

North Texas



PC NEWS

BEGINNER'S



Guide

SEE
PAGES
3 - 9

July, 1997

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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.

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North Texas PC NEWS:
Thursday, July 10th

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July 12, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
August 9, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
September 20, 1997 – 3rd Saturday



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

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

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

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

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

Policies & Mechanicals:

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

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

11:00 AM

NTPCUG

July

BUSINESS

MEETING

IN ROOM

1061

July 12, 1997

Why NOT
TRY ONE of
NTPCUG's
50+ SIGs
THIS MONTH
FOR A CHANGE
of MEETING
PACE?



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/ Operating Systems
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/a.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.

We've Moved — Without Moving!

We haven't left Infomart, but we've changed our PO Box address. Our new address is:

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
POB 703449
Dallas, TX 75370-3449

The Post Office had limited access to our post office box. I could only get to it during business hours and from 8:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday. That made it difficult for me to pick up the mail. The box was seven miles from my house.

I have 24 hour access to the new box and it is two miles from home.

SIG Leader Appreciation Dinner

Twice a year, the officers and the Board of Directors have dinner with the people who lead our Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The latest one was in May and we had one of the largest turnouts so far.

The dinner lets the Board and the SIG leaders exchange ideas. As usual, we got lots of good input from this dinner.

We appreciate the time that the SIG leaders volunteer to run their groups. This is our way of thanking



them. And a special thanks goes to Alex Lilley, SIG Leader Coordinator, for arranging the dinner. BTW Alex, how come I got stuck with the check?

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Microsoft will be presenting at our September meeting as a part of their Visual Tools Tour. I've been working with Meg McCorrie of Microsoft making sure that everything will be in order. What is really nice is that we've been doing it via the Internet E-Mail feed to our Bulletin Board System.

I know Fred Williams thinks that the BBS software is old and should be replaced, but it has really been useful this last month. Thanks, Fred.

A Word of WARNING

At work I'm running MS-DOS on drive C: and Window NT Workstation 4.0 on drive D:. The D: drive has the FAT 16 file system, just like the C: drive. I was doing my bimonthly DEFRAG of the C: drive using the MS-DOS 6.22 DEFRAG program when it occurred to me that I should also DEFRAG the D: drive. So I did.

Much to my surprise, when I returned to NT, it came up but most of the programs were missing from the START menu. I just couldn't believe it was the DEFRAG program. After all, both drives were FAT 16.

So, I reformatted drive D:, reinstalled a minimal NT Workstation, and booted it up just to make sure it was working. Then I ran DEFRAG again on drive D:. Just as before, NT was trashed out when I started it up.

Caveat Dictus!

Jim...

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED for a new NTPCUG Member Multimedia Rental LIBRARY

*Soon NTPCUG will offer
(as a member benefit) access to training
videotapes, audiotapes and CD's*

**Bring your talents to a worthwhile
project now in planning stage**

The Library Committee needs
Librarians, Database gurus, Bar code smarts,
More committee members,
Your donations of training videos and CD's

Contact us NOW!
Maren Riise (817) 858-3583 metro or e-mail: mriise@flash.net

BEGINNERS Guide TO THE INTERNET, 2ND Edition

Erik Leaseburg

Email Address: erikleas@ix.netcom.com

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

The problem is that the Internet seems so big and vague that most do not even know where to begin or what questions to ask. If this describes your predicament then read on. In this article the following questions will be raised and their answers given: What is the Internet? What equipment do I need? How do I connect to the Internet? How much will it cost me? What can I do on the Internet? What do all these strange-sounding Internet terms mean (web, email, etc.)? Where can I go to learn more about the Internet? These questions are the most common ones asked by beginning Internet users. By seeing these questions and their answers, this article hopes to bring a few outcasts into the Internet community.

WHAT IS THE INTERNET?

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

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

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



WHAT EQUIPMENT Do I Need?

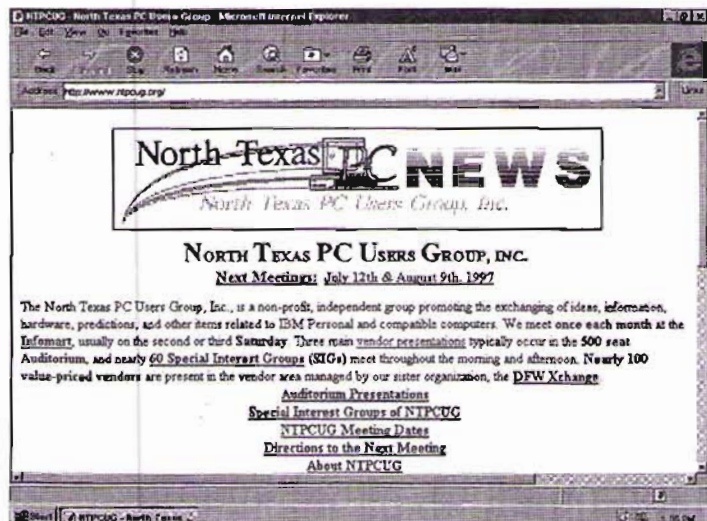
Since the Internet is just a big, complex computer network, you will need a properly equipped computer to use the Internet. The following list gives the typical minimum requirements and optional hardware your PC should be equipped with before you venture out onto

the Information Superhighway.

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

Minimum Requirements

- 486 PC Compatible
- MS Windows 3.1, 95, or NT





- 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 4MB of RAM (8MB or more preferred)
- 14400 Baud Modem (28800 or higher preferred)
- Standard Analog Phone Line
- 10MB of Free Hard Drive Space

Optional Hardware

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

How Do I Connect To The Internet?

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

Installation of software on your computer is the next step to connecting to the Internet. When people wish to speak to each other, they have to agree on a common language. Remember that since the

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

So, who do you have your computer call to connect to the Internet? That would be your friendly neighborhood ISP. An Internet Service Provider is a company which sells you a connection to the Internet. ISPs own their own computers which are connected to the Internet 24 hours a day. ISPs pay big fees so that they can connect to the Internet. These big fees are paid to commercial companies

like Sprint who own a portion of the Internet. ISPs then spread that cost over all their customers, people like you, who dial into their computers to connect to the Internet. In summary, the process of connecting to the Internet involves you having your computer make a local call to your ISP's computer, which in turn connects through a part owner to the Internet.


Once you have the hardware and software installed properly on your computer, you are ready to begin making your connection. First, you have your modem dial the local phone number of the ISP. The phone is answered by a bank of modems connected to the ISP's computer. After the com-

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puters determine that they can talk to one another using a common protocol, you are prompted on the computer screen to enter your personalized name and password. This is done to identify to the ISP's computer which of their customers is wanting to connect to the Internet. Once you enter this information correctly, you officially become a computer on the Internet.


How Much Will It Cost Me?

The price of connecting to the Internet is made up of several costs. First, you must have a computer. Second, you may have to augment your system with the appropriate equipment required for logging on: a modem, sufficient RAM, etc. The third is a fee charged by the ISP for Internet access. If you already own or have access to a computer, a decent 28800 baud modem costs \$100 - \$200. Note, the higher the baud rate of the modem, the faster your computer can receive and send information over the Internet. Faster is always better unless the cost of the modem is prohibitively high. Most ISPs support modem speeds up to 33600 baud. Check with your ISP first before buying the latest, greatest, and fastest modem to make sure



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they can support the higher speeds on their end. Otherwise, you are stuck driving a really fast car in a school zone.

WHAT FEES ARE INVOLVED?

The fee for connection to the Internet is typically a setup fee plus a monthly or yearly fee charged by your ISP. The setup fee is a one-time cost the ISP charges for signing you up and sending you the software needed to connect to their services. This fee is usually \$15 - \$30. Most ISPs have several connection plans from which to choose, but they typically fall into two main categories: hourly access and unlimited access. Hourly connection plans charge you a given rate for each hour you are connected to the Internet. Unlimited connection plans charge you a fixed fee per month or year no matter how much time you spend on the Internet. Typical price figures for the hourly plans are \$10 per month for the first 5 hours, and then \$3 per hour after that. The unlimited plans average \$20 per month. Many unlimited plans will let you pay for a year of access in advance at a reduced rate of around \$120 (a deal at \$10 per month).

Finding ISPs in My Area

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

ONRAMP
TECHNOLOGIES

Voted **"BEST REGIONAL ISP"**
by *SmartMoney* Magazine (May 1997)

BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY
Lan ISDN, Point-to-Point T1, Fractional T3

WEB SITE HOSTING & MANAGEMENT
Virtual Domain, Server Collocation

CONSULTING
Firewall Security, Network Design

DIALUP ACCESS
28.8K - 56K analog, 64K-128K ISDN

www.onramp.net, info@onramp.net
1-888-2-ONRAMP

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are already connected. They can tell you how satisfied they are with their service.

How do I know which ISPs are the best? Here are some points to keep in mind when making your choice. ISP access is divided into two groups, local and national. A local ISP generally serves a small region, usually within a single area code.

Whereas, a national ISP provides access in areas all over the United States. Local ISPs are typically cheaper, but if you travel often and want to connect to the Internet while you are on the road, you should definitely go with a National ISP with local numbers in the cities you frequent. National ISPs are further divided into two basic groups: the Big Four online services (America Online, CompuServe, Microsoft Network, and Prodigy) and everyone else (ITR, Netcom, Pipeline, etc.). Along with providing Internet access, the Big Four offer their own content, including chat rooms; news updates; searchable references (travel guides, cookbooks, and encyclopedias); special interest groups; and online shopping—all accessible from an easy-to-use interface. Recently, other big national ISPs such as Netcom and PSINet Pipeline USA have begun to look like online services by adding original content and slick interfaces, but they lack the breadth and depth of the Big Four's offerings.

CHEAPEST ISP NOT ALWAYS BEST

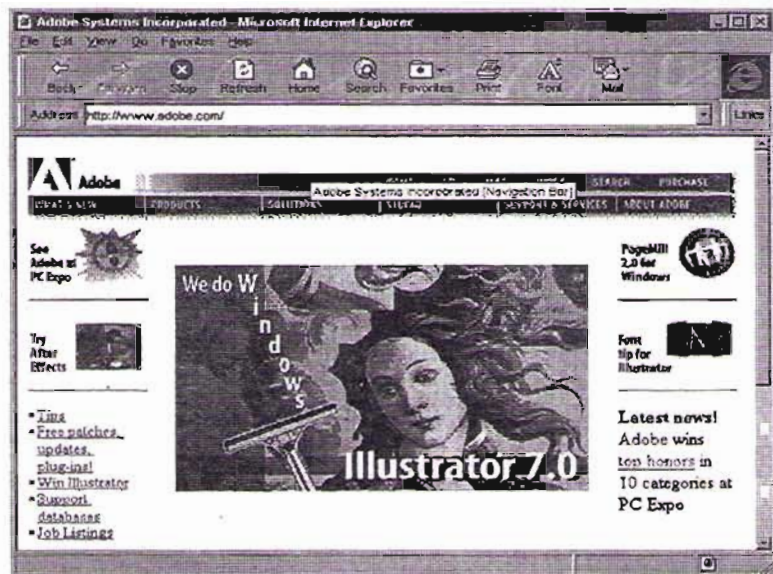
Choosing the cheapest ISP is not always the best move. Because they are inexpensive, there may be too much demand for the company to handle, making it difficult for you to dial into their computer during peak hours (evenings). With any provider 24 hour customer support is a plus, especially if they provide a toll-free support line. Before signing up with a specific ISP have the salesperson give you their local access phone numbers (the numbers your com-

puter uses to hook up), and their customer support phone number (the number you use to speak to a human being). Try dialing both these numbers during peak evening hours and see if you get busy signals or have to wait a long time to talk to someone.

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

WHAT SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED?

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



vided by your ISP and should not incur any extra cost.

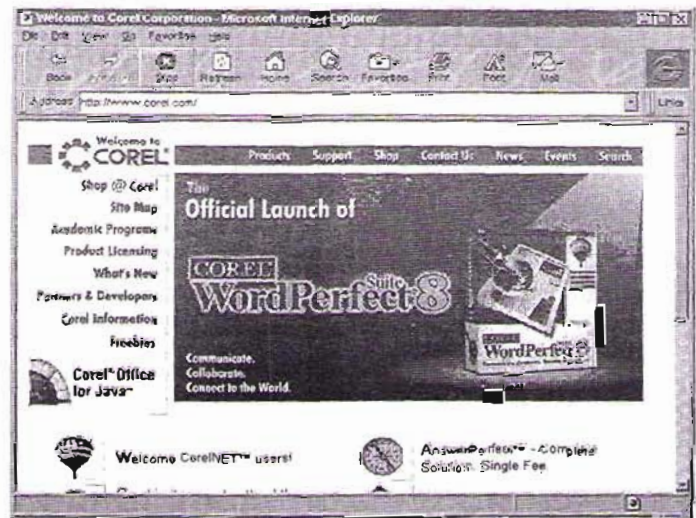
WHAT CAN I DO ON THE INTERNET?

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

One of the reasons for the explosion in Internet popularity is the addition of the World Wide Web (WWW or Web). Quite a bit of confusion exists over the distinction between the Internet and the World Wide Web. Originally, there were many different smaller information sites on the Internet that each required a different way to access and download their information. The World Wide Web came along to make access to these sites more centralized. If you can envision the Internet as a large library full of card files, microfiche, magazines, books, and audio-visual resources, and the World Wide Web as a device to view all these resources from one place, you have an idea of how the Web functions within the Internet. The advent of the Web has made the Internet much more accessible to the average home computer user.

Web Browser Most Powerful

A web browser is the most powerful and versatile Internet software program a surfer of the Net can own. The web browser, which runs on your PC, makes finding and viewing information on the Internet an easy point-and-click task. The two most popular web browsers used today are Netscape's Navigator and Microsoft's Internet Explorer. The Web utilizes the HTTP - HyperText Transfer Protocol to send multimedia documents (containing text, pictures, sounds, and hypertext links) from remote Internet computers to your PC. Hypertext



refers to a system of linked information that works similarly to the underlined areas in a Windows help files. Just as the underlined, colored text in a help file jumps you to another help screen with related information, a Web hypertext link jumps you to another multimedia Web document somewhere else on the Internet. Like tangents of a spider web these hypertext links effortlessly connect you to related pieces of information found on the Internet.

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

If you like reading newsgroups covering topics of interest, you will love the variety provided by Internet Usenet Newsgroups. Usenet is the Internet's worldwide bulletin board system, consist-

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ing of over 5,000 topical discussion groups, called newsgroups. Nearly every topic you can think of is covered by one or more newsgroups. The program which runs on your PC allowing you to view these newsgroups is called a newsreader. Again, newer web browsers include an integrated newsreader, although several popular newsreaders exist which are not part of a web browser.

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

There are some final steps you must take after using FTP to download files (programs, text, graphics, movies, sounds, and games) so that you can use them. Because a modem connection to the Internet is relatively slow (e.g., a 1MB sized file takes approximately 12 minutes to transfer using a 14440 baud modem), most files are compressed. The concept of compressed files is similar to evaporated milk or orange juice concentrate, all the essential elements are still there, but its volume is smaller. This saves storage space at the Internet source and decreases the time necessary to download the file to your PC. There are several common compression programs on the Internet, but the main one used is PKZip. You may be wondering what your downloaded item will look like compressed. You will use a program on your PC to decompress the data before you try to use it. Such a program will be included with the software package from your ISP.

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

you should be equally concerned for your computer.

Now that the downloaded file is decompressed and free of any viruses, your PC must run software that knows the format of the file and knows how to display or play its contents. Viewer applications are software that you run on your PC to display images, play sounds, or run movies you downloaded. On the other hand, setup programs that come with the downloaded file are used for installing and running games and programs. The difference is that a viewer is used to read passive documents and pictures, while a setup program is used to install and run active games and programs.

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WHERE CAN I GO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTERNET?

The world of the Internet is the newest and probably most dynamic area in the computer world. Some books and software utilities written only a year ago are already out of date. Publishers and software firms are rushing to

keep up with the tremendous growth of the Internet. Most good Internet books are into their 2nd and 3rd editions, and program versions are changing almost monthly. Always buy the latest version of any book or software package.

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

Beginning Internet Books

- ❖ *The Internet for Busy People*, \$22.95 by Christian Crumlish, Osborne/McGraw Hill 1996
- ❖ *The Internet for Dummies 3rd Ed.*, \$19.99 by John Levine, Baroudi, and Young, IDG Books 1996

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

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

Beginning Internet Magazines

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

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

Beginning Internet Class Locations

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

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

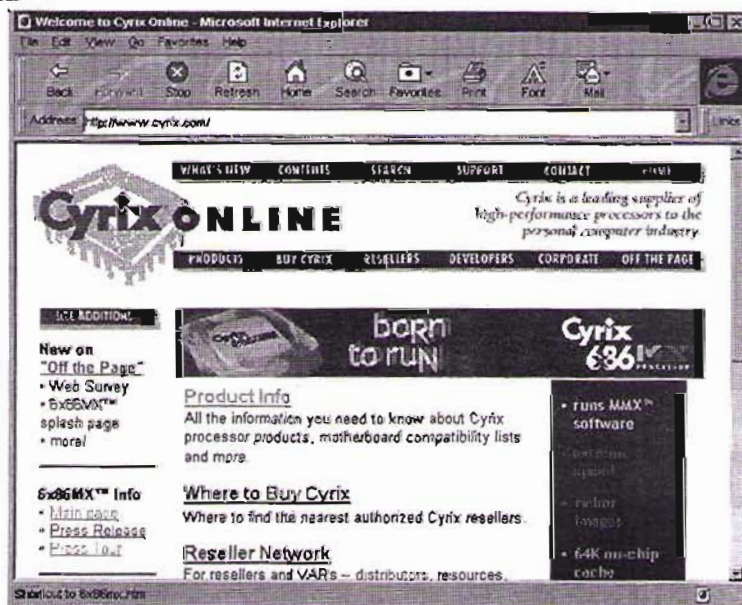
Beginning Internet TV & Radio Shows

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

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

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

Erik Leaseburg



Which Windows 95 AM I RUNNING? MEMBER Tips FROM THE BBS

[The following was taken from the NTPCUG BBS Conference area and edited for this newsletter. Glynn Brooks, Assembler SIG Co-leader responded to a member's question concerning which version of *Windows 95* was installed on his PC.]

Which *Windows 95* version do I have, and how many versions of Win 95 are currently available?

It's easy to find out which version you have installed. If you have the August, 1995, *original* release, when you pop out to the DOS prompt and type the "ver /r" command, you should see

Windows 95. [Version 4.00.950]
Revision A

If you have the OSR2 version of Windows 95 (the OEM version supposedly available "only with a new PC") you should see:

Windows 95. [Version 4.00.1111]
Revision A

There are also two Microsoft upgrades to the original Windows 95 version.

Microsoft confused a lot of people (Fred included this time) because they are not called "Service Pack 1" and "Service Pack 2", the way Windows NT does it. They are called "Windows 95 Service Pack 1" and "Windows 95 Service Pack 1 Update".

W95SP1 is a 14-diskette set. W95SP1U is one diskette. Microsoft suggests the full W95SP1 for systems administrators, but isn't clear that individual users should just install the single disk W95SP1U or the entire set plus the single update disk.

You can download all files by going to the Microsoft Web site and then navigating to the Sup-



port area and then to the "Help Files, Service Packs and Other Files" area. If you plan to download the entire set of disks, Microsoft's FTP site will be somewhat faster using an FTP download utility.

Glynn Brooks

'MYSTERY CARDS' – BARGAINS IDENTIFIED ON THE WEB

There are lots of "bargains," video cards, NIC's, sound cards, modems, etc., to be found at the Infomart vendor area or at "First Saturday." Finding the right driver(s) for that "bargain" board you picked up at the sale can be a problem, especially if the maker of the board didn't put their name on the card.

Here is a solution to identification discovered by member James Bodard and posted on the BBS Conference area.

I had a bit of a brainstorm and wanted to share it with you.

Seeing how the only identifier on my video card was the FCC ID, I thought "well now why not put those tax dollars of mine to work!"

Sure enough there is a database on the Web by the FCC that lets you locate who received a particular ID and here it is: TADA!

<http://www.fcc.gov/fcc-bin/ead>

I used this to track my video card and sure enough it told me precisely who manufactured my card. This enabled me to get the correct driver for my "no-name" video card. TADA, again!

How's that for a brainstorm?

James Bodard

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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

In July, **Larry Linson** will deal with several subjects: he'll demonstrate and discuss the Access new Tab Control, then briefly review the chapter on ActiveX controls in Michael Groh's book, *Microsoft Access 97 Power Toolkit* from Ventana, while at the same time demonstrating several of the ActiveX controls that come as part of the Office 97 Developer Edition.

At our June meeting, **Larry Linson** reviewed and demonstrated the use of one of the custom controls from *TBASE for Windows*, an imaging software package produced by a local firm, Videotex Systems. Many thanks to Videotex for donating a copy of the product for a giveaway and to **Richard Tompkins**, developer and technical support specialist at Videotex, for attending our meeting to field questions and discuss the product in depth.

Thanks also to **Jack Atkinson** for opening the meeting, doing the introductions, and then taking over loading software and images while Larry began describing TBASE.

Microsoft Access, the database component of Microsoft Office, is undeniably the most widespread Windows desktop database. It consistently ranks at or near the top in comparative reviews of desktop databases, is easy for new users to learn, has good capability for power users to improve their databases, and is so full-featured that many of us work full-time using it to develop serious business applications, either stand-alone or as a client application for heavy-duty server databases.

The Microsoft Access SIG was formed in April 1993, on the promise that we were going to learn this new tool together. Many of our attendees have been "regulars" ever since, and, *oh, my*, have we ever learned a lot together in

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..

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
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ACT!

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- (972) 487-8499 w
- Deborah Bean..... (972) 475-7463 h
- (972) 475-3124 w

Access

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- Jack Atkinson..... (817) 481-6623 h
- Dianna DeCicco.. (972) 446-0639 h
- Tom Lukers..... (972) 423-4308 h

Alpha 4/5

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

ActiveX Developers

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

Assembly Language SIG

- Frank Cavallito (972) 423-9221 h
- Glynn Brooks (972) 578-8737 h
- (972) 716-3281 w

Business Applications/DAC

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

C++/Advanced

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

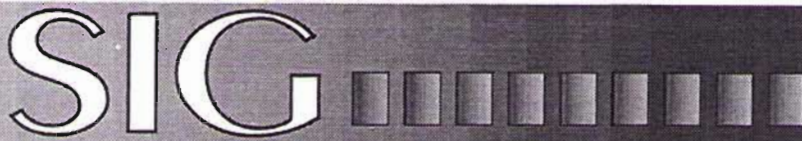
C++/Beginning

- Tom Cook (214) 341-1890 w

CAD

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

SIG



the last four years. One thing we've learned is that there's no end to learning about Microsoft Access – just when we think we have begun to get our arms around the current version, there's a new release, all full of new and exciting features.

We try, over time, to offer presentations and tutorials at every level, from introductory sessions for the new user, through power-user tricks with queries and macros, to developer tricks (though all users can benefit from many "advanced" topics just as much as developers). We're still learning together and invite everyone who has access to Access (pun intended, of course) to join us.

We're always on the lookout for guest speakers. Any Access-related subject is of interest, whether for beginners or more advanced users. Presentations can be tutorial on features of any version of Microsoft Access, books about Access, or other products that are Access-related or which can be used with Access. Let any of the SIG leaders know if you are willing to speak.

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. It's where we ask and answer questions, post sample code, and keep in touch between monthly meetings.

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

Larry Linson

ACTIVE X Application Developers (OLE and ODBC) SIG

Our topic for July is "Microsoft Office 97 as an Enterprise Client," a presentation by Scott Horn and Neil Charney, on videotape, originally satellite downlinked to the Microsoft Developer Days meeting earlier this year. Microsoft has

graciously provided the ActiveX Application Developers SIG this and other tapes from Developer Days. If you missed Developer Days or if you just need to refresh your memory on this subject, and think this might be useful, join us for the replay. Since we'll be meeting in the room with the special video equipment, rather than the one with our usual demo machine, be sure to check the schedule projected on the wall for our meeting room in July!

Thanks to Sergio Vallejo, Consulting Manager of GCC International, Inc., who demonstrated GENEXUS, a knowledge-based tool used in a Windows desktop environment to develop and test applications for a wide range of platforms including UNIX, mid-range, and mainframe clients.

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.

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Walter Johnston .. (972) 612-0604 h

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Bob Russell (972) 422-4269 h

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Microsoft Visual C++/MFC

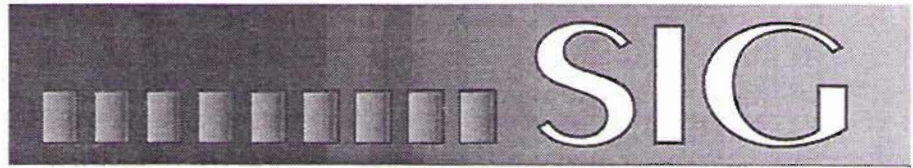
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MultiMedia

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Networking

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..... (972) 915-2158 w
Leroy Tennison
Francis Bright



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 features: 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 July, and keep on coming in the future. We'll do our best to make it interesting and productive for you.

Larry Linson

ASSEMBLER SIG

Our June meeting was a question and answer session. One of the more interesting questions was how to mix 16 and 32 bit code in a Win95/NT environment.

Our presentation in July will be a review by **Frank Cavallito** of the Sourcer Disassembler (v7.0) with the Windows pre-processor. This product does make the disassembly of Windows executables much easier than the method we outlined in March (which used DEBUG).

One of the topics to be looked at in the course of the review is how do existing programs handle the 16/32 bit melange. The Sourcer v7.0 version is somewhat different than the earlier version (v3.x) we looked at several years ago.

We hope to see you in July - as usual, suggestions for future presentations are always welcome.

Frank Cavallito

Dallas Corel SIG

July SIG Program will feature CorelDREAM 3-D

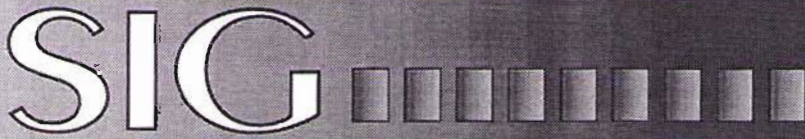
SIG member **Jim Suttles** will bring his experience with 3-D graphics and his new enthusiasm for DREAM 3-D to the July SIG meeting. He will introduce us to this module in the DRAW 7 package. With a video engineering background, Jim is a multimedia and graphics specialist for his company, Irving Custom Computer Configurations. He will demonstrate the easy and the powerful features in this fascinating world of 3-D. He can also compare DREAM 3-D with other 3-D software in the marketplace today. If this module looks strange to you, learn from Jim how to get control of it and enjoy using its features in your own work. Join us July 12. If you are a NTPCUG member, you may even win a door prize!

June Program in Review

June's meeting featured **Rick Altman's** *CorelDRAW Cool Tricks* training videotape. Many attendees took notes during the demonstration of and instruction on powerful features in version 5, 6, and 7. Always an entertaining presenter, Rick shared Time-saving Tips, Work with Nodes, Greyscale Lens, Shadows, Blends and Cubes. This session proved valuable to all DRAW users from novice to expert levels. Who doesn't want to gain access to the powerful features and conveniences this leading software offers?

Dallas Corel Website

SIG members **Rose Anne Ellison** and **Jay Bartlett** have updated and enhanced the Web page, using Corel Web.Graphics Suite. Check it out by going to www.ntpcug.org and then to Dallas Corel SIG.



Version Updates

Owners now can get the FREE update CD #1 for your CorelDRAW 7. Shipping is \$9.95. Call 1-800-772-6735.

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

Corel News Groups via the Internet

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

CorelNET (www.corelnet.com)

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

Upcoming CorelWORLD User Conferences are August 17-20: Toronto, ON and September 21-24: San Diego, CA. For more details, watch the following URL address in the coming weeks. <http://www.altman.com/world.htm>. Please send e-mail to: corelworld@altman.com or call toll-free 1-888-DRAW-NOW.

Marsha Drebelbis

Delphi SIG

Yet another month has flown by! Time certainly seems to be compressing between meetings lately. I seem to just

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Erin Welker.....(972) 462-6033

StreetSmart/e.Schwab

Jon Uyerlinda.....(972) 250-5274 w
Keith Powell.....(713) 960-0394 w

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.....(972) 234-6400
Doug Scott.....(817) 261-4653 hM
.....(817) 878-0367 wM

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Jim Carter.....(972) 235-5968 h
Jim Hart

Visual Basic

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

Windows - Applications

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

WordPerfect / DOS

Dawn Hopkins.....(972) 613-8815 h
.....(214) 343-6500 w

WordPerfect / Windows

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

finish one set of SIG notes in time to scratch my head about what to put in the next month's SIG notes.

So I'm scratching my head. Once again I have not had the time required to line up a formal presentation presenter. Guess we will have a question and answer session, unless someone either brings in something to show off, or begs to see some more chicken scale code.

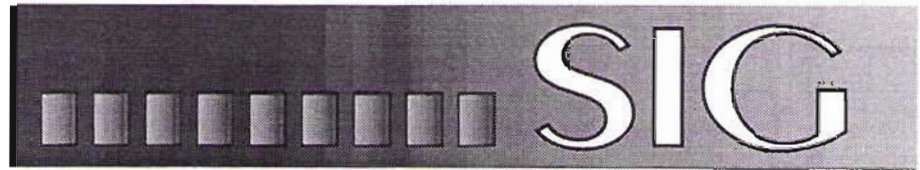
I'm "a'fix'en" to order Delphi 3.0, when I get a spare minute. Looks like I may be able to just skip Delphi 2.0 completely. All the development I've done so far, has been with Delphi 1.0. Seems everyone still wants the option of being able to run a deliverable on Win 3.1 or Win 3.11.

I'm still working on my first "no visible form" task bar resident development. It has required some serious shuffling of the code in the .dpr file, as none of the real action occurs "inside" a form module. The copious code resides in a "formless" module I have appropriately named "THCODE.PAS".

The main form module is just there to hang some VCL's on. Although, it does have my first ever "progress bar" on it. That is there just in case the user gets curious and wants to see what's going on. The application is actually intended to run as a timed event, which will be periodically executed by the Win95 "Plus" Agent.

This is the AS/400 connectivity application I mentioned last month. Seems I have written more Pascal code for this one, than any "C" coder ought to have to do. It is a good thing you can't "dog ear" the Object Pascal Help files, or mine would look plum wore out!

I have learned there have been some serious improvements made to Delphi 3.0 as relates to VCL development. There has been a major shift made in the "inheritance" tree of the VCL set. The TDatabase object has been "pushed down" one level, so to speak. This means that the effort required to develop third-party BDE (Borland Database Engine) replacements just got greatly reduced.



Delphi 3.0, and future releases of Delphi, will be even further disconnected from a target database architecture. Borland's BDE is a fine piece of work, but there are many times a developer needs the flexibility to either not deliver the BDE, or in many instances, deliver the BDE and another "foreign" database access method.

As I dig into Delphi 3.0, I'll try to post additional interesting little findings here.

Anyway, that's enough Delphi rambling for another month. Hope to I saw you at the "Hawaiian Shirt" edition of the SIG last month. BTW, I have not fit into my Hawaiian shirt for more than a couple of years now!

Fred Williams

DOS/ OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

Notice the change in SIG name? I got another "suggestion" at the June meeting that "DOS SIG" isn't really explanatory and doesn't tell the public what we do.

At the July SIG meeting, I want to look at some of the unanticipated "gotcha's" users are finding in Win 95 and DOS. An example of my experience follows:

Back to the DOS/Win 95 intersection. This is coupled with peer-based networking and word processor "funnies" this month. Background starts with me scooping the SIG notes and material submitted for print in the newsletter off the NTPCUG BBS (preferred) and off Internet E-mail.

Raw copy is then shot over to Connie's PC

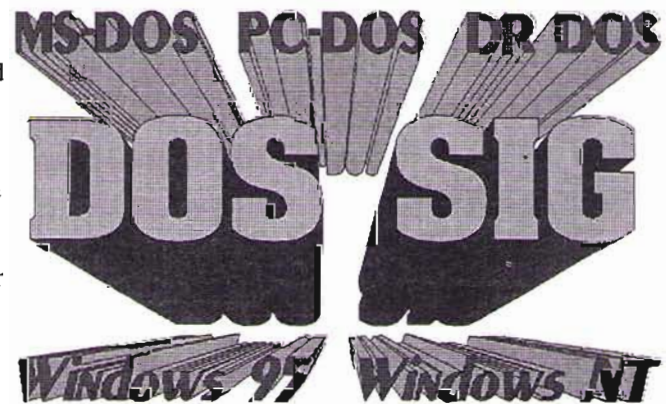
via Win 95 network where she edits the SIG notes, corrects my spelling, grammar and syntax, and generally gets everything ready for formatting in Ventura 4.2. When it's ready, I grab it off of her PC, again via the peer-based Win 95 network, and start final production formatting in Ventura.

I clean out the "raw" files before bringing the edited files back in. Usually, I use Norton *Commander 4.0* for this task since it fits my style of operation much better than *Windows Explorer*. Hit a file I had transferred earlier and Commander refused to delete it. This usually happens if the file is in use by another program such as Word or Ventura, etc.

That wasn't the case, however. Went back to Explorer and was again denied access to the file in order to delete it. Same thing happened in My Computer as well. Dropping to a DOS box and trying a manual delete via DOS command gave different results.

File was displayed in a DIR/W command. When I tried deleting via DOS, got a message the file didn't exist.

This was really puzzling. I had been working with a number of programs for several hours including switching into



SIG

and out of Word 6.0, Word 7.0 (95), Express 6.01, Ventura 4.2 and Commander. Remembering the good old days of Win 3.11, I shut down Win 95 and turned off the PC for five minutes.

When I rebooted the PC and went back in Win 95, was able to delete the file normally.

PC this happened on was running under OEM "B" version of Win 95 with 64 M of DRAM. It's a "clean" machine and hasn't been subjected to my usual clutter of once-used, quickly-forgotten utilities/programs. What I think really happened was the dreaded Windows "memory orphans" that can accumulate over time using ill-behaved programs. Both Ventura 4.2 and Word 6.0 really weren't designed for multitasking and are probably the culprits.

Two "Morals" here — when you are using "older" programs in a multitasking environment, to save often. Second is to periodically "clean-out" the memory contamination via rebooting after a couple of minutes with the PC turned off.

Reagan Andrews

Graphics SIG

The graphics SIG has a special presentation in July with a sneak preview of the newest version of *Windows Draw 6*. What is special about this presentation is that the program will still be in Beta test at that stage (We may have to sign nondisclosure agreements as we have had to do in the past)

This presentation will be given by Brian Edgin, a relatively new Micrografx person. Just because he is new at Micrografx doesn't mean that he has not been around. Some of you might remember him as one of the premier presenters during the big Corel road show two years ago.

Anyway, we can't say that much about Draw 6 at this point except to say that it will be fully Internet-integrated with a smart HTML engine to turn drawings into optimized Web pages. All the neat Web features will apparently be implemented. For more on the program, come to the presentation.

Brian is also an expert at *Simply 3D*, so part of the presentation will cover all the neat things that can be done in the 3D world.

The Graphics SIG is back in action!

Neal Berkowitz

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

Please see the box below for details of the July Beginners Internet SIG

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.

July 12, 1997

- ❖ 9:00 Class 13
Overview of Microsoft Windows
- ❖ 10:00 Class 14
Overview of Multimedia Software & Hardware
- ❖ Noon Class 15
Disk of the Month (DOM)
- ❖ 1:00 Class 16
PC's Into the 21st Century

August 9, 1997

- ❖ No Classes are scheduled

BASICS OF THE INTERNET - A FOUR-HOUR 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),

☆ 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
& Kiff Barnes*

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*

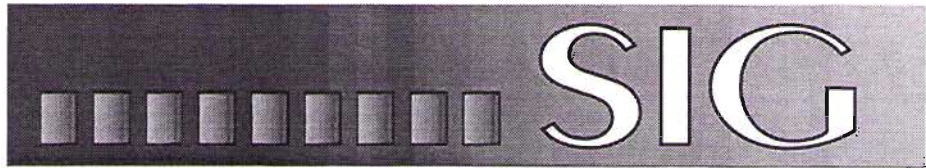
- ❖ 9:00 Class 5
Graphics for the PC
- ❖ 10:00 Class 6
Word Processors
- ❖ Noon Class 7
Spreadsheet Programs
- ❖ 1:00 Class 8
Other Software for the PC

November 15, 1997*

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

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

Alex Lilley

**JAVA PROGRAMMING SIG**

At the July meeting, **Dan Berg** of Sun Microsystems will do a presentation on new technologies in Java. In particular the session will focus on RMI and JavaBeans.

Daniel J. Berg, currently with Sun Microsystems, is working as the Chief Technology Officer for the U.S. Reseller Area. Mr. Berg has spoken at several Java-related conferences and symposiums on the topic of Java and has published several books covering Java and other technologies. Mr. Berg has also written Java-related articles and papers for trade publications and is chairman of a group of Java experts within Sun Microsystems, the Java A.C.E.S.

Before joining Sun, Mr. Berg worked as a consultant and founder of Canyon Technologies, Inc. Mr. Berg has also held positions at IBM, Honeywell and the University of Minnesota. The majority of his work has focused on the UNIX operating system, multithreaded technologies, and the design and development of distributed object based applications.

At the June meeting, we looked at the new version of *Microsoft Visual J++*, Version 1.1. We overviewed and demonstrated the new features in Visual J++ and showed how to create ActiveX COM objects using the new Visual J++ wizard. Microsoft has kindly given us eight copies of Visual J++ 1.0--which can be upgraded to Visual J++ 1.1 for \$20--to raffle off at this meeting.

Remember to get the latest news on the Java programming SIG, check out the Artistry Web site at <http://www.artistry.com/windev/sigs/java/>. If you have questions about the Java Programming SIG or just need Java programming tech-

nical help you can reach me at art@artistry.com or call (972) 567-2253.

Art English

LOTUS DOMINO/NOTES SIG

The June SIG meeting focused on workflow issues, document routing, and database connectivity with existing databases including SQL and ODBC compliant sources. Unfortunately, **Tom Blackwell's** AOL gripe session, scheduled for the June meeting, was postponed until the August meeting due to a lack of time.

The July SIG meeting will include a presentation from a Lotus representative on Domino and the Internet. This meeting will be particularly useful to Internet developers with little or no experience with Domino/Notes. Similarly, it will be helpful to Domino/Notes developers with little Internet development experience. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about the tools and resources available to the developer. Topics will include interactive Internet site development and maintenance, database access on the Internet, Domino.Action, Domino.Merchant, & Weblicator. Naturally, we expect to have time for extensive questions and answers. It is one thing to know that everything done with Domino/Notes is automatically ready for the Internet. This presentation should be the first step toward using Domino to solve specific problems and work the Web!

The July meeting will also include a brief summary of the replic-action seminar by Casahl on June 18. Replic-action is a database connection utility which allows bi-directional access to data from some 60 database formats through the Domino interface. Several SIG members are expected to attend so the review should include several different perspectives. We will also make seminar materials available to the SIG.

The July meeting should conclude the



Java Programming SIG

JAVA

SIG

multipart introduction to Domino/Notes. Future meetings will focus on development, implementation, and administration issues and will integrate discussion of new products and services. The specific topic of the August meeting will include an introduction to application development.

B J Shultz

MS Word for Windows

Sorry 'bout May. We had to cancel because neither Jan nor I could make it. In addition to a temporary exacerbation of one of my medical conditions, I had a schedule conflict. I have been accused of having a split personality, but it's not quite THAT split.

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

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

Reagan Andrews

So let's talk about the direction in which the meetings will be taking. First, I am going to try to get an earlier time for us to meet. My voice is stronger in the mornings. We've got some exciting things to talk about in the months ahead and I'd kinda like you to be able to understand me!

Thanks to Microsoft's release of Office 97, many new and exciting discoveries await us.

I realize that many in the group have not and probably will not make the upgrade (yet?). I thought long and hard about what to do; here is what I did in order to be able to have both versions (95 and 97)-I spent a bunch of bucks upgrading my system.

It now sports 32 Megs of RAM and a brand-spanking-new 3.1 gig hard drive. It's broken down into two partitions, which, in addition to the original single partition, let me go from 95 to 97 by just pressing Alt+F4.

Talk about someone being happy as a non-kosher, short-legged, curly-tailed critter in the theological place of eternal reward, that's me!

Bottom line is we're still going to be able to teach 6, 7, and 97. How 'bout THEM beans?

What about 2.x? I hereby pronounce it dead. It's been too long since I've used (or even SEEN it) and frankly, it's too old. Let's not even mention 1.x.

For those of you who do not know, my medical conditions finally conspired against me and forced me to take disability retirement. I am still adjusting to the fact that I will no longer be able to work. It has been six months and I still don't like it. Thank goodness for the SIG and other activities that I attend during the month.

So what do we have to look forward to at the SIG? Exciting discoveries in '95 and '97, some good laughs, and a continuation of an almost continuous Q'n A session. We have two hours of meeting time. Let's make the most of it!

Tip of the month:

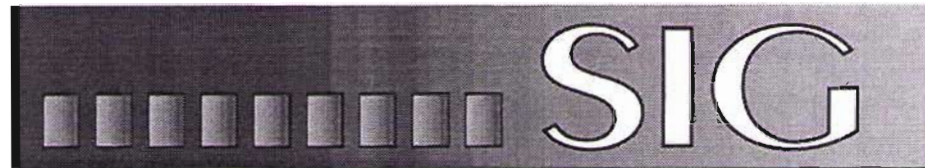
IMHO, one of the most misunderstood elements of the 97 package is the Office Assistant. Office Assistants are little cartoon like characters that appear in the bottom right corner of a given 97 application.

They're easy to get rid of and easy to recall. Just click on the X in the upper right corner of the Assistant's box and they'll go back to whence they came.

However, if you will take a few minutes and study them you will find that they can perform some amazing feats!

Being a person who has three cats that allow her to live with them, my favorite assistant is the cat. Not only is it VERY useful, it's funny as the dickens to watch when I have it on the screen.

To activate one of the assistants, just click on it's picture. Suppose you want to know about inserting a picture into the current document. Just type "How do I insert a picture into the current



document?" Or, more realistically, just type "insert picture" (without the quotes, of course), and you'll get some plain English explanations for a wide variety of situations.

Just pressing F1 brings up the Office Assistant, and just that alone presents a bevy of information.

Just in case you don't want anything that cutesy on your screen, you still have access to a Contents and Index that covers more than you'll ever use.

One of my favorite toys is a new flat-bed scanner. I've got a new granddaughter (born on Mother's Day). Figure it out, I've been scanning pictures of her with every letter I've sent to every relative.

Thanks to Insert/Objects, I can scan directly from my scanner into a Word document.

If you missed June's meeting, I had a blast showing off my upgraded system.

Next month's topic is still wide open because of this writing there is SO much that is brand-spanking new that I don't even know where to start. I think, however, that we're going to cover Help and do some of the things that we will learn from the help screens.

Ciao!

Beverly Kurtin

MS NETWORKING SIG

The July SIG meeting will be focused on installation and configuration of *Windows NT*. We plan to cover the following areas during this session:

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

This should be a very important session for new Windows NT users or those who are planning to upgrade to the platform.

Review of the June SIG Meeting:

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

Review of the May SIG meeting:**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*

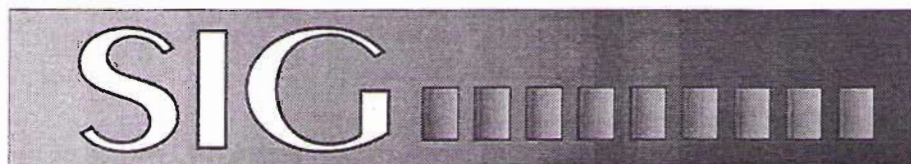
which definitely won't deal with LFN's and most of the latest word processor versions. That's especially true for *Microsoft Office 97* which was Microsoft's latest file-format switch in the *Word* series.

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



Richard Miles did a presentation on Windows NT Workstation v4.0 *Peer Web Services* (PWS), as an introduction for new NT users to Web software included with Windows NT Workstation v4.0.

PWS is included on the standard Windows NT Workstation v4.0 CD ROM and is a way for individual and business users of Windows NT to learn a broad range of technologies used on the World Wide Web and be able to implement them on a limited scale either on the Internet or on a private intranet. In conjunction with Windows NT's Internet Explorer (MSIE) and TCP/IP, we established a Web-based network within a single PC to demonstrate Web-based client(MSIE)/server(PWS) environment with full industry-standard TCP/IP communications capabilities.

PWS includes:

- ❖ a Web server
- ❖ an FTP server
- ❖ a gopher server
- ❖ full HTML v3.0 support
- ❖ Microsoft ODBC and ISAPI programming interfaces and examples

We covered some Internet networking and addressing concepts and a handout was provided to all who attended. Richard showed how PWS includes both a native Windows NT application and a full function HTML equivalent for doing configuration, management and monitoring of the Windows NT Workstation-based Peer Web Server.

We had a guided tour of PWS sample Web site, ODBC database programming samples, ISAPI programming samples and basic HTML. We also showed how all HTML pages included in PWS can be viewed as native HTML source code for use as HTML programming samples.

Thanks to the NTPCUG Board of Directors for the Users Group's new multimedia Pentium-based tower PC we were able to use to do a full live demo during the SIG meeting.

Upcoming topics

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

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC SIG

At the July meeting, we will complete our three-month study group on how to build ActiveX controls. This meeting will cover ActiveX topics covered in Part Three of the book, *ActiveX Controls Inside Out* by Adam Denning. The topics presented will be ActiveX controls and the Internet, data binding, and licensing.

At the June meeting, we continued to build on the topics covered at the May meeting on how to build ActiveX controls. This meeting covered 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 also showed how to build property pages for an ActiveX control.

Remember to get the latest news on the Visual C++/MFC, check out the Artistry Web site at <http://www.artistry.com/windev/sign/vc++/>. 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

We should have a working copy of Paradox 7.0 installed on the new SIG computer, and be returning to the "new" meeting room, at the regular time for this month's SIG. Please check the overheads in the Vendor area for any last minute changes that might happen.

Tom Browning has basically been managing most of the SIG for at least a couple of years now. I have been concentrating on mostly these SIG notes and standing in for Tom when he has other more pressing (paying) things to do.

I have basically "hit the wall" in personal scheduling. I simply cannot continue carrying the load I have been carrying and hope to go fishing with Dad ever again.

I have talked with Tom, and he has tentatively agreed to take on the total man-



agement of the Paradox SIG. I simply have to cut back somewhere.

This brings us to the next issue. Tom is going to appreciate some help. I would hope that someone in the SIG, will step forward and offer to work with Tom continue to refocus the SIG.

I ran the Pdox SIG for a few years before Tom stood up to be counted, so I know what good help can mean! So, since Tom was curling his toes in Caribbean sand last month, I would like to surprise him with a new SIG Co-Leader upon his return this month.

Since Tom will also be back "running the show" this month, we will most likely get another of Tom's "colorful" forms presentations we have all grown to groan over! If Tom is still too hung over from all that fun and sun, I'll attempt to demo some of the new Paradox "Experts" which delivered with release 7.0.

Fred Williams

PRO SIG

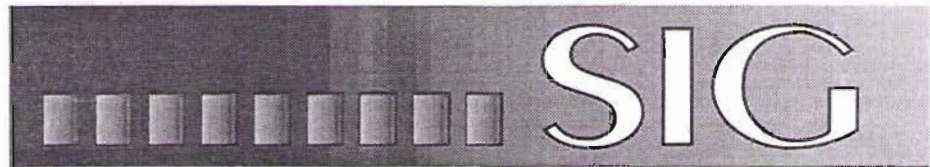
Visual Java was the topic of the June meeting. There was a contest to see if a predefined Web site could be built faster in *Visual Java* or *Professional Basic*. Winner of the contest was Stuart Yarus who wrote an emulator for both languages in APL. Join us next month when we look at several Web sites developed in *Pick Basic*.

Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The next meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will be on July 12 and Assistant SIG Leader **Jim Hart** will address the topic of list boxes and how to use them effectively. Bring all your questions about list boxes to this meeting and Jim will do his best to answer them.

If everything went well, the meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 1997 featured a presentation on the new Integrated Development Environment (IDE) in Visual Basic 5.0. This will have been the first presentation with Visual Basic 5.0 loaded on the ma-



chine. Thanks to Microsoft, we now have a copy of the Enterprise Edition of 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.

Note: I just saw a "Deluxe Learning Edition" of Visual Basic 5.0 on the shelf at Micro Center for about \$119.00. It includes a copy of a Microsoft Press book that is entitled something like Visual Basic 5.0 Step By Step. I haven't seen this book, but other books of the "Step By Step" genre have been pretty good.

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, July 12, 1997. Check the Infomart lobby screens for the correct room assignment.

Jim Carter

Windows Aps SIG

As usual we have no real plans for the Windows Aps SIG, but at **Reagan's** insistence, this time I am letting everyone know what we hopefully will be covering.

For those of you who have not attended the SIG, our major purpose in life is getting the hardware all working at the same time. Past months we have lost the power supply to the panel, the dongle to the laptop, and the power strip! Hopefully we will be able to get everything together and have more than a question and answer session!

I have been trying to get around to showing how to tie programs to various applications, how to use the send to feature of Windows 95, and how to really work the right mouse button. This will be the month!

Neal Berkowitz

WORDPERFECT/DOS SIG

The WordPerfect for DOS SIG is going to take the summer off. Our next meeting for the WordPerfect SIG will be at the September 20, 1997 NTPCUG meeting at Infomart.

Dawn Hopkins

EDITOR'S NOTE ON LOGOS

I've begun using logo graphics in this section. Most have been taken from the NTPCUG SIG listings at www.ntpcug.org, including the graphic for the DOS/ Operating Systems SIG, the Java Programming SIG and the MS Visual C++/MFC SIG.

If your SIG has a monochrome logo that will print in the PC News, I'll be glad to include it with your SIG notes.

The graphic must be sent as a separate file, not as part of the SIG note file.

FRED NOT ENCHANTED- 'World-Wide-Wait' DRIVING HIM, OTHERS BACK TO BBS'S AGAIN...

Thoughts on Membership

Haven't spent much time looking for driver and software updates on the "World Wide Wait" lately. I just don't have that much patience I guess. Anyhow, if the "Net" gets much slower, we can all brush off those old 2400 Baud modems and not even notice the difference.

I'm still trying to figure out how the Net gremlins know when a file download is 98% complete.

BBS's Rise Again?

Speaking of cabbages and kings, I've heard rumblings that those old remaining local BBS's are starting to regain some user base. Seems many are tiring of the cost, snails pace, inhospitable and detached nature of the Web and are starting to migrate back to their "local" roots.

I don't know if the trend will continue. I do know that usage of our "old" BBS continues to erode. I expect some loss, as BBS usage is directly proportional to the overall number of members. North Texas PC Users Group is currently undergoing an uncommon reduction in overall membership.

The Board of Directors is doing some serious soul-searching, and investigation of this new trend. Seems to possibly be related more to a demographic shift than to the recent small rise in dues. We were ready to lose some with the dues increase. We just want to make certain that what we are offering is what the membership wants and needs.

[Ed. Note: There's also a lot of speculation that the placement of the Information Booth inside the Vendor Area at the insistence of Infomart may be major culprit in losses seen. The BOD is working on a more appropriate location during meetings. - Reagan]



Several of us had a lively after-dinner discussion in the Wyatt's cafeteria parking lot following the recent semiannual SIG Leaders dinner. That is another reason we have these dinners. It allows those hard working SIG Leaders an opportunity to supply the NTPCUG officers with valuable and needed input.

If you can't find a BOD member to express an opinion to, or drop an idea on, see your local friendly SIG Leader. Believe me we, the BOD, know these guys and gals (SIG Leaders) are definitely not shy!

New, Upgraded SIG PC's

We have recently upgraded and expanded all of the SIG meeting support systems. We now have a total of three viable platforms, which should meet our SIG meeting needs for at least the rest of this year, except...

I know the NT Networking SIG is still patiently (?) waiting for a copy of NT Server. They are also planning on rig-

ging up an NIC and small hub to allow networking of visiting "guest" systems until they can actually get yet another computer for a workstation. A networking SIG with a network, now isn't that a novel idea?

Windows Taking Over?

Based on the vocalness and sheer numbers at the SIG Leaders dinner, those various Windows-oriented SIGs seem to be "where it is happening". These guys and gals define the term "movers and shakers." I know they are making it hot for the BOD! I sometimes wonder if we are leading or being chased!

NTPCUG is in need of this kind of leadership right now. I know they think we are a bunch of closet DOS weenies, but we really are trying to do what is best for the majority of the membership, in a responsible manner.

I ran for the BOD several years back because I feel we (NTPCUG) should be offering night meetings throughout the month, in addition to our big Saturday meeting. I know from many years of personal experience that most PC "professionals" prefer the format of evening meetings and had much rather play golf on Saturday.

I'm still pushing for those night meetings, so far, with gradual success. But I feel I'm gaining on them, and I can be a patient man!

Fred Williams



INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Members for Four Years

Four years ago four members of the Guyer family joined the NTPCUG. The thing I remember most is the first business meeting they attended that day, when one of their four drawing tickets was picked for a \$450.00 software package.

Since that day they have seen a lot of presentations in the Alexandria Auditorium at the Infomart. Mark, his daughter, Julie, sons James and Daniel have frequently volunteered to help at the DOM and Information desk. Their most appreciated contribution of all is the untiring help in morning set up of the Vendor Market area. The Guyers have occasionally assisted at vendor presentations over the years, probably hoping lighting (luck) can strike twice in the same spot.

Part of the success of our club is the combined effect of super volunteers like the Guyer family.

Mark is a computer professional with expertise in Lan and Network administration. He was able to give me a hint on how to improve the performance of my own machine.

Thanks for the volunteering to each of you, and for renewing your membership last month.

We also want to remember all the volunteers whose names are mentioned in other sections of this newsletter and a special thank you to the 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:
Dick Abbott
Larry Johnson
Ken Burns

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Christopher Carmichael
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
Lorin Cranford
Randy Durham
Vernon Cates
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
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) 661-4626 (w)

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

DOM Software Review
Mark Grunerl..... (972) 964-8147 (h)

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

DOM Disks Released In June

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

Disk 1099. F-PROT V2.27 for DOS, 05/28/97 – Virus Identifier/Remover

Disk 1100. Psychedelic Screen Saver 3.6, (5/97) - Win95 Screen Saver

Disk 1101. Diana Gruber's Lucky Sevens Slot Machine, (4/97) - Win95 Slot Game

Disk 1102. Wyvern Studios Solitaire 1.01, (2/97) - Win95 Game with Sound

Disk 1103. InfoSpy 2.61, (4/97) - Monitors Win 3.1 and Win95 Performance

Disk 1099. F-PROT V2.27 for DOS, 05/28/97 – Virus Identifier/Remover, F-PROT V2.27, Data Fellows Ltd, Paivantaite 8, FIN-02210 ESPOO, FINLAND, tel: +358-9-478 444, fax: +358-9-478 44 599, e-mail: F-PROT-Sales@DataFellows.com, www: <http://www.DataFellows.com> or (new) www.complex.is.

Added proper detection of Office '97 Word and Excel macro viruses, as contrary to what you might have been led to believe, the anti-virus features added to the latest version of Word do not make it virus-proof. We added detection/disaffection of over 600 Word and Excel viruses since version 2.26 was released - those viruses are all handled by the F-MACROW program, not F-PROT itself.

Version 2.27 of F-PROT adds 54 new viruses which can now be removed. Many of them were detected by earlier versions, but are now identified accurately.

This version adds 30 new viruses which are now de-

tected and identified but can not yet be removed.

This version accurately identifies 6 viruses not formerly identified correctly. These cannot be removed since they overwrite or corrupt infected files.

F-PROT Professional is available for Windows 3.1x, OS/2 1.X, 2.X, Warp Windows NT, Windows 95, and NetWare. These products feature the same trusted F-PROT scanning engine with additional features such as an easy and intuitive user interface, scheduled scanning, powerful Windows anti-virus virtual device driver (VxD), e-mail messaging support, customizable alert messages and much more. These products are backed with frequent updates, professional local language support and informative news-

letters in more than 40 countries around the world. For information on versions of F-PROT for these platforms, please contact Command Software Systems, Inc., 1061 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter, FL 33477, at 1-800-423-9147, at sales@command.com, or <http://www.command.com>.

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

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

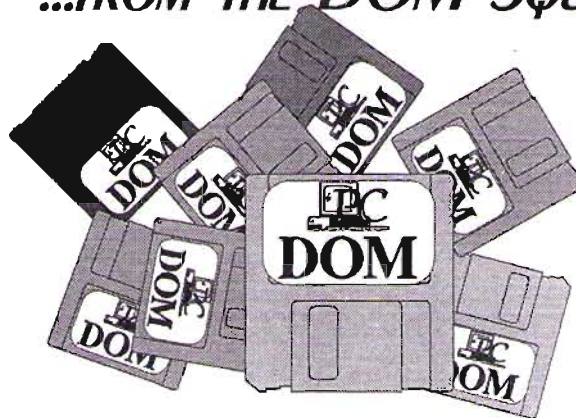
The source of this disk is your Disk of the Month Executive Committee.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Gene Carleton.

Disk 1100. Psychedelic Screen Saver 3.6, (5/97) - Win95 Screen Saver, Psychedelic Screen Saver 3.6, North-Star Solutions, P.O. Box 25262, Columbia, SC 29224, <http://www.hal-cyon.com/pixel/psych.htm>, Registration Fee: \$20.00

Psychedelic Screen Saver is a very well-done 32-bit monitor protector for your Windows 95 or NT desktop. Pick from a series of screen savers that generate an endless variety of mesmerizing patterns. As the patterns materialize on your screen, the colors shift, undulate, and produce an almost hypnotic effect. Ten different patterns (stain, star, vortex, bezier, cyclic, plasma, polygon, sphere, effect, and pattern) are included, and all offer a variety of different forms. You can also save your screen with rotating .bmp, .pcx, .wmf, .wpg, .pct, .jpg, .cdr, .cgm, .drw, .eps, .pcd, .tif, .gif, .emf, .tga, and .png formatted graphics. A comprehensive setup routine is available for each effect to let you create an unlimited number of custom variations. A system tray icon gives you handy access to the controls of all your screen savers, start your screen saver immediately, and the Windows 95 Control Panel and Desktop Properties. Psychedelic Screen Saver is designed to work with the author's CD/Spectrum Pro program to add

New Disks ...FROM THE DOM SQUAD



by MARK GRUBER

stunning visual effects and synchronized sounds, but CD/Spectrum Pro isn't needed. If you're looking for a screen saver you'll probably never get tired of, check out this one.

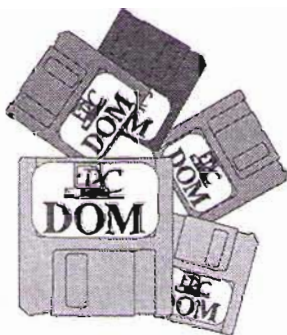
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95

To install the program, place this disk in drive A:, and start/run INSTALL.EXE.

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.

Disk 1101. Diana Gruber's Lucky Sevens Slot Machine, (4/97) - Win95 Slot Game, Diana Gruber's Lucky Sevens Slot Machine, Ted Gruber Software, PO Box 13408, Las Vegas, NV 89112, Voice orders (702) 450-6095, FAX orders (702) 735-4603, www.3d-casino.com, Registration Fee:



\$39.95 + 4.95 S/H

Diana Gruber's Lucky Sevens Slot Machine simulates the action of real slot machine gaming. Play one to three coins and spin for casino-style payoffs. Great graphics and background sound make this a better than average computer slot machine. Running tallies of payoffs, pulls, and your bank roll tell you how you're doing. Registration brings the full 3D Casino Las Vegas package, with

Blackjack, video Poker, Keno, and more.

To access the menu, move the pointer to the top of the slot window.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95. Registered version requires CD-ROM.

To install the program, place this disk in drive A:, copy the files to a directory on your hard disk, run/start the file named SEVENS.EXE and click on the opening screen.

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.

Disk 1102. Wyvern Studios Solitaire 1.01, (2/97) - Win95 Game with Sound, Wyvern Studios Solitaire 1.01, 25 West 5300 South #125, Salt Lake City, Utah 84125, (801)293-0884, FAX (801)293-0885, http://www.4wyvern.com/, lgilbert@4wyvern.com, Registration Fee: \$5.00

Wyvern Studios sets a new standard in shareware Solitaire games with this commercial-quality, 32-bit edition of Klondike. Pick from three sets of photorealistic cards (not the card backs, but the cards themselves): 3-D, Food, and Animals. If you've got a sound card, enjoy digital sound effects and play one of 12 built-in original MIDI files. Options include standard or Vegas scoring, drawing one or three cards, enlarging the card pips, and full-card dragging. Plus, there are several levels of Undo. Registration lets you create your own MIDI playlist or listen to audio CDs while playing, and you can use any of the

additional card decks available at the developer's web site. It might take you a while to get used to playing with the nontraditional card fronts, but if you've gotten to the point where you can play Klondike with your eyes closed, you'll enjoy the

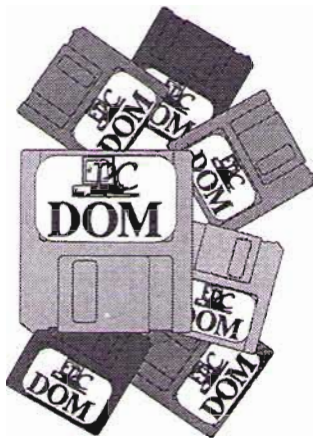
twist. Who knows -- once you play Wyvern Solitaire, you might even think about deleting the version of Solitaire that comes with Windows 95.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95 and SVGA

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 .. Duncce 2.4 (Dialup net connection enhancements)
- 1057 .. SLMR 2.1a (Silly Little Mail Reader - Off-Line
..... Mail Reader)



To install the program, place this disk in drive A:, copy all the files to a directory on your hard disk, and at your hard drive directory, type SOLITARE. This is a self-extracting file. Now type WV_SOL. This is the program file and you are off and running.

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.

Disk I103. InfoSpy 2.61, (4/97) - Monitors Win 3.1 and Win95 Performance, InfoSpy 2.61, Dean Software Design, P.O. Box 13032, Mill Creek, WA 98082-1032, DeanSoft@Compuserve.com, Registration Fee: \$19.99

InfoSpy is a thorough Windows utility that accurately inspects the environment and lists key activities and components – and it supports both Win 3.1 and Win95 systems – and now Windows NT 4.0x. Examine the Global Heap, active windows, memory information, Windows tasks, loaded modules, and DOS details. InfoSpy also lets you monitor Windows messages and serial communications in real time. Other features include a built-in file manager, du-

PLICATE file finder, a program scheduling utility, and the ability to save and restore CMOS settings. Plus, close hung tasks and restart Windows, easily reboot, and access Rapid Shutdown when necessary. InfoSpy is an excellent tools suite and a remarkable bargain. (The program was awarded best Win Resource Monitor in December 1995 by Ziff-Net.) If

you need to know anything about the innards of your Windows system, chances are InfoSpy can tell you. Some of the many improvements in this update include the new Version Search function, numerous interface enhancements, and the abilities to fax and email from 'Duplicate File' and 'File Search.'

InfoSpy is a general purpose Windows environment viewer allowing you view Heap, Tasks, Windows, Classes, Modules, File Handles, DOS and Memory Information. You can trace messages, stack and set up automatic timers to provide real-time tracing on virtually every aspect of Windows.

The new System Sentry library lets you monitor Windows program usage, control what Windows programs can be executed, disallow users from running programs, disable the CTRL-ALT-DEL keys under Windows, and disable entire directories.

This version of InfoSpy has been updated to run under Windows 95. Still a 16 app but ALL functions work and provide accurate information for the Win95 environment!!

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows 3.1 or Windows95

To install the program, copy this disk to a directory on your hard drive. At the directory, type INFOSPY. This is a self-expanding file. After the file has been expanded, run SETUPPEX from Windows or WIN95.

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.

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

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

VOLUNTEER to share it with us!!

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

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

README Help available

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

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

Mark Gruner
DOM Squad Leader
(972) 964-8147

NTPCUG User - To - User Program

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access	Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700	Hardware Help	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Assembly Language	Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200	Internet - General	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200		David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
BASIC	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200	Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)	Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
Beginner Problems	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700		.....		S-S 1000-2200
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000	LANs — Novell	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
Brother's Keeper	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200	— Lantastic	Joseph Beasley.....	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
C++ (the language)	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	Managing Your Money	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100	Modems	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
CA Clipper	Richard Mitchell.....	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100				
	.....		SS 0900-2300	MathCAD	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
CorelDraw	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200	Norton Utilities	John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
	.....		S-S 1300-2200	OS/2	Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
Batch Files	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	PC Tools/Win	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
Borland C++	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	Paradox	Fred Williams.....	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
	Howard Harkness.....	(817)267-6227	7 1000-2100	PKzip/PKUNzip	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
CompuServe	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	ProComm/ProComm+	Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308	
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows	Ted Gillam.....	(972)964-7923	7 0800-1700		Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
DOS	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Erik Leaseburg.....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200				
DR DOS	Ralph Beaver	(817)335-0570	M-F 0800-1700				
	.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100				

NTPCUG User - To - User Program

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Publisher (Microsoft)			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Pat Cote.....	(972)831-8055	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972)496-3894	7 1000-2200
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)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman	(972)495-6342	7 1700-2130

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
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
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.

LEGEND:

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

- Borland Turbo 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



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc

Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name (Last): _____ (First): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone (Check preferred) Home: (____) _____ - _____

Work: (____) _____ - _____ Ext. _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below

Payment:	Membership	Application Status:
Cash _____	Classification:	New Member _____
Check _____	Regular (\$30.00)	Renewal _____
Credit Card _____	Student (\$25.00)	Address Change _____

Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449 (Make checks payable to: NTPCUG.)

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

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449

Phone (214) 746-4699 for recorded information about the North Texas PC Users Group and scheduled meeting date times and locations. Please leave a message if you would like specific information about the Group. Or, visit our Web Page at: www.ntpcug.org

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with any corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in this newsletter, and send with \$30 membership dues to the Membership Director — address shown below. Subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership.

The Group meets once each month, usually on the second or third Saturday. See inside front cover for date, time and place of the next North Texas PC Users Group meeting.



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:

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

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

Password problems?

Call Doug at (214) 464-4568

TI PRO BULLETIN BOARD (214)361-5275

SYSOP: Tom Blackwell

Address Changes, etc...

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

NTPCUG Membership Director
P.O. Box 703449
Dallas, Texas 75370-3449

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(972) 462-1896 h (972) 960-4215 w
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 661-4626 w
Treasurer	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



North Texas PC Users Group
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North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:
12 July 1997

