

North Texas



PC NEWS





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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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DEADLINE

Copy deadline for December
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, November 10th

Meeting Dates:

November 15, 1997 - 3rd Saturday
December 13, 1997 - 3rd Saturday
January, 17, 1998 - 3rd Saturday

In this Issue . . .

President's Message 2-3
Jim Hoisington

From DOS to Multitasking... 3-4
Glynn Brooks

New Life for 'Old Drives... 4
Eloine Shrdlu

Variety Store 5-8
Reagan Andrews

If Microsoft Built Cars... 8
Wes Echols

BBS On-Line 21
Fred Williams

Special Items:

Agenda, Meetings & Times 1

New Disks from the DOM Squad 9-10

SIG Reports 11-20

Volunteer Guide 22

User-to-User (Help) 23-24

Membership Application 24

Officers & People You should know 25

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

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

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

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

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

Policies & Mechanicals:

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

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

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

To be Announced

— Check in the Meetings Conference on the NTPCUG BBS or at the NTPCUG Web site, www.ntpcug.org, before the November Meeting.

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

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— Check in the Meetings Conference on the NTPCUG BBS or at www.ntpcug.org before the November Meeting.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting
(Room 1061)

11:00 AM - 11:55 AM

Micrografx Windows Draw 6®
Premier Print Studio

Micrografx, Inc.
Brian Edgin, 3D Product Manager

Windows Draw 6® Premier is an easy to use, yet highly creative application suite that lets everyone create stunning graphics projects for print or for the Internet. The package contains Windows Draw 6®, Photo Magic 6®, Instant 3D™, Micrografx Media Manager™ plus 20,000+ clip art and photo images, 300 TrueType Fonts, Web Publishing Wizard and a Bonus Clip Art CD with 33,000 additional images. There will be a drawing for free products.

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

PROGRAMS &
PRESENTATIONS...

TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

NOVEMBER 15

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++ Language
Communications
Desktop Publishing
Java

Introduction to the PC
The Master Genealogist

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

1:00 - 1:55 Ctd.
Introduction to the PC
QuickBooks

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 handouts in the INFORMATION lobby and at the NTPCUG Information Booth in the Vendor Area for latest SIG schedules and room locations.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS MAKE SEPTEMBER HUGE SUCCESS

Thanks to all the folks who put in extra effort for the September meeting. Attendance was excellent; Microsoft had about 800 people attend their *Visual Tools* sessions. That was only surpassed by our neighbors to the south in Houston.

We handed out lots of membership fliers both in the Vendor Area and in the presentation area. No results yet, but we're hopeful.

The multimedia presentation by Rose Anne Ellison featuring the Users Group is being output in VGA mode to several VHS tape cartridges. This time it will have the sound as well as the picture.

A special thanks to Christopher Carmichael and son Hong who helped Meg McCorrie, the Microsoft Coordinator, for the entire day.

MULTIMEDIA ROLL-OUT

Last month was the roll-out of our multimedia rental program. (*Since I'm writing this before the October meeting, I'm guessing that it will be a success.*)

Deborah Bean and her group of volunteers will be renting training videos to NTPCUG members. If you missed it last month, check it out. It's adjacent to the NTPCUG Information Booth by the glass doors in the Vendor Area.

NTPCUG TRAINING VIDEOS

We need help with the new Multimedia Rental LIBRARY

*NTPCUG is now offering
(as a member benefit) rental of training
videotapes, audiotapes and CD's*

Bring your talents to a worthwhile project now in planning stage

The Library Committee needs
Product Reviewers, Librarians, Data Entry,
Booth Staff, More committee members,
Your donations of training videos and CD's

Contact us NOW!
Deborah Bean (972) 475-3124
e-mail: themisresource@myway.net



DOM Has Moved

Think of it as one-stop shopping - *NTPCUG Central*. The Disk of the Month (DOM) Booth is now adjacent to the Multimedia Rental Library Booth, which is adjacent to the Information Booth in the Vendor Area.

EXPERIENCE THE EXTREME

Microsoft is holding a free event at the Bedford United Artist 10 theaters on Saturday, November 8. There is a 12:00 noon and a 3:00 p.m. showing. This is a satellite broadcast to theaters in major cities across the United States. The broadcast will highlight several new Microsoft products and will also give you a tour of the *Microsoft Home of the Future*. (If you look closely, you can see my initials in the concrete sidewalk leading to the front door.) In addition, there will be lots of giveaways.

And did I mention that it's free.

MICROSOFT USER GROUP SUMMIT IN REDMOND, WASHINGTON

Every other year, Microsoft has the leaders of the larger user groups from around the country attend their User Group Summit. This year it will be at the end of October. We spend about 9 hours a day with different product development groups learning about what's coming up. Each evening, they treat us to some sort of entertainment.

As I write this, Microsoft has asked me to come up with two questions that will be asked of a *Major Microsoft Executive*. This reminds me of the time that Zach Porterfield asked Bill Gates if Microsoft would ever have anything similar to Borland's *Vroom Technology*. Zach was accosted by two security guards, left at the top of Mount Rainier wearing a speedo, and forced to walk home to Texas. I'm going to be mighty careful about what questions I submit.

FROM DOS TO MULTITASKING – WINDOWS 3.x FILE PROTECTION OFTEN MYSTIFIES DOS USERS

The following was taken from an NTPCUG BBS between Glynn Brooks and an NTPCUG member that highlights problems DOS users often encounter moving into the multitasking, file-protecting world of Windows 3.x, Win 95 and Win NT. It is followed by a question concerning use of "wild-card characters" within the DOS 8.3 file environment.

QUESTION FROM NTPCUG MEMBER:

I am having a strange problem. In W3.11, I went to File Manager because I wanted to copy some files to diskette. I selected multiple files to be copied and directed the copies to be placed on the a:\ drive. It started to copy but after "copying the 8th file, the system locked up. I tried alt-control-del several times and eventually did a warm reboot. I thought maybe the problem is that I was trying to copy 10 selected files, so I selected 1 file, same thing happened.

I went to compare file size and discovered that it had copied the file name but that the size parameter was 0 bytes. I then went to DOS and copied everything just fine. Is this a peculiarity of Windows or is this an indication of a system problem? It is very confusing when it will work in DOS. I have done lots of copying from File Manager so do I have a floppy drive problem or is this something completely different?

ANSWER FROM GLYNN BROOKS:

This indicates that Windows started writing an output file but never closed it. DOS does the

PREZ SEZ . . . Ctd.

I also noticed that on Halloween Evening, we'll be on a dinner cruise on a yacht so we can see Bill's house. (We've done this at every summit since Bill started building the house.) Well, this year I have a plan! No, it doesn't involve war surplus gear or anything borrowed from my militia group.

This year, after dinner, I plan on slipping into the restroom, putting on a gorilla mask, and returning to my seat. Do you think anyone will notice? Nah.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jim..

same thing, i.e., when a program opens an output file, DOS writes a directory entry for it showing a length of zero bytes. When/if the file is closed, DOS updates the directory entry to show the actual number of bytes written.

I've seen this happen when someone is running two applications. Since this is a .doc file, let's suppose you used MS Word to update a file, you save it, and then try to copy it with file manager (with Word still running). Unless you close the active document window in Word, Word still has the file open, so file manager will be unable to open it. If you exit Word or close the document window, then file manager can open/copy the file.

DOS ignores a lot of the Windows protection mechanisms. You would not be able to do this on a Windows 95 or NT system since the DOS that comes with them honors the file protection scheme. Remember that DOS 6 was in use before Win 3.1 ever came out. Thus, it can hardly be blamed for not observing Windows file management practices.

Continued on next page

The Perfect Gift!

Looking for a gift that's quick, easy and keeps on giving for the entire year? Take a tip from Doug Gorrie's Internet SIG note this month and consider giving a one-year membership in the North Texas PC Users Group. This is an especially appropriate gift for a friend or relative who is new to computing and interested in learning how to use and enjoy the PC.

Point out the Genealogy SIGs to people who are collecting information about their families, tell friends how much the Internet SIGs can help in easing their way into really using the Web, and the benefits of friendly, early computer lessons in the Personal User SIG. More experienced users would appreciate value of vendor presentations in making important software and hardware decisions during the year.

If you have a friend or relative who constantly "borrows" your copy of the latest *North Texas PC News*, a gift membership might be especially welcome.

NEW LIFE FOR 'Old' DRIVES IN SCSI EXTERNAL BOXES

What can PC users do with old CD-ROM drives? "Old" isn't meant in terms of age, but is in reference to "speed." Many vendors are selling 16X and 24X CD-ROM drives now for much less than the "old" 1 - 4X drives were fetching just one or two years ago. Those users who want MPEG movies and 3D games have replaced the "older" slower drives with faster CD-ROMs as the prices have fallen.

If the old CD-ROM drives are equipped with an SCSI interface, there is still a lot of useful life remaining. Most PC chassis boxes don't have enough room for multiple CD-ROM drives. The PC user who frequents Dallas' "First Saturday" or the vendor area during NTPCUG meeting days will notice a number of used equipment dealers who are offering external cases for SCSI drives. These are usually priced below \$25 and have space for two or four CD-ROM drives and a built in disk drive power supply capable of handling multiple drives. Most also have internal connec-



tors for SCSI-1 drives with an input cable connector and an output cable connector.

Users can also find many 2X SCSI drives that were original equipment and "pulled" by dealers who installed faster drives to meet customer demand. Last month, I saw one dealer with a four-bay drive box filled with 2X SCSI drives priced at \$60.

A user could attach the box via the SCSI interface card's external connector and keep four CD-ROMs on line at all times which would be handy for a large dictionary/thesaurus, world atlas, etc. That would allow the user to keep their *Websters Dictionary* and *Rogel's Thesaurus*, Microsoft *Encarta*, *Cinemanía* and *Myst* ready while freeing the faster CD-ROM drive for games, movies and other applications that need the speed.

Etoine Shdrlu

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DOS TO MULTITASKING... Ctd.

Q: CAN YOU ISSUE A COPY COMMAND THAT LOOKS like this: `copy c:*scsi.* a:\`

Yes, you can, but it will probably not do what you want it to. You can only use the asterisk character as the FINAL part of a file name since it represents any number of characters, from 0 to 8 in the filename, from 0 to 3 in the file extension. In the case of `*scsi*` the `scsi*` part is superfluous because of the first asterisk.

The only wildcard characters that can PRECEDE characters in a file name are the question mark (?) and the equal sign (=).

Thus, `?scsi*` can be used to select those files that have any character in the first byte of the file name followed by the characters `scsi` in positions 2 - 5 followed by any characters in positions 6 - 8.

Glynn Brooks

Copper, FTC, Microsoft, Sun and Sad Partings Mark October and November PC Movement In the Legal, Social and Technical Arenas

This will be the first year that Connie and I don't make Comdex FALL since 1987. I've felt that there was less "real" news with each succeeding year's Fall Comdex, and that the price we paid for attending APCUG events had become too high in terms of time and associations with an organization that appeared to be increasingly composed of sharks at a "free-buffet" feeding-frenzy.

Problem was that it wasn't free to the vendors who sponsored APCUG events. They paid a very high price for the 300 - 400 PCUG "representatives" attending these events. Unfortunately, it became a marketing function with obligatory, 90-minute waits in the dark as some of the most inane and unintelligent sales spiels were paraded forth for APCUG members that imaginations-on-leave could devise. It was indicative of Comdex as a whole.

I've treasured some of the contacts I've made at Comdex in the past. But, these have become fewer and fewer over the last five years, and the technical contact has diminished to the point that actually talking with someone who understood the product displayed became a rare event. All told, we felt that the expense in our time and dollars at this point overrode the potential benefits for us. We'll miss Las Vegas and some of the people we've met at past Comdex shows, but this year we'll pass...

MICROSOFT & FTC MAKE REAL NEWS IN OCTOBER AS ANOTHER ROUND BEGINS IN 'BIG GOVT. V. BIG SOFTWARE' HEATS UP

Wow! Here comes another attorney feeding-frenzy as Microsoft bunkers-in against the onslaught of almost everybody in October. First there's Sun who is suing MS over Java.

Then, the FTC decided to don a new look, i.e., with masculine reproductive appendages, and came to the conclusion that Microsoft has not been playing by their, 1995, rules and should pay to the tune of \$1,000,000 per day for their misdeeds.

Hmmmm. That means MS could thumb their nose at the FTC for a measly \$365 million per year. At that rate, Bill Gates would be broke in, let's see, about 110 years. Sure.

Got big problems here and media consensus is split 50-50 over how deeply MS will gut the FTC challengers if this debacle comes to trial. Best money is riding on entire FTC staff singing "coloratura" in the wake of Bill Gates' yacht steaming through the courts on the charges raised. It would be that bad. My problem isn't with idea that MS plays really mean in the marketing arena — that's a given and part of the Silicon Valley game even though Redmond, WA is a long way from that part of California. It's really with the FTC assumption that technology is a "static" domain rather than the swiftly moving and changing universe that is part of contemporary reality.

What was true, simple and just by yesterday's standards (if it ever was) bears no resemblance to the situation that exists now in

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A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE PC INDUSTRY,
NEW HARDWARE OPERATING SYSTEMS,
SOFTWARE AND APPLICATIONS
by REAGAN ANDREWS

the technological arena. Microsoft is in a to-the-death struggle with foes no less ready to go for the jugular than Microsoft at their most aggressive. If you think Netscape and Sun are "softies" you better look at the history of microcomputing another time or two. Since I do dearly love "purple prose" the use of "implacable foes" just has to meet paper this month in describing Scott McNealy, Sun Computing, Ralph Ellison, Oracle, and the ever-pre-

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sent Reback, attorney of the realm and ever-ready to rend at Microsoft sinews if the beast is downed and no longer dangerous enough to make life tenuous in Silicon Valley.

You have no idea how much I've enjoyed writing all that.

Personally, I don't really believe either camp very much. I can't understand why the FTC is going after Microsoft and just winking at Intel. If you think Intel plays by any different set of "rules," think again, and remember the thinly-veiled threat against DEC (Digital Equipment Corporation) following DEC's announcement that they were suing Intel over patent infringement. That was real. "Screw with us and you're cut off from CPU supplies." DEC got the message and may be in the process of coming to settlement with Intel.

'Slot I' MARKS INTEL FIRST FORAY INTO IBM'S 'MCA' PROPRIETARY ARCHITECTURE

No, I don't mean that Intel is infringing on the 'old' IBM bus architecture. It's really Intel's attempt to keep the AMD/Cyrix dogs at bay, i.e., out of the high-end CPU struggle. Unlike earlier motherboard architectures, including Intel's PCI bus, the new 'Slot I' and coming 'Slot II' bus architecture is fully protected by Intel patents and copyrights.

AMD and Cyrix have been able to produce competing CPU's (at the low end) based on 'Socket 7' compatibility that would work on the majority of motherboards at the (now) lower bus speeds be-

low 300 MHz. That's going to change when Intel shifts into high gear with 'Slot II' with speeds in the 400 - 500 MHz range which Socket 7 CPU's can't (according to Intel) match.

SHADES OF IBM & MCA BUS STANDARDS DEFY ANY VENDOR'S LICENSING PLOYS

IBM tried this first with MCA (Micro Channel Architecture) which bombed miserably in implementation as a result of several factors. Not least of these was a determined effort by competitors, Compaq, et al, to prevent re-monopolization of the PC by IBM via the EISA bus standard. Unfortunately, neither MCA nor EISA lived up to their press and effectively supplanted the ISA bus standard. Although capable of higher bus speeds, the VESA bus fell to the less-capable PCI bus that was introduced by Intel, thus completing the circle.

Unlike their move with PCI, Intel definitely decided not to license (so far) the new Slot II standard. What this will mean to motherboard makers such as ASUS, ABIT and others is that the 'faster' Intel CPU's (and competing AMD and Cyrix CPU's) will be out of bounds to them since they can't produce the bus on their motherboards. If Intel's plans come to fruition, then Intel will be the only producer of really fast motherboard/CPU combinations that will be able to challenge the upper-level workstation market currently owned by Hewlett-Packard, IBM, DEC, SUN and Silicon Graphics.

That's what 'Merced' is supposed to do, by the way, with H-P's help in the chip design. (This is where DEC steps in and screams about the 'Alpha' patents which they claim Intel stole from DEC). This is also where the big bucks reside currently, not at the sub-\$1000 PC level.

Are H-P, IBM, DEC, SUN and SG worried? Damn right they are. If Intel is able to penetrate their high-\$\$\$ preserves, they are in big trouble. Question is whether the PC market will really move in this direction. Right now, Compaq is PC leader with substantial market share of the \$1,000-PC arena, thanks to the Cyrix Media GX CPU and unpredicted fall in price of the Pentiums. This was caused in part by Intel's 'dumping' non-MMX CPU's at ridiculous prices which forced similar moves by AMD and Cyrix/National Semiconductor.

BACK TO ISA v. EISA v. MCA RESUMPTION OF PC BUS WARS AND USERS WILL LOSE THIS TIME

Worst-case scenario — AMD and Cyrix compete with own bus standards. That could be disastrous for PC users who will face yet another choice in the selection process. It's not that far-fetched since AMD is reported to be interested in the DEC Alpha bus to support very high speed operation of the next generation CPU's coming off the drawing board.

Motherboard makers will likely recoil from this idea since the margins are already tight at this level and a complete redesign, including support IC's could be very, very expensive. If AMD's thinking about it, Cyrix/National Semiconductor couldn't be that far behind and might choose yet another in the bus possibilities. Three bus standards? Don't

think the market could support this idea.

If Intel does stick to a proprietary bus they won't license, where does that leave the FTC? If they are going to get 'balls' over Microsoft, this has to sound some trumpets somewhere in DC — I would hope.

I have a different scenario. The FTC is really a bunch of Mac fanatics who can only see the software they hate and not the hardware underneath. Makes sense. They are accustomed to a true 'TV experience' and haven't considered that the CPU and bus makes some difference in the performance of the system. Makes as much sense as anything else I've seen in the media.

IBM MAY HAVE SCOOPED EVERYONE WITH COPPER IC ANNOUNCEMENT IN OCTOBER

Copper may be 'King' again if IBM has its way. IBM announced they had developed a way to employ copper traces on silicon IC substrates that may revolutionize the CPU and DRAM production industry. Formerly (now) IC fabricators have relied on aluminum traces to carry the signals on IC's. If copper can be implemented in this role, it will mean narrower traces to carry the currents at lower heat levels and much more dense IC architectures.

In the past, aluminum was used in place of other materials to prevent 'poisoning' of the silicon substrate. IBM claims to have developed techniques that allow use of copper traces in a manner that doesn't result in silicon poisoning. Such a breakthrough would revolutionize the IC fabrication industry.

For users it would mean that CPU's could be much more powerful and reliable than current cir-

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cuits allow. According to IBM spokespeople, the Armonk, NY, firm will be able to implement this technological breakthrough in early 1998, although product lines to be affected weren't announced. Other IC fabricators were quick to announce similar progress, but without specification of manufacturing/shipping schedules for product(s).

MEANWHILE Apple Fiddles While Wintel Takes More Formerly Apple-only turf

Where's Apple in all this? Mostly sitting on the fence, scratching. Steve Jobs continues to be the heir apparent at Apple's helm, and will continue to discourage any serious CEO replacement(s) as long as he holds sway over the Apple BOD. His hands at the wheel are unmistakable to date and his decisions are getting much more consideration than would be imaginable in almost any other scenario.

Apple continued its slide with another disappointing quarterly report to stockholders (not Jobs who sold all his Apple stock) and reported plans for more belt-tightening via employee reductions.

Question — who's left to let go? According to industry media, the top-level programmers adiosed some time ago and Apple has had difficulty keeping management staff aboard as well.

Saw some very interesting papers (courtesy of Andy Reese, Apple Corps President) refuting industry reports about health of the Macintosh, OS 8 and bleeding of the graphics arena after Wintel incursions. Appreciated the update, but have a lot of difficulty buying into this after watching Apples/Jobs' latest moves.

I also don't think a refurbished NeXT OS is going to have any impact on the PC arena which appears to be Apple's 'secret weapon' in the war against Intel-Microsoft. UNIX by any other name still doesn't curl anyone's hair in the industry at the desktop level and this dog will be competing with an OS (Linux) that's essentially free.

If I were going to bet on a real competitor for the Wintel desktop, I'd look at Be, Inc.'s BeOS. If you are curious about competing OS's to Windows, drop by the Apple Corps meeting November



Steve Jobs

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15 and take a look. It will be worth your time and effort.

Disk drive makers report lower sales and profits during the third quarter

Both Seagate Technologies and Western Digital announced lower than expected sales and profits

during the third quarter, with both reporting pricing pressures and inflated inventories as part of the problem they foresee.

Ever increasing drive capacities coupled with ever declining prices for product are indicative of a new round in the hard disk

drive wars according to analysts, and may be a harbinger of further consolidations in the drive industry ahead.

Seagate apparently experienced difficulty in its high-end drive sales which was unexpected by analysts, but may spell difficulties ahead for the industry and for the drive parts vendors that supply heads and other items for the drive vendors.

Reagan Andrews

If Microsoft Built Cars

1. Every time they repainted the lines on the road, you'd have to buy a new car.
2. Occasionally your car would just die on the motorway for no reason, accept this, restart and drive on.
3. Occasionally, executing a maneuver would cause your car to stop and fail to restart and you'd have to re-install the engine. For some strange reason, you'd just accept this too.
4. You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought a "Car 95" or a "Car NT". But then you'd have to buy more seats.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was twice as reliable, five times as fast, twice as easy to drive - but it would only run on five percent of the roads.
6. The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars which would make their cars go much slower.
7. The oil, engine, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced with a single "General Car Fault" warning light.
8. People would get excited about the "new" features in Microsoft cars, forgetting completely that they had been available in other cars for many years.
9. We'd all have to switch to Microsoft gas and all auto fluids but the packaging would be superb.
10. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.
11. The airbag system would say "Are you sure?" before going off.
12. If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened.
13. They wouldn't build their own engines, but form a cartel with their engine suppliers. The latest engine would have 16 cylinders, multi-point fuel injection and 4 turbos, but it would be a side-valve design so you could use Model-T Ford parts on it.
14. There would be an "Engine Pro" with bigger turbos, but it would be slower on most existing roads.
15. Microsoft cars would have a special radio/cassette player which would only be able to listen to Microsoft FM, and play Microsoft Cassettes. Unless of course, you buy the upgrade to use existing stuff.
16. Microsoft would do so well, because even though they don't own any roads, all of the road manufacturers would give away Microsoft cars free, including IBM!
17. If you still ran old versions of car (i.e. CarDOS 6.22/CarWIN 3.11), then you would be called old fashioned, but you would be able to drive much faster, and on more roads!
18. If you couldn't afford to buy a new car, then you could just borrow your friends, and then copy it.
19. Whenever you bought a car, you would have to reorganize the ignition for a few days before it worked.
20. You would need to buy an upgrade to run cars on a motorway next to each other.

Contributed by Wes Echols

DOM Disks Released In October

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

Prepared by Gene Carleton

Disk 1119. *SoftConversion 97 - Conversion Factors Program*

Disk 1120. *Four Holiday Season Fonts* Fonts for the holidays

Disk 1121. *Quizzy Deluxe* (32 bit), V2.01 Quiz Game (Fun & Educational)

Disk 1122. *Trivia Shell, Interactive USA Trivia Game.*

Disk 1119. *SoftConversion 97 - Conversion Factors Program* SoftTEK Consulting, 9712 Hawkdale Lane, Knoxville, TN 37922. Registration Fee: \$12.95

Introduction: SoftConversion 97 is a simple utility program that allows you to convert between units in 28 different categories. The software was originally designed by a mechanical engineer in response to the need for a simple utility that could be used to convert from English to metric units. The software was expanded to include many other conversions. This latest version provides support for 394 units, for a total of 8,918 different conversions!

Instructions

SoftConversion 97 is very easy to use. Simply choose the category of units from one of the two drop down menus - Units (A-O) and Units (P-Z), or press one of the toolbar buttons. The "input units" and "output units" list boxes will then be filled with all of the available units for that category. Select the input unit in the list box labeled "Input Units" and select the output unit in the list box labeled "Output Units". Enter the value associated with the starting units in the text box

labeled "input units" and the value associated with the desired units will be automatically calculated.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95

Installation: SoftConversion 97 now comes with an installation utility. Run Setup.exe located on the SoftConversion 97 installation disk and follow the simple instructions to install SoftConversion 97 on your computer. SoftConversion 97 can also be uninstalled using Windows 95's

Disk 1120. *Four Holiday Season Fonts* Fonts for the holidays

Here are four true-type fonts for your holiday messages/cards.

- *Halloween* is just that. These are Halloween characters that form the letters.
- *Ornamental* is tree ornaments with the letters on the side of the ball.
- *Primer* is a set that I thought would give your messages a little different look.

To install the fonts just go to the fonts folder/group and run the install

font section. Good luck!

This software was downloaded from the ZD-Net Internet site by Gene Carleton.

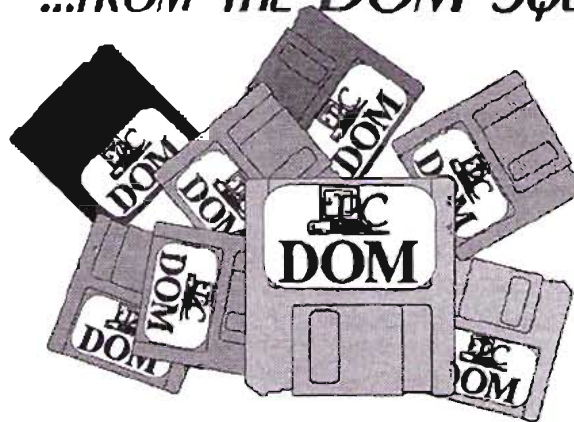
This README prepared by Gene Carleton. 9710

Disk 1121. *Quizzy Deluxe* (32 bit), V2.01 Quiz Game (Fun & Educational) JKS Development, Suite 501, International House, 223 Regents Street, London, England, W1R 8QD. CompuServe: 101756,745, Internet: support@quizzy.com. Registration Fee: \$15.00

Arcade style multiple-choice quiz game for one to four players. Has facility to create your own questions for fun or educational purposes. (32 bit version for Win95 and WinNT)

How much do you really know? Test yourself and have fun at the same time with Quizzy Deluxe. Up to four people can play this well-done multiple-choice trivia game. Select the correct answer out of the four provided to get the chance to select your winnings from \$1 to \$50 - or you could get nothing if you're not careful. Pick the wrong answer and the game will show you what you should have selected. Nice graphics and Midi-based sound effects enhance the game experience. Older children, teenagers, and adults should all enjoy Quizzy Deluxe. As a nice bonus, you can easily make your own question database to target this effective learning tool toward any age group, including young children. Registration provides over a thousand new questions plus the ability to create new databases of any

New Disks ...FROM THE DOM SQUAD



By MARK GRUNER

"Add/Remove Programs" utility located in the Control Panel.

This software was downloaded from the ZD-Net Internet site by Gene Carleton.

This README prepared by ZD-Net & edited by Gene Carleton 9710

- My favorite is Printer Ornaments. This is a bunch symbols/things similar to wing dings. You have to look at them to see what I mean.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 3.1 or Windows 95.



size. A 16-bit version is also available (aquiz201.zip).

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
Windows 95

Installation

Put this disk in your "A" drive.

1. Start Windows
2. Select RUN from FILE menu
3. Enter the pathname and SETUP.EXE (e.g. A:\SETUP.EXE)
4. Follow on-screen instructions.

This software was downloaded from the ZD-Net Internet site by Gene Carleton

*This README prepared by
ZD-Net & edited by
Gene Carleton.*

Disk 1122. *Trivia Shell*, Interactive USA Trivia Game. Software Creations, 26 Harris St., Clinton, MA. 01510. Voice Line (508) 368-8654, 14-HOUR FAX Line (508) 365-7214. Registration Fee: \$11.95 + \$2.00 S/H

Trivia Shell is an interactive trivia game that allows you to test your knowledge in a variety of subject areas. Think you know all that there is to know about USA? Test yourself and amaze your friends by learning new facts from our files!

Trivia Shell allows you to define the parameters of the game. You choose how the game will be scored, what questions you will answer, how many points you will get for correct or incorrect answers, whether you will get hints or not, and so on. You can control almost every aspect of your game play and we think that's important.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:
IBM PC or AT, 640k RAM

available. We recommend that you use a mouse.

To install the program, create a directory on your hard disk, copy this entire disk to that directory, and then make that directory the default directory and type GO.

Windows users, double click GO.BAT in the directory.

This software was downloaded from the ZD-Net Internet site by Gene Carleton.

*This README prepared by
ZD-Net & 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 colocated with the NTPCUG Information Booth and Multimedia Rental Library 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**

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 November, Larry Linson will present another review of an FMS, Inc. product: *Total Access Components - Custom Controls for Microsoft Access*. This product, like most FMS products, is available in versions for Access 2, 95, and 97. The Access 95/97 version contains 27 custom (ActiveX) controls for a variety of purposes. You can use them to create user-friendly forms and reports that some might even call fancy, improve your data display and data input; enhance the functionality of your forms, incorporate multimedia effects, and easily include Windows features such as managing the clipboard, INI files, a professional About Box, the common dialogs, and even the system registry. We'll see what they can do to add function to and improve the appearance of an Access application.

And, the Access SIG "Brown-Bag Drawing" giveaway for November is a

complete, registerable copy of *Total Access Components*, courtesy of FMS, Inc. In keeping with our new policy, commercial software is a "major" giveaway item, and you must be a North Texas PC Users Group member to win.

In October, Larry reviewed and demonstrated *Total Access SourceBook*, also from FMS, Inc. The week following that meeting, he delivered to a client an application in which using the SourceBook code for reattaching/relinking tables in an external database had saved him (literally) hours of implementation effort. Otherwise, he would have had to convert his old Access 2 code - it uses Windows 3.1 APIs and they do require some revision for the 32-bit world.

Coming in December, "The Great Crystal Reports Demo and Developer Product Giveaway" - a joint production of the Delphi, Access, and ActiveX SIGs. Be sure and come to the Delphi SIG

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

Changes:

- C++ Language (Formerly C++ /Advanced & /Beginning)
 [Contact Howard Harkness]

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 Drebelbs (214) 851-0266)
- Hardware Solutions (Contact Charles Miller (803) 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 SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h

Legend: h = Home #, w = Work #

M = Metro #

ACT!

Jim Thompson (817) 261-6159 h
 (972) 487-8499 w
 Deborah Bean..... (972) 475-7463 h
 (972) 475-3124 w

Access

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 hM
 Jack Atkinson..... (817) 481-8623 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++Language

Howard Harkness

CAD

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

Communications

Alan Brosz..... (972) 548-7928 h
 (972) 498-1237 w
 Birl Smith..... (972) 960-8227 h
 (214) 220-9388 w

SIG

meeting at 10:00AM. Fred Williams will demonstrate Crystal Reports, and then we'll be drawing for products for Windows application developers: a copy of Crystal Reports Pro, a copy of the complete Microsoft Visual Studio Pro (that's Visual Basic 5.0, Visual C++ 5.0, Visual J++ 5.0, Visual Fox Pro, and a host of other goodies for developers -- several CD's worth -- street price at one major mail-order vendor specializing in VB is \$900+, list price even higher), and maybe some additional donated goodies of interest to all developers. Hey, all you Visual Basic types, Internet developers, FoxPro folk, and C-people, you are invited, too.

Our presentation plans aren't firm for December here in the Access SIG, but, courtesy of Tom Browning, we have a book for our giveaway (*this giveaway's in the Access SIG, not the Delphi SIG*): Ken Getz and Paul Litwin's *Access 95 How-To*. You might have to convert the example code on the CD, but just glancing through, almost all the techniques still apply to Access 97, as well. Again, you must be a member of the North Texas PC User Group to qualify for this "major" prize. We may also have some "minor" prizes for which any attendee qualifies: freeware, shareware, or demos on diskette.

Larry asks, "Who's going to volunteer as our guest speaker for the January meeting?" You can present any subject related to Access, at any level from beginner to advanced users: tutorials on features of any version of Microsoft Access, reviews of books about Access, or Access-related product reviews. Let any of the SIG leaders know if you are willing to speak.

Between meetings, 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 be-

tween monthly meetings. If you're on the Internet, the Access "meeting place" is the *comp.databases.ms-access* newsgroup.

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

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers SIG

In November, Glynn Brooks will speak about his use of ActiveX Documents for simple distribution of software over an Intranet or over the Internet. Members who call the NTPCUG BBS may have seen a number of Glynn's informative and useful messages there. We're really looking forward to his presentation.

Thanks to Jim Hart for discussing his application using ActiveX/OLE technology to combine Visual Basic, Microsoft Word, and Excel at our October meeting. Apologies to Jim and attendees that we didn't have the Office 95 software on our demo machine, so he could only show us the code and tell us about it, but couldn't demonstrate the application. You can convert Office applications quickly, but not if you're using Word Basic and Excel VBA in Visual Basic programs as you do with automation! Despite this handicap, Jim did an excellent job and we learned a lot. Thanks again, Jim.

Coming in December, "The Great Crystal Reports Demo and Developer Product Giveaway" -- a joint production of the Delphi, Access, and ActiveX SIGs. We'll be drawing for a copy of Crystal Reports Pro and, at least, a copy of VB5 Pro, maybe even a complete Microsoft Visual Studio Pro. Those will be nice Christmas presents, won't they? Look here and in the Delphi SIG Notes for details, as they are firmed up.

SIG LEADER LISTING

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Dallas Corel

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

DOS/ Operating Systems

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Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h

Delphi

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Tom Browning..... (214) 692-9784 h
Frank Cavallito (972) 423-9221

Desktop Publishing

Mark Stuertz..... (214) 528-5311 h

Emerging Computer Technologies

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Lynn Peterson
Walter Johnston.. (972) 612-0604 h

Fox Pro

Kevin White..... (972) 383-5211 w

Genealogy - General

Al Sanford (972) 278-7888 h

Genealogy - Brother's Keeper

Neil Sunderland .. (972) 272-2869 h

Genealogy - PAF

Joe Waldrop..... (817) 498-5856 h

Genealogy - Roots III / IV

John Wylie..... (972) 495-4410 h

Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

Jeri Steele (972) 306-1598 h
..... (972) 917-3917 w

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..... (972) 475-3124 w

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Ralph Beaver (817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson..... (972) 938-0344 h

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Doug Gorrie (972) 618-8002 h
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Internet-Advanced

Tom O'Keefe..... (972) 247-8812 h

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Erik Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM

Internet-WEB Developers

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David Maxwell (214) 977-7584 w
..... (972) 299-6295 h

Introduction to the PC

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..... (972) 960-4276 w
Bob Russell (972) 422-4269 h

Investors

Dick Richtman (972) 437-0322 h

JAVA

Art English (972) 567-2253

Lotus Notes & Domino

B.J. Shultz

MS Word for Windows

Beverly Kurtin (817) 268-2071 hM
Jan Patton (903) 886-6249 h
..... (903) 886-6466 w
Bob Rice (214) 885-0202 w

Microsoft FrontPage

Robert Masters ... (972) 462-7490 hw
Jeff Cooper

Microsoft Networking

Bruce Wynn (972) 335-2507 h
..... (972) 756-7832 w
Richard Miles..... (214) 767-7315 w
..... (972) 296-5356 h
Gil Brand..... (214) 508-8370 w
..... (214) 341-7182 h

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC

Art English (972) 567-2253

Multimedia

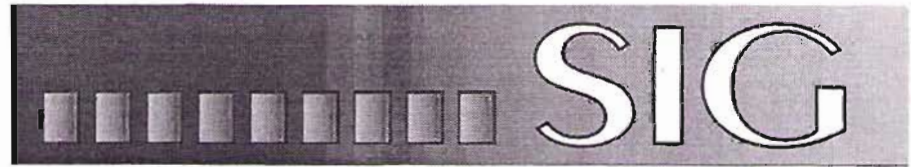
Dennis Rice (972) 680-8299 h

Networking

Mike Momen..... (972) 238-1244 h
..... (972) 915-2158 w
Leroy Tennison
Francis Bright

Paradox

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



The *ActiveX Application Developers SIG* addresses issues of developing applications under the *Component Object Model (COM)* using ActiveX Controls and other ActiveX components. We still ask and answer a few questions about *Open Database Connection (ODBC)* technology, too. As 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.

Come join us in November, 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 October meeting, billed as a presentation of the Year 2000 problem on the PC was actually a 'round table' discussion (read no prepared presentation) on dates, times and other peripheral issues.

Our topic in November will be a review of a disassembler that advertises the ability to reconstruct C code. Preliminary tests were inconclusive. We will do a complete shakeout for November.

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

Frank Cavallito

C++ LANGUAGE SIG

General format: Approximately one-half hour presentation on the C++ language, followed by a Q&A session, with occasional presentations by guest speakers. In November, we will be

starting a complete overview of C++, primarily geared to people who don't already know C++, but have programmed in some other language.

- ❖ November: Introduction to C++, syntax, basic control structures
- ❖ December: Pointers, arrays, and character strings
- ❖ January: The "class" keyword, constructors and destructors
- ❖ February: Support for OO in C++; Encapsulation, Inheritance, and Polymorphism.

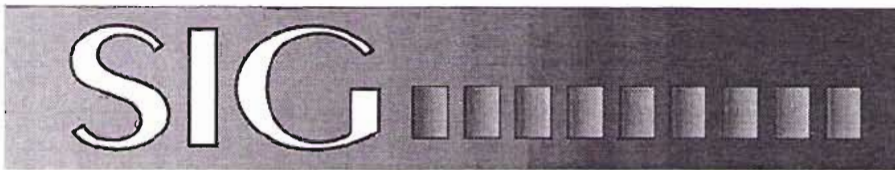
Howard Harkness
harkness@skeptics.org

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

Well another month has passed and we are still without a vendor presentation. It seems everyone is busy selling the greatest products with the latest technology onboard. However we will not give up! I have several xDSL vendors who are local and appear to be interested in speaking. Let's hope I can pull something off before this year is out.

Last month our very own Alan Brosz, from MCI presented "EMAIL Systems". He described EMAIL from an Internet perspective, showing the key parts for operation, a typical connection to the POP3 mail server, and the protocols that allow the EMAIL message to pass "seamlessly" between sender and receiver (good gateways are a must!). It was an excellent overview with a good Q/A session. Thanks Alan.

Next month we will host another Q/A meeting. I am also inviting "Strategic Solutions", a manufacturing rep who has expressed an interest for supplying speakers in key technology fields. This rep sells equipment from manufacturers who have a unique product twist, overall enhancing the service level for



voice, data, video, and graphic communications. Some of these products include xDSL and ISDN technologies, well known in the marketplace today. So for some stimulating discussion concerning PCs, problems you may be having, and communications in general, please plan to attend.

Alan Brosz and Birl Smith

DALLAS COREL SIG

Have It Your Way

Our November SIG Program will focus on customizing your tools for YOU. First, learn to customize CorelDRAW 7's interface and streamline it to facilitate the way you work. Eliminate the rarely used buttons or bars and create short cuts for functions used often. Make custom color pallets too. Rick Alman's amusing approach to CorelDRAW instruction will eliminate the tedium from this task and get you on your way fast. We'll see his "Cool Tricks" videotape on the topic.

Second, Jim Hart will demonstrate TEKit, which he has been using since he discovered it at the Corel Conference in Canada in August. "TEK" in TEKit is pronounced the same as "tech" in technical. It is a third party plugin for CorelDRAW 7 which allows you to quickly and easily enter the world of isometric illustration. The isometric drawing is created in DRAW's graphic environment, which gives you the capability to render the image any



Dallas Corel is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

way you like. From a black and white version to a photo realistic rendering, all are completed with CorelDRAW's tools and effects. TEKit is extremely valuable to the engineer, designer, patient seeker, manual maker, or anyone who needs to see their object "come to life" even before the actual object is manufactured!

October Program in Review

Shelly Baker from Adobe Systems presented to our SIG and to NTPCUG members in the Main Auditorium. Her topics were "Font Management with ATM" and "Acrobat for the Internet." Several lucky members drew winning numbers and took home Adobe software. Others welcomed the opportunity to order products at special NTPCUG discounts from Shelly that day.

Even though you may have loaded Adobe Type Manager (ATM) from your Ventura 7 CD, you will appreciate upgrading to ATM Deluxe so you can enjoy all the features. We Corel software users have access to zillions of fonts and need all the help we can get to manage them efficiently. ATM is a utility designed for that. Even if you use only a few fonts on a regular basis, you need ATM for rasterizing screen fonts for Type 1.

Use of the Internet has brought more awareness of Adobe Acrobat and its .PDF files. Acrobat is a fast way to publish any document on an Intranet, the Web, or CD-ROM. Use Acrobat to create, enhance and read Portable Document Format (PDF) documents. A document converted to .PDF is cross-platform and it retains the look and layout of the original, regardless of the system it is read on. You enhance .PDF documents by adding interactivity such as links, forms and movies. Password protect your files, too. The Acrobat Reader is distributed free of charge. Put an Acrobat Reader link

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Phil Faulkner.....(972) 239-0561 h

.....(214) 654-6610 w

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Steven DeSalvo... (972) 716-2684

John Penaska.....(972) 431-3979

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

UNIX

Doug Scott.....(817) 261-4653 hM

.....(817) 878-0367 wM

Visual Basic — Beginning

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

button on your home page if you haven't already!

September Program in Review

Professional presentations creator and SIG member Rose Anne Ellison demonstrated how she created her fabulous multimedia presentation for NTPCUG. She did it solely with the new Presentations 8 module, found in Corel WordPerfect Suite 8. She used sounds, music, clip art and animations from the Corel CD to spice up what is already a "good news" story. She added actual photos from the NTPCUG archives too. Her 8-minute multimedia presentation showcases NTPCUG for the purpose of enticing new members to join. We output her file to videotape for easy playback repetitions on standard VCRs and monitors. We will get to see the video each month on the NTPCUG meeting days at the Infomart in two locations: at the NTPCUG Information Booth in the Vendor Area and outside the Main Auditorium entrance. Thanks Rose Anne for your dedicated volunteerism and for a job well done. Also many thanks to Bobby D. Upton at Vaughn Communications, Inc. for completing file output to videotape and

creating duplicate tapes for NTPCUG promotional use.

When signing the Corel SIG Guest Book on our SIG's Web page, Craig Stauber from Little Rock, Arkansas stated he was most interested in Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 that includes "Presentations 8". After a couple of e-mail discussions with SIG member Rose Anne Ellison about the features of Presentations, Craig offered to demonstrate what he had learned (sometimes the hard way) about the intricacies of this Corel product. Craig stated that, "driving from Little Rock to Dallas for the September Corel SIG was 'nothing' compared to sharing the great benefits of Corel Presentations 8." He enthusiastically demonstrated one of his multimedia creations, showing its many animation features and versatility. Craig also likes Corel Presentations' "Pack and Go" option. That's an executable file that can be played on any PC, regardless if it has the Corel software installed. You can even insert the executable file into a MS Word or WordPerfect document and e-mail it to someone else so they can view the multimedia presentation in which you are so proud. Thanks, Craig, for bringing your enthusiasm for Presentations 8 to our SIG all the way from Little Rock!

Sneak Preview Announcement

Corel Corporation has announced that it will launch CorelDRAW 8 in North Texas at our NTPCUG meeting at Infomart in the Alexandria Auditorium (Main Auditorium on first floor) December 13. Who can guess what added refinements the new version of this already topflight software will feature? If you have attended other version launches of this product you will expect Corel to pull out all the stops again for this one. Be there.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ January - Web page design with Corel Web.Graphics Suite
- ❖ February - Photo Retouching in CorelPHOTO-PAINT 7
- ❖ March - VENTURA 7 Demonstration
- ❖ April - CorelDRAW 7 & PHOTO-PAINT 7 in Real World Uses
- ❖ May - Corel SIG Members Showcase Their Work
- ❖ June - Productivity in DRAW 5, 6 & 7
- ❖ July - CorelDREAM 3-D 7
- ❖ August - Corel Corporation presented WebMaster Suite, Lumiere and Click & Create
- ❖ September - Presentations 8
- ❖ October - Font Management and Acrobat

Marsha Drebelbis

Delphi SIG

Since Larry Linson let the cat out of the bag last month, I will confirm the plans for the December meeting. It is going to be a biggie!

I will be doing a demo of *Crystal Reports 6.0*. Ho hum, you say? The kicker is, I will be giving away a FULL copy of Crystal Reports Pro 5.0 to some lucky member! This is about a \$600 product. The upgrade to 6.0 is only \$169 if the winner chooses to.

I have been using 6.0 for a month or so now and it is still a very strong and flexible, multi-software platform report generator. I naturally use it with Delphi, but most any developer can incorporate Crystal into his favorite software development platform.


That is why I have elected to extend an invitation to all of the "Developer"-re-

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K1Z 8R7

- ❖ Technical Support Representatives..... 800-818-1848
- ❖ G1 Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products) 800-772-6735
- ❖ Customer Service Representatives 800-772-6735
- ❖ IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network)..... 613-728-1990
- ❖ 24 Hour Automated Fax System 613-728-0826 Ext.3080
- ❖ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays
- ❖ To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

SIG



lated SIG's to attend our December Delphi SIG. So not only will we have Larry Linson's Access weenies, some of Jim Carter's VB manglers will probably show up, and with some luck we might even get the Howard Harkness C and C++ coders to grace us with their superior presence! I do also expect the rag tag ActiveX horde to be among us as well.

Since 6.0 is heavily Web-"enabled", like most everything except used car parts these days, I might even expect a visit from the Internet SIG's Web denizens. That is, if they can pull themselves away from being spellbound by all those spinning coffee cups.

So, in December, come on by, with proof of membership, and take a fair shot at an early Christmas present!

This month will be dedicated to a feature that is little documented in the Delphi product, but has a Borland TI (Technical Information) devoted to it. That would be, managing both fixed-length and comma-delimited ASCII text files utilizing a Delphi TTable component. Plus, if there is time we might dig into my Woll to Woll Software, *InfoPower 3.0 VCL set 1* just recently installed.

There should be some time for a Q&A session as well, so bring your questions, and don't forget answers are always in fashion! See you there.

Fred Williams

DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

November is "choice time" for the DOS/Operating Systems SIG.

Waiting/wishing for the "perfect" operating system (OS)? One that doesn't crash or otherwise surprise you when you can't afford the time to untangle any more "undocumented features?"

So am I. Until it arrives "real soon now," I'll have to keep struggling with the available choices — flawed as they might be — and making my choices in hopes I'll at least get somewhere close to operational efficiency and reliability.

Used to be simple for the end user. DOS. Then it became DOS and Windows. Now it's a question of which Windows — Win 3.1x, Win 95 or Win NT 4.0. Could even add *OS/2 Warp* and *Linux/UNIX* to the selection array at the Wintel (Windows on an Intel. Cyrix or AMD powered PC) level. The "right" choice will depend on what I want to do (most of the time.)

And, if you'll drop into "strange territory," i.e., the Apple Corps meeting, you will be presented with yet another possible choice in the future. Be, Inc. will be showing their new Mac OS, *BeOS*. It's the OS Apple rejected in favor of the NeXT OS, but has been gathering lots of attention and praise. Be also announced they will port the OS to the Wintel platform.

How you use your PC will pretty much dictate your choices. If you are hopelessly addicted to games that run under DOS, don't do much else other than basic word processing or spreadsheet analysis, then *DOS 6.22* and *Windows 3.1x* are for you. Be prepared to see a diminishing supply of new software/games, though, 'cause this is a dead-end street.

The rest of us are going make some compromises based on \$\$\$, software availability, and how much we're willing to sacrifice in one work area to accommodate another. That's what we will be looking at in November.

Small TIP:

If you are having "mysterious" events occur with some regularity such as "hangs" or temporary slow downs on your PC, think about power. Most

PC's now come with somewhat-less-than heavy duty power supplies that can deteriorate with age, heavy current demands and line surges. If you've added more power-demanding hardware such as disk drives, CD-ROMs, DRAM, accessory cards, etc., you may be taxing the power supply beyond its capability.

Also, the fans included in these units do wear out over time and may need replacement. It's also a good idea to check out the battery that keeps the CMOS settings "alive" since failure of either isn't always "catastrophic" and can lead to intermittent PC malfunctioning.

Reagan Andrews

Graphics SIG

In November Micrografx will be showing off Draw 6.0 in the main presentation hall at 11. For those of us who saw Brian's presentation last month, it will be basically a repeat with two hours of demonstrations squeezed (somehow) into an hour. Since an hour is never long enough to have all questions answered, he will be spending the 12 to 1 hour up in the SIG filling in all the details he did not cover in the presentation. He will also be around to answer all of the questions from those of us who bought the program and can't seem to make specific features work.

The first hour of the SIG is still open. We are trying to get Micrografx to show off the latest version of CreateA-Card. Yep, between our program just four months ago and now there has been another release of the program which is even more Web friendly. If we can't get the presentation this month, we may adjourn to the big hall to heckle, er, encourage Brian. Keep an eye on the presentation screens downstairs in the vendor area to see what we are going to do.

Besides having all your unanswered questions about Draw answered, there is one other big reason for coming to the SIG. Brian usually has an extra copy of whatever he is demonstrating which he gives away at the end of the SIG. With far fewer people than are present in the big auditorium, your

chances of winning are significantly better. The last two months we had drawings for Draw and for Webtricity. Both times there were less than 10 people in the drawing. Coincidentally, both times the winners were new members. Membership in the NTPCUG - and coming to the Graphics SIG- really pays.

We are still planning on having an early beta showing of Simply 3D 3 in November. I still can't say anything about the program, unfortunately. The folks at Micrografx are remaining very closedmouthed about this one.

December will probably be the new Picture Publisher. Rumor has it that some of the fancy three D features of Simply 3D will be rolled in to Picture Publisher. We will have to wait until December to find out.

Neal Berkowitz

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

On October 11th, Mark Camp discussed how to set up and use Windows 95's built-in Dial-Up Networking features to connect to your Internet Service Provider (ISP). Win95 has that ability, but setting it up and using it can be perplexing. We found that most attendees had already addressed how to access their ISP, so the meeting quickly went to Q & A. Mark also handed out copies of WS_FTP, probably the most frequently used FTP program on the Internet.

Special Note: At our January 1998 gathering, we are again planning to repeat our multi-hour "Introduction to the Internet" session. This periodic course is designed for the rank beginner, who has not yet had occasion to access the Internet. We're hoping to start at 10:00 AM, and go 4-5 hours. The course will include an introduction to the Internet, how to choose an Internet service provider (ISP) to connect to the Internet, hardware and software requirements, and familiarization with common Internet applications for viewing the World Wide Web (WWW), sending mail electronically (e-mail), downloading files, reading newsgroups, and (if

time permits) creating your own web page to put on the Internet.

If you or others you know are getting that new computer or modem for Christmas, or are planning to join the millions already "surfing" the Internet, this is the place to be to learn how to use that new gadget.

And if you are one of the hundreds that have benefited from our introductory Internet sessions, or other SIGs within NTPCUG, why not consider giving someone else a year's membership in NTPCUG !! It may be just what they need to expand their interest in and understanding of their computer too!!!

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

We hope to see you on November 15th!

*Erik Leaseburg, Doug Gorrie
& Kiff Barnes*

INTERNET SIG- ADVANCED

At our November 15th meeting, Mark Camp will come in from the Web Developer's SIG to speak about email servers. He will demonstrate two servers for Windows NT and give away evaluation CD-ROMs of each to all who attend. The first will be *Post.Office*, produced by Software.Com, the second is *SLMail* from Seattle Labs.

Both email servers are examples of modern SMTP servers available for the Window NT platform. Both are simple

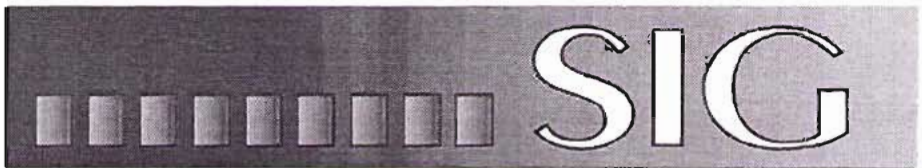
and straightforward to install and administer. If you are interested in the inner workings of email servers, or want to run one yourself, you should attend.

On October 13th, we had a special presentation by Chett Rubenstein, Regional Manager with Pencom System's Web Works division. Web Works specializes in advanced Internet and Intranet development using leading edge Web development technologies. Chett gave us an advance version of his upcoming Comdex presentation, on how to migrate existing client/server systems to the Intranet (internal) and Extranet (external). As past VP of Internet Development with Nations Bank, Chett has years of practical experience upon which to base his discussion. Chett's familiarity with this topic was evident, and he was able to answer several good questions afterward. We thank Chett for taking his time to pass along his insights.

Separately, please note that we are looking for additional SIG assistance for Advanced Internet. Many of you probably have Internet and/or Web experience, or have access to speakers within your firm that could be persuaded to volunteer some time. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.



VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11



SIG

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

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

We encourage you to join with us November 15th.

*Tom O'Keefe, Doug Gorrie &
Erik Leaseburg*

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

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

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)

December 13, 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

January 17, 1998

- ❖ 9:00 Viruses and
Their Prevention

February 21, 1998*

- ❖ 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

March 21, 1998*

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

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

Alex Lilley

JAVA SIG

Some of the upcoming meetings topics will include:

- ❖ 1.RMI - its role now and how it will change in the future. This should include a demo taking local classes and show how to distribute them across the network.
- ❖ 2.JavaBeans - how to create them and what support we have today.
- ❖ 3.Unicode in Java with multi-lingual support.

Others are to be named and we can discuss what the group would like to see in Demos and new features of Java.

Kevin Starrett

MICROSOFT FRONTPAGE SIG

For all users of *Microsoft FrontPage*, both programmers and non-programmers, to share knowledge of the product with regards to Web publishing, Web application development, and Web management for both the Internet and company intranets. Some months we have covered basic topics and other months we have covered some more advanced topics. If you would like to be put on the mailing list so that we can send you an E-mail outlining what we plan to cover, send me an E-mail.

For more information about Microsoft FrontPage, see Microsoft's site at www.microsoft.com/frontpage/.

We also have set up a site on our server as an additional resource to the SIG, it is at www.pageone.net/usergroup/. At PageOne you will find the following:

- ❖ Links to other FrontPage resources
- ❖ Some of the topics and presentation materials covered in the monthly SIG meetings
- ❖ A FrontPage discussion open to all to contribute to

If you're a FrontPage user, or want to find out more about FrontPage, please plan to attend so that we can all benefit from our collective experience as Microsoft FrontPage users!

Robert Masters

MS Word for Windows

Hearty thanks go to Jan Patton for taking over on the 11th of October on very short notice. I had to attend a health support organization meeting, which also gave me short notice.

Confused about the numbers that Microsoft is tossing around?

Office 97, Windows 98, Explorer 4.0, Windows NT...it's enough to drive the average user up a wall as my former employer makes some fancy twists and turns in order to stay ahead of would-be competitors

Yes, I know I'm unabashedly showing my bias. I can't help it if nobody has come up with anything that can compare with what Microsoft is doing. I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize that "undocumented features" still ex-



ist, but as long as software is created by human beings

Last month we talked about some of the novel things that can be done with *WordArt*. This month we are going to take a look at a few of the effects that can be created with the drawing toolbar.

In Word 7 you can activate and deactivate the drawing tools by clicking on the icon on the button on the main toolbar that has the circle, triangle and square. In Word 97, it has more of a 3D appearance.

Another way of opening the drawing toolbar is to use the mouse movements `View|Toolbars|Drawing`.

No matter which way you choose to activate the toolbar, the sixth and seventh buttons in Word 7 are the text box and callout box, respectively.

In Word 97 the textbox is just to the left of the tilted A which presents the WordArt Gallery. The callout boxes are found under the heading *AutoShapes*.

So what good are these items? Have you ever inserted a picture and then wanted to write some text in or over the picture? How about labeling a picture or another feature on a Word document? That's where a callout box comes in handy.

I am enamored of the new shapes for callout boxes that are available in Word 97. For that matter, I'm fascinated by what can be done with the various combinations of *AutoShapes* and 3D and shadow and oh phooey, that's what I hate about some of the new features, there are simply too many to discuss and demonstrate.

Essentially a text box allows you to do some of the things a publisher program does. With a text box you can outline an area and type within it. You can move the text around a page, make it larger, smaller, taller, shorter, wider. Basically you can do whatever your heart (and needs) desire

The same can be said for callout boxes. Some of you may have printouts of handouts I've done in the past. You can see callout boxes galore on them.

One of the real pains in the posterior, however, is getting rid of the solid line around a text box. Sometimes I'd get calls from folks who had removed most of their hair from trying to figure out how to remove the seemingly hard to remove borders.

In Word 97 it's just a simple matter of finding the line color button (it is the

A QUICK NOTE FROM THE PC NEWS PUBLISHER

The PC News is now accepting SIG Notes across the Internet! Address is:

reagana@swbell.net

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

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

That's great!

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

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


Do we enjoy being archaic? No.

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

Of course, ASCII is always welcome.

Reagan Andrews

SIG



seventh button in from the right side of the toolbar), clicking on the down facing triangle to the immediate right of the button and choosing No Line.

In Word 7 (and I believe Word 6 worked this way, too) you select the text box, then find the line style button (it has several lines in it), select "more," then at the top of the second box, select "none."

Find these neat items and learn how to play with them. Figure out how you can use them. You'd be surprised at how often you will find yourself using them once you've got some experience playing around with these very flexible and fun objects.

NEXT MONTH we start meeting at 8:00am and will go through 10:00am. The "formal" part of the first hour's presentation will be over by 9:00am for those of you who may need to leave. We will continue to have the second hour as the Q'n A session.

We apologize for any inconvenience this move may cause, but most of the SIG has indicated that they wanted to move to an earlier time. It also means that I'll be able to give you a better quality presentation because my voice is in better condition earlier in the day.

Again, thanks, Jan, for taking over and I hope that you'll be able to take it again in November because I will be taking some training on that day.

See y'all on December 13th at 8:00 am. We will be in a new room and I hope to have that information in next month's edition.

Beo Kurtin and Jan Patton

Paradox SIG

Well folks, this is my first shot at writing the SIG notes for Paradox. In last month's notes **Fred Williams** gave me

a promotion from Co-SIG leader to SIG leader. Before that he gave me a promotion from assistant SIG leader to Co-SIG leader. Before that, he let me talk at the meetings all I wanted. And each time he promoted me he gave me a 100% raise in salary. Over the past several years I have been in the



NTPCUG and the Paradox SIG, I have enjoyed my association with Fred and hope he will continue to share his wit and wisdom with us.

In October **Addis Elmore** demonstrated how he applied InstallShield to his runtime application. Although he notes InstallShield provides a comprehensive install package, it has some 'rules' to follow and can have a steep learning curve.

In November we will take a look at queries and how we can use them to get inside the data. In December we might explore how to use queries with forms and reports. As soon as we can get Corel's Paradox 8.0, we can give it a test drive and see what is new.

Tom Browning

Pro SIG

Now that summer has finally ended in Dallas and work has begun on changes on systems for 1998, attendance at the

Pro SIG was noticeably sparse. Some of the regulars sent their avatars as sort of a virtual presence. Three copies of **Fred Williams** showed up and we were pretty sure that none of them were the genuine article. That explains how Fred has been getting so much work done lately. Join us next month for the annual JCL Macro coding contest.

Jim Hoisington

Windows Applications SIG

In September we deviated from plan and covered the topics that we had originally planned to do back in March. Nobody ever accused us of being organized.

Without gazing too deeply into our crystal ball, October will have our usual forty-five minutes of various Windows questions followed by a 10 minute presentation on whatever topic has driven the SIG leader crazy the last month.

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.nipcug.org, including the graphic for the DOS/ Operating Systems SIG, the Java Programming SIG and the MS Visual C++/MFC SIG. Others were taken from the vendors' own Web sites.

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. I prefer relatively high-resolution graphics and most logos captured by browsers off the Web are really intended for screen display and don't print that well.

The graphic **must** be sent as a separate file, not as part of the SIG note file. I can convert almost anything to work in Ventura, but usually prefer .TIF and .EPS format graphics files.

Reagan Andrews

**IT'S COMING!
IT'S COMING!
IT'S COMING!**

**FRED HAS GOOD BBS NEWS
NT PROJECT NEAR COMPLETION**

It has been a very, very long time coming, but there is so much good news I hardly know where to start!

I chatted with Lewis Graber at yesterday's meeting. Seems Lewis is quite impressed with the DOS-based browser he has been testing. He is extremely excited about the speed of *Net Tamer* when used as an e-mail client. He has also done a good deal of testing on the news group feature as well.

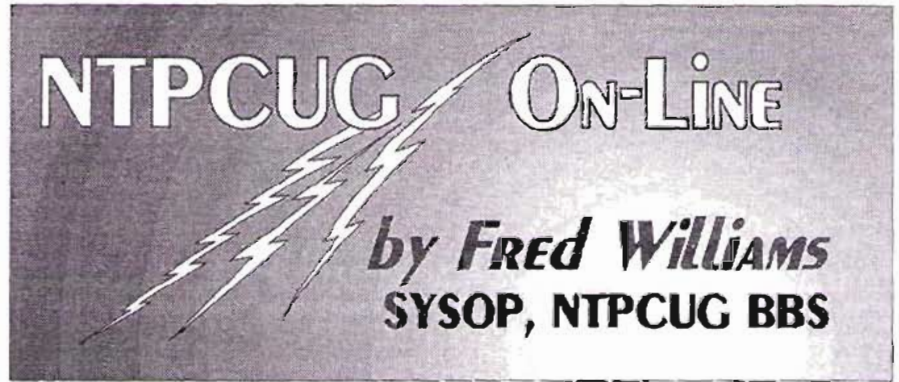
He has found the news group facility to be somewhat lacking in quality as compared to the e-mail piece. He is in the process of deciding for sure what release number of *Net Tamer* will be best for our first DOM diskette release. At this point, Lewis feels an older release may be a better choice over some of the latest revisions.

Seems that the author has kind'a over-committed himself as to adding features, as well as was evidently unprepared for the message volume his obviously popular shareware product has generated on its mailing list. Lewis says there is much message discussion about why the author is not immediately responding to support questions.

SIG

Since yours truly has been digging into NT as a replacement for Windows 95, the topic might well be on using NT and how it is better than 95. As an additional incentive to get someone to change over to NT, an evaluation copy (full version without hard copy documentation) of NT will be given away.

Neal Berkowitz



I asked Lewis to go ahead with packaging up everything for the first DOM release, as there is even greater news!

Seems Doug Gorrie, ace Southwestern Bell computer guy and assistant NTPCUG BBS Sysop, has pulled the rabbit out of the hat, so to speak.

Seems Doug, a guy who has never met a stranger he didn't like, has found the answers to my prayers! Doug actually found someone who, when the NT project was mentioned, did not respond with, "I don't know beans about NT, but I sure would like to help."

That person is a brand new member, Karen Brazeal, currently working just down the hall from Doug at SWB. Seems before SWB, Karen was the network administrator for a Stream International site, where she was responsible for a 2000+ workstation network.

Karen now has the NT Server sitting on her desk at home. The good news is,



she seems to have both the time and knowledge required to launch the "new" NT-based "BBS".

I talked with Karen this afternoon and she feels that something will be forthcoming, "real soon now." She feels, and I bow to her experience, that the better platform of choice is NT 3.51. I concur with her reasons based on my limited NT exposure. Plus, she feels there should be no need for Exchange Server in order to accomplish the initial system design requirements.

By the time this article is published, and it is still hard to believe, we may have, at a minimum, the new NT system in the initial testing stages. But, I've seen "blue sky" before, so my fingers are crossed, and I'm cheering on our new team member.

Doug and I have been discussing how best to address connectivity for the new box. We are hoping for at least a dial up ISDN for both periodic connection to the ISP site and for use as additional incoming resources.

With "real" Internet e-mail to offer, we both feel there will be a big spike in people using the new Server for their e-mail connection. I personally want to do just that, as that will allow me to continue to use my MCI "five free hours" a month for non e-mail and non news group Internet usage. Also, I'm catching more and more disbelieving stares when I tell someone my current e-mail connection does not allow outgoing attached files.

Fred Williams

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Mail Call for Heroes

Can you visualize the battlefield, the rain, the occasional whistle of heavy guns overhead? If you have ever seen a war zone then that picture cannot be forgotten. You may also remember the bright moments like payday and mail call (the last name always shouted first). This weekend was a day of handling the mail for some of our corps of volunteers, and the stack of membership cards to be routed to them. These string tied bundles had the same spread of duties and different volunteer functions as the other weeks; but because of the Fall season back to work spirit, the numbers were up. The troops had mustered. They had already shouldered their many responsibilities.

It was a pleasure to notice each name, close each envelope and think about the work performed by our valiant volunteers. There are many leaders and helpers at the NTPCUG who deserve our thanks for making our organization the enjoyable learning experi-

ence it is. The successful SIG meetings, the Auditorium Programs and Presentations, and the Vendor Marketplace all come to mind as places where persons have served our Users Group well.

The famous recruitment poster with the picture of Uncle Sam pointing his inescapable finger at us comes to mind as we mention the need for more volunteers to meet the club president's plan for growth. There are many jobs that are waiting for a helping hand. There is a need for volunteers in every area of club activity. The club can help even more members with your participation. You can be a hero to someone who wants advice on setting up a database or making a Web page. You can support the club in many ways. The NTPCUG NEEDS YOU.

This page is dedicated to the many volunteers whose names are mentioned here and in other parts of this newsletter. Thanks to the officers and leaders who make the NTPCUG weekend a good Saturday activity for the rest of us.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

anchors:

David Slavik
Neal Van Pelt

Crew:

Dick Abbon
Allen Drake
Tim Foster
Mark Guyer
James Guyer
Son Hong
Aaron Burton
Robert Whiteside

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Christopher Carmichael

Newsletter Labels

Charlie Fernandez

Information/Registration

Booth

Statistician:

Corrie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

anchors:

Ralph Beaver
Deborah Bean
Albert Champon

Vernon Cates

Eteta Ela
Hank Holt
Cinda Lovil (Double)
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Foy Mills
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams (Double)

Booth Crew:

Jack Barrier
Roger Bopp
Glynn Brooks
James Gorak
Randy Durham
Tim Foster (Double)
Neil Jochelson
Fred Micoff
Jean Waldrep
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 Hursi
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, (872)387-2752 or (972)283-9036 (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)

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 | Excel | Wamngton Williams..... | (214)348-6869 | M-F 1800-2100 S&S 0900-2100 |
| Assembly Language | Frank Cavallo | (972)423-9221 | 7 1800-2200 | Hardware Help | Charles Miller..... | (803)938-4220(*) | 7 1900-2400 |
| | Glynn Brooks..... | (972)578-8737 | M-F 1700-2200 | Internet - General | Erik Leaseburg | (817)265-7550(m) | 7 2000-2200 |
| BASIC | Mike Firth | (214)827-7734 | 7 0800-2200 | | David Marin | (972)930-0283 | M-F 1900-2200 |
| Beginner Problems | Jan Parkhill..... | (214)828-2216 | M-Sa 0900-1700 | Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2) | Bob Wilson | (972)517-1434 | M-F 1900-2200 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 S-S 1300-2200 | Norton Utilities | John Dyer | (972)790-3311 | M-Sa 0800-2200 |
| Batch Files | Charles Miller | (903)938-4220(*) | 7 1900-2400 | OS/2 | Lary Truesdale | (972)442-7074 | 7 1000-2200 |
| Borland C++ | Bob Adams..... | (214)328-1455 | M-Sa 0900-1900 | PC Tools/Win | Glynn Brooks..... | (972)578-8737 | M-F 1700-2200 |
| | Howard Harkness..... | (817)267-6227 | 7 1000-2100 | Paradox | Fred Williams..... | (972)492-1315 | 7 1300-2100 |
| CompuServe | Bob Adams..... | (214)328-1455 | M-Sa 0900-1900 | PKzip/PKUNzip | Erik Leaseburg..... | (817)265-7550(m) | 7 2000-2200 |
| dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows | Ted Gillem..... | (972)964-7923 | 7 0800-1700 | ProComm/ProComm+ | Bill Green..... | (817) 731-1308 | |
| DOS | Bob Russell | (972)422-4269 | 7 1900-2200 | | | | |
| | Erik Leaseburg..... | (817)265-7550(m) | 7 2000-2200 | | | | |
| DR DOS | Ralph Beaver | (817)336-0570 | M-F 0800-1700 | | | | |
| | | (817)624-9530 | SS 0900-2100 | | | | |

NTPCUG User — To — User PROGRAM

| SUBJECT | HELPER | PHONE | DAYS/HOURS | SUBJECT | HELPER | PHONE | DAYS/HOURS |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>ProComm/ProComm+ (Cid.)...</i> | | | | <i>Visual Basic -</i> | | | |
| | Joseph Beasley | (972)225-8752 | 7 0800-2400 | | Jim Carter | (972)235-5968 | 7 1700-2130 |
| | Joseph Beasley | (214)410-3818 | 7 0900-2200 | | L.J. Johnson | (972)495-9067 | 7 1700-2130 |
| <i>Publisher (Microsoft)</i> | | | | | Gene Hamelman | (972)495-6342 | 7 1700-2130 |
| | Bob Russell | (972)422-4269 | 7 1900-2200 | <i>Windows for Workgroups</i> | | | |
| | Pat Cole | (972)831-8055 | M-F 0800-1700 | | Joseph Beasley | (972)225-8752 | 7 0800-2400 |
| | | (972)496-3894 | 7 1000-2200 | | Joseph Beasley | (214)410-3818 | 7 0900-2200 |
| <i>Quicken</i> | | | | | Bob Russell | (972)422-4269 | 7 1900-2200 |
| | Jim Hall | (214)348-7848 | 7 1000-2100 | <i>Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51</i> | | | |
| <i>Quilckbooks</i> | | | | | Richard Milas | (972)296-5356 | M-F 1900-2200 |
| | Jim Thompson | (214)953-0051 | M-F 0800-1800 | | | | SS 10:00-16:00 |
| <i>SPFPC</i> | | | | | | (214)767-7315 | M-F 1500-1700 |
| | Doug Gornie | (214) 464-4568 | M-F 0800-1700 | <i>Word for Windows</i> | | | |
| | | (972) 618-8002 | S-S 1000-1900 | | Bob Russell | (972)422-4269 | 7 1900-2200 |
| <i>UNIX</i> | | | | <i>Works, Microsoft</i> | | | |
| | Doug Scott | (817)261-4653 | 7 1830-2200 | | Mike Firth | (214)827-7734 | 7 0800-2200 |
| <i>Virus & Anti-Virus</i> | | | | <i>XENIX</i> | | | |
| | Charles Miller | (803)938-4220(*) | 7 1900-2400 | | Doug Scott | (817)261-4653 | 7 1830-2200 |
| | | | | <i>XTREE</i> | | | |
| | | | | | John Dyer | (972)790-3311 | M-Sa 0800-2200 |


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

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 Gornie 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.

North Texas PC

Membership



Users Group, Inc

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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
- Cotel Ventura
- WordPerfect/ Windows
- XTREE

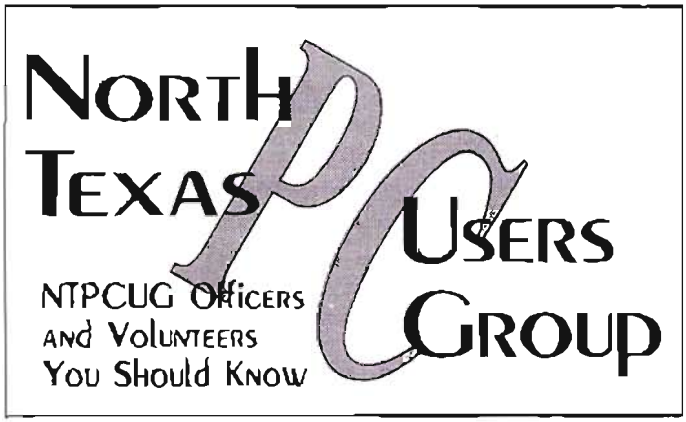
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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.



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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

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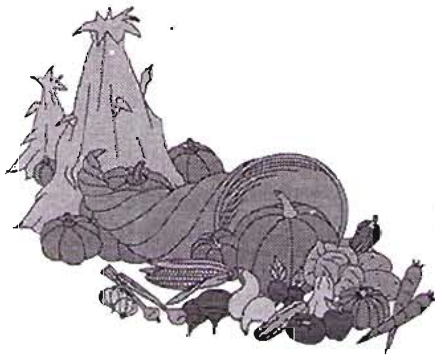
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Next Meeting:
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