North Texas

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

NTPCUG

PC NEWS

Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2,175 last month.

Member distribution was 1,950; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Corel Ventura 4.2, Corel Draw 7.0, Arts & Letters Express 6.01, Micrografx Picture Publisher 5.0, Adobe Photoshop 4.0 and HP Scanjet IIp. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, Lithos and Mistral.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for May
North Texas PC NEWS:
Thursday, April 10th

Meeting Dates:
April 12, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
May 17, 1997 – 3rd Saturday
June 14, 1997 – 2nd Saturday

— NT ✦ PCUG ▼ ▲
NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, INC

In this Issue . . .

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

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

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

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

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

Policies & Mechanicals:

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

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

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

"To Be Announced"
See our web site and BBS Meetings Conference.

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM   "AMD-K6TM MMX Processor"

AMD
Lee Little, Channel Sales Manager

AMD's newest technology, the AMD-K6 MMX processor, is a 6th generation x86 compatible solution that delivers state-of-the-art performance competitive with the Pentium Pro. Industry standard multimedia extensions, integrated Into the AMD-K6 processor, accelerate the next generation of multimedia applications to new levels of performance. The AMD-K6 MMX processor will be in leading PC systems soon. There will be a drawing for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM   NTPCUG Business Meeting

12:00 PM - 12:55 PM   "Investment Research on the Net"

Telescan, Inc.
Jerry Smith, Business Development Manager

WallStreetCity offers investors the most comprehensive investment information and tools for complete securities analysis found on any single site available on the web or any medium. Available are tools allowing investors to manage up to seven portfolios with up to 150 securities in each. Investors can also custom design their own stock, options and mutual fund searches with their powerful search engine, access real time and delayed quotes on over 300,000 domestic and international securities, and run full technical analysis of graphs.

---

* 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.

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS...
TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

APRIL 12

SIGs — NTPCUG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

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

8:00 - 9:55
Hardware Solutions

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

9:00 - 10:55
Dallas Corel

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

11:00 - 11:30
Business Meeting

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

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

11:30 - 12:00
NTPCUG Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
Access
Alpha Four
C++/Advanced C
Communications
Desktop Publishing
OS/2 for End Users

Introduction to the PC
The Master Genealogist

1:00 - 1:55
Business Apps./DAC Easy
C++/Beginners
OS/2 Developers

1:00 - 1:55 Ctd.
Introduction to the PC
QuickBooks
StreetSmart/e.Schwab

1:00 - 2:55
Word for Windows

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers
ActiveX Developers

SIG Schedules may be subject to changes at the last minute. Please consult the BBS, or the NTPCUG Web page (www.ntpcug.org) and remember to check the overhead display in the INFOMART lobby for latest SIG schedules and room locations.

New Member Emeritus

From time to time, the Board of Directors elects a member emeritus. The person chosen has devoted a significant amount of time to the North Texas PC Users Group.

I am pleased to announce that **Andy Oliver**, Past and Future President and former SIG Coordinator has been elected as our latest member emeritus.

Congratulations Andy.

Special offer from Lotus Development

Lotus Development is offering members of NTPCUG a special price on their *SmartSuite 97*. This is the same version that the media has been praising highly in recent weeks.

Until May 31, 1997, NTPCUG members will be able to purchase *Lotus SmartSuite 97* from Stream International for $146.00.

To take advantage of this offer, call 800-888-4830 and ask for sku # 293186.

Financial Report

How is the NTPCUG doing financially? In this issue, you will find the answers in our annual financial report from **Mark Gruner** on pages 4 & 5.

In order to let our members know how the Club is handling their money, the NTPCUG BOD began publishing the Club's financial status in the April issue of the *North Texas PC News* two years ago. Members should read it carefully.

Thank you Mark.

Demographics

Each fall, **Reagan Andrews** prepares our annual demographics survey. This data from this survey is entered into a Paradox database by **Fred Williams** and an analysis is done by me. Reagan then prepares the article that appears in the newsletter and that we publish as

Prez Sez . . ?

Jim Hoisington

a handout to the companies that **Timothy Carmichael** approaches to make presentations in the auditorium.

[Ed. Note: In the past, Fred Williams has added his impressions of the members' survey contributions as a later "sidebar." We will be looking forward to his interpretations of this year's entries.]

August Meeting has changed

For those of you that plan ahead, the August meeting date has changed from August 16th to August 9th, the second Saturday in August. And, **Stuart Yarus** is now working with INFOMART on the 1998 meeting dates.

Membership

Our membership at the end of February had dropped to 1,879. I've done a quick analysis of the months of December, January, and February. It looks like our renewal rates are about the same but we're not signing up as many new members to replace those who choose not to renew.

Just in case people are having trouble finding the Information Booth in it's new location in the vendor area, we've ordered some new banners for it. They should be available at the March meeting. We'll see if it helps.

Jim...

You can make a gift that will change the life of the recipient

That 386, 286, or 8088 that is no longer being used can allow a blind person to be able to read and write, edit, and print letters, reports, keep personal financial records, and many other things on a computer that he or she once did or perhaps never did before.

Computers with synthesized voices or screen magnifiers can open opportunities that were not dreamed of a few years ago. Even the older and slower models that can not easily run Windows can still provide an effective word processing, checkbook, daily calendar, list of recipes, and so many other things that the blind person must ask someone else to read, write, or compute for him.

The Texas Center for the Physically Impaired is taking your no longer-needed computers and making sure that they are ready for the new owner, plus providing recorded tutorials, counseling, information and encouragement that will bring a person up to speed in the computer world.

You can benefit from the warm feeling that you have made a significant difference in someone's life and gain an income tax deduction as well.

Contact:

Robert Langford, Ph.D.
President, Texas Center for the Physically Impaired
11330 Quail Run
Dallas, Texas, 75238

Voice: (214) 340-6328
FAX: (214) 340-0870
E-mail: robert.langford
@ntpcug.org
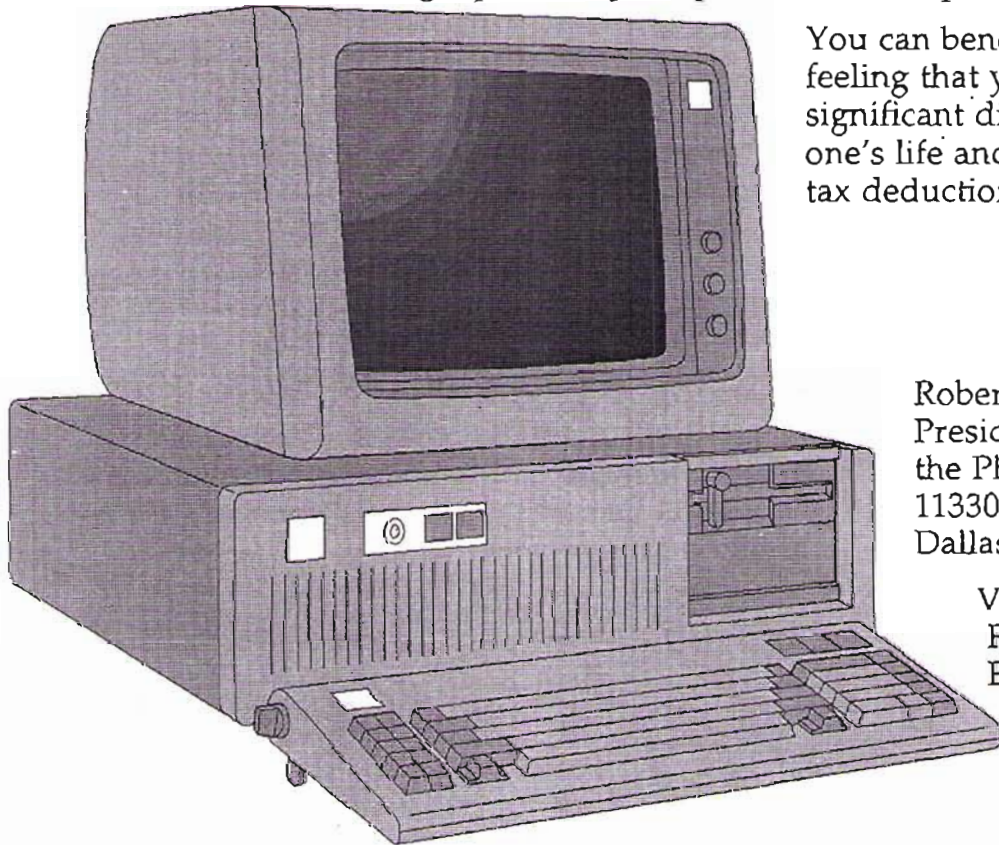
Financial Results of the North Texas PC Users Group

By Mark Gruner

In case you are wondering how the NTPCUG is doing from a financial perspective, this article will hopefully answer your questions. This article discusses the results of the User Group for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996. The NTPCUG uses a cash basis to maintain our financial records which means that transactions are only entered when cash is received or disbursed.

The NTPCUG is a 501(c)(3) educational, nonprofit organization which means that the group pays no federal or state income tax. We are also exempt from paying sales tax on products and services that we purchase. As a nonprofit organization, the Board of Directors has adopted a "fund" accounting approach which means that a few "accounting" terms are changed. For instance, "Revenue" is changed to "Receipts", and "Net Income" is changed to "Excess Over Expenses". While these changes may seem subtle, they are an important distinction for nonprofit organizations.

Having said all of that, here are the financial results of the North Texas PC Users Group for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996 with some comments afterward ... [Ed. Note: See Box at lower left.]

As you can see, the Group "made" money last year. However, the User Group received a one-time donation of $17,319 in August, 1995 from the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD) which is included in Other Receipts. Without this donation the User Group actually "lost" $7,375 for the year. Here is a brief description of the various receipts and expenses:

Receipts: The majority (56%) of the Receipts of the group is from membership dues that you pay. Not including the CCD donation, ads in the *PC News* were our second highest source of funds, with Disk-of-the-Month a close third. Mailing list sales are one-time sales of mailing labels of our membership database to companies. All mailing list sales are approved by the Board of Directors. The approved companies are either giving a presentation to the group or have a valuable or unique product or service offering for our members. The "Other Receipts" account includes the CCD donation and commissions on magazine subscriptions that members initiate.

Direct Expenses: By far the group's biggest expense is the publishing, duplication, and mailing of the *PC News*, our monthly newsletter. The second highest expense is Meeting expense, which is primarily the rental of audio visual equipment for the SIG rooms and the auditorium, but also includes copies for handouts at the various SIGs. The Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) expense

Operating Results for the Year Ending June 30, 1996	In Dollars	Percent
RECEIPTS:		
Membership Dues	$45,049.00	56.2%
Disk-of-the-Month	6,390.50	8.0%
PC News Ad Receipts	7,748.00	9.7%
Mailing List Sales	500.00	0.6%
Interest	1,911.64	2.4%
Other Receipts	18,606.13	23.1%
TOTAL Receipts	**$80,205.27**	**100.0%**
DIRECT EXPENSES:		
Membership Expense	$1,844.29	2.3%
Disk-of-the-Month	4,428.20	5.5%
PC News	31,538.00	39.3%
BBS	1,518.33	1.9%
Meeting Expense	18,452.38	23.0%
Equipment Purchases	2,485.23	3.1%
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	538.99	0.7%
TOTAL Direct Expenses	**$60,805.42**	**75.8%**
EXCESS OVER DIRECT EXPENSES	$19,399.85	24.2%
INDIRECT EXPENSES:		
Administration	$5,997.85	7.5%
Office Rent (for BBS)	1,200.00	1.5%
Conferences	1,015.00	1.3%
Sales Tax on DOM Receipts	490.59	0.6%
Bank Charges/Discounts	752.00	0.9%
TOTAL Indirect Expenses	**$9,455.44**	**11.8%**
EXCESS OVER EXPENSES	**$9,944.41**	**12.4%**

Microsoft Office 97 for Windows 95: Overview

Part One of a Multipart Software Review

by Larry Linson

Just a few years ago, Microsoft was playing catch-up in this area; now everyone else is trying to catch up to Microsoft. The latest release of Microsoft Office, *Office 97*, builds on Microsoft's previous success in the Office Suite arena to win top ratings for each component in

---

NTPCUG Financial Results... Ctd.

is the production and administrative expense of the DOM. Membership expense includes items such as mailing membership renewal letters, cost of new membership kits, and mailing membership badges not picked up at the monthly meeting. The majority of the BBS expense is the cost of the three telephone lines. The Equipment Purchased was for a new PC for the BBS. Equipment Maintenance and Repair were upgrades and parts for the BBS computer and modems.

Indirect Expenses: Administration expenses include Officer's meetings, supplies, and other expenses to provide for group administration. The office rent is for a very small office with no windows for all of the BBS equipment and storage. Conferences are for certain expenses for the President, *PC News* Publisher, and others to attend conferences and trade shows such as Comdex where they meet with other user group representatives. Sales Tax is the sales tax collected on DOM sales and then sent to the Texas Comptrollers office. Even though the User Group pays no sales tax, we must charge sales tax on DOM sales. Bank Charges and Discounts include fees charged by banks and discounts on MasterCard and Visa transactions.

Hopefully, this brief article answers most of the questions you might have on the financial results of your User Group. As you can see, the vast majority of our receipts are put to work for the benefit of YOU, our members. In case you are wondering how you can help improve our financial results, here is a brief list: 1) tell all of your friends about the NTPCUG and the benefits of becoming members, 2) use the DOM for your shareware needs instead of other vendors, then register with the author; 3) pick up membership cards at the meeting; 4) use checks or cash, not credit cards, for membership renewals and DOM purchases , and 5) do not "bounce" checks.

Mark Gruner

---

comparative reviews in major publications. This is a well-done package of software covering traditional office and database needs. It also adds application development capability in each component, and, keeping right up with the times, has a formidable array of Internet-enabled capabilities. It even comes with an up-to-date copy of Internet Explorer and other support software — you can test your Internet work right on the machine where you develop it.

Components of the Standard Edition are *Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint,* and *Word*. The Professional Edition adds *Access* database management software. The Developer Edition also adds another CD-ROM of Developer goodies, including the Access runtime so you can distribute Access applications to users who don't have

(Continued overleaf)

To All Members:

If you have any preferences for a specific vendor presentation, please let me know. I try to bring you the most current and highest-interest topics, but cannot always get who you may want to see. You can help by encouraging any product representatives to contact me to get in the queue of possible speakers.

Timothy Carmichael, Program Chairman

Phone (w): 972-566-4626 (fastest contact method)

Fax (w): 972-566-4715

Microsoft Office 97 Review... Ctd.

Access and documentation helpful to application developers (look for details on Access and the Developer Edition in later installments of this review). The components are accompanied by a number of updated and new "aplets" used from the standalone packages; two examples are *Microsoft Graph* and a revised version of *WordArt*. Somewhere in the hierarchy, *Binder and Photo Editor* become part of the package. (It's difficult for me to tell, since I'm using the full Developer Edition).

Binder is a container for Microsoft Office documents; keep your eye on this one because it, just like a Web site, can contain your *Active* (or *ActiveX*) Documents. ActiveX Documents are going to be more and more important even in the near term ("I have seen the future and it looks like the Internet" is a quote that means that future releases of Windows are going to be very Internet-like.) Photo Editor lets you spiff up those graphics that you'll no doubt be using in your Web publishing. Excel, the very powerful spreadsheet, PowerPoint, the top-ranked presentation graphics package, and Word, the leading Windows word processor, all

have expanded function and features, HTML and "Publish to the Web" options, and the latest version of Visual Basic for Applications (VBA5) with a much improved Integrated Development Environment (IDE).

They all also use another "aplet", *Microsoft Forms* for forms (user interface) design.

Access has VBA, but has its own IDE and user interface design functions. Access gained a plethora of enhancements in Office 95. Access 97 has enhancements to those enhancements, also has Web publishing capability, and is reported to include fixes for some very vexing problems we encountered in Access 95.

There's very extensive Help and Online documentation, but don't expect much in the way of printed documentation. I haven't felt the lack, because the online information is so extensive and so easy to use. There's even an animated, graphic online "Office Assistant" with characters ranging from the default, an animated paperclip, to a Shakespeare-like character. You'll find it cute at first; if, in time, it becomes an irritation, you can always click it off.

Be sure to check the end of the box on an upgrade edition before you buy — it seems that almost any Microsoft or competitive office, database, or development software, even much DOS software and some that is bundled with many Windows computers, will qualify you for the upgrade. It's hard to imagine anyone doing any significant computing who *doesn't* qualify for the upgrade. Upgrades generally search your hard drive(s) for installed components of the qualifying software and, if none are found, ask you to insert the first diskette in your diskette drive. Additionally, for those who can prove purchase of a previous version of Microsoft Office, there's a $40 mail-in rebate (not included in the street prices quoted).

The Upside: Microsoft Office 97 is a capable, feature-rich suite of Office products with Internet publishing

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Membership Survey — October 1996

The North Texas PC Users Group (NTPCUG) is an independent, nonprofit organization of approximately 2000 members who regularly meet to exchange ideas and facts about IBM and compatible personal computers. Beginning in February, 1987, the NTPCUG began regular surveys of its membership. These surveys sample members' occupations, corporate and personal computer purchases, current hardware and software, expected future purchases and general user personal demographics.

The following results are based on a survey conducted at the October, 1996, meeting at Infomart. 214 valid surveys were collected during the meeting, representing a 11% sample of 1974 NTPCUG members current at the time of the October meeting. All numbers greater than 10 are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

NTPCUG — 1996 Membership Demographics in Brief:

Based on the October, 1996, survey, the NTPCUG membership appears to be a group of people who are working in professional-level positions, and exert significant influence over corporate computer purchase decisions. Our members are evenly distributed in age, report median family income levels above $65,000, are well-educated and invested in continuing education efforts.

NTPCUG members also appear to be invested in maintaining state-of-the-art PC's. Members reported an average of $2,304.95 in hardware and software purchases in 1996, representing *personal* PC spending of $398,230 for the sample group. Carried across all NTPCUG members this would amount to roughly $4.5 Million.
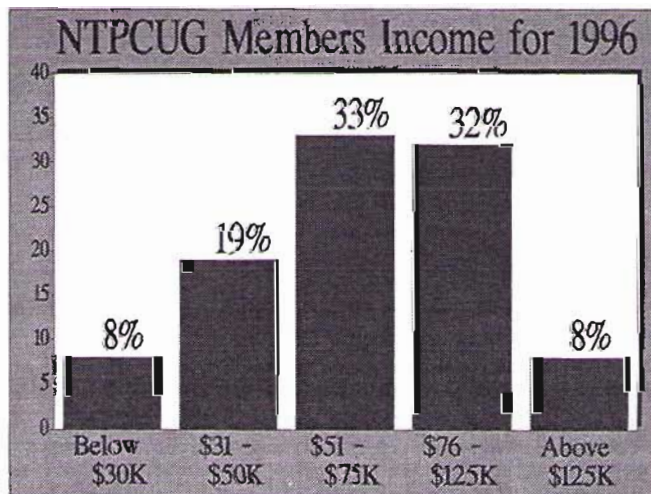
NTPCUG Members' professional roles

In their professional roles, NTPCUG members felt the most appropriate description of their jobs were:

A) Chairman/ .... President CEO 7%	G) Software Engr./.............. Programmer 10%
B) MIS Manager 8%	H) Representative 2%
C) Engr./Hardware 5%	I) Educator 4%
D) Consultant 24%	J) Mgr. (Non-MIS) 6%
E) Systems Analyst 3%	K) Scientist 2%
F) Data Base ....3% Supervisor/Administrator	L) Other..........................25%

Membership survey highlights

- 68% of NTPCUG members surveyed report a significant amount of their work involves them in evaluation, recommendation, design, manufacture or sales of computer hardware or software:

  49% of total sample in computer hardware

  59% of total sample in software
- 78% of those members sampled who are not Computer Professionals state they are considered *PC Experts* in their area(s)
- 86% of NTPCUG members are males

  14% of NTPCUG members are females

- 72% of our members are married (this figure is not broken down by sex) 19% of members report that they bring their spouses or significant others to NTPCUG meetings
- 76% of the 1996 membership sample had 4-year Bachelor degrees or higher — 28% of members report degrees at the Masters level, 6% of the respondants hold doctoral level degrees
- 62% report that they regularly participate in continuing education
- 86% classify themselves as skilled or expert PC users — 37% report expert-level knowledge
- 99% have and regularly use modems with their PC's at home, 99% at work, and 48% report two or more telephone lines at their residences
- 16% report use of a FAX board in the home PC while 83% have dedicated FAX machines
- 76% have more than one PC in operation at home
- Median PC reported is a *Pentium*-class, has a 1.0+ G hard disk and 16M or more DRAM installed. 64% report disks larger than 1.0 G and 41% report more than 16M DRAM.
- *DOS/Windows* is used by 96%, *OS/2* by 2% of members responding. *UNIX* was reported as most used operating system by 1.7%, and one member reported *PICK* as primary OS.

NTPCUG Members Income for 1996

Below $30K	$31 - $50K	$51 - $75K	$76 - $125K	Above $125K
8%	19%	33%	32%	8%

NTPCUG — 1996 Membership Demographics

NTPCUG Members tend to spend a lot of time with PC's. Majority of NTPCUG members surveyed reported more than one operational PC at home and 30% of members said they had three or more PC's at home. Home PC use patterns reported indicate that male members tend to use the PC most — 79%.

Home PC Purchase Patterns

Members *personal* home PC spending reported for the year decreased approximately 2% since 1995, reflecting the rapidly decreasing prices for hardware and software and were:

Hardware: 175 members reported they spent an average of **$1,449** on hardware in 1996 for a total of **$253,575** in purchases.

Software: 206 members said they spent an average of **$855.95** on software during 1995 for a total of **$144,655**.

Total: PC purchases averaged **$2,304** for 175 members responding to the survey. Total spent = **$398,230**.

If carried across all 1,974 members, that would represent about **$4,548,096** in NTPCUG members' *personal* home PC-related purchases.

Home PC use patterns

Home PC ownership has continued shifting away from the "name brands" since the last survey. CPU Power seems to increase every year — apparently driven by *Windows, OS/2* and Multimedia demands.

Pentium-Class PC's (Intel and Cyrix) now represent 69% of members' primary machines and 80486DX and SX CPU's have dropped to 35% from last year's 65% of PC's. Less than 1% of the primary PC's reported are 8088/8086 - powered with 80286 PC's now at 1% of primary use according to this survey.

"Old" PC's — Stay at home

What happened to all the "old" PC's? Many seem to have remained at home — either as back-up PC's or for use by other members of the family. 66% of the sample reported more than one, working, home PC in this survey and 28% reported three or more operating PC's in their homes.

Members' Internet Use in 1996

How many NTPCUG members cruise the Net? **84%** of members sampled in the October survey reported they use the Internet.

- Three top Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for NTPCUG members were **AOL, CompuServe** and **OnRamp**.

- Since **AT&T, SW Bell** and **GTE** were barely in the ISP business in October, next year's survey may show a significant shift in top ISP rankings.

- 69% came in at 28.8 KBPS while only 22% of members logged on via 14.4 KBPS and 5% via ISDN lines.

- Members spent a lot of time on the Net with 57% reporting more than four hours per week usage.

- 37% reported more than eight hours online per week.

- Most popular area is the Worl Wide Web where 86% of members spend most of their Net time.

NTPCUG Members exert significant influence on computer-related purchasing decisions within their companies and organizations. Figures below are rounded to nearest whole percent based on survey responses.

NTPCUG Members report they recommend computer and software purchases, but have NO FINAL AUTHORY OVER them, in the following amounts:

A) Below $2,000. . . . . 20%
B) $ 2 - 5K 9%
C) $ 5 - 10K 10%
D) $10 - 20K 15%
E) $20 - 50K 11%
F) $50 - 100K 12%
G) Over $100K 12%
Other Code or No response . . . 24%

HARDWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer hardware annually:

A) Mainframe/s 5%
B) Minicomputers 12%
C) Microcomputers [PC's] 73%
D) LAN's 40%
E) Laser Printers. 68%
F) Impact Printers. 29%
G) Monitors. 71%
H) Modems. 75%
I) Hard Disks. . . . . : . . . 73%
J) Tape Backup 62%
K) Add-in Cards 56%
L) Video Projection Systems . . 20%
M) Communications Equipment 45%
Z) Other 5%

NTPCUG Members report they recommend and HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY OVER the following amounts of computer-related purchases annually:

A) Below $2,000. . . . . 33%
B) $ 2 - 5K. 20%
C) $ 5 - 10K. 16%
D) $ 10 - 20K. 11%
E) $20 - 50K 10%
F) $50 - 100K 3%
G) Over $100K 7%
Other Code or No response . . 17%

SOFTWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer software annually:

A) Accounting 29%
B) Order Entry / Inventory. . . . 15%
C) Payroll 15%
D) Time Billing. 14%
E) Spreadsheets 56%
F) Word Processing 63%
G) Communications 52%
H) CAD / CAM. 21%
I; Project Managers 29%
J) Database. 59%
K) Programming Tools 46%
L) Graphics 39%
M) Statistics / Analysis 17%
N) Multimedia Presentation . . 24%
O) Electronic Mail (E-Mail) . . . 42%
Z) Other. 11%

Apple's Bleeding Unstaunched, Intel Suing AMD & Cyrix, DRAM Prices Shoot Up And, the WWW Slows Again as Users Hit

Telco's Press for 'Per-Minute' Charges Online

Are we having fun yet? Apple isn't.

Another round of Apple layoffs were announced in March. This time the tally is 4,100 jobs down the tubes in the latest "restructuring." Apple's gonna see what lots of other "right-sizing" companies have come to rue. The employees you really want to keep, those who will have no difficulty at all getting positions with your competitors, will jump ship and the folks you've identified as "surplus" will hang on by their fingernails.

Industry rumors say there's lots of real estate for sale in Cupertino, CA, and surrounds, formerly held by the best of the best of Apple programmers who decided to vote on Apple's future with their feet — and resumés. Know the feeling. Worst news is that some of these folks are Apple officers — and there are still officers in place at Apple who would really like to leave except the best "golden Parachutes" are gone...

What a month! Everybody I like is releasing press releases by the scores, and everybody I don't like are doing the same. Biggest story this month is in the modem/WWW/ standards arena with a to-the-death struggle between US Robotics and Rockwell/Lucent/MultiTech.

Dueling Modem Standards... US Robotics V. Everybody Else Rockwell, Lucent & MultiTech Claim 'Better 56K Solutions'

Amid all the hoopla and 56K shouting by US Robotics, Rockwell, Lucent, et al., we are not being told a lot of the 2X story. At time this is being written, there are two competing "standards" for 56K modems — the US Robotics "standard" and the Rockwell/Lucent/ MultiTech "standard" — each with large camps of proponents.

At stake are huge licensing sums

So far, US Robotics appears to be dominant in the end-user, consumer arena with lots of advertising in PC media aimed at the home market. Rockwell, Lucent and MultiTech are advertising just as vigorously, but mostly in the "trades" and aimed at the ISP and IT crowd who will buy and implement them by the 1,000's.

Major battles in the struggle between the two camps will take place on the 'Net as each side is lining up as many major ISP's as possible behind their standard. And, each side is claiming theirs is the only "real" standard since each claims technical superiority.

The Rockwell/Lucent group are proponents of *K56flex* as an interim standard that features DSP (Digital Signal Processing) technology and is completely software upgradable to the "final" 56K standard according to white papers from MultiTech and Lucent. Interesting thing here is MultiTech's "White Paper" sees eventual implementation at somewhat higher speeds in both directions.

Readers can learn a lot more from the MultiTech web site, www.multitech.com/whpaper/56kmodem.htp, and the Lucent Technologies web site www.lucent.com/micro/k56flex/tn97007 .html, each of which explain the 56K issues in de-

THE VARIETY STORE

A personal view of the PC industry, new hardware operating systems, software and applications

by Reagan Andrews

tail. (Lucent Technologies is AT&T's spin-off of their famous Bell Labs.)

Intel Attorneys Unleashed AMD & Crrix Targets of 'MMX' Litigation in March

It's back to the 'good 'ole days' of PC vendor competition/fighting via the courts. (I've really missed the Apple v. Microsoft debacle.) Intel is going after the two CPU vendors with a passion (so to speak) not seen

The Variety Store

since earlier rounds of the Intel v. AMD 80386 microcode battles which Intel eventually lost. Cyrix got caught up in this fray as well, but was saved by a series of licensing agreements between Intel and CSF Thompson, Texas Instruments (TI) and IBM (former 12% holder in Intel) that Intel really regretted signing before they became the dominant player in the PC CPU arena.

Subject in the near-violent disagreement is "MMX" which Intel is claiming is protected by trademark. Since both AMD and Cyrix have announced next-generation CPU's with MMX instruction sets included, Intel demands that "MMX" be acknowledged as an Intel trademark in their advertising.

Intel may be a little late to this trough — MMX is widely held to stand for Multi-Media-Extension, i.e., code that will facilitate sound and graphics manipulations by the CPU, and has been widely described in those terms by the media. Widely enough, and usually printed without the cute little "" after that it may have fallen into "generic" use and not capable of use as a trademarked acronym.

Cyrix Unveils MediaGX, Compaq First Customer For Sub-$1000 PC Line

Richardson-based Cyrix and Compaq joined forces to announce the first Cyrix buy from a major PC vendor in February/March when Compaq selected Cyrix' new *Media GX* CPU set for their new "thin" PC line promoted to cost less than $1,000.

It's Cyrix' first penetration of the major-vendor camp.

Chip set is intended for *Windows 95*-based PC's and runs at 133 MHz with extensive graphics and sound enhancement capabilities. Cyrix' press release quotes utilization of VSA (Virtual System Architecture) that replaces hardware functionality with VSA software instructions. According to Cyrix, this will eliminate need for "expensive add-in cards" and will significantly lower system price while retaining full functionality.

Look for lots of advertising touting XpressRAM™, XpressGRAPHICS™ and XpressAUDIO™ in coming months from both vendors.

Cyrix Derives Some Pleasure As '94 CPU Theft Suspects Caught

Strange turn of events. Several suspects in the 1994 $350,000 Cyrix CPU robbery were arrested in California in March.

Five suspects, all with Vietnamese names, supposedly took the Cyrix chips at gunpoint from their Richardson, TX, plant. They were named in the affair by Los Angeles police working on a tip by an unnamed informant. Men cought are suspected in a number of similar hi-tech robberies on the Pacific coast in the past. Police speculated that a number of the men were members of a Vietnamese gang operating out of California.

Police also reported they are still searching for a Cyrix employee who supposedly assisted the men in the planning and execution of the rob-

bery of the Richardson, TX, CPU design firm. Police speculated that the stolen Cyrix CPU chips were quickly sold on the "Black Market" and converted to cash by the suspects.

AMD Set To Unveil K6, Pentium Pro Competitor in 2nd Qtr

AMD's acquisition of NexGen will be paying off in the 2nd quarter when they unleash their K6 *Pentium Pro* competitor CPU. Media sources attribute the reportedly very efficient operation and increased speed to technology acquired in the NexGen purchase 18 months ago,

According to media who have evaluated the CPU, the new K6 is at least as fast as the Intel chip, and several are reporting 20% - 30% speed advantages with the AMD processor.

May be reason for the Intel decision to return to the courts as major competitive resource in their struggles with other chip vendors. Sure won't be the first time Intel has used this gambit.

AMD is a veteran of past Intel legal forays and knows what to expect from the major PC chip vendor in the legal arena.

Cyrix Also Expected To Release "M2" In Next Quarter

Richardson-based Cyrix is also expected to release their next-generation Pentium Pro competitor in the 2nd quarter. It's expected to be a "screamer" when it hits production this year.

Speculation on the capabilities of the Cyrix chip haven't been as rampant as those for the AMD K6 since samples haven't been forthcoming to media sources. But, those who have an inside at Cyrix (not me) have been very enthusiastic about the new CPU.

However, Cyrix has announced full MMX capabilities for the new CPU along with the 230+ MHz operation touted for the "Klamath" successor to Intel's *Pentium Pro* . AMD also reported ready to up the "clock speed ante" on release of the K6 so the next several months should be quite interesting.

Digital Announces Low-cost Alpha CPU's Coming @ 500 MHz

Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) announced in March that pricing on their *Alpha* CPU's would be dropped considerably and placed in PC form-factor boxes this year.

Considered a premium CPU by the workstation community, the *Alpha* move by DEC is seen as an advance strike against the perceived competition from the Microsoft-H-P venture into the RISC community.

May also be a pre-emptive move to counter the switch by IBM to produce Wintel (machines running Windows and powered by Intel CPU's) models in their workstation line. At this point, IBM's moves are hard to figure out. IBM announced the new line which would appear to be in direct competition with their own machines, but did not endorse *Windows NT* as an OS.

DEC has had a close relationship with Microsoft in the recent past, and may have been caught off-balance by the current series of Microsoft and H-P press releases. MS-H-P deal may be a real source of worry for DEC.

Volume is the key to CPU costs in the marketplace. If DEC can get the production volumes of the *Alpha* series up sufficiently, should prove to make for hard decisions in the IT/workstation communities. Just the thought of a quad 500-MHz *Alpha*-powered box is awesome.

The Variety Store

Acute Embarassment at SG – Silicon Graphics Admits Sales to Russians, Chinese

Some days, Silicon Graphics just can't win.

After a recent admission of selling high-level computers to a Russian atomic research center that supposedly is major force in designing nuclear weapons, SG discovers they've done the same thing with China.

Most of this centers around need for export licenses to sell such technology to foreign entities — and lack of a current listing of foreign agencies proscribed from purchase of American technology at this level. SG has complained about the latter before, after discovering the true nature of the Russian customer.

Supposedly, the Chinese sale was for "civilian" applications.

Silicon Graphics is probably best known for their ties to the American movie industry and wide application of SG hardware and software in producing special effects for contemporary films. SG's upper-level workstations are reputed to be among the most powerful available.

DRAM Prices Rebound Major Vendors Cut Production Capacity

Thought I saw a lot of smiles on DRAM vendors at "First Saturday" and in the Infomart vendor area. Check on DRAM prices revealed a 15% - 25% increase in prices for 72-pin, 16M EDO SIMS over the month at these venues.

Question is will the price increases hold?

That's an unknown at this time. American DRAM vendors have cut production capacity because of the very low prices seen lately and DRAM producers in Japan, Taiwan and Korea have announced plans to follow this lead. Even TI and Samsung who have significant production capacity in Texas are making

---

It came complete with monochrome monitor, two 360K floppy disk drives and 640K of DRAM. What more could I ask for?

"qualified" statements concerning their future production plans. Samsung does have an "Ace in the hole" with their recent agreement negotiated with Intel to assure Intel's DRAM source for the future.

(Intel is a major producer of system motherboards and "no-name" PC's for OEM vendors to sell under their own labels.)

Ahhhhh.... But, it's a commodity market and the vendor who blinks first will resume the round of DRAM price slashing again — in his/her competitors. Only hope for the vendors, and despair for end users, is the array of memory types coming down the pike for new PC's. SDRAM and other memory configurations designed to allow the really high-speed CPU's to operate at their maximums will, of course, go for premium prices for a while. How long the "premiums" will hold is a matter of how fast the competition can ramp-up production and begin cutting prices — again.

WWW, WWW, WWW
Rides Popularity Crest — Until Telcos Get Their Way

Ain't the Internet wonderful? So many Internet Service Providers (ISP's) have cut their prices for "unlimited access" accounts that a large number of Net users have apparently decided to stay on the Net forever — or until their machines/modems crash in defeat.

Telcos (local telephone companies) aren't laughing. Coupled with cellular telephones and Fax machines, they have seen an unprecedented demand for new lines. Old estimates of line usage are becoming quickly outdated and number of lines in constant service are rapidly increasing. Result is long waits for dial tones when users attempt to make telephone calls.

Telcos aren't at all happy with this situation. They see much of their very expensive resources being swamped with the increased demand while revenues are remaining somewhat stagnent.

No doubt about it, the Telcos want metered service charges. They'd be glad to offer "unlimited" Internet access for a fixed fee — if, as the local Telco, they could charge users for every minute they used their telephone lines. This may be one of the reasons (take note conspiracy fans) some of the alternative high-speed transmission/reception protocols discussed in the PC media haven't gotten more Telco attention in the past.

They would much rather see users nailed with "low-speed," 56K technology than invest in one or more of the high-speed technologies if they don't get a cut of the action. Even if they could get metered service, it would still be to their advantage to keep users at the lower transmission rates since they could avoid costs of upgrading their systems and still charge by the minute.

May provide a real opening for Cable and Satellite-based ISPs in the near future. Especially if metered telephone service (such as ISDN) becomes the rule rather than the exception.

Reagan Andrews

Microsoft Office 97... Continued from Page 6

capability as part of the product. Almost everyone can get it for the relatively inexpensive "upgrade" price. All components use the identical Visual Basic for Applications language instead of separate macro languages, making it easier for a user to learn and implement their own customizations. Its large market share means you can exchange documents and applications with a majority of other computer users.

The Downside: It's disk-hungry, with a complete install of Office Pro taking just under 200MB on our NTPCUG demo machine (but the big problem was that, though we installed on a different disk partition, over 50MB was needed in the partition where Windows itself is installed, our almost-full drive C:.) You must have Windows 95; it's "32-bit" and won't run under Windows 3.1 or

earlier, still used in many business environments. You'd also be well advised to have a fast Pentium-class processor and at least 16MB of memory (24MB or more for Access; even more if you're using OLE to run several applications at the same time). Access performance was dismal on our 486/33 demo machine with 16MB, but it's fine on my Pentium 166MHz with 32MB of memory.

Microsoft Corp.
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 000000

Recent Street Prices:
Office 97 Standard $499
Office 97 Std. Upgrade $219
Office 97 Pro. Upgrade $299
Developer Edition Upgrade $359

Larry Linson

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

A couple of months ago we had a very well done session which took on the topic of "Error Handling." Well, as a companion to that session ... how about a quick and simple example - one form and a tidbit of code - which will allow you to enter an error number and cause Access to respond with the text description of that error?

Next, suppose you have a customer that - on a monthly basis - produces a graph of the latest 12 months activity; the result is printed as part of a monthly report. At one time the data was held within Excel; since the maintenance of the monthly data was painful, it was moved to Access. *Then* it was discovered that the required graph - which was a piece of cake for Excel - was more complex than Access could easily handle! There are always several ways to skin a cat ... but come see one very simple approach for accomplishing this

in the Access 2.0 / Excel 5.0 environment.

Jack Atkinson, long-time Assistant Access.SIG Leader and perennial favorite presenter, will address both of these at the April meeting. Don't miss Jack's presentation; I predict it's going to be another interesting and productive one (and entertaining, too, if past experience is any indication).

In March, **Larry Linson** showed how to look into one database from another, compare a list of objects in two different databases, and how to extend that technique to updating a master database with changes from members of a development team.

For the near-term, you'll still see most of our demos in Access 2 (or done on someone's notebook computer that's faster than our old demo machine). But rest assured that we are pursuing some upgrades (preferably donated; know

---

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

New SIGs:

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

— *StreetSmart/e.Schwab* [Contact Jon Uyterlinde @ (972) 250-5274 w]

SIG Name Changes:

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

SIG

anyone who's interested in helping the area's premier users group?) so we can move on to *Access 97* demonstrations under *Windows 95*.

Check out our local MS ACCESS message conference on the NTPCUG BBS (electronic bulletin board system) telephone numbers are inside the back cover of this issue. Our Internet newsgroup "comp.databases.ms-access" is temporarily disabled due to unknown problems between the ISP and our BBS.

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

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

Our March meeting featured a talk by **Frank Cavallito** on using reverse engineering techniques and high powered tools (i.e., DEBUG) to discover the exported functions in Windows 16-bit DLLs and how to call them. This is one area of PC programming where some knowledge of Assembler is useful - for example, how to recognize the stack frame setup commonly used in most high level languages.

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

Frank Cavallito

Communications SIG

Are you interested in the new 56k modems? Will they solve your bandwith needs when you connect to the Internet? How will they work with my 28.8k modem? If your answer is "yes" then come to the Communications SIG group meeting in April for a 56k modem presentation. We will have **Alan Brosz** from MCI as our guest speaker and he will share with us how the new modem technology works, describe the

different product types existing, talk about some of the limitations, and finally -- interoperability issues. The 56k modems are currently being sold and supposedly hold a great deal of promise but understanding their implimentation can be difficult and sometimes painful. So for a "dose of medicine" to help overcome the bandwidth uncertainties to the home, please plan to join the Communications SIG meeting on April 12th for a discussion of 56k modems.

Alan Brosz and Birl Smith

Dallas Corel SIG

April Program

DRAW and PHOTO-PAINT 7 Tips Go to Work

Several of our SIG members rushed to our own computers after attending the Unleashed Seminar on March 5 in Dallas. It was definitely a day well spent. **Pete McCormick** and **Foster Coburn** loaded us with so many new tips and techniques to use in our own work that we were enthused and excited to try them out. At the April SIG we will review and demonstrate some that we put to use right away. With the new feature-laden and powerful versions if DRAW and PHOTO-PAINT, it seems impossible to know everything about them in depth. Come and join us April 12 to share the fun in learning. All ability levels are welcome.

1997 Ventura Summit Coming to 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.

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.

Ventura 7 Update

An updated release of CorelVENTURA 7 should be available in March. It will be available via Corel Customer service to all registered users of CorelVENTURA 7. The update addresses user concerns over the implementation of vertical justification and known issues with hyphenation. Feedback received from Corel Technical Support and several on-line forums was investigated and addressed where problems existed.
The release also includes support for Draw 7, improvements to HTML output and 3 new scripts.

Specifically here are the new additions:

- ❖ Inclusion of CorelDRAW 7 import filters.

- ❖ Addition of cascading style sheets for output to HTML.

- ❖ Added support for specifying relative or absolute URL's.

- ❖ Added support under Publish as HTML for copying, rather than converting, linked GIF or JPEG images.

- ❖ Added the ability to hide all pictures when using the Quickprint command.

- ❖ Addition of three new scripts:
  1. ImportX-Imports text files and immediately prompts the user to

"Export on Save".

2. XOnSave - Allows the users to select files from a file list and set them to "Export on Save"

3. FileList - Provides a list of all files that have been loaded into the publication.

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/freefunfantastic/

Recent Dallas Corel SIG Programs :

1997:

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

- ❖ February - Photo Retouching in CorelPAINT 7

- ❖ March - Ventura 7 Demonstration

New CorelPRESS Titles

Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

SIG

Corel PHOTO-PAINT 7: The Official Guide, Second Edition ISBN: 0-07-882321-8, Author: David Huss. Available: Mid February

CorelDRAW 7: The Official Guide ISBN: 0-07-882278-5, Authors: Foster Coburn and Peter McCormick. Available: Mid February

Corel VENTURA 7 for Windows: The Official Guide ISBN: 0-07-882169-X, Authors: Ed Brown, John Faunce, and Carol Lovelady. Available: Mid April

Corel WordPerfect 8 Suite for Windows 95: The Official Guide ISBN: 0-07-882327-7, Author: Alan Neibauer. Available: Mid May

Web Publishing with Corel WordPerfect Suite: The Official Guide ISBN: 0-07-882348-X, Author: Jeff Hadfield. Available: Mid May

1997 International CorelWORLD User Conferences

Make your plans now for 1997. Conferences are located and scheduled as follows: August 17-20: Toronto, ON and September 21-24: San Diego, CA. For more details, watch the following URL address in the coming weeks and months. http://www.altman.com/world.htm. Please send e-mail to: corelworld@altman.com or call toll-free 1-888-DRAW-NOW.

Beta and Technical Support

For all who are interested in beta testing Corel's products please visit http://eng.corel.com. Check out the new Technical Knowledge Base at http://www.corel.com/support/kbase/kbase.htm.

Corel Magazine

For a limited time, CorelDRAW users can enjoy an online version of the previous month's issue of *Corel Magazine USA* on the *Corel Magazine* Web site FREE OF CHARGE. Beginning in March, any visitor to www.corel-mag.com can have unrestricted access to the February issue. Visitors can also download *Corel Magazine's* screensaver just for signing in the guestbook. For those Internet design wizards using Corel products to produce Web sites, *Corel Magazine* is also conducting "Spring Break Challenge" Web design contest. Entrants can compete to win valuable tools including an Alps MD 4000 color printer/scanner, a HP Scanjet 4c Color Scanner and a Hitachi Digital Graphics Multipad graphics tablet. Take the challenge!

Mac News

Tell your friends with MacIntosh computers there are several Corel products now available for them. Call Product Support for details.

Tips and Tutorials

Can't attend all our SIG meetings? Visit **Laurie McCanna's** Web site for CorelDRAW 4, 5, 6 and 7, Corel PHOTO-PAINT 6 and 7, and

---

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

CorelXARA instruction. Find it at http://www.mccannas.com/other-tip/other.htm.

*Marsha Drebelbis*

Delphi SIG

Haven't heard any new news about Delphi 3.0, other than what I read in the February issue of the *Delphi Informant*. If you do not have an "ink" Delphi information source, I would strongly recommend taking a serious look at *Delphi Informant*. *Delphi Informant* is a monthly publication of the Informant Communications Group. Since I receive way more free "ink" than I could ever hope to do other than skim monthly, if I actually pay for a publication, it has to be a great tool to continue to receive the yearly renewal.

If you need further information about the Informant Communications Group, they naturally have, you guessed it, a Web site: www.informant.com. The Web site has some excerpts from previous issues of all of the group's publications. Also the complete source code from all publications' past issues are there ready for FTP download. And if memory serves me, there are links to other good Delphi-related sites as well.

I guess I'll be buying yet another Borland product with the recent release of C++ Builder". I wasn't going to mention it, but the event is just too significant in my opinion to go without notice. For those who do not know, *C++ Builder* is, for all intents and purposes, a "Delphi" development environment which produces C++ code, not Object Pascal.

Delphi saved Borland's bacon, maybe C++ Builder will stoke the fires of profitability. Then Borland can once again turn their full attention toward developing world class development products and not spend most of their time keeping the wolves away from the door. This would be great for all of us. Both for we developers and the industry in general.

Ever since the release of Delphi, just a whole bunch of us old "C" and "C++"
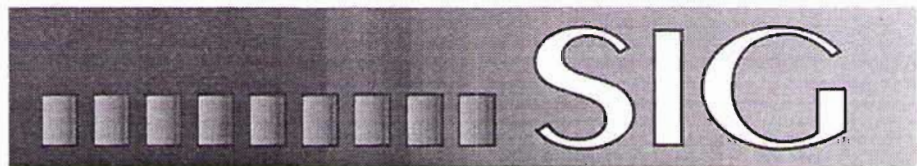
coders have been beating on Borland to do a "Delphi" for us. That product has finally shipped. I do actually hope to have a copy on the laptop by this month's users group meeting. If anybody is interested, I'd be happy to do a little run-through in the Infomart coffee shop following the Paradox meeting. That would be around 12:00 if the schedules all hold.

I am also going to see if either of the current C++ SIG leaders intend to switch a C++ session to cover C++ Builder. If not, guess I'll be launching yet another SIG. Bet I can count on **Frank Cavallito** to co-lead it!

But back to the subject at hand. This month's presentation will be done by Oops! As we go to press, I have discovered that **Tom Browning** has managed to snag the guy I was planing on for this month, a month early. That means if you missed last month's presentation, you missed a good one.

I will just schedule the discussion of some Delphi coding tricks and traps I have learned for this month. I had planned on doing them last month, but Tom came up with a better deal. Just goes to show, missing a meeting can mean missing an opportunity to see and learn some seriously useful Delphi stuff. Maybe if I keep threatening to do my presentation, Tom and Frank

Cavallito will keep coming up with these good substitute presentations!

Fred Williams

DOS SIG

Every month, it's the same old question — "what are we going to do in the DOS SIG Meeting?" Most every month I rely on my imagination to come up with some plausible *lie*, promising grand events and magnificent explorations into the depths of the OS/hardware intimate relationships.

I'll reform this month. For sure...
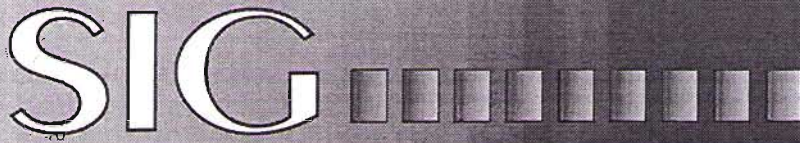
DOS SIG plans for April: I plan to hit two issues in April. First, it's time for "Spring Cleaning" and users' PC's shouldn't be an exception. You've had all Winter to sample new software, load games you don't/won't play again, try some new utilities, etc., etc., etc. Now it's time to get rid of the "leftovers" cluttering up your DOS and Windows directories, especially all the driver s that either didn't load, or were left behind if the programs you were trying out actually had an *uninstall* utility. April DOS SIG topic #1 will be how to do this safely and gracefully.

Second, what I/we would like to look at are the differences between *Windows 95* versions available to users. If you've followed media descriptions, you'll 'know' that the Win 95 OEM versions are significantly different than the 'upgrades' we bought 18 months ago. For one thing, there's FAT32 in the later versions, and the rumors that the
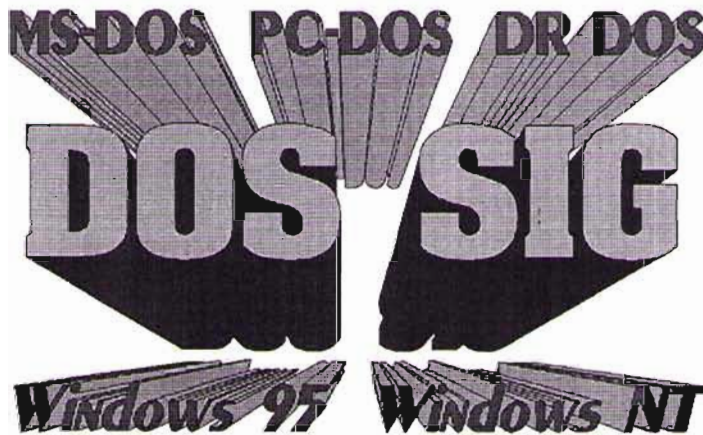
SIG

latest OEM version doesn't 'bleed' system resources in the manner that the original Win 95 became infamous for casting away into the mysterious Win 95 never-never land of lost drivers. Then, there's *Pipes* — originally the NT 4.0 screen saver that came close to making the OS worth the trouble to install — even without the necessary drivers for almost everything . *Pipes* is back in the OEM version of Win 95. We'll be looking at the changes and the new problems the latest Win 95 version brings to users.

At least that's the plan for April.

Come in early for the DOS SIG and see if I lied again. We'll probably be meeting in a different room, again, primarily to avoid the fevered attacks of the *CP/M* and *Pick* crazies who thought we were in the basement last month.

Reagan Andrews

Internet SIG - Beginning

At the March SIG meeting **Mark Camp**, co-leader of the Web Developer's SIG, talked about the most popular World Wide Web browser, *Netscape Navigator*. Mark demonstrated how to browse the Web, check email, view newsgroups, and download files, all through Navigator's friendly point-and-click user interface. In the afternoon **Doug Gorrie, Kiff Barnes**, and **Erik Leaseburg** repeated the "Introduction to the Internet" 3-hour course series held in January. They answered new users' questions like what is the Internet, how do I connect to the Internet, and what software is used to find information on the Internet. Those who attended the meetings found the information very helpful and interesting.

In April we are hoping to have **Ron Day** speak about one of several interesting Internet topics. Ron is the Web site administrator for ARCO, a student, and teaches at a local college. We are still working with him to determine which Internet topic to present. Some topic ideas include:

- ❖ Introduction to Creating Web Pages
- ❖ How to Install Web Browser Plug-ins
- ❖ Demonstrations of ShockWave, Java, JavaScript, VRML, and Other New Web Technologies
- ❖ Tips on What Are Good and Bad Web Page Designs
- ❖ How Does the Web Work (CGI, PERL, JAVA, J++)
- ❖ Differences Between Web Servers and Clients
- ❖ Skills Sets Required to Create Outstanding Web sites

If we are unable to schedule Ron to come talk in April, we will probably hold a general question and answer session. This will give you the chance to ask those burning Internet questions or find an answer to a problem you may have been having with your Internet hardware or software.

The primary purpose of the Beginning Internet SIG is to explain the Internet to those unfamiliar with it. This includes such things as how to choose and connect to an Internet Service Provider (ISP), what software options are available, what hardware is needed, and how to decipher all those confusing Internet acronyms and buzzwords. Although we have several "prepared" sessions and speakers, look for general Q&A sessions (Question and Answer) periodically, too.

We hope to see you on April 12th.

Doug Gorrie, Erik Leaseburg, Tom O'Keefe, & Kiff Barnes

Internet SIG - Advanced

In March Charles Ragan removed some of the mystery behind how the Internet backbone operates and the concept of Network Access Points (NAP). The NAP is where the Network Service Providers interconnect to exchange Internet traffic. The presentation for the April meeting has not been determined yet, but should be enlightening nonetheless.

The Advanced Internet SIG is intended to address topics and issues that are of interest to experienced Internet users, who are looking for more in-depth content. Sessions address such topics as IP addressing, Domain Name Services, Internet phone and teleconferencing capabilities and tools, basic Web page development, Web server options and features, network and data security, search engines, and more.

Sessions include time to address member's questions. Answers may come from SIG leaders, session presenters, or from other attendees in the audience.

We encourage you to join with us April 12th.

Tom O'Keefe, Pat Hykkonen, Erik Leaseburg, & Doug Gorrie

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.

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)

July 12, 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

August 9, 1997*No Classes
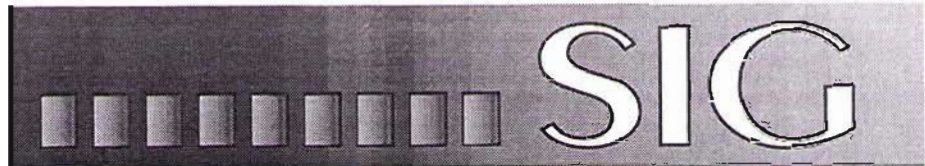
* These dates are subject to change.
Check your *PC NEWS* and/or the
NTPCUG BBS for corrected dates be-
fore the meetings.

Alex Lilley

Paradox SIG

Well the inevitable has happened. I can
now guarantee that if I am present, there
will be a Paradox demo machine at fu-
ture SIG meetings. Once you have had
the use of a notebook, loss of same for
even a short length of time, is like having
your right arm amputated. So much so, I
will no longer be dependent on my cli-
ents' kindness for use of a notebook. Af-
ter **Tom Browning's** well done, but chal-
lenging, "slide show" presentation in Feb-
ruary, I figure he will be much happier to
hear the notebook news than was my
wife!

This coming meeting I may only have
Pdox 5.0 loaded, but I intend to get cur-
rent with the pending release of the
"Corelized" version of Pdox, when it hap-
pens. Should the Corel version of Pdox
ship prior to the meeting, I will most
likely have it installed, but we will see.

At present I do not have a firm idea of
what the subject of the formal presenta-
tion is to be. Tom and I have decided on
de-emphasizing the developer aspects of
Paradox and tailoring presentation con-
tent more to suit the Paradox interactive
users. We expect that Corel's recent ac-
quisition of Paradox will generate a
whole new set of Paradox first time us-
ers, and we would like to help them dis-
cover the power of a very mature Win-
dows database application.

I think we will attempt to avoid the,
"From the Task Bar, click RUN, and type
in A:\SETUP" level of presentation, but
we are serious about reducing the techni-
cal level at the SIG meetings. A need for
developer style presentations may rede-
velop in the future, but for now we feel

interactive user stuff will better meet the
needs of SIG attendees.

So, both new and old Paradox users are
welcome. Drop by and let us know what
you think of the new format, tell us what
you want, volunteer to do a presentation,
or just take a nap. We are willing to ac-
commodate any of your needs, providing
they relate to Paradox that is.

Fred Williams

Pro SIG

In spite of the efforts of the *Evil Vice
President of DFW Xchange*, the ad-
vanced programmers will meet in April.
We will keep the location secret and only
post it on the overhead screens near the
Information Booth in the vendor area.
Everyone is to bring their laser pointer so
that if the *Evil Vice President* appears, we
can brand him. Our scheduled topic of
discussion is "Can Macros Solve the year
2000 problem?" Join us next month
when we will try to build a relational da-
tabase using the touch-tone pad from a
telephone.
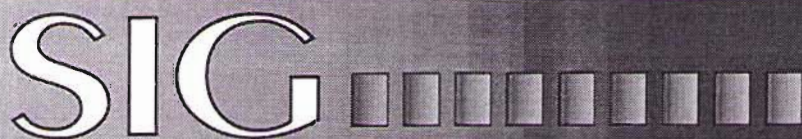
Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - Beginning

The meeting scheduled for Saturday,
April 12, 1997 will continue the process
of creating and customizing a form in
Visual Basic. This month we will show
how to add a few simple controls to ob-
tain the user interface we need for our ap-
plication (we'll make one up as we go
along!). I plan to keep it simple this time
so we can concentrate on the process of
adding controls to a form. Last month,
we discussed setting up the form and this
month we will add a few controls. Those
wanting to get a head start, I will be us-
ing examples from Chapter 4 of *The Vis-
ual Basic 4 for Windows 95 Handbook*
by Gary Cornell.

Another reminder to all attendees that
membership in the North Texas PC Users

SIG

Group is required for winning any of the door prizes during our meetings. Make sure your dues haven't expired! We don't have any in hand yet, but Microsoft may be generous when Visual Basic 5.0 is announced this month.

I understand that Visual Basic 5.0 will be announced in conjunction with Developer Days scheduled for March 19, 1997. This event will be held in approximately 24 locations throughout the U.S. and Dallas is one of the sites. Call (800) 206-3000 to register or visit the Web site at http://www.microsoft.com/devdays/ to receive more details.

Last month we conducted our "For Beginner's Only" session and we attracted nearly 40 attendees. More folks are getting interested in Visual Basic as a Windows programming language. This session will be repeated at the August 1997 meeting.

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

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to this month's meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, April 12, 1997. Check the Infomart vendor area screens for the correct room assignment.

Jim Carter

WordPerfect / Windows

Now that you have your Tax Time worries behind you . . . let's make your story fit. As we try to make our tax dilemma a little more convincing, we will write our CPA and explain ourselves. We will be making a very *l-e-n-g-t-h-y* document for all those expenses we wrote off last year. Therefore, we will need a Table of Contents, Lists (for those itemized items), an Index (in case you forget where they are in this document), as well as Generating creating Hypermarks and Cross-Referencing (see page 21). As the IRS says . . . be prepared. We will hit it fast and furious this month.

Tip of the Month

Are you still having trouble in WP7 with the Open File dialogue box being a bit too slow? Try this. Instead of trying to view everything (details, Preview, tree, etc.) Turn them all off. By disabling the Tree View and Preview alone will increase your speed tremendously. To disable these options, select View Preview No Preview and check to make sure the Tree View is not selected. Hope this helps!

Cindy Adams

ATTENTION ALL SIG LEADERS!

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

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

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

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

❖ Select "T" — S(I)G Happenings upload for newsletter, located in the Upload area in the bottom half of the screen.

❖ Then, select "S" to submit. You'll be asked for the 12 character filename which is DOS's familiar "8.3" naming convention, then you'll be asked to write a brief description of the file you are going to upload to the SIG area.

❖ Next the screen will show the name of the file you are uploading and the default file-transfer protocol. If you haven't selected a "default" protocol in the user menu, it will be X-Modem.

❖ At this point, you should give your communication software's upload command and select the file transmission protocol to match the one the BBS thinks you will use. The BBS will tell you when the transfer is completed.

❖ Most problems users experience are either a failure to match protocols, i.e., using Z-Modem to upload when the BBS expects X-Modem, or not having the file to be uploaded in the appropriate upload directory. Another source of difficulty (for mixed-use shops) is inadvertently sending a Macintosh file to a PC BBS or vice versa.

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

Reagan Andrews

Moving Again!
Win NT 4.0 is
Taking Shape
At Long Last

It has been a long wait, but things are finally moving once again! We, **Doug Gorrie, Lewis Graber**, myself, and our special guest **Bruce Wynn** of Microsoft, met recently at Doug's home for the first planning meeting for the NT project restart.

Bruce's considerable insight into Microsoft Exchange Server and NT in general, proved invaluable. I want to thank Bruce for taking personal time from his very busy schedule to share his knowledge. Also, we intend to take advantage of his offer for further assistance on future occasions.
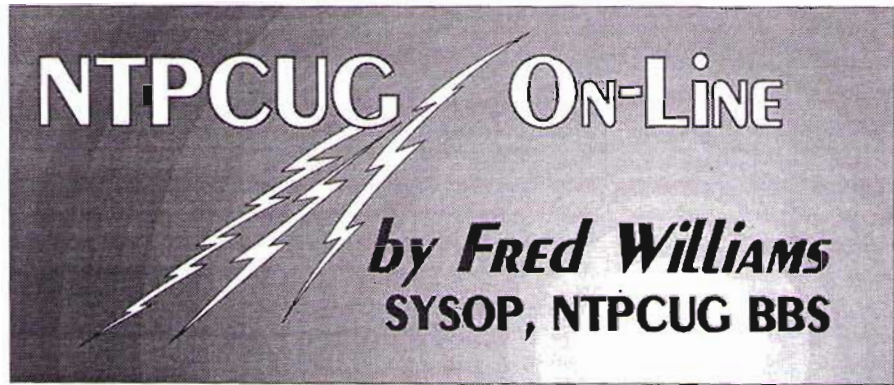
Good Luck Strikes!

As good luck can happen, I recently received a copy of NT Server 4.0. I have installed this latest copy and I am waiting for a copy of IIS (Internet Information Server) to arrive. After our initial exploration of Exchange Server, we have decided to do further research on alternative platforms in parallel.

I was aware that Exchange Server was considered a "resource hog" by some, but I am beginning to believe there may be some truth in that rumor. Actually the largest issues to be addressed with Exchange Server are related to the required clients. I was mistakenly thinking that Win'95 and Win/NT users already had an Exchange Server client imbedded in their operating systems.

In truth, Exchange Server will require the distribution of a replacement client for all who wish to take advantage of Exchanges Server's considerable service list.

Major Issues Unresolved

There are two major unresolved issues related to the Exchange Server clients: They (the clients) are of considerable size, and may present some level of li-

censing difficulties. The sizes involved pretty much preclude download distribution, even with a 28.8 modem. All of the clients would require multiple diskettes to deploy. And, nobody I know likes big clients cluttering up their system's disk space.

NTPCUG BBS as Intranet?

During a recent phone conversation, Doug hit upon a very interesting concept. He suggested we look at the feasibility of implementing an Intranet site. This would potentially allow our members to access the NT system in pretty much the same way one uses a Browser to establish a link with an Internet "Web" server.

Rather than calling an ISP, one would just dial up the NT Server.

No 'Free Lunch' ...

Oh, by the way, before all the "WOW, there really is a free lunch!" crowd jumps on this one and runs. This does

not mean that NTPCUG will be becoming a full ISP. I am still waiting on that $65,000 a year raise. Even if we can establish what we are researching, (dreaming about) NTPCUG BBS(?) will remain a local resource only.

There will be no direct, real-time, connectivity to the Internet for an individual NTPCUG BBS user.

We will, however, be able to provide a very robust e-mail and news group feed, while producing a BBS(?) presence that would be a very feature-rich Web site. The thought is, with a little shucking and jiving, we could provide a common interface to an NTPCUG member whether they be coming in from the Web anywhere in the world, or placing a local call to our NT Server.

This would insure **Jim Hoisington's** distance record for BBS calls. Once up on a time, Jim was able to check in on the current BBS from New Zealand. The Web connection would make a connection from anywhere in the world, just a local call away.

As a fair warning, this is all still in the "blue sky" category, so don't drop your ISP service just yet. There are a myriad of technical issues to address as well as a Board of Director's blessing to be gained.

The first I can handle, the last depends on just how hard **Reagan Andrews** looks for, "liability issues"!

Fred Williams

DOM Disks Released In March

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

Disk 1087. F-PROT v2.26 Antivirus Program

Disk 1088. mIRC16 for Windows v4.7, 03/97 - Chat Program

Disk 1089. mIRC32 v4.7 for Windows 95, 03/97 - Chat Program

Disk 1090AB. Sportcheck for Windows - Baseball, (2/97) – Baseball card database

Disk 1091. TurboStats for Baseball 5.0, (2/97) – Team/League Statistics

Disk 1092. StatTrak for Baseball 3.12, (2/97) – Team/League Statistics

---

Disk 1087. F-PROT V2.26 for DOS, 03/97 – Virus Identifier/Remover, F-PROT V2.26, Data Fellows Ltd, Paivantaite 8, FIN-02210 ESPOO, FIN-LAND, tel: +358-9-478 444, fax: +358-9-478 44 599, e-mail: F-PROT-Sales@DataFellows.com, www: http://www.DataFellows.com or (new) www.complex.is.

Version 2.26 of F-PROT adds 431 new viruses which can now be removed. Many of them were detected by earlier versions, but are now identified accurately. Detection and disinfection of 2 Linux viruses has been added.

This version adds 207 new viruses which are now detected and identified but can not yet be removed. The Tourist virus is now detected, but not identified because it is not yet able to determine which variant it is dealing with.

This version accurately identifies 61 viruses not formerly identified correctly. These cannot be removed since they overwrite or corrupt infected files.

F-PROT Professional is available for Windows 3.1x, OS/2 1.X, 2.X, Warp Windows NT, Windows 95, and NetWare. These products feature the same trusted F-PROT scanning engine with additional features such as an easy and intuitive user interface, scheduled scanning, powerful Windows anti-virus virtual device driver (VxD), e-mail messaging support, customizable alert messages and much more. These products are backed with frequent updates, professional local language support and informative newsletters in more than 40 countries around the world. For information on versions of F-PROT for these platforms, please contact Command Software Systems, Inc., 1061 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter, FL 33477, at 1-800-423-9147, at sales@command-com.com,or http://www.command-com.com.

Installation of F-PROT involves copying all the files from this disk to a separate directory on the hard disk or on a network server. You can now either run F-PROT from that directory or you can add one line to AUTO-EXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS to load the VIRSTOP.EXE program - see VIR-STOP.DOC for further information.

A dedicated "INSTALL" program now exists for the Professional version.

The source of this disk is your Disk of the Month Executive Committee.
This review prepared by John Puckette, *edited by* Gene Carleton

Disk 1088. mIRC16 for Windows v4.7, 03/97 - Chat Program, mIRC v4.7 for Windows 3.x, Khaled Mardam-Bey, 68 Melbury Court, London W8 6NJ, Great Britain, email: khaled@mardam.demon.co.uk, Registration amount is US $15.00 ($20 by Credit card).

Currently, you can register mIRC by sending a personal check or money order directly to: Khaled Mardam-Bey (Dont forget to include at least your email address.) Once your registration is received an email will be sent to you with your personal registration password. If you've submitted a registration and haven't received a reply, you can email khaled@ mardam.demon.co.uk to check up on the status of your registration.

This program is used to chat while connected to the Internet. To run this program you will need an active Internet connection and Windows 3.x or 95.

To install this program, copy this disk to a directory on your hard drive, i.e. mIRC16. Now you can install this program from File Manager or Explorer if using Windows 95 by clicking on mirc47s. The program will install itself and only ask you a few questions.

To run this program simply go into Windows and sign on to your Internet connection. Then run the program using the mIRC icon that it should have made. The program will go into a setup which you will have to enter your real name, your email address, and two aliases that you want people to see and call you. Nothing personal that you put in is checked so you can put in anything that you want. I have put "somebody"

New Disks
...from the DOM Squad
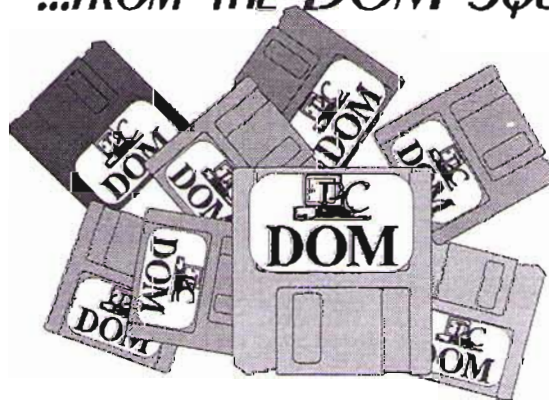
by Jan Parkhill

in the real name area and a fake email address in the email address area so that nobody can do a query on me and see that information. I suggest you do the same.

Then you will need to select a server. A server is what the program talks to so that you can use the Internet. There are many different servers. Any will work. They all do the same thing but each one will connect you to a different place. Once you have selected one, click on connect. A new window will pop up and give you information about the connection. Some times it will take a while to connect depending on the number of people using the server.

Once connected another window will pop up to let you select some rooms to go into. You select one of them and it will take you to that room. From any room you

can go into any other room by simply typing "/join #roomnamehere" and pressing the enter key. If you want you can select one of the toolbar options and get a list of rooms that are currently active. This will take a while because there are usually in excess of five-thousand rooms. If you have any problems with this program please e-mail me at abbottr550@aol.com

This software was downloaded from the mIRC In-

ternet site by Richard Abbott.

his README prepared by Richard Abbott, edited by Gene Carleton.

Disk 1089. mIRC32 v4.7 for Windows 95, 03/97 - Chat Program, mIRC v4.7 32-bit for Windows 95, Khaled Mardam-Bey, 68 Melbury Court, London W8 6NJ, Great Britain, email: khaled@mardam.demon.co.uk, Registration amount is US $15.00 ($20 by Credit card).

Currently, you can register mIRC by sending a personal check or money order directly to: Khaled Mardam-Bey. (Dont forget to include at least your email address.) Once your registration is received an email will be sent to you with your personal registration password. If you've submitted a registration and haven't received a reply, you can email khaled@mardam.demon.co.uk to check up on the status of your registration.

This program is used to chat while connected to the Internet.

To run this program you will need an active Internet connection and Windows 95.

To install this program, copy this disk to a directory on your hard drive, i.e. mIRC32. To use this program you must first install it by running the mIRC47t.EXE file from Explorer. The program will start to install and ask you a few questions such as where do you want to put it.

To run this program simply go into Windows and sign on to your Internet connection. Then run the program using the mIRC icon that was created earlier. The pro-

gram will go into a setup which you will have to enter your real name, your email address, and two aliases that you want people to see and call you. Nothing personal that you put in is checked so you c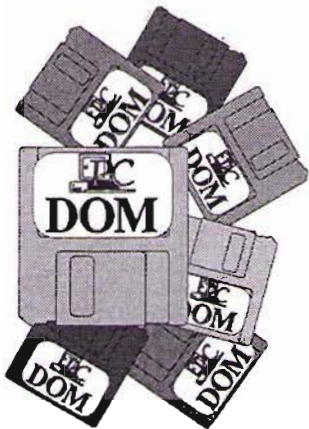an put in anything that you want. I have put "somebody" in the real name area and a fake email address in the email address area so that nobody can do a query on me and see that information. I suggest you do the same.

Then you will need to select a server. A server is what

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/VSheild 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 .. Dunce 2.4 (Dialup net connection enhancements)

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

the program talks to so that you can use the Internet. There are many different servers. Any will work. They all do the same thing but each one will connect you to a different place. Once you have selected one, click on connect. A new window will pop up and give you information about the connection. Some times it will take a while to connect depending on the number of people using the server.

Once connected another window will pop up to let you select some rooms to go into. You select one of them and it will take you to that room. From any room you can go into any other room by simply typing "/join #roomnamehere" and pressing the enter key. If you want you can select one of the toolbar options and get a list of rooms that are currently active. This will take a while because there are usually in excess of five-thousand rooms. If you have any problems with this program please mail me at abbottr550@aol.com

This software was downloaded from mIRC's Web site by Richard Abbott.
This README prepared by Richard Abbott, edited by Gene Carleton.

Disk 1090. Sportcheck for Windows - Baseball, (2/97) ~ Baseball card database, Sportcheck for Windows - Baseball Edition, By Software Creations, P.O. Box 54, Oak Creek, WI 53154, www.sportcheck.com, Registration Fee: $39.50 + $2.50 S/H

Sportcheck for Windows is a series of computer software designed to help the sport card collecting enthusiasts. Each Sportcheck program provides the card collector with the ability to maintain an up-to-date inventory of cards in their collection. Current values for every card in all major card sets are stored in data files included with the program (prices vary with condition). Parallel, traded, updated, inserted, and bonus cards sets are also included. There is also a special file containing values for complete sets and a personal file which can be used to catalog any cards which are not included in any of the other sets.

This edition is for baseball and includes baseball card sets from 1948 through 1996 from virtually all baseball card makers - Topps, Donruss, Fleer, Bowman, Score, Upper Deck, and others are among the 1996 sets included. In total more than 140,800 different cards are included.

Other edition are for football ($34.50), Hockey ($34.50), and Basketball ($29.50) which are available for download at the company's Internet site.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows or equivalent operating system with at least 4MB of RAM, and 5MB of hard disk space for the initial edition plus an addi-

tional 2MB for each additional edition.

If you collect sports cards, then this program will really help you keep track of your collection and its value. Also quarterly updates are available.

Installation

Put disk 1090A in your 'A' drive. At the prompt type the following

A:\SPLICE a: C:\sport

The program Splice will now copy both disks (prompting you when to put in the second disk) into directory C:\sport. To run this program

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

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

VOLUNTEER to share it with us!!

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

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

README Help available

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

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

Jan Parkhill
DOM Squad Leader
(214) 828-2216

go to the C:\sport directory and either using DOS or in Windows(FILE, RUN) type SPCBB.

We have the program SLICE (that generates SPLICE) also on this disk. You might want to copy a large program to several disks sometime.

This software was downloaded from the company's Internet site by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 1091. TurboStats for Baseball 5.0, (2/97) -- Team/League Statistics, TurboStats for Baseball and Softball 5.0, By TurboStats, P.O. Box 144, Towaco, NJ 07082, (201) 337-STAT, http://www. turbostats.com, Registration Fee: $39.95 + $4 S/H

TurboStats for Baseball and Softball has the following major features:

- Complete batting, fielding, baserunning, pitching and user-defined stats available, Create unlimited teams and unlimited games,

- Add up to 100 players per team,

- Drag-n-Drop players on the field,

- Tracks the batting order for each game,

- Point and click data entry,

- Enter games in 5 minutes or less directly from your scorebook - nothing to, summarize,

- Optional GAME MODE scoring for use during a live game,

- Tracks over 75 different statistics including complete opponent's stats,

- Fully customizable reports in any order you want,

- Pie, Bar and Line graphs for any stat in one click (team or player stats),

- Creates complete league reports and tracks team records and standings,

- Auto-dial your players phone numbers,

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows or equivalent operating system

This version allows only 6 games, but all you need is a password to enable more than six games.

Batting, pitching, and fielding statistics include all the "normal" stats. Entering game statistics is as easy an entering the game date, opponent, home/away, location, and score then enter individual statistics for batting, pitching, and fielding.

Reports can be done at the team or player level for the whole season by game or selected games.

If you want or need to keep track of a team statistics such as little league, college, or even pro, this program should suit your purposes.

To install the program, start Windows (or equivalent) and "Run" A:WINTATS.EXE from either this floppy disk or copy the files to a directory on hard disk and run the program (WINSTATS. EXE) from that directory. Then follow the directions on the screen.

This software was downloaded from the company's Internet site by Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 1092. StatTrak for Baseball 3.12, (2/97) -- Team/League Statistics, StatTrak for Baseball 3.12, By All-Pro Software, 30 Maple View Court, Madison, WI 53719, (608) 277-9195 or (800) 776-7859 (Orders Only), http://www.allprosoftare.com, Registration Fee: $39.95

StatTrak for Baseball is a baseball and softball statistics management system for league, tournament, and individual teams. Great for High School, Little League, College, all levels of softball, and tabletop games. Tracks batting, pitching, fielding, game scores, box scores, won/lost record, and team standings. There's even a lineup function to let coaches plan out the game by inning (put in especially for Little Leaguers). Lets you customize as many statistics reports as you want and compute any report for any combination of games easily.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows or equivalent operating system.

The program supports 99 players per team, 100 teams per league. The only real problem is that you can only enter 3 games into this demo version. However, you can call the 800 number and be given a password which will eliminate the three game limit.

Batting, pitching, and fielding statistics include all the "normal" stats and also has 5 user defined categories for each category.

Entering game statistics is as easy an entering the game date, opponent, home/away, loca-

tion, and score then enter individual statistics for batting, pitching, and fielding.

Reports can be done at the team or player level for the whole season by game or selected games.

If you want or need to keep track of a team statistics such as little league, college, or even pro, this program should suit your purposes.

Installation

To install the program, start Windows (or equivalent). In program manager go to FILE and then select RUN and then tpye A:APSSB.EXE or copy all the files on this disk to a directory on hard disk and 'run'(In File manager, go to the directory and double-click APSSB.EXE) the program from that directory. Then follow the directions on the screen.

This software was downloaded from the company's Internet site by Mark Gruner.

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

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY
Volunteers in Action   by Claude McClure

The Minutes Before the Meeting

There is a hustle and bustle at the Information Booth in the minutes before the monthly meeting of the NTPCUG. **Bob McNeil** is one of the first Booth operators to arrive, and he has already made a mental note of some things that must be arranged in the short time available.

He has checked for membership cards, membership kits, and the other accessories needed to enroll new members and help current members. He moves the Newsletter Exchange Area so it is easier for members to use. Bob usually walks around the Booth once or twice to check the appearance and order of the four tables it takes to handle the busiest hours.

Bob McNeil brings the skills from his occupation as an employee trainer to our club. He will ask for help, but is never pushy. One thing I learned from Bob McNeil is the importance of preparation for a good meeting. Smooth meetings don't just happen, you have to work for them. He knows how to do the little things that can guarantee a successful day.

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
  Anchors:
    David Slavik
    Kenneth Berg
    Neal Van Pelt
  Crew:
    Joseph Denison
    Larry Matzek
    David Temple
    Wayne Washburn

Auditorium Presentations
  Timothy Carmichael
  Dawn Mjolhus
  Bill St. John
  Josh St. John
  Janette St. John

Newsletter Labels
  Charlie Fernandez

Information/Registration Booth
  Statistician:
    Connie Andrews

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

  Ralph Beaver (Assistant)
  Scheduler:
    Bob Wuller
  Anchors:
    Ralph Beaver
    Deborah Bean (Double)
    Albert Champon
    Eteta Eta
    Hank Holt
    John Ivers
    Cinda Lovil
    David Martin
    Bob McNeil (Double)
    Foy J. Mills
    Carl Oehmann
    Raymond Reyes
    Fred Toulmin
    Paul Williams
  Booth Crew:
    Roger Bopp
    Jim Boyce
    Vernon Cates
    Lorin Cranford
    Randy Durham
    Ned Keig
    Jackie May
    Claude McClure
    Ken Sauter

  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

NTPCUG User – To – User Program

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

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

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

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

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

NTPCUG USER — TO — USER PROGRAM

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

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7	1900-2200
Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51		
Richard Miles	(972)298-5356	M-F	1900-2200
	(214)767-7315	S&S	0800-1700
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.

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

|	
Borland Turbo	Q & A
C	Roots
CAD	Smart Notes
Dataflex	Sound Blaster
Delphi	Stacker
Desktop	TurboTax
Publishing	Corel Ventura
Easy Text	WordPerfect/
First Choice	Windows
First Publisher	XTREE
Fox Pro	
Harvard	
Graphics	
LapLink	
Money Counts	
Microsoft C	
Microsoft C++	
Microsoft	
Visual C++	
Microsoft Word	
MKS products	
Pagemaker	

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

NTPCUG Officers and Volunteers You Should Know
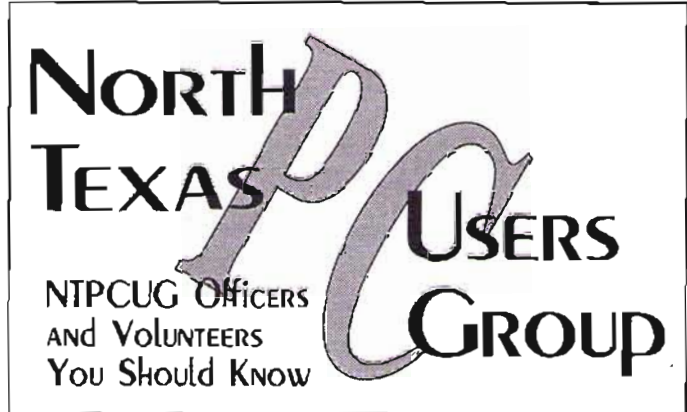
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Board of Directors

Jim Hoisington	*Chairman*
Reagan Andrews	Marsha Drebelbis
Doug Gorrie	Alex Lilley
Andy Oliver	Fred Williams

NTPCUG Officers

President	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(972) 462-1896 h
		(972) 960-4215 w
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	Raymond T. Reyes	(903) 569-2638
Secretary	John West	(972) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
Disk of the Month	Jan Parkhill	(214) 828-2216 h
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(972) 492-1315

Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)

Phil Chamberlain	Jim Hoisington
David McGehee	Stuart Yarus
Tom Prickett	Connie Andrews
Kathryn Loafman	Reagan Andrews
Fred Williams	Timothy Carmichael
Andy Oliver	

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from outside Area Code 972, use Area Code 972. *(This is NOT a toll call from Fort Worth and the Mid-Cities area.)*

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

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Address Correction Requested

16.4

North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:

12 April 1997

Dallas North
Tollway

Stemmons Freeway

INFOMART

Oak Lawn Ave.

35

To Downtown
Dallas