North Texas

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

NTPCUG

PC NEWS

JUNE is HAWÏIAN SHIRT MONTH!

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 2,200 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 July
North Texas PC NEWS:
Tuesday, June 10th

Meeting Dates:

June 14, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
July 12, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
August 16, 1997 – 3rd 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.

11:00 AM
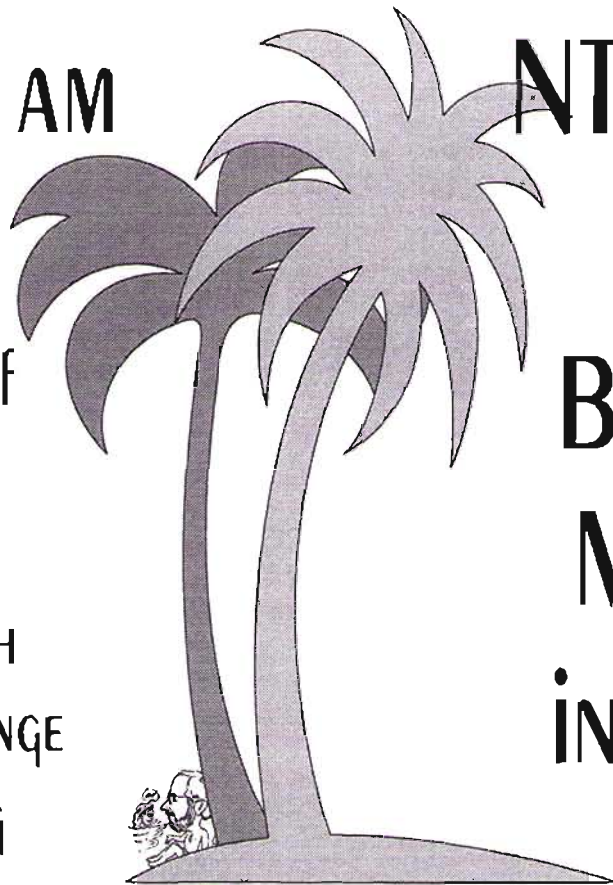
Why not Try one of NTPCUG's 50+ SIGs This Month for a change of Meeting Pace?

*There will be a drawing for prizes

NTPCUG June Business Meeting in Room 1061*

JUNE 14, 1997

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
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
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
Java

Introduction to the PC
The Master Genealogist

1:00 - 1:55
ActiveX Developers
Business Apps./DAC Easy
C++/Beginners
Lotus Notes & Domino

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

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.

NTPCUG
Business Meeting Moves Again...

NTPCUG's Business Meeting is mobile! Because we haven't scheduled a vendor presentation in the Infomart's Alexandria Auditorium for the June session, we will hold the June Business Meeting in Room 1061, just across the hall. Members should plan to make a special note to attend the NTPCUG Business Meeting in June since we have scheduled some member drawings for prizes.

A New Treasurer

The NTPCUG officers and BOD are proud to announce that we have a new NTPCUG treasurer, Eb Foerster. Eb has been a DOM volunteer and stepped up and volunteered to fill the position vacated by Raymond Reyes in May, 1997..

Microsoft in September

Microsoft is coming in September! There are still some details to firm up but it looks like we will have the Microsoft Visual Tools User Group Presentation at our September meeting. Current plans call for them to present twice in the Auditorium.

Prez Sez . . ?
Jim Hoisington

1998 Meeting Dates

Stuart Yarus, President of DFW Xchange Corporation is currently working with INFOMART to firm up our 1998 meeting dates. Our goal is to have them finalized by August. I wonder if Stuart can remember which year to write in his checkbook.

Volunteers Needed

Our meeting is run by volunteers. If you would like to help out for an hour or two, stop by the North Texas PC Users Group table in the Vendor Area and sign up.

Newsletter Exchange

Each month we exchange newsletters with other user groups around the country. Lewis Graber has them bound into books. Members of NTPCUG can check them out for a month from the NTPCUG table in the Vendor Area.

New Members Kit

We sign up new NTPCUG members at each monthly meeting as well as during the month through applications received at our Post Office Box. For members who sign up at the Information Booth during the meeting, we have a *New Members Kit* which has tips and information about our PCUG and a coupon for a DOMdisk listing of what's in the DOM (Disk of the Month) Library.

If you are a new member who sent your application to the P.O. Box, please stop by the Information Booth at the meeting to receive your kit.

Jim Hoisington

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
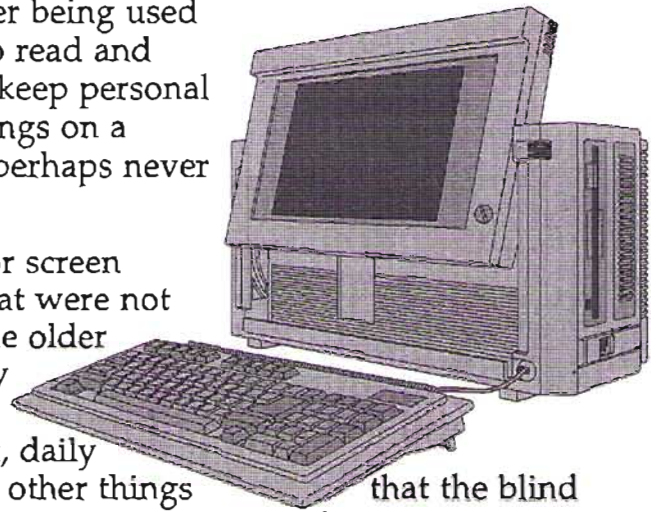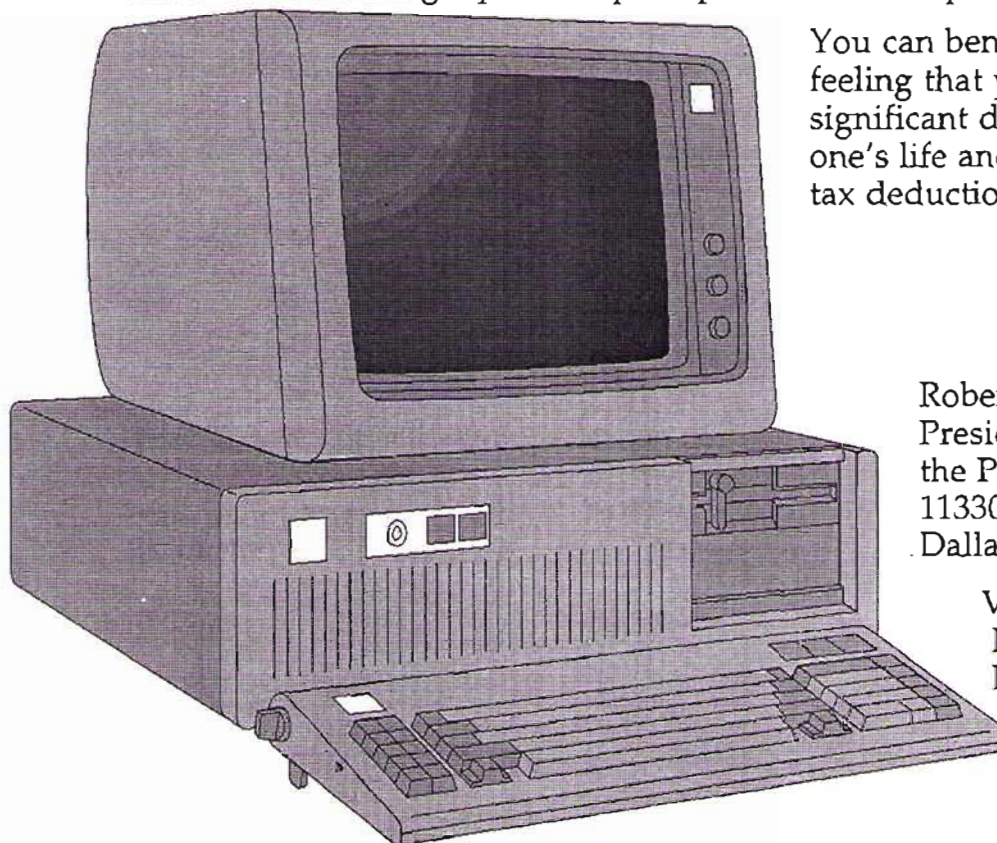
The Day My E-World Died

by Win Marks

It wasn't a cold, dark, rainy night, or anything like that, but it should have been! The day my E-World died will stick in my mind forever.

I have been running Windows 95 since it became generally available, so strange happenings do not make me nervous anymore...and I didn't see this one coming. Since rebooting is a second-nature occurrence (remember I run Win95), I had given the three-finger salute to the Microsoft flag several times that day already, and then had my system not come up, and the CRT stay dark. Also the CRT's indicator lights went green to red...not good. Hint: It also will do this if the monitor is not securely connected to the card.

The strange thing was that a subsequent cold start would bring the system up. This happened about three times and then my E-World went black permanently.

Not being faint of heart, I began to troubleshoot the problem. First the CRT, since it showed the fault...red lights. The connection was tight, so I hooked it to my wife's PS/2, and it worked fine....hmmm. Next I took the video card out and to a neighbor's PC (it won't go in a PS/2), and plugged it in; their CRT worked fine....hmmm. This was getting 'curiouser and curiouser'!!

Well, was there power to the motherboard? Without any documentation on my board, it was going to be a little hard to check for proper voltages. Ah ha, but I did have another case with a power supply....a little finagling, and I had the motherboard leads attached, and both power supplies up and running. Results....the same...rule out power supply.

NTPCUG Tips and Tricks from the MEMBERS...
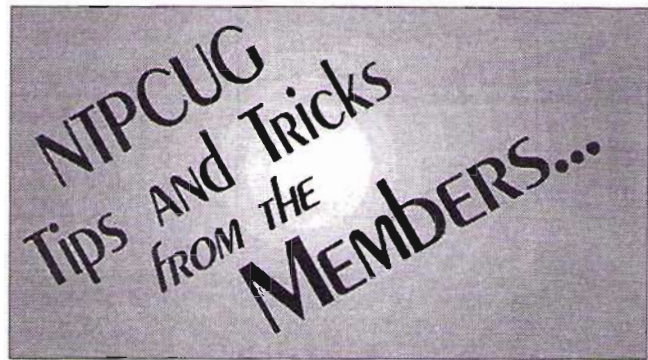
By this time I had an understanding of where the 'mother' in motherboard comes from. But undaunted, I wasn't ready to give up. Looking in the NTPCUG *PC News*, User to User section, I found "Hardware Help", and I called. **Charles Miller** was certainly kind enough and very understanding, but he didn't tell me what I wanted to hear...that motherboards could reincarnate. Armed with his sage advice I began looking to replace the mother.

My machine, a Zenon by birth (now called a bastard child), is only 14 months old, so I started with their tech support. When they finally called me back after 4 days of my messages and faxes, they told me, "Sorry your 12 month warranty is up". I replied with, "Wait a minute, I have had to warranty replace the CRT, the floppy, the mouse, and the CD-ROM, now the motherboard's bad, don't you think that this may be a lemon? How about some help here?" Of course their reply was, "Sorry your 12 month warranty is up...but you can find a cheap board in any magazine...they go bad frequently you know." Well so much for my repeat business.

I began to scour the pages of the *Computer Shopper*, tearing out any ad that had motherboards that fit my criteria (might as well upgrade in the process!). I finally settled on a Tyan Tomcat I board that came packaged with a Cyrix P166+ chip, 16MB EDO ram, 512 cache, and a PCI 3D video card with 2 MB onboard. The package price was right, and with this and some components off of my current system, I can put together two systems using that old case I mentioned. That'll get the wife off the PS/2 by our anniversary!!!

Well some positive things have come out of this so far. Now I know the insides of my PC up close and personal; there'll be one less PS/2 in the world, and I'll always remember the day my E-World died.

Questions About Using the Internet? July will Feature Special 4-Hour Internet for Beginners Series

Basics of the Internet - A Presentation

When friends and associates ask "What is the Internet??", how do you respond? One way is to refer them to the North Texas PC User Group's Beginning Internet SIG.

In July, we will repeat our multi-hour *Introduction to the Internet* session. This periodic course is designed for the beginner or novice user who has not yet had occasion to access the Internet.

We're hoping to start at 10:00 AM and go about four hours. The course will include:

- ❖ An introduction to and history of the Internet,
- ❖ How to choose an Internet service provider (ISP) to connect to the Internet,
- ❖ Hardware and software requirements, i.e., what do you really need to get on and use the Internet,
- ❖ Familiarization with common Internet applications for viewing the World Wide Web (WWW),

NTPCUG Announcements & Special Events

- ❖ Sending mail electronically (E-mail),
- ❖ Downloading files,
- ❖ Reading and joining newsgroups,
- ❖ Creating your own Web page to put on the Internet.

This course will give members and non-members the chance to ask those basic questions about the Internet. Even members who have been on the Internet may discover tips, techniques and areas that will be very helpful in their future visits to the Web. Pass the word, and we hope to see you in July.

Erik Leaseburg, Doug Gorrie and Kiff Barnes

Know a Vendor Who Would Give a Super Presentation In the Infomart Auditorium?

Tell Timothy Carmichael about them!

I'm always looking for vendors with cutting-edge products to present at Informart during our meetings. 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 to our members.

Timothy Carmichael, Program Chairman

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

Fax (w): **972-566-4715**

E-mail: *timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org*

Microsoft Office 97 for Windows 95
Developer Edition Features

Part Three of a Three-Part Software Review

by Larry Linson

The *Microsoft Office 97 for Windows 95 Developer Edition* contains a CD-ROM of *Office 97 Professional*, weighing in at a full 637MB, and a separate CD-ROM of Office 97 *Developer Edition Tools*, but only a "lightweight" 355MB worth. That's about a gigabyte of data, much of it in compressed form. It also contains 3 printed manuals, all rather slim by past standards. If you want the hard-copy documentation you had with past software suites, you'll have to purchase it (but don't lay all the blame on Microsoft; they're not alone in this trend).

In fact, you can develop Office 97 applications with just the Office 97 Professional Edition. So why is there a special Office 97 Developer Edition, too? First, it replaces the Access Developer's Toolkit that we used for Access versions 2.0 and 7.0. Second, it includes documentation on Access and other Office components that isn't available anywhere else. And, with 680MB capacity of CD/ROM to fill, it has a wide variety of other software and information.

If you plan to distribute Microsoft Access applications to users who don't have Access version 8.0 installed on their computer, it's the "only game in town" because this is where you get the Access runtime engine and, even more importantly, the (royalty-free) license to distribute it. The items we came to know, if not to love, in the Access Distribution Kit 1.0 and the for versions 2.0 and 7.0 are all here, in their latest and greatest form: the Access runtime engine (and license), the Setup Wizard to package your application with the runtime, the Windows 95 Help Compiler, the Win32 API Viewer, and several useful ActiveX controls. A significant new addition is software to integrate Access with Microsoft SourceSafe source code control (but SourceSafe itself is *not* included).

If your applications need to make use of replication, the Developer Edition provides the Replication Manager and support for Internet replication and partial replica support. "What's replication?",

you ask.. It's maintaining a master database, passing out complete or partial copies (for example, on notebook computers for your outside sales representatives) and being able to synchronize the updated copies with the master. Access 95 supported replication; Access 97 adds partial replication (that is, replication where you distribute a subset of the master), and allows the synchronization to be done across the Internet. You're not surprised, are you, to see the Internet take a prominent position here? Actually, this is a very significant improvement, since many business travelers will be logging on to the Net daily or more frequently, anyway, for their e-mail. They can synchronize their replicas while they're there, and the not have to make a special, perhaps long-distance, call to the server at night just to synchronize, or, worse yet, have to wait until they come back to the office.

The only Access-specific printed material is the *Building Applications with Microsoft Access 97* manual, formerly part of the Access retail package, but now available only as part of the Developer Edition. There's no Basic Language Reference – we'll just have to come to know and love using the on-line help, or pick up a language reference at our friendly local or mail-order bookstore, at extra cost, of course. It's mentioned that there is one, from Microsoft Press; I've seen other books on VBA programming with the various products, too.

Speaking of help, you'd think that the Developer Edition would be set up so that it would default to installing the programming language help, wouldn't you? Wrong. The Office 97 Pro CD is exactly the same as the regular retail copy, and you
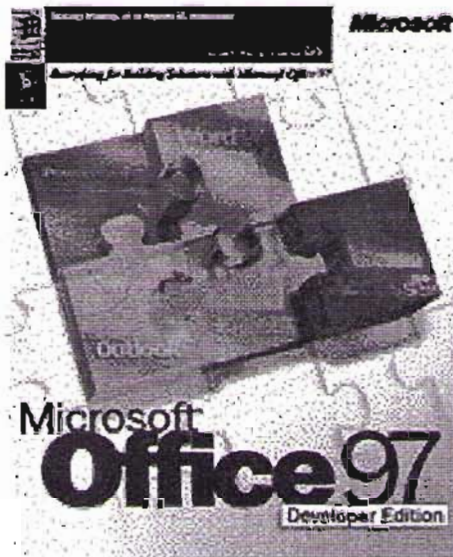
have to use the Custom Install and you have to manually "Select All" to get the programming help.

The retail version of Access includes one ActiveX control, the Tab Control. It's tempting to use a tab control as the overall control for an application, with functional areas handled by controls on or subforms embedded in the tab pages. From personal experience, my advice is, "Resist that temptation." Tab controls are very useful as "property sheets", and for other things; but they are a "development labor intensive" replacement for a "switchboard" form and separate forms for different functional areas.

The Developer Edition adds a more-than-modest list of additional ActiveX controls: Calendar, Common Dialog, Image List, List View, Progress Bar, Rich TextBox, Slider, Status Bar, TabStrip (as an alternative to the tab control), Toolbar, TreeView, and the UpDown (also sometimes called a Spinner) controls. You'll already have some of these if you have Visual Basic Professional or Enterprise edition. They are useful, not only with Access, but with the other members of the Office family – and other development tools that can use ActiveX controls.

Additional printed material, applicable to the other components of Office, as well as Access, is the *Microsoft Office 97 Visual Basic Programmer's*

About Business Cards...

The PC News offers special, reduced rates for NTPCUG members' business-card ads as a service to our members.

In order to qualify for these rates for multiple insertions, submitted ads must be machine readable, i.e., as an EPS, TIF or PCX file. EPS is preferred since it allows small changes without too-much extra effort. Any changes to TIF or PCX files must be made by the advertiser/member and the new file sent to the PC News on the BBS.

We will scan submitted hard-copy cards at the advertiser's risk with no guarantee as to quality of reproduction. If a member wishes, the *PC News* can attempt, for an additional charge, to replicate the hard-copy card as closely as possible, usually with good success, but not always with identical fonts to those used by commercial printers.

Reagan Andrews

Guide, a 496 page manual about Visual Basic for Applications programming, and the *Microsoft Office 97 Object Model Guide,* actually a 33-page pamphlet with a diagram of each Office software component's object model, with references to the help files where you can find additional information, but with little accompanying printed text and explanation.

On the CD you'll find a number of samples, some more relevant to Office developers than others. At least one mentions only VB5 as a development tool. You'll need patience and an inquiring nature to poke around and find the text or documentation files that explain some of this stuff. Some samples of *Microsoft Developer Network* (MSDN) information are also provided, but if you've attended any of the recent Microsoft events about the new release of their development tools, you probably came away with a complete quarterly CD. If you're seriously doing development work with Microsoft tools, you should seriously investigate the cost-benefits of a subscription to MSDN – many find it invaluable.

If you're going to distribute Access applications to users who don't have Access, if you find the additional ActiveX controls useful, if you're not a subscriber to MSDN and want some useful "sample" information, if you need to prepare Help files but don't have the Help compiler in another tool and don't want to invest in expensive Help software, getting the Developer Edition can be a good buy. It'd be easy to spend more than the price difference on third-party control libraries, and not have the runtime if you should need it. You can also wait and buy an upgrade from Office Pro to Developer Edition (but doing so will cost you an extra $99 at list prices).

End of Part Three

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by Jim Hoisington
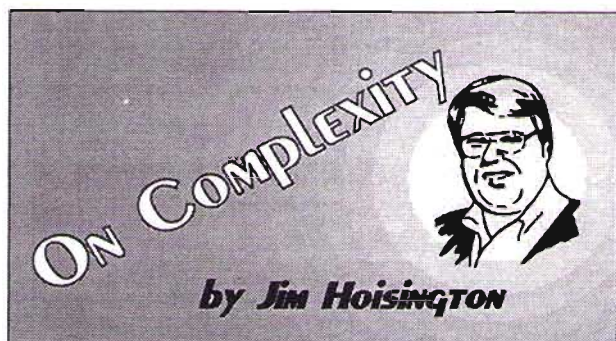
No. 82 in a Series

I was asked to write a letter to the son of my friends. The young man will be graduating from high school in a couple of weeks and they wanted me to advise him on choosing a career. (I think they wanted my advice because I've had so many careers.)

My first piece of advice was that the future never turns out as predicted. I read somewhere that the average citizen of the United States has between three and four careers during their lifetime. So, trying to give a person who is starting their undergraduate college education career advice is very perilous.

My second piece of advice was that at the undergraduate level of college, it is impossible to prepare you for the things that you will be doing near the end of your working career. I told the young man how during my sophomore year, my physics class took a field trip to Argonne National Laboratory outside of Chicago. During the tour, we were escorted into a brightly lit room. The tour guide told us, "You are all very lucky. In a few minutes, we are going through that door and you will *actually see a computer*. We estimate that there will only be about six computers in the whole United States so most people will never see one." I advised the young man that his only defense against these changing conditions was to get a good, well-rounded, undergraduate education.

My final piece of advice was to be flexible. Be aware of the changes taking place in the world and take advantage of the changes. It used to be that being a bank teller was a pretty safe, stable, job. A recent study by Booz, Allen & Hamilton, McLean, Va. shows that it costs the bank $1.07 per transaction with a full-service teller, 54¢ per transaction via the telephone, 27¢ per transaction via an ATM machine, 1.5¢ per transaction via PC Banking software, and 1¢ per transaction via the Internet. If I were currently a bank teller, I would start taking night classes to prepare me for a new career.

Jim...

The Internet Lightbulb Change

The following look at the more significant uses of the Internet news groups was submitted by Andy Oliver NTPCUG President-Elect, taken, of course, from one of the news groups...

Q: How many internet mail list subscribers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: 1,331, as follows:

❖ 1 to change the light bulb and to post to the mail list that the light bulb has been changed.

❖ 14 to share similar experiences of changing light bulbs and how the light bulb could have been changed differently.

❖ 7 to caution about the dangers of changing light bulbs.

❖ 27 to point out spelling/grammar errors in posts about changing light bulbs.

❖ 53 to flame the spell checkers.

❖ 156 to write to the list administrator complaining about the light bulb discussion and its inappropriateness to this mail list.

❖ 41 to correct spelling in the spelling/grammar flames.

❖ 109 to post that this list is not about light bulbs and to please take this email exchange to alt.lite.bulb.

❖ 203 to demand that cross posting to alt.grammar, alt.spelling and alt.punctuation about changing light bulbs be stopped.

❖ 111 to defend the posting to this list saying that we all use light bulbs and therefore the posts **are** relevant to this mail list.

❖ 306 to debate which method of changing light bulbs is superior, where to buy the best light bulbs, what brand of light bulbs work best for this technique, and what brands are faulty.

❖ 27 to post URLs where one can see examples of different light bulbs.

❖ 14 to post that the URLs were posted incorrectly, and to post corrected URLs.

❖ 3 to post about links they found from the URLs that are relevant to this list which makes light bulbs relevant to this list.

❖ 33 to concatenate all posts to date, then quote them including all headers and footers, and then add "Me Too."

❖ 12 to post to the list that they are unsubscribing because they cannot handle the light bulb controversy.

❖ 19 to quote the "Me Too's" to say "Me Three."

❖ 4 to suggest that posters request the light bulb FAQ.

❖ 1 to propose new alt.change.lite.bulb newsgroup.

❖ 47 to say this is just what alt.physic.cold_fusion was meant for, leave it here.

❖ 143 votes for alt.lite.bulb.

Andy

May comes on like a 'Blockbuster' as Intel Releases Pentium II, sued by DEC & Cyrix Sees 1st II-based 'bug reports' and rumors...

Microsoft sets deal with Citrix and CD/ROM 'X' hits 20's

If March and April were a little 'slow' news-wise, May hit the scene like a 2,000 LB 'Blockbuster' with announcement that both Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) and Cyrix were suing Intel over their barely-released *Pentium II* CPU. It's the computer-industry 'good old days' all over again and I'm sure will account for lots of inches in this column for several years.

Life in the 'Land of the Giants' is just bound to be interesting. (More on this theme later...) Intel responded with very good PR damage control to first 'bug reports' on the new *Pentium* CPU in a very different approach than they tried with the original *Pentium* math bugs. 'Lessons Learned' can be very valuable.

Almost lost amid all the *Pentium II* release ballyhoo followed quickly by the first CPU bug reports and the DEC - Cyrix announcement, Microsoft and Citrix announced a joint development/ cross-licensing agreement that may actually be much more important over the long haul.

CD/ROMs caught my attention in the media, at First Saturday and in the Infomart, primarily because of the 'X' factor debacle inherent in vendors' claims for speed for the CAV-based drives. A lie by any other name would just be good marketing?

DEC & Cyrix File Suit Against Intel, Claim 'Patent Infringement'

Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) and Richardson-based Cyrix Corp. are both suing Intel and claim Intel infringed their patents in design of the Pentium II and Pentium Pro microprocessors. DEC filed its suit May 12, 1997, in the District Court at Worcester, Mass, and Cyrix filed in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas the afternoon of May 13, Cyrix had been issued the patents in question on the morning of May 13.

Injunctive Relief — $20 billion?

Both suits seek injunctive relief, i.e., Intel would have to cease production and distribution of the *Pentium II* and *Pentium Pro* CPU chips. Damages sought by either party were not specified, but a May 14, 1997, article in *The Wall Street Journal* surmised the claim could be worth "billions" of dollars if DEC and/or Cyrix prevails.

Intel's two *Pentium* lines were estimated to account for $20 billion in sales this year alone.

DEC's Palmer Quote Scores...

DEC has taken a very aggressive stance in this matter. Media (and Intel) were surprised that DEC filed the suit before making any attempt to negotiate with Intel over the claims. A visit to DEC's Web site (www.dec.com) produced an early press release and a statement from DEC's Chairman, Robert Palmer, explaining why he chose to pursue this route. Palmer has been quoted as saying "DEC doesn't mind competition, but doesn't intend to compete with technology stolen from DEC."

Media legal analysts are mixed in their predictions for outcome in this matter. All are unanimous in estimating the case will drag on for years before it is resolved. Students of the AMD v. Intel/Intel v. AMD suits that stretched out over eight years are quite familiar with such estimates.

Intel's Grove & Barrett should Have been listening ...

There are lots of murky historical issues at hand in this. Andy Grove, Intel CEO, made some (seemingly, to me) unfortunate remarks earlier last year (August, 1996). The May 14 *WSJ* article quoted both Andy Grove as saying "We can't rely on others to do our research and development for us," and Intel's COO Craig Barrett's comment "There's nothing left to copy."

The Variety Store

DEC did enter into talks with Intel in 1990 concerning possible Intel adoption of DEC's *Alpha* RISC technology in future generations of Intel's CPU chips, according to the *WSJ* article. If both sides adhered to usual computer industry practices, these talks which ended in 1991 should have been under 'Non Disclosure Agreements,' which could make this case very interesting, indeed, if Intel is seen as transgressing DEC agreements.

At any rate, I'll be following this pretty closely — along with developments by AMD and Cyrix.

Life in the Land of the Giants
Latest outbreak of litigation
PAR for Computer Industry

Were the DEC and Cyrix suits against Intel a surprise? Absolutely.

Are the suits surprising? No way. Students of the computer industry are aware that with a few exceptions, this is an industry built through the inspiration, sweat, guts and determination of some very exceptional individuals. These are not 'shrinking violets' or staid 'bean counters' but are extremely competitive and aggressive people who are responsible for the miraculous development and growth of an industry that now covers the entire globe.

Real 'Giants' in industry

These are 'Giants' in every sense of the title. Recent media articles on the suits have compared DEC and Intel as the "Ten-ton gorilla facing-off with the 30-ton gorilla," which is a cute analogy, but grossly inaccurate.

However, their actions are typical of individuals who love competition

and struggle. The courts are just the current venue.

Microsoft - Citrix Deal May Signal Shift in MS Aim — Toward 'Big Iron'

Hmmm... Has Microsoft changed its basic OS philosophy? Has Bill Gates decided that every desktop doesn't need a PC after all? In concert with these questions, Citrix users are asking if the company has lost its mind — handing Microsoft a key Citrix technology.

Reason? Microsoft and Citrix Systems, Inc., announced May 12, 1997, a joint development/ technology cross-licensing agreement focused on multiuser technology for *Windows NT 4.0* and *5.0.* Citrix will provide technology giving Windows NT capability to support "Windows-based" terminals in an applications-server environment. Evidently, it was a relatively small deal as far as PC industry joint ventures/acquisitions go since the 'trades' only paid token attention to the agreement.

I think the merger is very interesting from a philosophical point of view. Citrix has specialized in multiuser modifications to single-user operating systems. This is an area that MS hasn't shown much interest in over the years other than *Xenix*, MS's version of *UNIX*. At that, Xenix was sold primarily as a single-user OS, I think.

My best guess would be that Microsoft is very interested in corporate 'big iron' and expansion of *Windows NT* into that domain. While networking is nifty in file transfer applications, to really get into the big corporate sites, applications servers and

multi-user capabilities are a definite plus. It's still all a lot of the 'big iron' folks understand.

'Security' Issues Count...

Multi-user systems can also be much more 'secure' than networks. After a recent virus attack resulting from a member-supplied floppy disk holding a newsletter story, I can appreciate some of the positive aspects of a multi-user, terminal-only based system. Yes, I know I should have scanned the 'strange' floppy first, but I was in a hurry...

24X CD/ROMs? Stupid speed race That's IDE 'Fixed'

Just how stupid do CD/ROM drive vendors think PC users are? I've seen the "X" factor climb rapidly over the past six months to ridiculous 'highs' in spite of current reality. (Notice my use of 'current' here — situation will change.)

Once the user goes above 8X on an IDE drive, there's almost no noticeable increase in speed since that's close to the maximum real data transmission capability of the system components. SCSI drives are another story as they are inherently 'faster' than IDE drives, but most systems sold don't contain these much higher-price SCSI components.

Before PC users will realize any true benefit from increased drive-spindle speeds, a number of factors have to change, including the bandwidth of the IDE bus and the support chips on the drive itself.

PC History explains...

To understand this, you need to go back several years and look at the IBM PC/XT. The original XT had a 4.77 MHz clock speed and same speed on the ISA bus. Hard drives for this machine had to use 'interleaved' drive sectors to allow the 'slow' systems to keep up with data flow from the hard disk. XT drives

had interleave ratios of 5:1 or 4:1 to match the slow PC data rates. Otherwise, the disk might make several 'extra' revolutions just to 'catch' the data in each sector. Overall system performance suffered as a result of trying to send the system data faster than it could process it. Current IDE and PCI buses run at 33 MHz and the CPU's zip along at some multiple of this which allows 1:1 sector interleave factors as the norm, even for 386DX machines.

THERE'S A LONG WAY TO GO bEForE REAL 'SpEEd' REALiZEd...

Moral — it doesn't do any good to send data from the disk faster than the disk support chips and system can process it. Current limiting factor is the drive support chips.

If the user is running their drive from an ISA-based sound card, then they are locked into the much slower data transmission rates typical for the ISA bus, i.e., the 8 MHz ISA bus will really lower the upper limit. That's a good reason to use the motherboard's IDE channels rather than the IDE interface on the ISA-based sound card if the user plans to install one of the really-fast EIDE CD/ROM drives.

Even before the bus limits, users are hit by the data limits imposed by the translation and support chips on the drive.

Newer and 'faster' chips are coming, but not in the very inexpensive drives I've seen in the vendor area and at "First Saturday." If the user just likes big numbers, go for it — buy the 24X drive.

Just don't expect any real performance boosts.

DoES 'FUD' RulE Now? ARE INtEl 'HATERS' UNiTiNG NASTY RUMORS SECTiON...

Everybody knows about the math errors discovered in the newly-released *Pentium II*. Learning from its last episode which garnered Intel mucho bad publicity and a very public "Black Eye", Intel quickly embraced the issue, described the problem/s and explained how Intel is resolving the situation.

Let's see how the CPU giant handles the latest rumors centered on the increased size and mass of the new *Pentium II* package. It is much bigger, heavier and demands yet one more socket configuration.

Pentium II's new package was designed with several goals (not least of which is a firm Intel patent on the configuration.) It also allows inclusion of a much bigger internal cache and better heat dissipation so that the CPU clock rates can be kicked into the stratosphere.

THAT'S THE bACKGROUNd...

Here's the completely unverified rumor I heard Saturday in the vendor area at Infomart. Seems that the size and weight of the new Intel package is causing some unanticipated and possibly serious problems for motherboard and system fabricators.

Rumor says that the CPU's mass can cause the chips to loosen up on the motherboard during shipping. By itself, this part of the problem alone could give major headaches to mail-order vendors such as Dell, Gateway 2000, Compaq and others. Would give plug'n'pray a whole new dimension.

INTERMiTTENT ProblEMS WORSE?

Second half is worse, since it could cause intermittent rather than catastrophic failure that would be extremely difficult to troubleshoot. Chip might not loosen up in the socket, but its mass could cause flexure of the motherboard and create cracks or breaks in the traces. Solving this little ditty, if the rumors are true, will force redesign of the motherboard, form factor, and probably PC cases as well.

CURRENT REALiTY INTERVENES

I have problem here. By the time a user installs a heatsink and fan on their CPU, they've added appreciably to the total mass involved. Height of the combination of CPU, heatsink and fan adds significantly to the mass-moment vector. Should be as much of a problem with Socket 7 CPU combinations as with the rumored *Pentium II* combinations unless I've completely misunderstood my physics. Problems with the CPU – motherboard interface should be roughly the same.

One reason for current PC motherboard design — sitting above the chassis on those little plastic thingies — is to allow good air flow across both sides of the motherboard to enhance cooling. It's not just the CPU that gets hot. Even though most of

us have heatsinks and fans on our CPU's, lots of heat is transmitted to the motherboard through all the traces leading away from the CPU.

'FUD' - from other CPU/PC Vendors? It's happened before...

This may all be completely unfounded and probably is just what I've labeled it — *a rumor.*

Could just be 'FUD' (Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt) a defensive marketing tool often attributed to IBM in the early days of computer competition. It wouldn't be the first time a competitor has spread such rumors about a new product/technology. I may have to spend a lot more time in the Usenet news groups to get a firm handle on the situation.

Who would benefit? Read the next section....

Does Intel Want to be 'Only Pentium II Support Chip Vendor'

Saw interesting set of articles in *Electronic Buyers' News* claiming that Intel was getting a little 'horsey' with support chip/motherboard vendors. According to the May 12 issue of *EBN*, Intel has been sending out correspondence "Telling some core logic vendors they may be violating Intel's intellectual property rights if they try to sell (support) chip sets for the *Pentium Pro* or *Pentium II* systems that conform to P6 bus specifications.

Courts Not Involved — Yet...

No lawsuits to bar competitors from selling their support chip sets have been filed the articles state — so far.

Intel, formerly a major vendor of PC motherboards, has been eyeing the activities of the competing support chip vendors of late, and only licensing top-tier companies that have cross-licensing deals with Intel for production of the "glue" support

chips. Since support chip vendors and motherboard vendors are on very thin margins, such actions are seen as a major threat to their ability to remain competitive in the market.

Intel is ever-aware of the FTC and possible antitrust litigation and may be walking very carefully in this volatile area. Or, Intel may have decided it's tired of the competition for its products and may be getting ready for another round of litigation...

Speaking of Motherboards — Prices are falling rapidly And Al Capacitors a Clue

Think this may be a lot more than most users want to know about 'passive' components. There's some recent 'stink' in the 'trades' concerning a switch from Tantalum capacitors on PC motherboards (and other components) to the less expensive and less relaible aluminum electrolytic capacitors.

Have I lost you yet? Read on.

Tantalum capacitors have been the standard in the high-end electonics fabrication industry for several (many) years. They are considered more reliable at high frequencies and high temperature than are their much less expensive aluminum cousins. Motherboard vendors are caught in a market with rapidly-decreasing profit margins and the cost differential between tantalum capacitors and aluminum foil capacitors may be more attractive than it was in the past.

Aluminum capacitor vendors claim they can build capacitors that are just as precise and dependable as the tantalum units at a significant price advantage. Hint: Aluminum capacitors do tend to 'age' and may prove

problematic over time in critical applications.

What are Capacitors, And Why do I care?

When they work as planned, you don't really care much about capacitors. It's when they break down that capacitors become a concern.

Capacitors and resistors are *passive* components, i.e., they aren't *active* in the manner that transistors and IC's are as switches and amplifiers.

Capacitors 'block' DC voltages, but become 'transparent' to high-frequency signals such as line noise. They are frequently used to bypass high frequency signals to ground (earth), or to 'filter' DC power lines, i.e., remove AC noise, high-frequency signals, etc.

Because transistors, even those in IC's, switch very rapidly and often leave transient 'spikes' on motherboard lines, capacitors are frequently used to smooth-out the spikes and prevent inteference with other chips' operation. There are a lot of capacitors on the typical PC motherboard doing just this.

Most capacitors on motherboards are relatively low-value, ceramic capacitors, placed there specifically to eliminate high-frequency transient spikes caused by the high transistor switching speeds.

Capacitors named in the articles are somewhat higher-value electrolytic capacitors with values above 1.0 microfarad. These capacitors are usually found in power-supply circuits, filters and other relatively low-frequancy applications.

Reagan Andrews

Selected SIG Reports . . .

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

ACCESS SIG

What's *hot* these days? No, no – *besides* the Internet? Imaging, of course. A year or so ago, **Larry Linson** had an imaging and graphics opportunity on an Access 2 project. One of the graphics packages he used was *TBASE for Windows*, an imaging software package produced by a local firm, Videotex Systems. It was so much easier to use, and so much more cost-effective than the other package, that he made arrangements to demonstrate how to use the latest version of TBASE's ActiveX controls with the latest version of Microsoft Access. As you might guess, since the functions are packaged as ActiveXes and in a .DLL, as well, you can use them with most any Windows development tool. What might not be so obvious is that a DOS library is also available, just in case you still have some DOS applications that need imaging, as well as a specific library for Fox-Pro. Look, too, for representatives of Videotex to be on hand. Larry will, of

course, duck and run so they will have to answer any sticky questions that come up. Even better news is that they plan to come with software in hand for our giveaway.

Thanks to **Fred Williams**, NTPCUG Board member, founder of numerous SIGs, leader of Paradoxical programmers, whose background in Oracle gave him a head start at becoming a Delphi guru. Fred demonstrated again why he's one of our most popular guest speakers, with the latest, greatest, and most updated version of his tutorial, "Introduction to Relational Database Design." It was, as usual, a great presentation and we appreciate very much being allowed to host "Part II".

Thanks to **Jack Atkinson** for leading the SIG, doing the honors, and introducing Fred (as though Fred really *needed* an introduction!). Larry was away attending his son's wedding.

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

New SIGs:

— *Java* [Contact Art English (972) 567-2253]

— Lotus *Notes & Domino* [Contact B.J. Shultz

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.

SIG

In coming months, we plan to have **Your Name** in boldface in this article, as our featured speaker. You can demonstrate features and functions of Access itself or review Access-related software or publications. Just see any of the SIG Leaders and let us know what you'd be willing to present. If you are new to public presentations, we'll help – we've "made fools of ourselves in public" enough that we know a few tricks for avoiding that!

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 expected to be restored to service when the Windows NT server system is implemented on the BBS ("Real Soon Now," Fred says. In the parlance of the trade, that means "In the lifetime of some person now living, unless something goes wrong somewhere along the way".).

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

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers (OLE and ODBC) SIG

At our June meeting, **Sergio Vallejo**, Consulting Manager of GCC International, Inc., will demonstrate and talk about *GENEXUS*, a knowledge-based tool (hey, hey, _Artificial Intelligence_) which assists analysts and users during an application's whole life cycle. It automates "everything that can be made automatic", including data normalization and design and application programs generation and maintenance. You use Genexus in a Windows desktop environment to develop and test. It runs on and connects to a wide variety of production environments: as a Windows Client for Oracle, Informix, or DB/2 (at least three "flavors" of DB/2:

AS/400, RS 6000, and OS/2), RS 6000 using RECITAL, PC- compatible micros using DOS (generates CLIPPER or FoxPro) or Windows (generates FoxPro or Visual Basic), or the AS/400 (generates COBOL or RPG). Come learn why there's a fast-growing list of happy Genexus users.

Thanks to **Linda Moore** for leading the May meeting – the topic was still under consideration at the time of this writing, but I'm confident that all went well.

The ActiveX Application Developers SIG, formerly known as Application Developers (OLE and ODBC), addresses the issues of developing applications under the *Component Object Model (COM)*. COM was introduced by Microsoft, has matured and changed, and is widely adopted by software producers. In addition to the maturation process, there have been a few sudden shifts along the way – to support the shift to (you guessed it) the Internet. As part of that shift, OLE Custom Controls became ActiveX Controls, and we, accordingly changed our name to match. There has also been a more than healthy dose of renaming other features in COM to something with Active as part of the name.

The January 1997 release of Office 97 and the March 1997 release of Microsoft Development Tools brought COM to a new level – we'll be hard put to learn the ins and outs of this release before the next one, there's so much new and exciting. This, however, is the time and place to learn, if you have any interest in keeping up with new developments in developing software applications for Windows.

Hot as the Internet is, our topics aren't necessarily about *Internetting*, since ActiveX controls work equally well on the desktop and in client/server environments. That's one of the attractive fea-

tures: one type of control, usable in many environments.

ODBC has become so pervasive among database management systems, and so solid, in most cases, that we don't have many problems to resolve. It is still in our "bag of tricks", here, so feel free to bring it up in discussion, if you do have questions or problems.

Come join us in June, and keep on coming in the future. We'll do our best to make it interesting and productive for you.

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

As a follow-up to our March discussion on disassembling Windows DLLs, our May meeting featured a round-table discussion on ways to keep code and data in Windows executables as secure as possible. Given the open nature of Windows and the sophisticated tools available, this is not an easy task.

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

Frank Cavallito

Communications SIG

Our April meeting was a huge success as we learned about 56k modems from **Alan Brosz**. It seems there are more questions than answers and the overall impact from this technology is yet to be understood. Lots of hype and advertising for 56k dial-in but is it really ready for the marketplace?

The June meeting will continue with a Q and A discussion as it seems speakers are getting harder and harder to find. I am still pursuing a speaker for cable modems and have increased my vendor selection. Zenith and General Instruments are potential canadates.

Phasecom is scheduled to speak but only if they are flying thru Dallas. Lets hope something can be arranged for July.

Birl and I welcome your thoughts for upcoming meetings. We also welcome your feedback. Do you want to see some change? Do you want to know more about PC communications or communications in general? What kind of problems are you having with your modem?

So for an enjoyable and interesting experience in communications, come to our June 14th meeting at the NTPCUG.

Birl Smith & Alan Brosz

Dallas Corel SIG

June SIG Program

June's meeting will feature **Rick Altman**'s *CorelDRAW Cool Tricks* videotape presentation. It is a demonstration of and instruction on powerful features in version 5, 6, and 7. Always an entertaining presenter, Rick will share Time-saving Tips, Work with Nodes, Greyscale Lens, Shadows, Blends and Cubes. This session will prove invaluable to DRAW users from novice to expert levels. Be ready to take notes and begin new efficiency in your own work process. Capture more of the power available in CorelDRAW by joining us June 14.

Dallas Corel Website

Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

SIG

Dallas Corel was one of the first SIGs to place its page on the NTPCUG Web site a year ago. Now SIG members **Rose Anne Ellison** and **Jay Bartlett** have updated and enhanced the page, using Corel Web.Graphics Suite. They plan to update the information regularly and to dedicate one screen, Dallas Corel Gallery, to experiment with and showcase SIG members' work. Many thanks to both of them for their contribution. Visit our page by going to www.ntpcug.org and then to Dallas Corel SIG.

1997 Corel Roadshow - Dallas June 25

This FREE presentation of products by Corel Corporation will be held Wednesday, June 25 at the Dallas Medallion at LBJ Freeway and Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75244. If you want to learn more about Corel's exciting new business applications, leading-edge graphics and state-of-the-art Internet publishing tools, attend the Corel Roadshow.

Corel's Latest Business Applications include Corel WordPerfect, Corel Quattro Pro and Corel Presentations!

CorelDRAW 7 is for Productivity, Power & Precision! This is a must for any CorelDRAW user and for any new users who are considering moving to the professionals' choice in illustrative software.

Corel WebMaster Suite is a Complete Internet Solution. By combining state-of-the-art authoring tools with sophisticated graphics, animation and 3D VRML, Corel WebMaster Suite delivers what you need to create and manage your Web site easily and effectively.

Agenda:

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Browse with Corel's third-party partners

9:00 – 10:15 a.m Launch of Corel's new business application

10:15 – 10:30 a.m Coffee break

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. CorelDRAW 7 demonstration

11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Corel WebMaster Suite demonstration

11:30 – 12:00 p.m. Question and answer session. Drawing for PRIZES!!!

RSVP now. Phone 1-800-848-9536 or Fax 1-800-688-2222 for your reservation.

Version Updates

Get the update patch for your **DRAW 7** to version 7.375. Download it at http://www.corel.com/products/graphicsandpublishing/draw7/library.htm. Installation instructions are included in the file README.TXT

Owners of **Web.Graphics Suite** can upgrade to **WebMaster Suite** for $59.99 + $5 shipping. Call Corel Customer Service (800-772-6735). Have your Web.Graphics serial number

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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

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nearby. 30-day trial versions of the Web products are available for download form Corel's Web site.

Corel News Groups via the Internet

Corel Graphics and Publishing News Groups (http://www.corel.com/support/newsgroup.htm)

CorelNET (www.corelnet.com)

Corel Office for Java Discussion Area (http://www.corelnet.com/hyper/wpjava/index.html)

Recent Programs At Dallas Corel SIG:

1997:

January - Web page design with Corel Web.Graphics Suite

February - Photo Retouching in Corel-PHOTO-PAINT 7

March - VENTURA 7 Demonstration

April - CorelDRAW 7 & PHOTO-PAINT 7 in real world uses

New CorelPRESS Titles

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
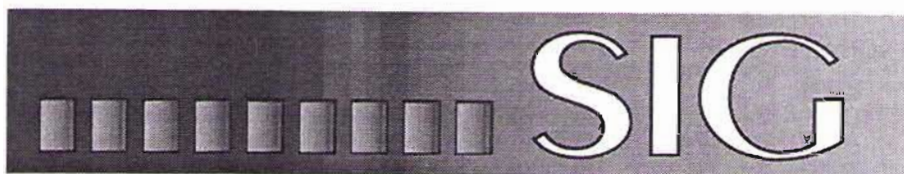
To order call 1-800-565-5758 or on the Internet at http://www.corel.com/bookstore.

Now available is the book, *Mastering CorelDRAW 7 (3rd edition),* ISBN: 0-7821-2058-X, Author Rick Altman, for $42.95.

Also the videotape, *CorelDRAW Cool Tricks (for versions 5, 6, 7),* Author Rick Altman, is available for $45.00. To order call (408)252-5448 or online at http://www.altman.com.

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.

Marsha Drebelbis

TIPS & TRICKS

Win 95: An undocumented, albeit valuable, feature in Win 95 is one that allows you to delete files from within an application. Now you need not shut down your application and go to Explorer to "clean house". Often we Corel users have created several versions of a file, either through experimentation or to save a version for later retrieval. Then after the final decision, it's convenient to discard the junk files and go on from there. In Win 95, just click the "open file" box, highlight files you want to delete, and press the Delete button. They're gone. This convenient feature is available from within all applications, not just Corel.

David Huss

RomCat 3 is the latest and greatest version of the CD-ROM cataloging software and it's still FREE. Forget that hard-to-manage printed catalog of clipart that came with DRAW. RomCat provides a keyword oriented search of CDR and CMX clipart on your CorelDRAW CD's. Make catalogs of your own files too. Thumbnails can be displayed and import requests can be directed to Corel DRAW. Download this great utility software from http://www.altman.com/software.htm.

Susan Biggs

Delphi SIG

Last month was the month I presented my somewhat regularly scheduled "Introduction to Relational Database Design" presentation. I hope some of you gained something from the presentation.

This month we will be back on our regular SIG agenda. This means there will be some form of Delphi-related presentation for the first half of the meeting, followed by a general question and answer session.

If nothing else materializes, between then and now, I will most likely bring in something I have been working on and point out some of the non point and click, drag and drop aspects of the thing. Contrary to the Delphi Demos we have all seen, I have never done a real world project strictly using Drag and Drop. RAD just lets one reach the brick wall very quickly!

My latest one is to develop a "task bar" (no user interaction required) resident task that is to communicate with a remote AS/400. Seems reality is starting to creep into the magnificent AS/400 and Novell to NT SQL Server conversion plans, and the old AS/400 ain't going away as quickly as thought! Now who would have ever guessed that?

SIG
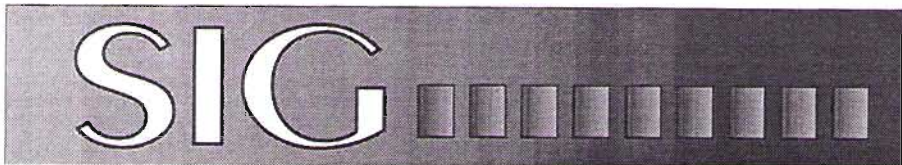
I know I won't be bringing that one, the damn 400 is too heavy to carry up to the sixth floor. I do have the chicken scale demo code though

Drop on by the SIG and see what we end up with. I promise to not bring any demo chickens, on the hoof, so to speak!

Fred Williams

DOS SIG

Since June is *Hawaiian Shirt Month*, we need to do something equally colorful for the DOS SIG!

How about a new SIG name? Had a suggestion at the May SIG meeting that "DOS SIG" is misleading to newer members. I tend to agree, and it's one of the reasons I include the DOS SIG graphic in these pages, and also included the DOS SIG web page text this month.

From the Web...

The DOS SIG's name may be misleading. We look at much more than just *PC-DOS* from IBM, *DR DOS* from Caldera or *MS-DOS* from Microsoft since *Windows 95*, *Windows NT*, *OS/2 Warp* and *UNIX* are *all* Disk Operating Systems (DOS's). And, each can be affected by the intimate relationship between hardware, the PC's BIOS, peripherals and operating system parameters. We are aimed at the core of the PC — the interaction between machine and the users' operating software — and how this facilitates or impedes operation of the PC running applications software and games important to the PC user.

DOS SIG meetings may be consumed by discussions and tutorials on aspects of DOS, on the interaction between DOS and users' hardware, or on specific applications software that's trouble-

some to users. Often, the SIG meetings are an open forum with give-and-take interactions between members and SIG leaders. We also periodically bring in vendors, consultants and technical representatives to share with members the latest advances in the operating systems, hardware and applications that will influence the way users employ their PCs in the future. Our meetings feature advice and tips for PC users across the spectrum from beginners to experts.

The DOS Special Interest Group is one of the oldest SIGs in the North Texas PC Users Group. It has been led by President (now) and Past President, **Jim Hoisington**, and Past President, PC News Publisher (acting) and Director, **Reagan Andrews**, since September, 1986. The DOS SIG name was adopted in May, 1986, after several years as the Beginners SIG — originally formed by **Mike Durbin** in 1982, shortly after the NTPCUG was organized at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas.

About the June Meeting...

We had so much fun in May looking at the DOS/Windows 95/Windows NT hassles members are experiencing, I think we'll continue that line unless Cyrix releases their M2 chip between this writing and the meeting. If they do, we may be able to persuede Cyrix to give us a look.

Reagan Andrews

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

At our last meeting SIG leaders **Erik Leaseburg** and **Doug Gorrie** gave the "lowdown" on Usenet News, an electronic bulletin board system freely accessible on the Internet. Usenet contains over 10,000 newsgroups covering every imaginable topic, such as philosophy, sports, television, computers, science, and current events. Erik showed how to quickly search and view the millions of articles posted to Usenet every day by visiting AltaVista's Web site, **www.altavista.digital.com**. A demonstration of how to configure and use Netscape Navigator's add-on newsreader was also given.

At the next meeting on June 14th, Erik and Doug will demonstrate the dynamic world of IRC - Internet Relay Chat. IRC allows Internet users to join one another in topical chat rooms where real-time conversations are held by typing back and forth to one another. With IRC client software, freely downloadable from the Internet, you too can discuss politics, video games, favorite drinks, and the meaning of life with folks from around the world. Erik and Doug will discuss how to download, install, configure, and use several popular IRC programs.

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 June 14th.

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

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.

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, 1997No Classes

September 20, 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

October 11, 1997*

- ❖ 9:00 Class 5
  Graphics for the PC

- ❖ 10:00 Class 6
  Word Processors
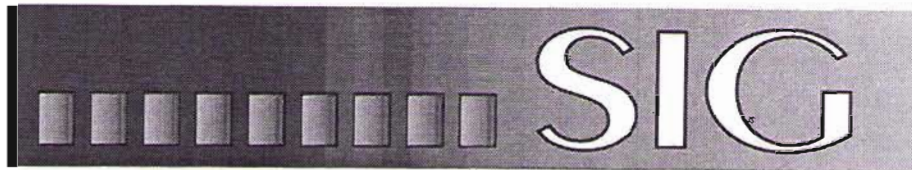
- ❖ Noon Class 7
  Spreadsheet Programs

- ❖ 1:00 Class 8
  Other Software for the PC

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

Alex Lilley

Java Programming SIG

At the June meeting, we will look at the new version of Microsoft *Visual J++*, Version 1.1. We will overview and demonstrate the new features in Visual J++ and show how to create ActiveX COM objects using the new Visual J++ wizard. Microsoft has kindly given us 8 copies of Visual J++ 1.0--which can be upgraded to Visual J++ 1.1 for $20 — to raffle off at the meeting. To qualify for the free raffle, you must be a member of the North Texas PC User's Group. Please make sure to bring your ID card or a copy of the NTPCUG newsletter with your mailing label on it to the meeting.

At the May meeting, we reviewed the Sun Java Workshop product and compared it to Microsoft's Visual J++ Java development system. To illustrate how to use the Java Workshop, we created a client Java applet that runs in a browser and a Java application that runs on the server. This presentation showed the basics of using TCP/IP and Java as well as overview the java.net package.

Remember to get the latest news on the Visual C++/MFC, check out the Artistry web site at http://www.artistry.com/windev/sigs/vcpp/. If you have questions about the Visual C++/MFC SIG or just need Visual C++/MFC technical help you can reach me at art@artistry.com or call (972) 567-2253.

Arthur English

MS Networking SIG

June 1997 SIG Meeting

Fred Howard, a Microsoft Senior Support Engineer in the NT Domain Planning Group, will be our primary speaker on NT Domain architectures. **Richard Miles** and **Gil Brand** will also be on the panel to discuss their experiences in NT Domain implementations.

May 1997 SIG Meeting

Richard Miles did a presentation on Windows NT Workstation v4.0 Peer Web Services, as an introduction for NT users, to Web software included in Windows NT Workstation.

April 1997 SIG Meeting

In April the new SIG Co-Leaders, Richard Miles of SSA, Gil Brand of NationsBank and **Bruce Wynn** of Microsoft, introduced themselves and set the new directions for the SIG. We discussed moving the meeting time, but the concensus was to keep the meeting at 8:00 am.

Richard polled the attendees to understand their background and interests, and presented a proposed list of topics for future meetings.

Future meetings planned:

☆June 1997 - NT v3.5 and v4.0 Domain Architectures

☆July 1997 - Essential services for NT Workstation and Server
OS installation and configuration
OS Service Packs and Hot Fixes
Virus scanning
Tape backups for disaster recovery

SIG

☆August 1997 - Dial-up Networking and RAS

☆September 1997- Back Office
SMS - Systems Management Server
Exchange Server
SNA Server

☆October 1997 - Workgroup (Peer-level) Networking

Win 95
Win NT
Mixed Win95 and WinNT

☆November 1997 - Directory Services - NTDS

Richard Miles

ATTENTION ALL SIG LEADERS!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reagan Andrews

MS Visual C++/MFC SIG

At the June meetings, we will build on the topics covered at the May meeting on how to build ActiveX controls. This meeting will cover ActiveX topics covered in Part Two of the book, *ActiveX Controls Inside Out* by Adam Denning. The topics presented will be ActiveX properties, methods, and events. We will also show how to build property pages for an ActiveX control.

At the May meeting, we started the first in a series of tutorials on how to create ActiveX (OLE) controls. This session presented an overview of OLE and COM. It also showed how to use the ActiveX wizard to create an ActiveX control. The source material for this meeting came from the book, *ActiveX Controls Inside Out* by Adam Denning. The book is published by Microsoft Press and can be ordered on the Web at Amazon Books. The topics covered at this meeting matched Part One of the book. Microsoft has kindly given us 6 copies of *ActiveX Controls Inside Out* by Adam Denning to raffle off at the meeting.

Remember to get the latest news on the Visual C++.MFC, check out the Artistry web site at http://www.artistry.com/windev/sigs/vcpp/. If you have questions about the Visual C++/MFC SIG or just need Visual C++/MFC technical help you can reach me at art@artistry.com or call (972) 567-2253.

Arthur English

Paradox SIG

Well, last month I did the, "Introduction to Relational Database Design" for the Delphi and Access SIG meetings. I hope the turnout for both hours was reasonable. And most importantly, I hope some in the audience gained from it. Relational database design relates very much to Paradox, as Paradox is one of the better PC-based desktop relational database products.

Anyway with a little luck, we should have our SIG presentation resources back on the newest SIG computer, as I have put in for a time slot on the new machine. If this is, so this could potentially cause a

shift in meeting time and/or room assignment. Please check the overhead projectors at the front "West End" of the vendor area on the first floor for the latest in time and room assignment. I am fairly certain the time will not be any earlier, but may be later. I will also do an install of Paradox 7.0 on the new computer, as it is becoming high time to move on from Paradox 5.0. I am actually doing a small Paradox/Win contract right now. First Pdox/Win I've done since my Sears Roebuck Paradox Runtime debacle a couple of years ago.

One thing about 7.0 is it has a greater number of "experts" and therefore makes life for the interactive user just a little simpler. The new experts also allow more useful things to be done without resorting to complicated form and report design, and with no ObjectPAL coding.

Tom will most likely have yet another presentation on some useful feature of Paradox so come on by and check out the "new and improved" Paradox SIG!

Fred Williams

Pro SIG

The June meeting will feature the original Pro SIG leader, **Dr. Neil Bennett**, who lead the group in an analysis of the binary logic of a light switch. Join us next month when we will discuss the possibilities of the tertiary logic of the common traffic light.

Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - Beginning

Visual Basic 5.0 is here and the meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 1997 will feature a presentation on the new Integrated Development Environment (IDE) in Visual Basic 5.0. The IDE is the major interface for Visual Basic programmers and Microsoft has made some significant changes/improvements in this latest generation of Visual Basic.

Visual Basic 5.0 has a Learning Edition which includes a multimedia CD-ROM title from Microsoft Press called *Learn Visual Basic Now*. I will give a brief rundown on this item at this month's meeting and will describe it in detail at the August "For Beginners Only" meeting.

It appears Microsoft has really done something for the many beginners wanting to get started in Visual Basic. The Learning Edition sells for under $100 and registered users of the Standard Edition of Visual Basic 3.0 or Visual Basic 4.0 are eligible for a $50 rebate. You have to send in your receipt for purchasing the Learning Edition of Visual Basic 5.0 and the title page of your old programming guide.

Check the box before you buy to be sure the rebate applies.

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, June 14, 1997. Check the screens in the Vendor Area for the correct room assignment.

Jim Carter

WordPerfect / Windows SIG

We took a vote at the last meeting and decided that we need to learn more about Hypertext. I want to assure you that there will not be any hyperactive words, jumping all over the screen . . . well, sort of.

Hypertext is very helpful in creating an electronic company handbook. Rather than the expense of having several copies made, create an electronic hand-

A QUICK NOTE FROM THE PC NEWS PUBLISHER
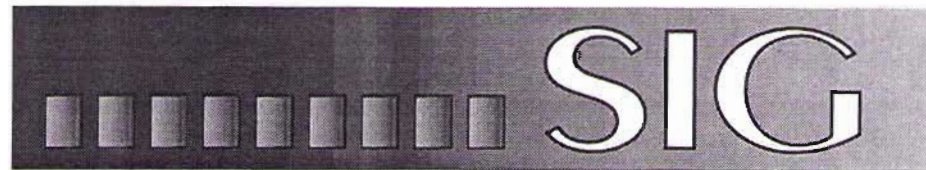
The PC News is now accepting SIG Notes across the Internet! Address is:

reagana@swbell.net

Send your SIG Notes as attachments to your E-mail message and please heed the following concerning word processing formats and Long File Names.

You've got a stable installation of *Windows 95* or *NT 4.0* and the absolute latest version of your favorite, super, 32-bit word processor? Everything works well together and you're basking in the warm glow?

That's great!

But... Please, please, please don't submit your SIG notes or articles with Long File Names (LFN's), or in the latest version of your word processor if the vendor changed file formats. The *PC News* layout and formatting is still being done via *Ventura Publisher 4.2*

which definitely won't deal with LFN's and most of the latest word processor versions. That's especially true for *Microsoft Office 97* which was Microsoft's latest file-format switch in the *Word* series.

Do we enjoy being archaic? No.

We haven't upgraded to *Ventura 7* — yet — and the 5.0 version was so unstable and buggy that I reinstalled 4.2 after a number of unpleasant surprises. I still rely on an "old" DOS-based file manager, *Norton Commander*, which also doesn't handle LFN's gracefully. When I convert fully to 32-bit applications and utility software, the story may be different, but for the present, stick to the "antique" DOS 8.3 file naming convention and word processor versions *Word 7* (Office 95 version) can convert to *Word for Windows 2.0* format.

Of course, ASCII is always welcome.

Reagan Andrews

SIG ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
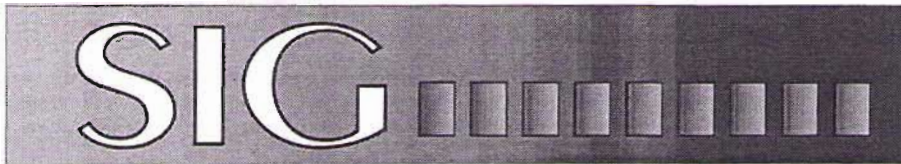
book which is available for anyone any-time to see + just mark it *Read Only.* If you have changes to the handbook, make the changes only once without all of the reprint expense!

Hypertext is also used in creating Web pages, however, we are not going to get into that this month.

Look forward to that in July when we will show you how to make Web Pages in WordPerfect 7. Nevertheless, this month we will create a hypertext links using words and symbols, to get us around a handbook.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Tip of the Month

Have you installed the 7_PATCH1.EXE on your machine and now your WordPerfect 7 doesn't work?

You get an error stating "WPWIN7 Cause an IPF in Module Gi70.dll@014f" and "Cannot Load Language Resource DLL?"

What has happened is that this patch is for versions of WordPerfect7 that are 7.0.2 only. What you need to do is copy from your original WordPerfect 7 CD these files (which are found in the directories shown) to your hard drive in the same place:

That is, copy
  Wpwin7.exe and *wpwp7us.dll* from the

Dallas Corel SIG Members contributing their creative efforts to the May Member Showcase are shown in this photograh by Jim Siegel:

In the front row, from left to right are Maren Rlise and Marsha Drebelbis.

In the second row, from left to rightt are Richard Blair, Rose Ann Ellison, Rob Alschbach and Jay Bartlett.

---

original WordPerfect 7disk to the /Corel/office7/wpwin/system folder

and

copy *Shwin70.dll* from the original disk to the /Corel/office7/shared/pfit7 folder on your drive

Dallas Corel Member Showcase

Our annual Member Showcase brought delightful surprises again this year. SIG members were invited to share samples of work created with Corel products. **Jay Bartlett** brought up *Web Graphics Suite* on the SIG computer and opened the new and updated Web page he and **Rose Ann Ellison** created for the Dallas Corel SIG. **Pam Lugo** used special effects on printed business cards and letterhead, created with *DRAW* and *PHOTO PAINT.* **Richard Blair** creates colorful cards and photos of airplanes which are output to his desktop printer. **Rob Alschbach** uses *DRAW* to create artful designs which are output to high-end laser etchers.

Then reboot!

You should now be able to get back into the program! If not and you are still having problems, on the Web at *http://www.corel.com/products/wordperfect/cwp7/support.htm*, you can search for your problem there. Good Luck!

Cindy Adams

Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

Marsha Drebelbis brought trial exhibits and photographic works that she had output on her company's large format Encad printer. How fascinating to see and hear about how others gain productivity and have fun doing it. Thanks to all for sharing valuable tips and techniques!

## Fred Struggles, But Windows NT Wins — Demo Fools Us All

I have managed to get NT Service Pack Two installed. I have about decided the joke about Bill Gates dying and choosing Hell based on the demo may, just in fact, prove to be true. So far I have not been able to find all of the pieces I need to make our Intranet work like the demo I recently attended. Naturally I was told at the demo, everything I needed was on Service Pack Two.

I've once again over committed my time. This article was going to be skipped all together, but the newsletter staff requested I do it. In this day and age of "point and click" and "drag and drop" demos, I find it still takes just about the same, or in most cases, much more time to do anything really useful with a computer. One must be doubly on guard against the demo hype when agreeing to do some simple-appearing task.

I picked up my first Paradox for Windows project in over a year now. I was handed one page of dBASE III code I was to convert to Paradox Windows at the initial project meeting. Two days later I received, via e-mail, a "replacement" for the dBASE III code that was three pages long. So there went the initial time estimate. I hope that one is gone by the coming weekend.

I've been deeply involved in some real world Windows NT network configuration using multiple NT Domains containing multiple servers. Actually more deeply involved than I ever wanted to be. I am learning NT networking is also not as easy as the demos, surprise, surprise. I am also hearing rumors there is an "early release" of Windows NT 5.0 Microsoft is referring to as the "Enterprise Edition" which will allow a company to dump the NT Domain mess altogether. Amen brother!

So, should I ever overcome all the demos I'm seeing, and actually get all of this Intranet stuff to work, take whatever demo I do to show off the "new"

NTPCUG On-Line
by Fred Williams
SYSOP, NTPCUG BBS
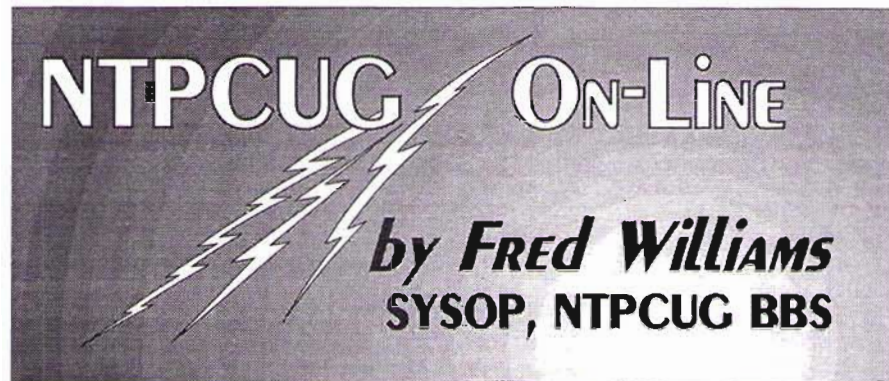
NTPCUG BBS with a grain of salt. I'm kind of a slow learner, but I'm finally figuring out how the "big boys" do this computer sales thing! In some parts of our economy I've heard similar tactics referred to as "bait and switch".

I also had my first non-demo experience with Windows 95 release "B". That is the OEM release which provides thirty-two bit FAT tables on these nickel ninety eight, gigantic disk drives Sam's Wholesale club has been selling. 32 bit FAT gives you 4K allocation "clusters" versus the 32K clusters 16 bit FAT provides. So, 32 bit FAT is good, and all these years I've been told more FAT is bad. Go figure.

Anyhow, in the fine print there is the warning release "B" may not be compatible with everything. Seems the Olicom 10/100 Mbit Ethernet network interface cards fall into that incompatible bucket. Who would have ever thought a network card would choke on a file system. I guess it could have been some

other submerged "enhancement" buried deep within release "B", but who knows. Anyway the client was immediately underwhelmed with release "B".

I've been running release "B" on this office system for a couple of months now with no problems, but I bought those el cheapo network cards my favorite computer store sells, not some of those high dollar "enterprise" quality NIC's. This open architecture, upon which the PC industry is based, is truly a double-edged sword.

When a bunch of "professionals" get together and do a simple software upgrade or chose to add a small bit of additional hardware to a system and have the wheels blindly come off, what chance does the "average" PC owner have? I am becoming a big believer that even the professionals should consider paying the additional cost of having the supplier do the installation of anything new. Let them eat all that real time it takes to do that "plug and play" installation.

Wow! I really went off on a tangent this time! I guess all the frustration just builds up to a point it finally shows through. I think it only goes to show, even in this day and age of "point and click" and "plug and play," any computer user still needs a group of peers to come together and help resolve those issues which everyday ownership of a personal computer or computers tend to produce. The damn things just don't ever seem to work like the demo!

Fred Williams

DOM Disks Released In May

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

Disk 1093. Dynamic Gin for Windows, (3/97) - Interactive Gin Rummy for Windows

Disk 1094. Dynamic Gin for Win95, (3/97) - Interactive Gin Rummy for Win95

Disk 1095. Hey Macaroni! (9/96) ~ Macarena Screen Saver

Disk 1096AB. SimStat for Windows 1.13, (5/97) - Statistics Program for Windows

Disk 1097. SyTools16 Version 1.8, (2/97) - Flowcharting Program for Windows

Disk 1098. SyTools32 Version 2.31, (4/97) - Flowcharting Program for Win95

Disk 1093. *Dynamic Gin for Windows*, (3/97) - Interactive Gin Rummy for Windows Dynamic Gin 16-bit Version 1.17, CyberSym Technologies, P.O. Box 127, Providence, UT 84332, www.cybersym.com, Registration Fee: $12.00

You want to play cards? Really play cards? Dynamic Gin is the most realistic card game around--there is no double-clicking, no cheats, and you can place your cards anywhere you want within your hand by simply dragging them around. You can select from three different variations of Gin Rummy: Simple Gin, Standard Gin, and Oklahoma Gin. You can also select the number of points to play to in a game. Dynamic Gin adapts and improves as it plays against a human opponent. There are eight cardbacks and two background images for game variety. You can resume an unfinished game from the previous session, and you can also set up separate game configura-

tions for different people. This update increases the competitiveness of the expert difficulty level and fixes some minor bugs.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows 3.11

This software was downloaded from the ZD-Net Internet site by Mark Gruner.
This README prepared by ZD-Net & Mark Gruner, *edited* by Gene Carleton.
                                    9705

Disk 1094. *Dynamic Gin for Win95*, (3/97) - Interactive Gin Rummy for Win95 Dynamic Gin 32-bit Version 1.17, CyberSym Technologies, P.O. Box 127, Providence, UT 84332, www.cybersym.com, Registration Fee: $12.00

You want to play cards? Really play cards? Dynamic Gin is the most realistic card

game around--there is no double-clicking, no cheats, and you can place your cards anywhere you want within your hand by simply dragging them around. You can select from three different variations of Gin Rummy: Simple Gin, Standard Gin, and Oklahoma Gin. You can also select the number of points to play to in a game. Dynamic Gin adapts and improves as it plays against a human opponent. There are eight cardbacks and two background images for game variety. You can resume an unfinished game from the previous session, and you can also set up separate game configurations for different people. This update increases the competitiveness of the expert difficulty level and fixes some minor bugs.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows 95

This software was downloaded from the ZD-Net Internet site by Mark Gruner.
This README prepared by ZD-Net & Mark Gruner, *edited by* Gene Carleton.
                                    9705

Disk 1095. *Hey Macaroni!* (9/96) -- Macarena Screen Saver Hey Macaroni!, Rhode Island Soft Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 748, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0784, (401) 767-3106, www.risoftsystems.com

This is a hilarious screen saver including sound and music track spoofing the popular Macarena song and associated dance. Watch elbow macaroni dance and sing! It is ready to run on the disk. Just run the SETUP.EXE file from either Windows or Win95. You can adjust your settings for small to large groups of elbow macaroni, set the music to play continuously, just when it first comes on screen, or completely off.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows 3.1 or later and sound card, and uses approximately 1.25 MB of hard disk space.

This software was downloaded from the company's Internet site by Lois Beverly.
This README prepared by Lois Beverly, *edited by* Gene Carleton.   9705

Disk 1096A. *SimStat for Windows 1.13*, (5/97) - Statistics Program for Windows SimStat for Windows 1.13, Provalis Research, 5000 Adam Street, Montreal QC, Canada H1V 1W5, Registration Fee: $129.00

SimStat for Windows is targeted for an audience with

New Disks
...from the DOM Squad
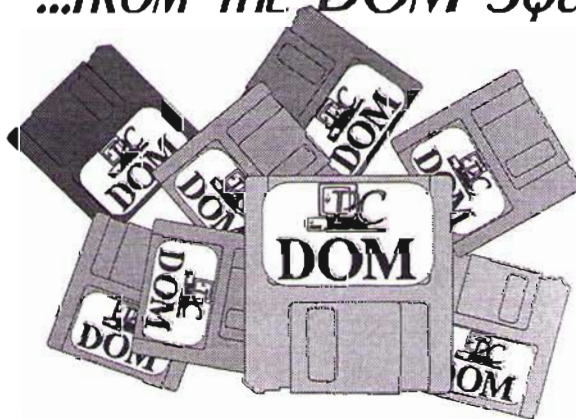
by Mark Gruner

some knowledge of statistical theory and topics such as regression analysis, T-tests and data correlation. SimStat simplifies data manipulation, comparison, and display. The program has an easy-to-use interface, a thorough demo, and good on-line help that will you ease through analyzing data in an hour, making SimStat ideal for occasional use. SimStat features a notebook metaphor that simplifies record keeping, and built-in macro and recording functions can help you automate and trace calculations. You can import data in many database and spreadsheet formats and produce publishable-quality charts, graphs, and tables.

SYSTEMS REQUIRE-
MENTS: Windows 3.1 or better

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

Gruner.
This README prepared by ZD-Net & Mark Gruner, *edited* by Gene Carleton. 9705

Disk 1097. *SyTools16 Version 1.8,* (2/97) - Flowcharting Program for Windows SyTools16 Version 1.8, By AnvorySoft, 3632 Ruther Place Way, San Jose, CA 95121, www.one-o.com/~avrsoft, Registration Fee: $19.00

SyTools16 makes professional-looking flowcharts,

maps, and diagrams with an easy-to-use WYSIWYG interface. A floating toolbar offers four faces with a broad selection of tools to add shapes, special effects text, connectors, and images. SyTools16 has a wide variety of features for working with and enhancing your work, including rotation, alignment, flipping, 3D effects, and the ability to add bitmaps and color. It is intuitive in use, well documented, has a great deal of flexibility and depth, and can produce impressive results.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 3.1

This software was downloaded from the company's Internet site by Mark Gruner.
This README prepared by ZD-Net & Mark Gruner, *edited* by Gene Carleton. 9705

Disk 1098. *SyTools32 Version 2.31,* (4/97) - Flowcharting Program for Win95 Sy-Tools32 Version 2.31, By AnvorySoft, 3632 Ruther Place Way, San Jose, CA 95121, www.one-o.com/~avrsoft, Registration Fee: $19.00

SyTools32 makes professional-looking flowcharts, maps, and diagrams with an easy-to-use WYSIWYG interface. A floating toolbar offers four faces with a broad selection of tools to add shapes, special effects text, connectors, and images. SyTools32 has a wide variety of features for working with and enhancing your work, including rotation, alignment, flipping, 3D effects, and the ability to add bitmaps and color. It is intuitive in use, well documented, has a great deal of flexibility and depth, and

can produce impressive results.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95

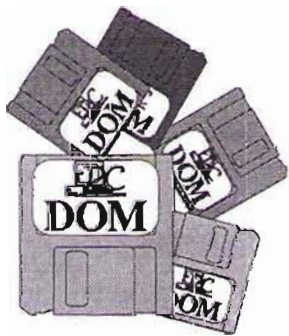To install the program, place this disk in Drive A:, and run A:SETUP.EXE from Windows 95.

This software was downloaded from the company's Internet site by Mark Gruner.
This README prepared by ZD-Net & Mark Gruner, *edited* by Gene Carleton. 9705

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)

Inside The North Texas PC Users Group Community
Volunteers in Action
by Claude McClure

I Want the Accounting Software the Software Experts Use

The sun rises in East Texas over what may be a traffic jam on the Information Highway as **Raymond Reyes** cranks up his modem and checks all of his E-mail addresses. Raymond has lowered his green plastic visor and rolled his sleeves down after the final stubborn ink has dried on the last NTPCUG Treasurer's report. He has kept the books for the club since the days it could fit on a PC Jr..

Thank you Raymond, for the many hours spent, checks written and forms filed. He now has time to catch up on his correspondence, investing and volunteer activities. You can contact him on a slow traffic day on one of his addresses. You might see him at the Information Booth or the DOM, but beware, he might ask you to volunteer to help the club, or tell you about living in a prettier part of the world in East Texas.

We also want to remember our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter staff writers, newsletter exchange, bulletin board SysOp and technical staff, who are all volunteers; their names are mentioned in other sections of this newsletter. This group of volunteers has made a lot of phone calls and attended several staff meetings since our last monthly Saturday at the Infomart. They did this to guarantee the best possible program for the rest of us.

A special **thank you** to other volunteers who served in the specific areas mentioned on this page.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Neal Van Pelt
Crew:
Bernard Hale
Larry Johnson
Larry Matzek
Tony Pham

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
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)
Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors:
Ralph Beaver
Deborah Bean (Double)
Eteta Eta
John Ivers
Cinda Lovil

David Martin
Bob McNeil (Double)
Foy J. Mills
Carl Oehmann
Raymond Reyes
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams
Booth Crew:
Jim Boyce
Carol Brooks
Glynn Brooks
Randy Durham
James Gorak
Ken Sauter

Disk of the Month (DOM)
DOM Shift Supervisors:
Joe Allen
Roy Bales
Don Chick
James Donlon
M. Pat Henley
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Crew:
Richard Abreu
Michael Ashley
Douglas Athas
Bernie Baars
Richard Blair
Jim Boyce
Philip Bridge
Linda Campbell
Gene Carleton
Norm Dang
William Farris
Brad Ficke
Martin R. Gluck

Edwin Griffin
Jimmy Hurst
Tom Jackson
Tom Jones
Mac McKeethen
Mark Miller
Nancy Ogden
John Primm
George Read
Jim Russell-Redman
Oscar Tyler
Lee Williams

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

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

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (972)387-2751, (972)387-2752 or (972)263-9036 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

2. Meeting day: Sign up at the Information Booth or DOM Booth to work those areas in a coming month.

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael .... (972) 681-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler
Phil Bridge .... (972) 422-5400

DOM Software Review
Mark Gruner .... (972) 984-8147 (h)

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

NTPCUG User – To – User Program

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

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

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

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access		
Ram Bhandari .... (972)243-4056 h	M-F	1300-1700
Assembly Language		
Frank Cavallilo .... (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
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 .... (972)831-8055	M-F	0800-1700
.... (972)496-3894	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	
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)495-8067	7	1700-2130	
Gene Hamelman	(972)495-6342	7	1700-2130	
Windows for Workgroups				
Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7	0800-2400	
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200	
Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7	1900-2200	

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS		
Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51				
Richard Miles	(972)296-5356	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.

Areas Needing Helpers:

Borland Turbo C
CAD
Delphi
Fox Pro
Harvard Graphics
LapLink
Microsoft C
Microsoft C++
Microsoft Visual C++
Microsoft Word
Pagemaker
Roots
Sound Blaster
TurboTax
Corel Ventura
WordPerfect/ Windows
XTREE

LEGEND:

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

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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
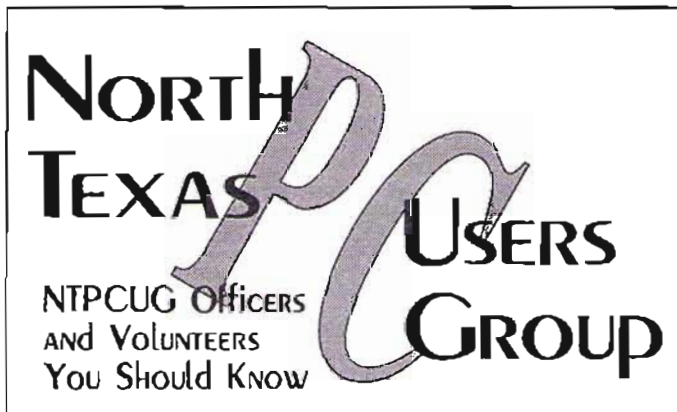
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Officers

Position	Name	Phone
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	Eb Foerster	(214) 357-7602 h
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	Mark Gruner	(972) 964-8147 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
(<u>N</u>o parity, <u>8</u> data bits, <u>1</u> 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

16.6

North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:

14 June 1997

Dallas North
Tollway

Stemmons Freeway

INFOMART

Oak Lawn Ave.

To Downtown
Dallas