" or "Internet Service Providers," which lists local and national sales numbers. You can also try a company called ISP Finder (1-888-ISP-FIND) that will mail, fax, or email you a list of ISPs with local phone numbers in your area. Most computer magazines also have many advertisements for ISPs and often run ISP comparison articles several times a year to help you find and choose a good ISP. The best resources are friends, relatives, and coworkers that are already connected. They can tell you how satisfied they are with their service.

How do I know which ISPs are the best? Here are some points to keep in mind when making your choice. ISP access is divided into two groups, local and national. A local ISP generally serves a small region, usually within a single area code. Whereas, a national ISP provides access in areas all over the United States. Local ISPs are typically cheaper, but if you travel often and want to connect to the Internet while you are on the road, you should definitely go with a National ISP with local numbers in the cities you frequent. National ISPs are further divided into two basic groups: the Big Four online services (America Online, CompuServe, Microsoft Network, and Prodigy) and everyone else (ITR, Netcom, Pipeline, etc.). Along with providing Internet access, the Big Four offer their own content, including chat rooms; news updates; searchable references (travel guides, cookbooks, and encyclopedias);

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SOUTHWEST SECURITIES

IN WHAT COMPANY DID INTEL PURCHASE 6% OF THE OUTSTANDING COMMON STOCK, WITH AN OPTION TO BUY 7% MORE?

WHO DID MICROSOFT CALL ON TO DEVELOP "PLUG AND PLAY" FOR WINDOWS '95?

WHEN HEWLETT PACKARD WENT SHOPPING FOR SYSTEM SOFTWARE FOR THEIR NEW LINE OF PCs, WHOSE DID THEY SELECT?

WHERE DID IBM TURN WHEN IT NEEDED COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE FOR THE NEW APTIVA PC's?

WHAT COMPANY IS JUST BEGINNING TO REPORT REVENUES FROM LICENSING AND MARKETING AGREEMENTS WITH COMPAQ?

WHEN N.E.C. SHIPPED IT'S NEW VERSA LAPTOPS, WHOSE ADVANCED SYSTEM SOFTWARE WAS ON BOARD?

WHAT COMPANY WILL PROVIDE SYSTEM SOFTWARE FOR ALL INTEL PENTIUM MOTHERBOARDS IN 1997?

If you are interested in understanding the changes occurring in technology today, and would like to investigate investment opportunities in companies like the one above, please contact my office and request an information packet. You are under **no obligation** and will receive timely investment recommendations in Wall Street's hottest technology opportunities. The first will explain why you should strongly consider an investment in the company described above; **Intel did!!!**

Thank you for your consideration,

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special interest groups; and online shopping--all accessible from an easy-to-use interface. Recently, other big national ISPs such as Netcom and PSINet Pipeline USA have begun to look like online services by adding original content and slick interfaces, but they lack the breadth and depth of the Big Four's offerings.

CHEAPEST ISP NOT ALWAYS BEST

Choosing the cheapest ISP is not always the best move. Because they are inexpensive, there may be too much demand for the company to handle, making it difficult for you to dial into their computer during peak hours (evenings). With any provider 24 hour customer support is a plus, especially if they provide a toll-free support line. Before signing up with a specific ISP have the salesperson give you their local access phone numbers (the numbers your computer uses to hook up), and their customer support phone number (the number you use to speak to a human being). Try dialing both these numbers during peak evening hours and see if you get busy signals or have to wait a long time to talk to someone.

Other questions include how long they have been in business, and what procedures they have in place for when they get overloaded with new customers. ISPs have large numbers of modems to serve their customers who dial in. They should keep the customer-to-modem ratio between 8:1 and 12:1. This means that every 8 to 12 customers will have one modem at the ISP that they can dial up for Internet access. While only one user can use each modem, the likelihood of all the ISP's customers calling in at the same time is small. The only time this is a problem is during peak hours. The ratios above are usually sufficient to cover demand. If they do not have plans to add more modems as their customer base grows, you may not be able to connect to the Internet during peak hours.

WHAT SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED?

The ISP provides two kinds of software when you sign up. The first is used to connect your computer to the Internet (often called dialer software). It is this software that negotiates the protocol between your computer and the Internet. The second is used once you have made your connection. The Internet is full of many different services that will be detailed below. This second type of software is required to utilize these

Internet services. Both software packages are part of the service provided by your ISP and should not incur any extra cost.

WHAT CAN I DO ON THE INTERNET?

Once you are on the Internet, you will want to partake of the many different services available. You can communicate with friends using email, visit great places on the Web, peruse topics of interest in Usenet News-groups, and take home some cool souvenirs by downloading free software, pictures, movies, songs, and games with FTP. These specialized Internet programs will be discussed in greater detail below. As you read about these programs keep in mind that there are many different makes and models of each Internet software utility for your computer.

One of the reasons for the explosion in Internet popularity is the addition of the World Wide Web (WWW or Web). Quite a bit of confusion exists over the distinction between the Internet and the World Wide Web. Originally, there were many different smaller information sites on the Internet that each required a different way to access and download their information. The World Wide Web came along to make access to these sites more centralized. If you can envision the Internet as a large library full of card files, microfiche, magazines, books, and audio-visual resources, and the World Wide Web as a device to view

all these resources from one place, you have an idea of how the Web functions within the Internet. The advent of the Web has made the Internet much more accessible to the average home computer user.

all these resources from one place, you have an idea of how the Web functions within the Internet. The advent of the Web has made the Internet much more accessible to the average home computer user.

WEB BROWSER MOST POWERFUL

A web browser is the most powerful and versatile Internet software program a surfer of the Net can own. The web browser, which runs on your PC, makes finding and viewing information on the Internet an easy point-and-click task. The two most popular web browsers used today are Netscape's Navigator and Microsoft's Internet Explorer. The Web utilizes the HTTP - HyperText Transfer Protocol to send multimedia documents (containing text, pictures, sounds, and hypertext links) from remote Internet computers to your PC. Hypertext refers to a system of linked information that works similarly to the underlined areas in a Windows help files. Just as the underlined, colored text in a help file jumps you to another help screen with related infor-



mation, a Web hypertext link jumps you to another multimedia Web document somewhere else on the Internet. Like tangents of a spider web these hypertext links effortlessly connect you to related pieces of information found on the Internet.

Another reason for the popularity of the Internet is the wide variety of free and demonstration software available for download to your PC for personal use. The program and protocol used to download this information is called the File Transfer Protocol, or FTP. In the past, a separate FTP program was used to download files and software from computers on the Internet. Today, with the increasing popularity and ease-of-use of the Web, downloading files on the Internet is done mostly through the web browser's built in FTP program. When you see a file on a web page that you want to download to your computer, you simply click on it.

If you like reading newsgroups covering topics of interest, you will love the variety provided by Internet Usenet Newsgroups. Usenet is the Internet's worldwide bulletin board system, consisting of over 5,000 topical discussion groups, called newsgroups. Nearly every topic you can think of is covered by one or more newsgroups. The program which runs on your PC allowing you to view these newsgroups is called a newsreader. Again, newer web browsers include an integrated newsreader, although several popular newsreaders exist which are not part of a web browser.

Of course, one of the first uses of the Internet was to send electronic mail, or "email", from person to person. Most ISPs let you choose your own email address so anyone on the Internet can drop you a note at your own personalized email address. Email is still the most popular utility used on the Internet. Most avid email users have all but forgotten how to use the US Mail system. The advantage of email is that it usually gets to its destination, anywhere in the world, in just a few minutes. and you never have to buy a postage stamp!

There are some final steps you must take after using FTP to download files (programs, text, graphics, movies, sounds, and games) so that you can use them. Because a modem connection to the Internet is relatively slow (e.g., a 1MB sized file takes approximately 12

minutes to transfer using a 14440 baud modem), most files are compressed. The concept of compressed files is similar to evaporated milk or orange juice concentrate, all the essential elements are still there, but its volume is smaller. This saves storage space at the Internet source and decreases the time necessary to download the file to your PC. There are several common compression programs on the Internet, but the main one used is PKZip. You may be wondering what your downloaded item will look like compressed. You will use a program on your PC to decompress the data before you try to use it. Such a program will be included with the software package from your ISP.

If you are concerned with protecting your PC from viruses, you will want to check all files you copy from Internet sites with some type of virus scanning software. You are exposing your computer to files copied from exotic sites all over the world and viruses spread easily in the global Internet village. If you feel uncomfortable with the level of cleanliness on your local public phone, you should be equally concerned for your computer.

Now that the downloaded file is decompressed and free of any viruses, your PC must run software that knows the format of the file and knows how to display or play its contents. Viewer applications are software that you run on your PC to display images, play sounds, or run movies you downloaded. On the other hand,

setup programs that come with the downloaded file are used for installing and running games and programs. The difference is that a viewer is used to read passive documents and pictures, while a setup program is used to install and run active games and programs.

WHERE CAN I GO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTERNET?

The world of the Internet is the newest and probably most dynamic area in the computer world. Some books and software utilities written only a year ago are already out of date. Publishers and software firms are rushing to keep up with the tremendous growth of the Internet. Most good Internet books are into their 2nd and 3rd editions, and program versions are changing almost monthly. Always buy the latest version of any book or software package.



As a new Internet user, you should read a good book which covers the Internet in general. Some people hope to gain all the knowledge they need by simply using the Internet. You will learn much more about how to effectively use the Internet, if you take the time to read a good reference guide. Listed below are several good Internet books which are available in the computer section of Barnes and Noble bookstore. Other places to find good Internet related books are computer stores, Taylor Technical Books, and Pro-Tech Books.

Beginning Internet Books

- ❖ *The Internet for Busy People*, \$22.95 by Christian Crumlish, Osborne/McGraw Hill 1996
- ❖ *The Internet for Dummies 3rd Ed.*, \$19.99 by John Levine, Baroudi, and Young, IDG Books 1996
- ❖ *Teach Yourself the Internet in a Week 2nd Ed.*, \$25.00 by Neil Randall, Sams.net Publishing 1995
- ❖ *Official Netscape Navigator 3.0 Book*, \$39.99 by Phil James, Netscape Press 1996
- ❖ *Microsoft Internet Explorer 3*, \$39.99 by Glenn Fincher, Kraynak, etc., Sams.net Publishing 1996
- ❖ *The Internet Complete Reference 2nd Ed.*, \$32.95 by Harley Hahn, Osborne/McGraw Hill 1996
- ❖ *The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog*, \$24.95 by Ed Krol, O'Reilly & Associates, Inc. 1994

After getting a firm grasp on the basic Internet concepts, you can keep your knowledge current by subscribing to any of the many monthly Internet magazines listed below. Most computer stores and bookstores carry several of them. Note, "Computer Currents" is an excellent free magazine with many Internet-related articles and ads in every issue. Copies are available at the monthly NTPCUG meetings and at many computer stores and technical book stores.

Beginning Internet Magazines

- ❖ - Internet World, \$4.95
- ❖ - ZD Internet Magazine, \$3.99
- ❖ - Online Access, \$4.95
- ❖ - The Net, \$4.99
- ❖ - Wired, \$4.95
- ❖ - Computer Currents, Free!

Because of the popularity of the Internet, you can often find inexpensive and even free courses and group discussions being held on using the Internet. Listed below are some places to begin looking.

Beginning Internet Class Locations

- ❖ - Community College and University Classes
- ❖ - Company Classes
- ❖ - Public Library Books and Classes
- ❖ - Internet Service Provider Classes
- ❖ - NTPCUG Beginner and Advanced Internet SIG Meetings

Many TV and radio shows have popped up in recent years to discuss how the Internet is being used, and where its future is headed. Below is a list of some of these shows.

Beginning Internet TV & Radio Shows

- ❖ - NetTalk Live, The Internet Talk Show, 27 KDFI TV, 570 AM, Sun 10pm-Midnight
- ❖ - The Web, Sci-Fi Channel, Sun 11am & 10pm
- ❖ - The New Edge, Sci-Fi Channel, Sun 12pm & 11pm
- ❖ - CNET Central, Sci-Fi Channel, Sun 12:30pm & 11:30pm, USA Network, Sun 5am & Tue 12pm
- ❖ - TV.COM, FOX - Dallas, Sun 5am, ABC - Dallas, Sun 5am, FOX - Ft Worth, Sat 10am

Hopefully this article has given you enough information about the Internet to get you started. Building a network of other NTPCUG members and friends that share an interest in the Internet is a terrific way to ensure that you continue to learn new and exciting things occurring in and around the Internet. The NTPCUG has a Beginning (10-11am) and Advanced (9-10am) Internet SIG that meets each month to talk about current and future Internet developments and products. The Beginning Internet SIG also plans on holding an "Introduction to the Internet" course series several times a year specifically for new Internet users.

The Internet is an exciting place to be. Good luck on your journey.

Erik Leaseburg



PARTITION MAGIC VERSION 3

by Glynn Brooks

Is your old hard disk drive running out of room? Do you already have, or plan to get a 1 GB or larger hard drive? If so, PowerQuest's Partition Magic Version 3 can help you extend the life of your old disk drive and make it easier for you to upgrade your system later. It also helps you make the most efficient use of large capacity disk drives.

Why PARTITION?

It does not matter whether you use DOS, OS/2, Windows 95 or Windows NT, there is always some wasted space on every hard drive. The amount of wasted space varies from one PC to the next, but if you have a large hard drive formatted as a single partition, you can easily waste 20% of the disk's capacity. As a "worst case" example, if you have a 1 GB drive formatted as a single partition and you save a file with 1 byte of data, then that file will be saved in a 32 KB area of the disk. 32,767 bytes of disk storage is wasted and not available to store any other file. Because of the way the DOS file system works, the only way sure way to reduce the amount of wasted space on a large capacity hard drive is to subdivide it into partitions. (See the companion article What is FAT32? for an explanation of how the DOS file system works.)

How to PARTITION using DOS commands

Ever since DOS version 3, it has been possible to partition a hard drive by using the FDISK and FORMAT commands. But if you want to partition a disk that already has a data on it, you have a lot of work to do: backup all the files to diskettes or tape, run FDISK to create the new partitions on the hard drive, FORMAT the new partitions, and then restore the files from the backup to the new partitions. It is simple enough to do, but it takes many hours to accomplish.

Why USE PARTITION MAGIC?

Most people will not use the DOS method of partitioning a disk because it is way too much work, and that is why Partition Magic has become so popular. It elimi-

nates the FDISK, FORMAT and restore steps of the procedure. PowerQuest and I recommend that you always backup your disk before partitioning it, regardless of whether you use Partition Magic or not. It is much better to have a backup you do not need than to need a backup you do not have!

Partition Magic Version 3 retains all the capabilities of the previous releases and adds new support for Windows 95 (FAT32) and Windows NT (NTFS). Version 3 also comes bundled with companion software from IBM (Boot Manager) and MicroHelp (the application mover portion of the UnInstaller 4.0 program) as well as a few new Windows utility programs.

WHAT'S NEW IN VERSION 3?



I started noticing differences between Version 3 and previous releases as soon as I opened the box. For one thing, Version 3 is not distributed on diskette. It comes on CD-ROM and takes about 5 minutes to install on a hard drive and takes 5.2 MB of space, or more if you install the application mover. Since the full product no longer fits on one floppy, PowerQuest provides a text-only (no GUI, no mouse) version of the program called PQMAGICT that can be run from a floppy. The diskette program is not graphical and it has no built-in help, but it does do everything the full product does.

Since I've only had Version 3 for a few weeks, I have not had time to put it to hard use yet. But I have already seen enough to know it is significantly more powerful and easier to use than previous releases. For example...

Cluster Analyzer looks at all the files on your PC and graphically shows how much wasted space there is on the disk. It also shows how much wasted space there would be using different cluster sizes for the same set of files. The Cluster Analyzer then makes a recommendation as to what your cluster size should be.

Copy Partition allows you to duplicate a partition. Suppose you are getting ready to upgrade an operating system. With the Copy feature, you can quickly copy your working C: partition to another area of the disk then apply the upgrade. If you later need to get back to the "be-

PARTITION MAGIC... Ctd.

fore" state without reinstalling everything from scratch, just copy in the reverse direction. I sure wish I'd had this capability when I was installing OS/2 and Windows 95!

Another scenario: You have just installed a larger disk drive and want it to be your C: drive. Just use the Copy feature to duplicate your old disk's C: partition onto the new drive, then mark the new drive as bootable. Simple, quick, and no need for backing up and restoring all the files!

Boot Managers: If you want to run one of several operating systems on the same PC, you can use Partition Magic to create a separate boot manager partition on the hard disk and then use IBM's Boot Manager to select an OS when you boot. If you do not want to have a boot manager partition on the hard drive, PowerQuest offers a second boot manager program called PQBOOT. You can run PQBOOT from a floppy disk and select the operating system du jour without the need for a boot manager partition on the hard disk.

Drive Mapper: One of the things that happens when you change the number of disks or partitions in a working PC is that the operating system reassigns the drive letters. This always seems to mess up the drive letter assignment for the CD-ROM drive since it gets the next letter after the last hard disk partition.

Drive Mapper automates the alteration of .BAT files, .INI files, registry values, and any other files that refer to the CD-ROM drive letter. It appears to be a very powerful Windows application, but it's one I would not use without reading the 3 pages of notes and warnings in the User Guide ahead of time.

User Manual: The previous versions of Partition Magic had useful and useable documentation, but the manual that comes with Version 3 is dramatically better. It is completely rewritten, well-organized, thoroughly indexed, and very readable. It explains complex technical data very effectively. Chapter 4, titled "Concepts", is the best 32-page discussion of hard drive technology I have ever seen. It covers file systems, how a computer boots, how drive letters are assigned, and how BIOS limitations affect the hard drive. Good stuff to know!

The User Manual also includes a 24-page section on troubleshooting which includes all program error codes and what to do if you see them. This is an A+ User Guide and a



model that I wish other vendors would follow.

BOTTOM LINE

In summary, Partition Magic Version 3 is a high quality product that greatly simplifies computer hard disk set up and maintenance procedures. It is powerful, full-featured and a great time saver. The new version adds many useful capabilities and companion software that make it well worth the price of an upgrade. Highly recommended!

Glynn Brooks

WHAT IS FAT32?

Beginning with the first PCs that had 10 MB hard disks until today, we have been using the DOS file system. It was adequate for smaller disk drives, but it does not work too well with modern disk technology.

The DOS file system handles two types of information, the directory and the file allocation table (FAT). The directory contains information about where all the files are located on the disk. The FAT keeps track of which areas of the disk are in use and which areas are available for use.

In the DOS file system, the smallest unit of storage is called a "cluster". A cluster is made up of 4 or more "sectors". A sector is always a 512 byte storage area on a disk. Regardless of the capacity of the hard drive, there can only be a maximum of 65,525 clusters in the FAT.

The cluster size used by the file system depends on the disk's capacity. Whatever the size of the disk, the cluster size must be large enough so that all available space can be included within the 65,525 clusters. The larger the disk's capacity, the larger the cluster size must be. The following table shows all of the possible FAT cluster sizes.

Drive Capacity	Sectors/ Cluster	Cluster Size
16 MB—127 MB	4	2 KB
128 MB—255 MB	8	4 KB
256 MB—511 MB	16	8 KB
512 MB—1,023 MB	32	16 KB
1,024 MB (1 GB)—2,047 MB	64	32 KB

The major problems with the DOS file system are: 1) there can only be 65,525 clusters, and 2) it does not support drive sizes beyond 2 GB. Since every file on

Continued on Page 15.

'Quickies' in the Snow/Ice Appeal During January Storms and Confusing PC News Lead by 'Advertising Follies' to the Unwary

Doesn't Anybody Have Copy Readers Anymore?

I couldn't resist this one. Makes a good lead into the column and can be filed as 'What happens when a Mac weenie goes for graphics over text.' I may be maligning the wrong person(s) but I don't think so. Read on.

Got a recent advertising booklet from **Best Buy** with the Sunday *Dallas Morning News* that caught my eye on two counts. First was ad for *Pentium PC's* with "MMX Technologies." Yes, I was expecting the MMX-enabled Pentiums to hit the scene — at least a month from now, according to Intel's press releases. Probably read the wrong release.

Second was a real 'hoot.' It was an ad for "High-Gloss Inkjet Paper" — "600 count. Problem was the illustration accompanying the text. Photo clearly showed a package of "Laser" (headline) paper, with "250 sheets" very plainly marked on the package. I'll believe an inkjet paper bundled under a "Laser" label, but "250 Sheets" definitely isn't "600 count."

Think this is the same phenomenon being seen in the Mac-oriented publications. Graphics and design are fantastic, but the attention to text, spelling and syntax are miserable, at best. Some of my colleagues would probably ascribe this to 'left-brain' vs. 'right-brain' conflicts. I think it's just very poor editing...

Whither Apple? — Losses Mount, NeXT Acquired, Jobs Declines Position

I'm starting to worry about Apple Computer Company now. On one hand the news is terrible with \$100 million loss for the quarter, Apple spends \$400 million for NeXT after giving up on producing their own new OS for at least a year, and Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder, is a 'consultant' not an active employee in the deal.

On the other hand, Apple still has some terrific technology and NeXT has shown some blazing originality — in the past. After the death of Copeland, NeXT may be Apple's best chance at getting back into the struggle to pull even or best *Windows 95*. Also, **Microsoft** has announced renewed and intensified (100 additional programmers added to the Apple section) corporate efforts in terms of applications programming for the Apple platform(s). Some cynics

have observed that Microsoft's renewed attention to the Mac platform may be more self-serving, i.e., defensive against FTC attentions, than driven by optimism for the continued viability of Apple.

Question: Is all this too late for Apple after what was described as a 'terrible' holiday selling season? Some pundits are also worrying that Jobs may be a 'one-trick pony' and that's reason for his not being more active in the venture after acquisition of NeXT by Apple. Equally-cynical critics of the NeXT deal point out that NeXT hasn't made a profit in two years, and technology is even out of date by this time. Even more cynical souls are wondering if this may be Jobs' ultimate revenge for the manner in which he was forced out of Apple.

I personally hope that Apple succeeds and Microsoft continues to have real competition for the desktop. We'll benefit from both.

CAN YOU HEAR THE PITTER-PATTER OF LITTLE ATTORNEY FEET?

Here we go again — ravening hoards of blood-thirsty attorneys are forming-up for coming assaults against the PC world in the latest iteration of legal warfare among the vendors — using the courts instead of good marketing.

Haven't heard from Gary Reback lately, but I'll bet he's involved since

THE VARIETY STORE

some of the rumors of 'coming legal attractions' do involve another round in the "Everyone v. Microsoft" battles.

Also named are Intel, AMD and Cyrix in a skirmish over Intel's claimed rights to "MMX" as a copyrighted trademark to thwart AMD and Cyrix from using the description for their *Pentium* competitor CPUs.

Most important and probably least noticed was DEC (Digital Equipment Corporation) being 'First' by being first major vendor to lose the first 'carpal tunnel' suit for their keyboards

MICROSOFT TARGET AGAIN? MEDIA RUMORS SAY NOORDA GETTING READY

This one is really strange and really interesting. Ray Noorda, former CEO of Novell, and present majority owner in Caldera, absolutely loathes and despises Bill Gates and includes the ground his feet touch in his cone of hatred. Caldera purchased DR DOS from Novell last year and may make the source code public.

Novell originally bought DR DOS from Digital Research Inc. (DRI) whose founder, the late Gary Kildall, also created *CP/M*, *CP/M-86* and *Concurrent DOS*. (I actually saw a 'shrink-wrapped' copy of Concurrent DOS for sale at 'First Saturday' January 4.)

Microsoft sold IBM the original *PC-DOS 1.0*, quickly built on the base of *Seattle DOS* which was purchased by Microsoft after being approached by IBM for an operating system for the coming IBM-PC. A lot of people back in the early '80's claimed

that Seattle DOS was really a "hack" of Gary Kildall's original *CP/M*.

That's the center of the rumored coming legal attack — that Microsoft knew the DOS they purchased from Seattle Computing "stole" code and features from *CP/M* and sold *PC-DOS* to IBM in spite of this knowledge. If it happens, it will be a fun trip back in PC history for me and a royal pain for Microsoft and others.

MMX ROILS PC WATERS INTEL MOVING TO CLAIM NAME IS THEIRS ALONE

This one definitely won't be fun for Cyrix and AMD, but may make a lot of interesting reading for the rest of us. Intel just released their MMX-enabled CPUs (earlier than I'd thought) and is taking preventive steps against AMD and Cyrix encroachment on their turf/name.

Both Cyrix (M2) and AMD (K6) have competing chips coming to market soon, and both have included MMX technology in the new silicon. I won't go into the advantages of MMX technology since every PC-oriented journal is carrying stories on this new CPU technology and mine would be redundant.

However, Cyrix is mounting a campaign for their new M2 CPU and has advertised their *Pxxx+* CPUs as being "fully upgradable" to the MMX capabilities in the recent past. Have seen recent comments on a private, Cyrix-oriented Web site that the advertising of Cyrix CPUs isn't using the "upgradable" adjective currently.

AMD is unleashing the K6 CPU made possible by an infusion of NexGen technology purchased by

AMD last year. Media who have reviewed "beta" samples of the K6 claim it is 'super' and easily outperforms the equivalent *Pentium* CPUs.

In the process of introducing new products, neither AMD nor Cyrix particularly wants to have another legal "go" at Intel since both have spent \$millions in previous legal battles with them over similar issues.

Both remember the endless appeals for injunctions, reviews, etc., they received at the hands of Intel, particularly AMD, and the ensuing costs in terms of time and lost business even though each prevailed in the courts.

If Intel gets too nasty over the issue, may make some interesting speculation over what they meant by 'open standards' and also get the attention of both Justice and the FTC.

No company can report the escalating profits Intel has claimed for the last two years and avoid such attention.

KEYBOARD INJURY = \$6M DEC LOSES 1ST CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME SUIT

Called a "Landmark Verdict" DEC was tapped by a federal jury in Brooklyn, NY, for \$6 million to pay three plaintiffs (and their attorneys) claiming DEC manufactured computer keyboards "caused carpal tunnel syndrome and other injuries" to long-term users. It was the first loss in such suits for a major computer vendor to date.

I have a lot of trouble with this verdict. Was it keyboard design, or supervisor/boss pressure that created the problem? Why wasn't Smith-Corona, Remington-Rand or IBM named as well? Or, come to think of it, Linotype, ITC and other typesetting houses? People spent the same long hours at these keyboards.

Sorry, but I have no sympathy for individuals who would rather target a

"deep-pockets" keyboard vendor than the real culprits — the supervisors/bosses who insist on counting "dinks" for performance appraisals, or the employees themselves for not saying "No, I won't injure myself for this job." Yes, I know the pressures lower-level employees face on their jobs, but I'd bet none of them would tolerate a 'toxic' environment or suggestion that they allow their employer to amputate a finger to "speed-up work."

DEC MOVES BACK INTO CPU COMPETITION WITH MASSIVE 'Alpha' PRICING CUTS IN JAN.

Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) announced further price cuts on the premier 'Alpha' RISC CPU servers following an earlier announcement that the CPU's themselves would be priced substantially lower. Cuts of 47% were announced for some of the DEC servers, bringing them within striking range of the Pentium Pro servers on the market at this time.

Alpha remains the last RISC-based CPU series supporting Windows NT since Silicon Graphics announced their MIPS CPUs would no longer run the Microsoft OS and were followed by similar announcements from IBM and Motorola that they would not continue to supply *Power PC* CPU equipped machines to run NT.

May place DEC and the *Alpha* in an interesting position as *sole* RISC vendor running Windows NT. That could give DEC the numbers they have needed to produce the *Alpha* CPU series at a much more competitive pricing level. Sure makes them look attractive since there are *Alphas* that run at 500 MHz and thoughts of a quad-*Alpha* powered NT machine are just too awesome to contemplate.

Pot becomes even sweeter when users consider that DEC has the driver that will allow *Alpha* NT PC's to run native Windows applications without a significant degradation in performance. I really want one of these...



NEATO CD LABELER KIT — SURPRIZE MAIL I WAS TOO DENSE TO APPRECIATE

Recently received a *Neato CD Labeler Kit* unannounced in the mail. First impression was to say "Gee, another product without a use." Boy, was I ever stupid. I mean, I've been seeing reviews and ads for CD-ROM recorders, noted the rapidly dropping prices, and never put 2 + 2 together.

I don't have a CD-ROM recorder, but I do have a use for the *Neato* labeler — all those Windows 95 (undated) beta CD's, and all the Corel "F" series upgrade/patch CD's that are equally undated/marked.

Neato's kit contains a CD-ROM, a pad of labels and a plastic "guide" that assists in positioning and affixing the label to the CD-ROM. It works quite well and doesn't have the potential "bleed-through" damage users might incur when using permanent marker pens. Labels may be printed on a laser or inkjet printer using the utility included and there are label areas for 3.5" and 5.25" floppy disks as well as CD-ROMs.

FAT32... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

your hard drive occupies at least one cluster, the smaller the file and the bigger the cluster, the more wasted space there is on the disk.

To overcome the DOS file system limitations, Microsoft has created a replacement called FAT32. FAT32 allows volumes of up to 2 terabytes (TB), and uses a cluster size of only 4 KB for volumes as large as 8 GB. Note: 2 TB = 2,048 GB = 2,097,152 MB! FAT32 will become standard

DELTEC T-SHIRTS REMIND OF UPS NEED DURING SPRING THUNDERSTORMS

Visited the Deltec UPS booth at the NetworksExpo/WindowsWorld show at the Convention Center last Fall. Was impressed with the hardware and the people manning the display booth. Got a T-Shirt and literature.

Was griping about a brief power outage during *PC News* production later at my VA office. Saw Deltec T-Shirt I had given our secretary, Regina.

I'll be looking at UPSs before the really bad storms hit. Deltec and Tripp Lite UPS products will be at the top of my list. Tripp Lite because I've owned several of their surge protectors which have never failed in spite of my abuse. Deltec is there because the hardware was impressive and their people were impressive and able to discuss the important factors in UPS design.

Also, any company that sports armadillos on their T-Shirts has to be worth looking at.

Reagan Andrews

in the next general release of Windows 95 and may be in some future release of Windows NT. One of the new features in Partition Magic Version 3 is the ability to convert FAT partitions to/from FAT32, so long as the operating system you are using supports it."

If you are buying a new computer that has Windows 95 on it, be sure that you get version 4.00.950B or above. That version already has support for FAT32, and is being packaged with new computers.

Glynn Brooks

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Not Tedious, Thanks to Volunteers

All's well that ends well may have been a good theme for Shakespeare, but it also applies to an incident from last month's meeting of the NTPCUG. The excitement began when I was describing an unusual activity taking place in some MS Word 6.0 documents. Some knowledgeable volunteers picked up on the clues, and in unison said (you guessed it), "You should run a scan for the Macro Concept Virus".

Fortunately the Disk Of the Month crew was still hard at work in the vendor area. They not only showed a copy of McAfee demonstration disk but another utility program designed to deal specifically with the apparent problem. Those DOM volunteers really know their stuff. They all had that self-satisfied look which tells you they had long since checked their files and were no longer intimidated by some virus-writing social misfit who etc., etc. With salvation in hand and the DOM in the rear view mir-

ror, the vision of the virus running rampant through five years of obsolete reports and files was still overwhelming.

The good ending is that the offending files were found. The virus had lived in the computer for ten days waiting for the file to be used and had infected only six files including Normal.Dot. An infected file had been sent to the NTPCUG newsletter one day before being identified and the best of luck is that our managing editor, Reagan Andrews, was aware of the problem and disinfected the file on receipt. The old bard was right about things ending well. We should all thank SIG leaders who can give good advice, and Disk of the Month volunteers who make us aware of program solutions to this and other problems.

Thanks to the many volunteer members and club officers who do so much for our monthly meeting. Some of them are mentioned on this page.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchor's:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Crew:
Roger Crutchfield
Jim Webb
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 Wuller
Anchor's:
Ralph Beaver
Deborah Bean (Double)
Albert Champon
Etela Eta
John Ivers
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Foy J. Mills
Carl Oehmann

Raymond Reyes

Paul Williams
Booth Crew:
Dianne Arnold
John Arnold
Freddy Arnold
Roger Bopp
Jim Boyce
Lorin Cranford
Randy Durham
James Gorak
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

With Special Thanks to:

Set Up Crew:
Mark Gruner
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
David Huckabee
Jan Parkhill
Jerry Stone

Inventory and Take-down Crew:

Richard Blair
Mark Christopher
Brad Ficke
Martin R. Gluck
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Scheduler:
Philip Bridge
Disk Production:
Gene Carleton
Howard Hamilton

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (972)387-2751, (972)387-2752 or (972)263-9038 (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) 867-0978 (h)

Selected SIG Reports . . .

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to NTPCUG BBS SIG Upload Area or to Connie Andrews, Special Interest Group Editor, before the 10th of the month)

Access SIG

"So, what's the big news?" they asked us. Without a moment's hesitation, those of us in the world of Microsoft Office and Access responded, "Microsoft Office 97 and Access Version 8.0!" January saw the advent of these new products, a very significant software release. It appears to be solid and stable, with some strong Internet support and a veritable host of new and enhanced features. At the February meeting, **Larry Linson** will review and demonstrate Access Version 8.0.

Despite many of our regulars being away because of the holiday, we had a respectable attendance of 30 in December. Since our planned speaker had come down with pneumonia, we just "talked Access", asked questions, and got answers from our fellow members. Thanks to everyone for your active participation.

Tom Lukers conducted the January meeting. Tom again responded with a presentation on short notice, due to *Yet Another Last-Minute Change of Plan*. Both the scheduled speaker and Larry were unavoidably out of town. Thanks, Tom.

Planned topics for the not-too-distant future include:

- ❖ *The Team Access* software for version control for Access development.
- ❖ Using the Windows Common Dialog for Open and Save in the 32-bit world.
- ❖ *Time Card* application in Access.
- ❖ *FMS' Total Access Code Tools* review and demonstration.
- ❖ *Vidiotex'T-BASE* for Windows imaging software with Access.

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!

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 Lukers..... (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

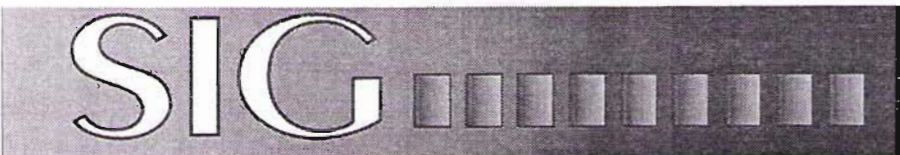
Tom Cook (214) 341-1890 w

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
Birli Smith..... (972) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 220-9388 w



❖ Last, but not least, by any means:
Your favorite topic, presented by
YOU.

O.K., you budding orators, did you see that last item? It's time you stepped forward with an Access-related subject of interest to share with us. Access 2.0 and later versions, with a target audience of any level of expertise, from beginners to advanced developers. If you have a helpful example, consider donating it for an Access SIG freeware disk for the NTPCUG Disk of the Month operation.

NTPCUG BBS (electronic bulletin board system) telephone numbers are inside the back cover of this issue. I know more of you have communication software and modems than I see on the BBS with any regularity. Give it a try: we have our local MS ACCESS message conference where you can post questions, answers, or announcements and the Internet newsgroup "comp.databases.ms-access" (the newsgroup is available for downloading only; you can't view it on-line). Attached to a message in the MS ACCESS message conference, you'll find a copy of Silly Little Mail Reader (SLMR), good, solid, and (best of all) freeware, that you can download to use to read the newsgroup.

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

Larry Linson

ACTIVE X DEVELOPERS

One of the "hot" topics these days seems to be using the Web for database development. As anyone who's ever done database development knows, particularly client-server development, this is easier said than done (for a good discussion of this, check out an article by Karen Watterson entitled "Client-Server Meets the Web Generation" in the Feb.'97 issue of ZD Internet Magazine, pg. 93).

Our February meeting will afford us the opportunity to learn about the challenges of database development on the Web. Steve DeSalvo of Microsoft will speak to us on using Microsoft technologies such as SQL Server, ODBC, and ActiveX Controls for developing and publishing Web databases. Steve will also talk to us about some of the newer data access technologies Microsoft has developed recently such as OLE DB and Active Data Objects (ADO) and how they fit into the overall picture of using the Web for data access.

Thanks to Kari Koehler of Microsoft for her informative discussion at our January meeting on MS Office 97. I'm sure we will all be rushing out to get our copy of the latest and greatest MS Office product (just as we were upgrading to Office 95!). Seriously, Office 97 does appear from all accounts to be an excellent product for developers. We'll now wait and see what Lotus and Corel offer to developers with the new "Office Suite" versions they have on tap.

By the time you read this we should have an updated description of our SIG as well as monthly meeting info posted on the NTPCUG site. It is somewhat amusing that a group of computer users are not the very first people to use the Internet and World Wide Web for dissemination about their activities, but then I guess one shouldn't be too surprised by that.

Our SIG continues, of course, to solicit input and speakers on our chosen topics. If you have had some experience in using ActiveX/OLE/ODBC technologies in application development, we certainly would welcome you sharing your experiences with us. If not, we still, of course, welcome your participation in our SIG if these topics appeal to you. We look forward to seeing you at our February meeting!

Dan Ogden

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 Stuert..... (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

SIG LEADER LISTING

Legend: h = Home #, w = Work #
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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

- Derinis Rice (972) 680-8299 h

Networking

- Leroy Ternison
- Francis Bright

OS/2 Developer

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

OS/2 for End Users

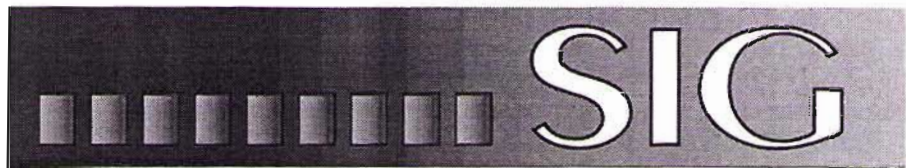
- Bob Fermier (817) 481-6625 h
- (972) 444-2195 w

OS/2 Q&A

- Larry Truesdale .. (972) 684-4790

Paradox

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



ASSEMBLER SIG

Given the low turnout, our December meeting ajourned to the OS/2 presentation in the auditorium. Our January meeting featured the presentation postponed from December, a discussion by **Frank Cavallito** on 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.

I am still trying to arrange a talk on MMX programming, hopefully for February. If not, our presentation will be on reverse engineering Windows and OS/2 16 bit DLLs.

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

Frank Cavallito

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

We will be hosting Dave Casey from Westron communications for our February meeting. Dave Casey spoke to our group on several occasions. Previous discussions have included voice data integration, fiber optic, satellite, T1, 64 Kbps lines, 56 Kbps lines and ISDN.

Dave will discuss the new 56 Kbps Modems and other high speed modem products. This advance in modem products appears to give the consumer the greatest advance in communication speed without requiring the investment for ISDN lines. This should be a good discussion especially if you plan to upgrade or purchase a new modem.

Birl Smith & Alan Brosz

Dallas COREL SIG

This writing occurs before our January SIG meeting, which will explore Corel *Web.Graphics* and the new *CorelDRAW 7*. Still, there is no lack of announcements of software updates and upcoming learning events for Corelians in the Dallas area.

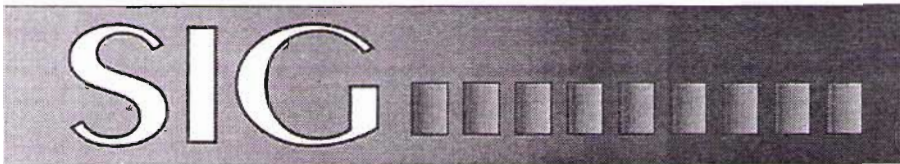
CorelXARA 1.5 Update

First the new CorelXARA 1.5 update. It is for versions 1.1 and 1.2. Registered CorelXARA customers may order the CD by contacting customer service at 1-800-772-6735. This new update will also be slipstreamed into existing product, which is available to new customers for a suggested retail price of \$289 US. (Street price is usually lower from Tiger Direct 1-800-335-4055 and others.) The update adds significant enhancements to the product, both for the traditional designer and for the increasing number of designers specializing in Web graphics.

Due to its ability to combine vector and bitmap graphics and to apply such unique special effects as transparency, CorelXARA allows users to produce high quality, distinctive graphic images. The original version of CorelXARA became a popular tool for Web graphics due to features such as smooth dithering and anti-aliasing, along with transparent and interlaced GIF support. The product's strength as a web graphic design package has been extended in this update with the introduction of a vector



Dallas Corel is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group



format designed specifically for the Web.

CorelDRAW 7 Seminar in Dallas

Published Productions will be conducting a one-day seminar in Dallas March 5, 1997. All who have attended this seminar on DRAW in Dallas in the past have given it high marks. For more information and to register, call 1-800-736-8973 today.

1997 Ventura Summit in Dallas

The 1997 Ventura Summit promises to be a valuable event 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 (known as Ventura Publisher in the old days).

The Summit takes place April 13-16 in Dallas, TX and Rick is extending the following offer to all members of North Texas PC User Group: 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.

Attendees living in Dallas, call **Marsha Drebelbis** at 214-951-0266 if you would like to volunteer to assist at the conference and receive special benefits.

March Program at Dallas Corel SIG

In anticipation of the 1997 Ventura Summit in April, we have invited **Jim Hart** to give us a special introduction to the new Ventura 7 at our SIG in March. Bring your questions and get practical answers from this veteran

beta tester and experienced user of Ventura.

Important Corel Web Addresses

- ☆Product Info:
www.corel.com/products
- ☆Web Mall / Photo CD's for Download: <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/treefunfantastic/

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG: 1995:

- ☆February - Tips and Tricks Demonstration on Corel 5

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) 475-3124 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

- ☆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.
- ☆December - Corel 7 Tutorials and Demonstration

1996:

- ☆January - Web page design with Corel Web.Graphics Suite

Marsha Drebelbis

WEB RESOURCES*

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

*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

I hope something else didn't, once again, prevent me from doing the planned presentation at the January meeting. The presentation is to be (I'm writing this prior to the January meeting) on Opus "Direct Access" a Delphi VCL (Visual Component Library) which provides "transparent" access to Microsoft Access databases.

I have had some time to evaluate "Direct Access" and it is a light year or two ahead of the recently released "Jet-Set", which was the subject of a previous SIG presentation. Unlike "Jet-Set", "Direct Access" does just that, allows the Delphi programmer to utilize Microsoft Access tables in the exact manner one might use any other "native" database. This utilization is naturally subject to certain functional restrictions imposed by Microsoft's DOA "Jet Engine" database engine.

I will be publishing a software review of Opus "Direct Access", in a future issue of the NTPCUG "PC News." In the review, I intend to discuss those advantages and disadvantages of Access table connectivity, utilizing Opus's "Direct Access". Those who attended the SIG will have received a live preview of what will be forthcoming in the future printed review.

I would still like to do an evaluation of the "Titan" product, which is yet another Access database VCL set. I have not had much success with their marketing department to date, so that one is still a future "maybe".

This month's SIG (February) should be very interesting and informative, as Frank Cavallito is scheduled to do a presentation on WinSock API programming with Delphi. I personally do not want to miss this one, as not only is the subject matter of great interest, Frank always does an excellent presentation.

Frank has been heavily involved in a DB2 and Delphi client server development project as I understand it, and this lead him to become seriously involved in some heavy-duty Winsock-related development. Frank has always managed to keep his projects close to the "Bare metal" and gets to program at the "nitty gritty" level, where one still concerns one's self with things like bits and bytes.

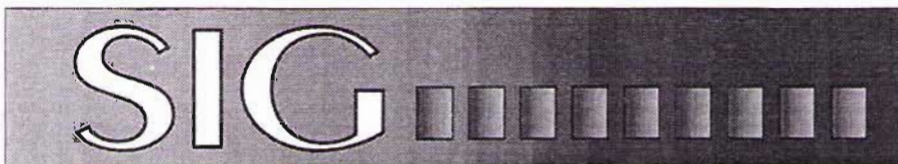
Remember we are now meeting at our new earlier time, 10:00 AM., so come early and stay late. We have a lot going on in the Delphi world, and that makes for good after meeting coffee shop discussions.

Fred Williams

DOS SIG

Attention to configuration problems will continue again in the DOS SIG meeting in February. Unless, of course, we become sidetracked — as usual — into the wild and woolly jungles of industry rumors, innuendo and malicious gossip.

DOS and Windows application configuration has taken some new twists in the past two years, mostly as a result of vendors finally hearing users' screams of anguish over IRQ and DMA channel assignments. Probably most important from the typical user's view is increased flexibility of IRQ assignments from internal modem makers. Coupled with a little time spent in configuration and .INI files, this has eliminated one



of the major barriers to convenient serial port assignment and usage.

I just got a new, "First Saturday Special" 33.6 internal that allows IRQ 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 to be assigned to COM1 - 8. In contrast, I have an "old" internal, 2400 B modem — preset for COM1, IRQ 4, only. No variation(s) allowed! The new modem works fine at IRQ 7 which is usually reserved for LPT1, but it usually doesn't conflict with modem use (so far...).

Before the user selects an unusual IRQ/address combination in DOS or non-PnP Windows installations, they should make sure their software can recognize the combination and operate normally with it. *Windows 3.11*, *Win 95* and *NT 4.0* all allow the reassignment as does my old, DOS-based *PRO-COMM 2.01*. Some new PC BIOS sets can also set "non-standard" IRQ and port addresses for the built in serial ports, but these don't appear to display too much flexibility.

Speaking of BIOS sets...

I/we have a bunch of PC's in operation ranging from Connie's "antique" OPTi 386DX/33 and AMI BIOS motherboard to a Shuttle motherboard with a Cyrix 6x86 166+ CPU and Award BIOS. In the middle are a pair of Genoa 486DX66 boards with AMI

BIOS sets. I finally gave my original Lucky 386/25 with Phoenix BIOS to the VA for use by Psychology interns. (Both of the 386 boards are/were equipped with Cyrix 486dru2 CPUs which worked fine with the "older" BIOS sets.)

As far as I know, I never ran into significant BIOS-related problems with any of them. Only the Genoa motherboards came with "complete" BIOS setup documentation. And, one of the more recent motherboards only included the basic setup instructions and no detail on advanced setup options.

Where do you go if you are convinced you have BIOS problems? Best bet is vendor of the system/motherboard, since major BIOS vendors usually won't/can't provide significant support for BIOS sets modified by the motherboard vendor. Mainstream vendors such as IBM, Compaq, Dell, Gateway 2000, and Micron, etc., should be able to help users with BIOS problems. Unfortunately, many users will discover that their original vendor is out of the business and can't furnish the name of the motherboard vendor, or the motherboard vendor doesn't have end-user support available.

Internet to the rescue

With luck and a good ISP, the Internet sites for major BIOS vendors are available and a fountain of useful information for troubleshooting possible BIOS problems. First task is to determine which BIOS set is installed on the motherboard. That information is usually displayed

on the PC monitor during booting. Be sure and get all the numbers, including those at the top — and at the left bottom of the screen. Don't try MS's *MSD*, since it doesn't show the motherboard vendor, only the BIOS maker signature and date. If you got all the numbers during booting, usually the BIOS vendor can identify the motherboard vendor.

Once the BIOS is identified, go to the vendor's Web site for support information. There are three major BIOS vendors, American Megatrends (AMI-BIOS), Award and Phoenix/Quadtel, and their Web sites are:

www.amibios.com
www.award.com
www.phoenix.com

There are also two major BIOS upgrade vendors, Micro Firmware (www.firmware.com) who sell upgrades for Phoenix BIOS sets, and Unicore (www.unicore.com) who sell upgrades for AMI, Award, Phoenix and MR BIOS sets.

Reagan Andrews

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

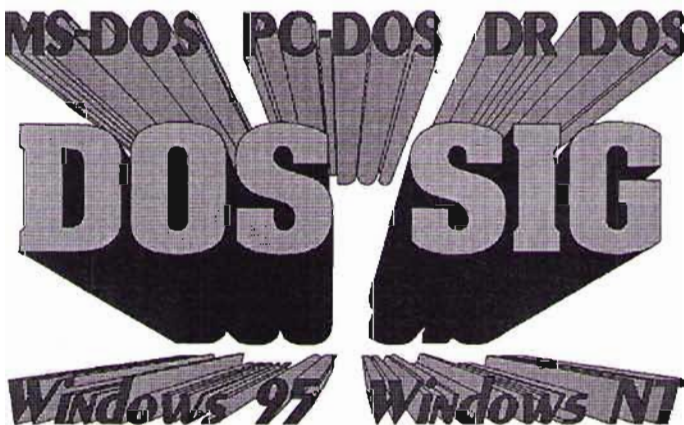
The following is the tentative schedule for SIG classes that will be offered as an Introduction to the PC during the next listed months. Classes can be taken in any order suitable to the individual student's schedule.

Printed notes are provided during classes.

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*

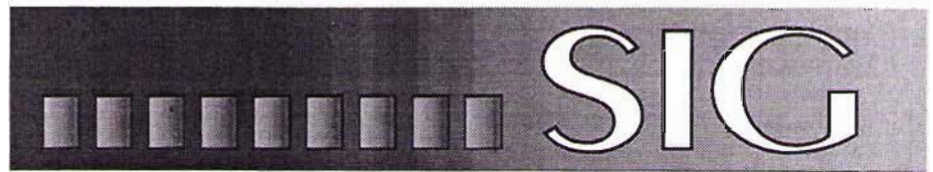
- ❖ 9:00 Class 5
Graphics for the PC
- ❖ 10:00 Class 6
Word Processors
- ❖ Noon Class 7
Spreadsheet Programs
- ❖ 1:00 Class 8
Other Software for the PC

June 14, 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
- ❖ 2:00 Class 12a
NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS)

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

Alex Lilley



Paradox SIG

As projected, the meeting room has changed, as has the time. At the time I am writing this, both the new room and time assignments are not known to me. Please check the overhead projectors located in the new "Vendor" area of the Informat for exact time and room assignments for the February meeting.

I was unable to attend the December meeting, so **Tom Browning** once again came through. I have since talked with Tom, and he said attendance was light. He also said that the few who attended became so involved in a round table technical discussion, they adjourned to a table outside the SIG meeting room and continued on for another hour.

Due to the room and time change, no formal presentation is planned for this month's meeting. We are still pursuing a resolution to the future structure of Paradox support, as will apply following Corel's recent acquisition of Paradox.

With the apparent future major distribution of Paradox becoming that of the database application in the now Corel Perfect Office suite, we may begin to concentrate more on the interactive user aspects of Paradox, and less on the developer features, in future SIG meetings. I think that, although well developed and quite robust, the ObjectPAL aspects of Paradox may become less important to future Paradox users in general.

Personally, just last Friday, I snagged a copy of Pdox 7.0 at the current client's site and began design of some marketing data analysis graphs. We need the data for a one time presentation. The one time nature of the project does not justify use of Delphi or some other developer-oriented language to compose the required graphs in a rapid and effective manner. We were going to use Excel, but he choked on the data volume. We are looking at the daily production of one

plant's "chill pack" line, which is 18,000 plus data records.

So all of you new, and old Paradox users out there, drop on by this month's SIG meeting, and explore where the new direction of Paradox may lead. There are still some very compelling reasons to use Paradox out there.

Fred Williams

Pro SIG

We had a room in January but the Evil Vice President of *DFW Exchange Corp* stole all the tables and chairs. If we can find a place to meet in February, join us to talk about the latest industry wide, company specific, open, closed standards for *Java*.

Jim Hoisington

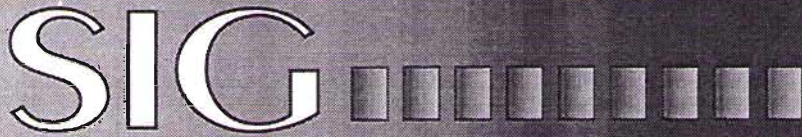
Visual Basic SIG

— BEGINNING

The February meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 1997 will be our semi-annual meeting entitled *For Beginners Only* and will emphasize the resources available to a beginning programmer in Visual Basic. This presentation is updated and given each August and February to help beginning programmers get started in Visual Basic.

The major topics will include a brief history of Visual Basic, descriptions of resources available for beginners in Visual Basic, an introduction to the Windows environment, discussion of Visual Basic 4.0, and demonstration of the Visual Basic integrated development environment (IDE). Sample programs will be run on the NTPCUG computer projection system. Everyone is welcome to attend, of course. If you have a friend, relative, neighbor, etc. who would like to see what Visual Basic is about, bring them to this meeting.

SIG



In January we introduced the subject of adding a Help file to your Visual Basic application. We are looking forward to future members' presentations on how they have incorporated Help files in their applications.

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!

Do you want to make a presentation to our Beginning Visual Basic SIG? If you are interested, please see me at the meetings or give me a call in the eve-

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

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

Reagan Andrews

ning at (972) 235-5968. Remember, your audience will be beginners in Visual Basic.

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

Jim Carter

WORDPERFECT / WINDOWS SIG

HERE YE, HERE YE, COME ONE, COME ALL! It's the WordPerfect 7 show this month! Come see the new whizz bangs of the latest and greatest of WordPerfect for Windows! Ann Schreiner will be our special guest this month to show you everything you ever wanted to know at "7"!

You will see how . . .

Look at Quickspots, Quick Menu's, the Tab Bar, the Shadow Pointer, Spell-As-You-Go and my favorite . . . Undo! TextArt now *rotates* right before your eyes. Changing margins is as quick as dragging and dropping with the new Guidelines. The new address book works like a phone book and even can contain E-mail information and can even dial the phone! You can even publish right to the Internet without knowing all the codes!

So come and join us for a fast and furious presentation on WordPerfect 7!

See ya!

Cindy Adams

A Rambling Saga of New Modems, Slow Connections, UPS's & Fred's Lust for ISDN

I was wondering what to ramble on about this month, when I received a call from the illustrious Doug Gorrie. Seems Doug was dropping off the replacement Hayes modem over at the BBS office, and wanted to let me know it was there.

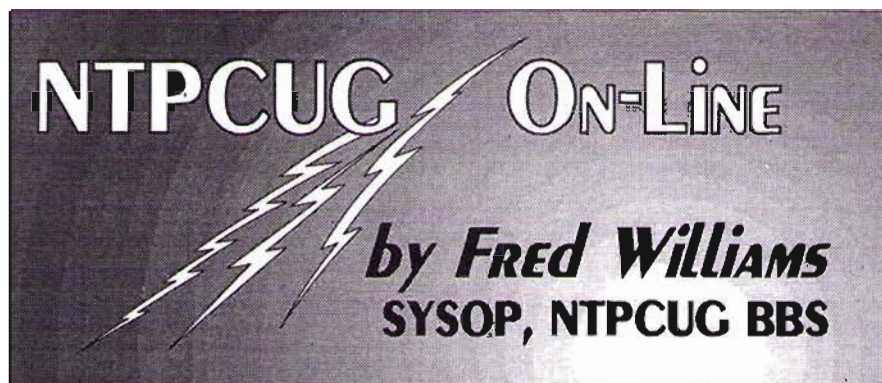
I hope to get everything else done before the weekend runs out, and actually have time enough to install the new puppy. I'm going to have to shut the BBS system down and open it up, in order to stick a "standard" RS232 card back in it. The RS232 card will regain the loss of one of our ports, which was the victim of lightning.

As Doug and I had not just chatted for a while, we put a pretty good longevity test on his wife's cell phone batteries. Seems Doug has just had an ISDN line installed at home. We had quite a long discussion of ISDN and such.

For what I'm paying GTE monthly, I can convert to ISDN for little more cost than that involved for ISDN service installation and purchase of the required ISDN adapter. As the result of conversion, I would receive in effect, two POT phone lines, plus the potential for 128kb data transmission.

I see all kinds of print ads for ISDN adapters. I think of ISDN adapters as very fancy "modems" with two POT (Plain Old Telephone) plugs, each with an assigned phone number. The going price for most of these units seems to have dropped into the less than \$400 range. That's what a high quality modem's "street" price is today.

There are some things to keep in mind. One significant thing is, it seems the telephone companies have never been happy with the service charges they can assess for ISDN. There is a significant risk that future pricing may rise, should the state regulators be convinced that



current rates are to low at some point in the future.

Another point is the cost of the required ISDN adapter. I look for the cost of these units to continue to decline with ever-increasing feature sets introduced. After all, they are nothing more than another piece of electronic equipment.

A little known fact is, unlike your POTS, which is powered by the phone company's central offices, ISDN service dies with your house power during power outages. Doug and I conjectured that a UPS on the ISDN adapter might keep that negative from happening, but we are not certain. Maybe I can convince Doug to run a test.

I still think that the advantages of ISDN are financially and technically worth studying. With the ever increasing instances of high volume data transfers the norm, improving connectivity is becoming less of a luxury and more of a requirement for many of us out on the bleeding edge of our industry.



One might wonder why I'm talking about ISDN, with all these newly announced ultra high speed modems being ponied out. I have to ask, "How many times have you seen your 28.8kb modem actually gain and hold a full 28.8kb connection over the POTS?"

I have seen "28" displayed on my Supra for a few moments less times than I have fingers. I know because when counting, I was able to leave my shoes on, and still arrive at an answer.

What the modem manufactures and the telephone companies don't tell you is, the odds of gaining and holding a 28.8kb connection is highly unlikely for the average user. So I have to ask, "What good is a 33.6kb modem going to do you? It's the phone lines, Stupid!"

The recent "X2" 56Kbps standard proposed by US Robotics harkens back to the days of "split speed" 9600 baud modems. Seems the 56Kb can only be achieved in one direction. From the "server" end. The "reverse" channel will remain at 28.8Kb. And keep in mind, how well 28.8Kb works now.

One would hope there will be some kind of connectivity arbitration to allow one end to dynamically become the "server". Maybe even we can go all the way back to when we had to "turn the line around" in the old Half Duplex days. Nope, I think I'll take an even closer look at ISDN.

Fred Williams

DOM Disks Released In January

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

Disk 1081. WINDOWS 95 REGISTRY FAQ - An Online Guide to Registry Info.

WINDOWS 95 REGISTRY FAQ - An Online Guide to Registry Info, Imaginations Unlimited Software, registry95@AOL.COM

One of the most confusing and least explained areas of Windows 95 is that of the Registry. It seems there is little or no written information or documentation explaining what can be found in the Registry that is useful to the average Windows 95 user. Microsoft proclaims they do not offer support for the Registry to end users.

Now there is a source you can turn to for some unique and helpful information on what can be done inside the Registry. Imaginations Unlimited offers a new online FREEWARE package where

all Win 95 users can learn more about their Windows environment. The Registry offers many avenues to make changes in Win 95 features like the LOGO splash screen, renaming the Recycle bin, remapping icons so they display corresponding Bitmaps instead and other features.

The authors have designed a simple, effective menu interface that leads you to the various areas with ease.

From the main menu, you can learn how to customize Win 95, fine-tune Win 95, solve problems, learn new tricks, shortcuts and productivity tips and receive information on the top 12 Windows 95 utilities, like Power Toys, MS Plus, WinZip for Win 95 and other utilities programs offered to make using Win 95 more effective and useful.

This is a very fine online HELP digest and it's easily used the first time you create a new directory for the program. Matter of fact, that's all there is to this program.

Installation:

You create a new directory name, copy all these files into the new directory and click on the Help file. You might create a shortcut to

your desktop if that suits you more.

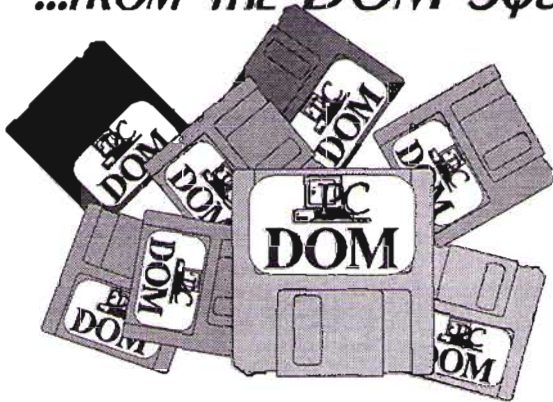
It might best be said, "Have fun...but, be careful out there!" when you use this program. Please read the FAQ and follow the instructions carefully, using your common sense to MAKE A BACKUP OF THE REGISTRY before making any changes to the Registry.

This software was downloaded from THE INTERNET for the NTPCUG.

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

New Disks

...FROM THE DOM SQUAD



by JAN PARKHILL

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)
- 1066... MS Excel Interactive Tutorial
- 1065... Waste for Windows 1.5 (H/D cluster
..... diagnostic utility)
- 1054... Power Toys for WIN95 (Utilities)
- 1053... SUPER WinWARE, Vol 6 (Windows
..... Magazine Programs/Util's)
- 1070... HotDog 1.004 (HTML Editor with tables, etc.)
- 1073... JUNO (FREE E-mail SW and Provider Disk)
- 1077... PKZIP for Windows 2.50 (Compression utilities)
- 1079... SYSCHK 2.43 (System infor checker)
- 1074... MS Windows 95 Tutorial (Learn to use
..... Windows 95)
- 1063... ViruScan/VShield DOS, 2.2.12 (McAfee's
..... DOS-based Anti-Virus program)
- 1076... F-PROT 2.25 (Virus detection and protection)
- 1075... PROVIEW for Windows
- 1080... Screen Thief 95 1.02 (Windows 95 screen capture)
- 1068... SmartDraw 95
- 1055A&B Time & Chaos 5.1.3 for Windows 95 (PIM -
..... Personal Information Manager - for WIN95)
- 1062A&B ViruScan, WINDOWS 3.x-OS2 2.2.12
..... (McAfee's Anti-Virus for Windows 3.x
..... and OS/2 systems)
- 1071... Zip Code Explorer 1.2
- 1072... Duncce 2.4 (Dialup net connection enhancements)
- 1057... SLMR 2.1a (Silly Little Mail Reader - Off-Line
..... Mail Reader)

NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access				Internet - General			
	Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
Assembly Language					David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
	Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200	Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)			
	Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200		Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
BASIC							S-S 1000-2200
	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	LANs — Novell			
Beginner Problems					Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Jan Parkhill	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	— Lantastic			
	Shirley Hudgens	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Brother's Keeper				Managing Your Money			
	Neil Sunderland	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200		Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
C++ (the language)				Modems			
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100	MathCAD			
	Doug Cochran	(972)578-9258	T&T 1800-2030		Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
CorelDraw				Norton Utilities			
	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200		John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
			S-S 1300-2200	OS/2			
Batch Files					Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	PC Tools/Win			
Borland C++					Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	Paradox			
	Howard Harkness	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100		Fred Williams	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
CompuServe				PKzip/PKUNzip			
	Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows				ProComm/ProComm+			
	Ted Gillam	(972)964-7923	7 0800-1700		Bill Green	(817) 731-1308	
DOS					Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200	Publisher (Microsoft)			
3 DOS					Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Ralph Beaver	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700		Pat Cote	(214)522-1717 x266	M-F 0800-1700
		(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100			(972)424-1738	7 1000-2200
Software Help							
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400				

NTPCUG User — To — User PROGRAM

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Quicken	Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
Quilckbooks	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
SPFPC	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700
		(972) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
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

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

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

LEGEND:

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

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

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZP: _____

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.

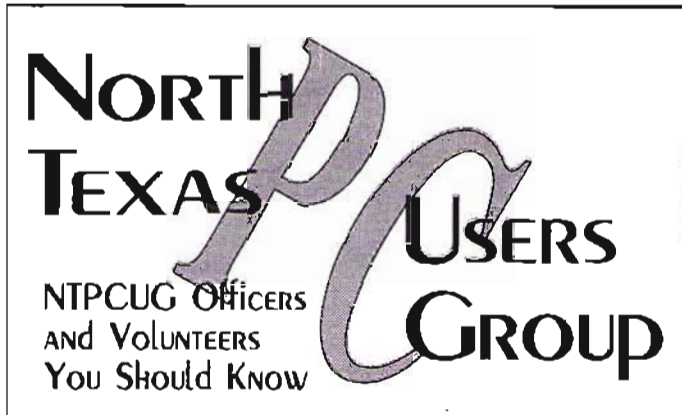
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from outside Area Code 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..)

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 Loufman **Reagan Andrews**
Fred Williams **Timothy Carmichael**



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North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:
08 February 1997

