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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.

Circulation:

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DEADLINE

Copy deadline for January
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, December 10th

Meeting Dates:

December 13, 1997 – 2nd Saturday
January, 17, 1998 – 3rd Saturday
February 21, 1998 – 3rd Saturday

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

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

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

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

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

Policies & Mechanicals:

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

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

9:00 AM - 10:55 AM

CorelDRAW 8
Corel Corporation

CorelDRAW 8 is a comprehensive 32-bit suite of graphics applications designed for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. Building on the strength of its award-winning predecessors, CorelDRAW 8 is feature-rich and streamlined for optimum performance. The suite includes tools for illustration, page layout, painting, photo editing, and 3D modeling and rendering. Several utilities are also included to provide support for scanning, tracing, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), font management, screen capture, OLE scripting and more. Completing the suite are more than 40,000 clipart images, over 1,000 TrueType and Type 1 fonts, hundreds of photos, Web backgrounds and animated GIFs, templates and more. The Windows and Macintosh versions of the suite will have near-complete feature parity, providing seamless cross-platform compatibility. Users of both the Windows and Macintosh versions of CorelDRAW 8 can exchange CDR files, with backward compatibility to CorelDRAW 7 for Windows, CorelDRAW 6 for Windows and CorelDRAW 6 Suite for Power Macintosh. There will be drawings for free products. *

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS...
TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

11:00 AM - 11:55 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting
(Room 1061)

11:00 AM - 11:55 AM

The World's Great Cities, Parks & Wildlife
Analytical Software Inc.

This multimedia CD-ROM brings the beauty of the world to your desktop, combined with a wealth of information. It includes narrated full-screen videos, slide shows, interactive maps, photographs, TRAVEL-RELATED WEB SITES and information on hundreds of sites and animals around the world. The interactive maps are a great vacation planner since they let you locate these sites and see related video, photos and text, and then even book airline or hotel reservations on the Internet. It's educational for children eager to know about the world and a terrific travel planner for adults. There will be a special discount for user group members, and there will be drawings 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.

DECEMBER 13

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
MS Word for Windows

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

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

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

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER NTPCUG DEMOGRAPHICS

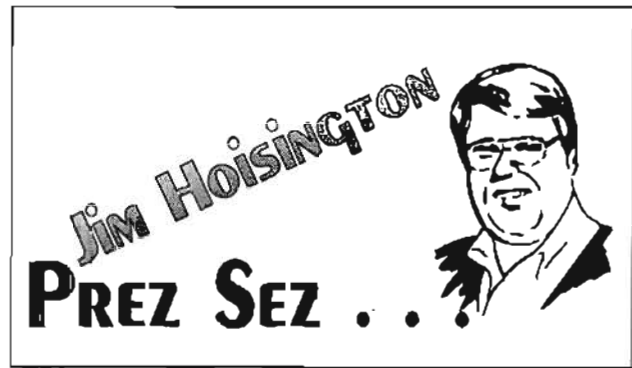
Thanks to all of you who filled out (and will fill out) the demographics survey. This survey is very important to us. It lets us know who is attending our meetings. The Board of Directors is in the process of rethinking the services that the user group should provide. Knowing what kind of people attend our meetings gives us a starting point.

CHANGES IN THE USER GROUP

The time has come for us to reevaluate what we do and why we do it. **Mark Mills**, of Apple Corps, and I were at a meeting the other night and Mark made some very pertinent points.

He said that he used to come to the meeting to get the latest rumors on the computer industry but that he now gets those rumors from the Internet. Mark joined a user group to get help from the few other people who had computers, but now lots of people have computers. Mark wanted the user group newsletter because it had tips and fixes that he couldn't get anywhere else, but now there are lots of computer publications.

I went to the Microsoft User Group eXtreme summit in October. One of the neat things about these get-togethers is exchanging ideas with the leaders of other user groups around the country. Before



starting this article, (today is November 9th), I E-mailed the board of directors with a list of those ideas.

So, it's to rethink what we do and how we do it. If you have suggestions, send them to **Andy Oliver**, the incoming President, or me, **Jim Hoisington**.

GOOD BYE MARK GRUNER

Mark Gruner is moving to Atlanta. You may not know Mark unless you are really into spreadsheets. Mark has been our spreadsheet and spreadsheet developers SIG leader since the conversion from Roman numerals. What Mark has done behind the scenes is even more important. Mark has been the Treasurer of DFW Xchange Corporation and financial advisor to the North Texas PC Users Group. [Ed. Note: Mark was named *Member Emeritus* at the November 18 NTPCUG Board of Directors meeting in appreciation of his service to the Club.]

Mark, we're going to miss you.

THANKS FOR THE YEAR

Thank you for letting me be your president for still another year. It's been a hard year. We've been through a lot of changes, including the loss of membership like most other user groups around the country.

The really wonderful thing about being President is being able to work with your Board of Directors. The board has been working very hard to identify the problems and solve them. And I need to emphasize, the board members are doing the work! We've made a lot of progress. There's more to do and I'm confident that your Board of Directors is up to the challenge.

I also want to thank the officers and volunteers of the DFW Xchange Corporation. They coordinate the vendor area. They did an outstanding job of

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@mymail.net

PREZ SEZ ... Ctd.

containing the Evil Vice President in 1997; the Programmer's SIG had a white board at every meeting.

And, a special thanks to the SIG leaders who, month after month, prepare material for their SIGs. Reagan, you and I will have to follow their example some time and prepare something for the DOS (nee Operating Systems) SIG.

Happy Holidays

I was in Sam's Warehouse on the last weekend in August. I heard Christmas carols playing and found an isle filled with Christmas decorations. I was offended until I got home and saw my calendar. It was filled with events, all the way through the end of the year.

And, I'm not different from any of you. We live in the greatest city on the North American continent but we don't get time to enjoy it. *We're all busy all the time!*

Take some time to relax and enjoy the holidays. 1998 promises to be another *busy* year.



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.

MICROSOFT eXTREME SUMMIT

What an event! 50 User Group Presidents meeting in Seattle at Microsoft's invitation. It's always good to meet the other user group Presidents because we always exchange ideas about user groups. But that's not why Microsoft had us there.

Our first assignment was to act as a *focus group* for the Microsoft eXtreme event which was held live in Seattle on November 8th and downloaded via satellite to 24 theaters nationally. Locally it was shown in the UA 10 in Bedford.

The rest of the weekend, we were briefed on upcoming Microsoft products and strategies. The idea is to give the user group leaders an idea of where some of the products are headed. Much of what we saw falls under the non-disclosure agreement that each of us is required to sign so there's a lot I can't say.

One of the things that I can talk about was that possibility that Dynamic HTML may replace the Rich Text Format as the preferred way to save documents in Microsoft products at some point in the future. Microsoft is very high on the future of Dynamic HTML.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT USING THE INTERNET?
 JANUARY 1998 will FEATURE SPECIAL 5-
 HOUR INTERNET FOR BEGINNERS SERIES
*Basics of the Internet - A Presentation***

It's Christmas!! You (or someone you know) just received a new PC that just SCREAMS to be connected to the Internet. Friends and relatives want to communicate with you via electronic mail (E-mail), while your long distance calls to your kid in college are becoming as much as tuition!! But what is the Internet? How do I get to it? Once connected, what can I do?

The answers are in the North Texas PC User Group's Beginning Internet SIG.

At our January 17th meeting, we will repeat our multi-hour *Introduction to the Internet* session. This periodic course is primarily designed for the beginner or novice user who has had little or no experience with the Internet.

We plan to start at 10:00 AM and go about five hours. Our usual room is 5006, but please verify the location on the schedule sheets (available in



the Infomart lobby) or from the overhead projectors in the vendor sales area.

The course will include as much of the following as time permits:

- ❖ An introduction to and general history of the Internet
- ❖ How to choose an internet service provider (ISP) to connect to the Internet
- ❖ Hardware and software requirements, i.e., what you really need to get on and use the Internet
- ❖ Familiarization with common Internet applications for viewing the World Wide Web (WWW)
- ❖ Sending mail electronically (E-mail)
- ❖ Downloading files
- ❖ Reading and joining newsgroups
- ❖ Creating your own web page to put on the Internet

This course will give members and non-members the chance to ask those basic questions about the Internet. Even members who have been on the Internet may discover tips and techniques that may help in future visits to the Web. Pass the word, and we hope to see you on January 17th.

Erik Leaseburg, Doug Gorrie & Kiff Barnes

ONRAMP

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by *SmartMoney* Magazine (May 1997)

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MICROSOFT EXTREME SUMMIT... Ctd.

For me, the best part of the weekend was the hour that Steve Ballmer, the number 2 guy at Microsoft, spent with the group. Steve is a high energy guy and an hour with him wears you out. Steve spent the whole time answering impromptu questions from the audience.

Microsoft is committed to helping user groups. Expect more Microsoft events in 1998 where the user group is invited to have a membership table at the event.

And, I did wear the gorilla mask!

MICROSOFT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Microsoft wanted us to hear their side of their dispute with the Department of Justice (DOJ). The issue is this, Microsoft dealers that installed Windows 95 on their computers were required to also install Internet Explorer 3.x which was on a different CD-ROM from Windows 95. The DOJ says that this is illegal because it is two different pieces of software. Under the consent decree that Microsoft signed several years ago, they agreed not to tie the sale of one piece of software to the sale of another piece of software. Microsoft says it is legal because Internet Explorer is part of Windows 95 even though it came on a separate CD-ROM.

To make sure we understood the Microsoft position, they had an attorney and a Public Relations person brief us during lunch. (No, I'm not making this up.)

Microsoft had the option of letting the federal judge in the case examine the data and come to a decision on his own. They chose to submit evidence to the judge that they feel supports their position delaying the decision by several months. They did this even though they are being fined \$1 million per day during this period. They estimate that they will submit evidence through February with a decision from the federal judge coming no earlier than March or April.

OK, so why delay when you are being fined \$1 million / day? The reason is Windows 98.

You have to go back to last December to understand where they are going. Last December, Microsoft announced their intention to convert all their help files and on-line documentation to HTML. So what do you use to view HTML files? Answer: a browser. What do you use to search HTML for keywords? Answer: a browser.

When windows 98 comes out next year, the browser's *frame technology* will be integrated throughout the operating system. Look for an early ship date.

Caveat Dictus.

Jim...



THE C++ PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE 3rd Edition,

by Bjarne Stroustrup. Published by Addison-Wesley-Longman, ISBN 0-201-88954-4. 910 pages

*Howard Lee Harkness,
C++ Language SIG Leader, North Texas PC Users'
Group.*

The long-awaited 3rd edition of Stroustrup's book arrived unexpectedly in October. I was setting up to teach a private course to a client in Virginia, when I opened up the case of books and saw the new edition. While I was happy to see it, I was a little peeved that the training company didn't warn me in advance about the change. I got to spend a couple of long evenings reading the new edition so that I could talk about it in class without looking foolish.

This edition is a very ambitious one; in addition to covering all of the C++ language, including the new stuff added towards the end of the standards process, Dr. Stroustrup covers the IOSTream library in considerable depth, and includes a large section on object-oriented design issues. This edition is more than a 75% re-write of the 2nd edition. There is also a lot more tutorial text. The book reads much like an undergraduate-level text-



book, complete with suggested exercises at the end of each chapter. I would estimate that there is enough material in there for 2 three-credit-hour undergraduate courses in C++, plus an additional course in software engineering.

The first three chapters are a whirlwind tour of the whole C++ language. There was some stuff in there I had never used in my 7+ years of programming in C++ and 2 years of co-moderating the Usenet newsgroup `comp.lang.c++.moderated`. Parts II and III covered the same material in greater depth, and the last section covered various design issues. One of the features I really liked was the Advice section at the end of each chapter. It was gratifying to see the Master himself validating some of the things I've been trying to stress in my own courses.

I think that any serious C++ programmer is going to want this book. It's more up-to-date, thorough, and complete than anything else I've seen so far. It's even a reasonable replacement for the aging Annotated Reference Manual. Furthermore, now that the ANSI standard is "feature complete," this book should be current for a long time. [The standards committee voted for adoption of the standard in November of 1997, and the vote was unanimous.] However, I don't think that a beginning C++ programmer would want to tackle this as his or her introduction to the language. For starters, there are some typos in the very first chapter that would confuse the beginner, and I didn't see anything at all in the 2nd and 3rd chapters that would successfully compile on any Microsoft compiler prior to VC++ 5.0. Dr. Stroustrup's writing style is a tad on the terse side, so you can imagine that the amount of material covered in 900+ pages would be somewhat overwhelming to someone just starting out to learn C++. So if you are just beginning with C++, skip this one for now, and check out Stan Lippman's *C++ Primer*, or Stephen Prata's more recent *C++ Primer Plus*, both of which are excellent introductory texts.

Howard Harkness

**COMDEX/IBM LEAD NEWS IN NOVEMBER AS GAMES
MULTIMEDIA AND MERGING INDUSTRY TRENDS CONTINUE
90'S BRINGING BUSINESS & INFOTAINMENT TOGETHER
- STILL NO RESOLUTION IN MICROSOFT V. EVERYONE**

A half-filled coffee cup reminds me this was the last day of COMDEX/Fall '97. The cup is one of my favorites — a MIPS COMDEX giveaway from several years back and the MIPS logo on the cup is almost gone, faded away from many, many trips through the dishwasher. Poor MIPS. Once a contender in the RISC wars for the desktop, MIPS and parent, Silicon Graphics, have slipped from the limelight. They aren't alone. DEC's *Alpha* and the *PowerPC* camp(s) are joining the dusty ride off into the RISC sunset/graveyard.

WELL, NOT ALL OF THEM, NOT IBM

Since I don't lead with IBM very often, this is making up for not indulging in the 'Purple' prose I normally used when waxing eloquent over COMDEX after the giant zoo/show/feeding-frenzy. In spite of all the 'announcements' that flowed from COMDEX this year (on the Web), IBM's copper revelations may be the biggest story of the year — Even bigger than Gerstner's plans to remain at Armonk for another five years.

MAJOR CHANGES AT COMDEX & IN INDUSTRY AS WHOLE

I've followed the local COMDEX news and visited a lot of vendor Websites this week. Where the excitement in Las Vegas in years past was 'serious' hardware and software, this year's show was marked by emergence of 'Infotainment' as a prime COMDEX focus.

We are seeing a rapidly forming revolution of the industry and diminished boundaries between

the two giant Las Vegas trade shows — COMDEX and CES (Consumer Electronics Show) with overlapping appearances by vendors from both spheres at each show.

Makes sense and indicates the huge penetration of microprocessors and programming systems into the 'general' consumer electronics arena.

This may be the most important battleground for MS Windows and SUN JAVA. And, both Microsoft and SUN know it.

Cyrix/ National Semiconductor confirmed it with demonstration/announcement of their *Cyrix Media Center Technology Demo*. AMD and Intel also acknowledge the shift in industry direction with announcement of 3D



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

graphics (game) enhancements ahead in their CPU lines.

Early Signs Ignored

Multimedia area saw the largest and most active crowds at COMDEX over the last four years. It was always loud and crowded, even on Friday, last day of COMDEX, when most other exhibits were very thinly attended and lonely. Three years ago, the multimedia/ games/ sexually-oriented CD-ROM displays in the

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"old" annex were so crowded people couldn't traverse the isles most of the time. I understood later that the Las Vegas Fire Marshall was very upset over size of crowds in the area and threatened to have it closed.

When COMDEX 'banned' adult material two years ago, a second show, *Adultdex*, was successfully held at the Sahara Hotel convention area. It continued last year and this year. Usually, such 'side shows' are not very successful and this may indicate how strong the trend toward entertainment has become.

AT THE TOP FUN SPECULATIONS — OVER IBM & COPPER-BASED CPU

Last month, I wrote about the copper-based IC breakthrough reported by IBM, and this month, I

want to revisit that with an interesting possible scenario/speculation about IBM's plans for this technology. Let's look at the 'givens' first.

IBM & Motorola put a lot of money into development of the *PowerPC* CPU series. IBM & Motorola aren't all that happy with Apple's clone management fiasco, software debacles and prospect of being presented with a warmed-over *NeXT*, i.e., *Rhapsody*, especially when IBM has a very good version of *UNIX* in their *AIX*. IBM also continues to have Windows NT licenses for *PowerPC* machines.

IBM has at least one year of 'leader' position in this technology, probably two before the competing FABs (silicon foundries where CPU's are fabricated) learn how to handle copper properly. That could be a really important 12 - 24 months.

500 MHz POWERPC JUST A START FOR IBM IN WORKSTATION ARENA

Here's where Intel, H-P and, SUN start cringing.

I won't be surprised to see IBM producing 400 - 500 MHz (or even faster) *PowerPC* CPU's before the end of 1998. Couple this CPU speed with SMP (Symmetric multiprocessing, i.e., using more than one CPU at a time) capabilities at 'low' relative prices and what happens to the high-end workstation market?

(Forget about Apple's plans to go after the high-end market — even with really fast IBM processors, they'll find a way to blow this as well.)

If IBM makes peace with Microsoft over later versions of NT, would put a significant dent in Intel's efforts to establish (now) a foothold and (later) a stranglehold at these levels.

Is this possible? Yes. Might Motorola be tempted back into the *PowerPC* arena? Absolutely.

NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT SETS THE STAGE FOR IBM

An IBM announcement November 17 (first day of COMDEX) added a lot of fuel to my speculations. IBM was talking about a \$700 million investment in "the world's most advanced microchip development facility" to be located in Fishkill, NY. A new FAB is no big deal most of the time, but this one is different and very important to AMD, Intel and Cyrix/National Semiconductor, all of whom have their own new FABs coming on line.

First, the new Fishkill facility will be working with 12-inch (300 mm) silicon wafers while their competition will still be at the 5-inch level. Second, it will be producing chips with "faster, more efficient copper circuitry. And, IBM says it will initially be using .18-micron technology, but plans to switch to .15-micron trace widths via implementation of IBM's advanced X-ray lithography program already at Fishkill (Gosh, I just love the names at IBM's facilities in New York., Armonk, Fishkill, etc.)

DRAMs 1ST, BUT Emphasis on CPUs

Announcement stated IBM's first target would be development of 1-gigabit DRAMs, but "the focus



of the new facility will be to perfect manufacturing techniques for IBM microprocessors, custom chips and other semiconductor 'logic' devices." The wording is very important, not just to IBM, but to AMD, Cyrix and Intel.

Both AMD and Crix CPUs are produced by IBM. Might open doors to both vendors for some significant advances if IBM will employ this technology on their behalf. Since both also compete with Intel at the *Pentium* level, and both have announced significant FPU (floating-point unit) improvements in later generation CPU's, might keep the door open for competition at the *Pentium II* level as well.

Couple this with IBM's recent release of 16G, 3.5" drives and the next couple of years are really going to be exciting.

Cyrix MediaGX Wins 'Best of Show' BYTE COMDEX/Fall Award

Got this off the Cyrix Website and not at all surprised. Cyrix' *MediaGX* processor was awarded the *BYTE Magazine* "Best of Show/COMDEX Fall '97 Award" in the category of Best Technology. If you wanted the 'fastest' CPU to win and are disappointed, reconsider. Combination of Cyrix CPU and Compaq sub-\$1,000 pricing strategy was a clear winner in setting industry trends in 1997, even forcing Intel to drop *Pentium* prices more steeply than planned.

Richardson, TX,-based Cyrix sees this as the future of the industry and Compaq agreed to point that the Houston, TX,-based PC manufacturer became the industry leader in sales at this level over the past year. Will make for some interesting speculation over who will survive and prosper at the sub-1,000 levels over 1998.



ONE Stop Shopping?

Cyrix also was showing their new, announced November 12, Media Center "everything in one box" technology/ home electronics demonstration unit at COMDEX. Included in the box are just about every conceivable electronic device the consumer could imagine/pay for.

Inside are:

- ☛ A 200+ MHz PC,
- ☛ An Internet access device,
- ☛ A DVD player,
- ☛ A six-speaker, Dolby® digital surround-sound home theater system,
- ☛ A TV tuner,
- ☛ A multimedia editing and mixing station,
- ☛ An arcade-quality game machine,
- ☛ A full-duplex speaker phone,
- ☛ A caller ID system,
- ☛ An answering machine,
- ☛ A video phone (with camcorder attached),
- ☛ A universal remote controller.

And its a really-small box

**Whither DEC?
INTEL SUIT SETTLED,
FUTURE FOR Alpha ?
IS MERQER AHEAD?**

Future is very unclear for Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) in wake of settlement with Intel over the *Alpha* patents. Even the terms of the settlement leave a lot of questions about future for *Alpha* CPU and DEC. Lot of speculation about possible DEC mergers resurfaced in November and don't appear to be going away.

DEC agreed to sell the *Alpha* patents and FAB to Intel as part of the deal and selling price estimated at \$700+ million. Media sources appear as confused over the settlement as I am, and have seen number of "prices," both higher and lower mentioned as well as differing accounts of what's included.

Supposedly, Intel will continue to produce and support the *Alpha* line for a minimum of five (5) years as part of the agreement(s). Where this places *Alpha v. Intel - H-P's IA-64 (Merced) CPU* tech-



THE VARIETY STORE

nology is uncertain. Granted, unlimited access to Alpha technology might solve a lot of problems for Intel and H-P, but production of competing technology doesn't seem to make a lot of sense at this stage in evolution of both CPU's.

COMPAQ ON WHITE HORSE?

Saw a recent blurb on the Ziff-Davis Website indicating rumors of a Compaq - DEC merger are active again. Numbers mentioned are in the \$20 billion for a Compaq take over of DEC, and Compaq has been very interested in the high-end segment of the corporate spectrum for some time, so it doesn't sound that far off the mark.

But, \$20 billion is a lot of money — even for Compaq and Compaq's recent successes at both the low and high-end of the PC market. That would take a lot of investment-banker convincing to underwrite the deal, even with Compaq's reputation in the industry.

It would certainly be an interesting merger of corporate style and philosophy. Would think it would be more successful than some other combinations since both companies are heavy on former-engineer managers, and both companies are carrying reputations for quality into the deal.

MICROSOFT v. FTC RAGES AS 'SECRET' E-MAILS, POLITICS AND EMOTIONS PREVAIL OVER LOGIC

Microsoft v. Everybody struggles on in November and December. Industry has been aglow with various revelations, 'leaked' inter-

nal E-mail messages, rumors accusations and the usual detrious left behind by perfidy, greed and duplicity. All-in-all, it's another pretty straight-forward FTC proceeding.

Real news is willingness of Steve Ballmer and Bill Gates to comment on the matter. Usually, big-time corporate officers hide behind a barrage of attorneys/PR consultants and are rarely heard from. Not in the Microsoft case. Ballmer and Gates appear aggrieved and willing to come out 'bare knuckles' into the melee on the IE 4.0 as part of Windows 98 OS issue. Dvorak has a good peg on the personalities and issues at hand in a column for *Barrens* that appears to hit dead center.

Makes me ashamed I had forgotten history and the personas behind Microsoft who can't forget the early struggles to survive. To really understand Gates/Microsoft's position(s), Dvorak reports, you have to remember the survival struggles MS went through to get where they are.

I looked back. IBM in the 1980's was a 'dicey' proposition. PC-DOS (from Microsoft) wasn't IBM's 1st choice, but was clearly the value leader at \$30 for DOS 1.1. Compare that with DRI's CP/M-86 at \$195 and UCD's pseudo OS at \$695. \$30 was clearly a winner.

Later, Microsoft was looking at IBM and DRI/Novell (DR DOS) competing at the desktop, and Apple's Macin-

tosh looking much better than Microsoft's early Windows implementations. Gates has been looking over his shoulder all the way — and fully subscribed to Intel's CEO Andy Grove's philosophy "Only the paranoid survive."

I have read a number of chat room submissions from MS haters on the subject and am personally surprised at how few know the history of the PC. See many extolling the virtues of Apple's Mac OS, bemoaning Microsoft's "theft" of Apple's "inventions" without realizing that Apple/Steve Jobs stole most of it from Xerox PARC developments in the first place.

This promises to continue as a very controversial and bloody affair. Especially since it has left the arena of logic and entered into the murky realm of feelings, bigotry and illogic.

Reagan Andrews



Selected SIG Reports . . .

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Access SIG

Jack Atkinson will present at the December meeting. The presentation will focus on a simple application which will demonstrate how to do lookup by name or ID number on the main form. One of several subforms will be presented depending on whether the element was found (the *edit/delete subform*) or not (the *add subform*). The subforms will display or accept data such as name, address, state, zip, etc., as well as a date field which is *Year 2000 compliant*. The application will also show how to put together a few simple "visuals" like an LED meter, simple bitmaps to generate movement, and embedding symbols or folders, copyright, cards, clocks, etc. Jack will give away several samples during the drawing. Come and have fun.

Also, courtesy of Tom Browning, we have a book for our giveaway (*this giveaway's in the Access SIG, not the Del-*

phi 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.

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 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

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 Drebelbis (214) 951-0266]
- **Hardware Solutions** [Contact Charles Miller (903) 938-4220 h]

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

Leadership — at least one individual willing to lead the SIG, and an assistant.

Membership — at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

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ACT!

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

Access

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

Alpha 4 / 5

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

ActiveX Developers

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

Assembly Language SIG

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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

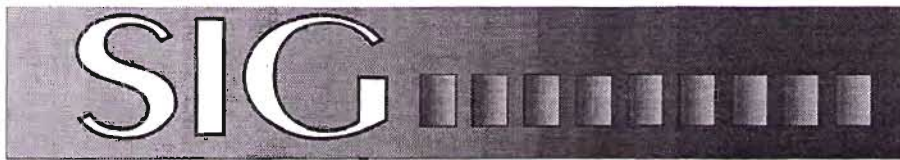
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CAD

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

Communications

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..... (972) 498-1237 w
Birt Smith..... (972) 960-8227 h
..... (214) 220-9388 w



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.

In November, **Larry Linson** reviewed and demonstrated *Total Access Components - Custom Controls for Microsoft Access* which is available in versions for Access 2, 95, and 97. The Access 95/97 version contains 27 custom (ActiveX) controls to create user-friendly forms and reports, improve data display and input, enhance the functionality of forms, incorporate multimedia effects, and easily include Windows features. PMS, Inc. donated our giveaway prize - a complete, registerable copy of *Total Access Components*.

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 between 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 December meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers SIG

Jack Atkinson will be leading a discussion session in December. No subject had been chosen by our publication deadline, so bring your own topics, questions, tips, hints, and warnings of traps. We seem to have few, if any, bashful members, so there's a high probability of a lively discussion. Come and make it even livelier!

In November, **Glynn Brooks** spoke on the subject of *Internet/Intranet Develop-*

ment Using ActiveX Components and Documents. His cogent explanation and warnings of some traps for the unwary were well-received and most helpful. Thanks, **Glynn**, for a great presentation.

Coming in December at the **Delphi SIG meeting, 10:00AM**, "*The Great Crystal Reports Demo and Developer Product Giveaway*" -- a joint production of the Delphi, Access, and ActiveX SIGs. Look in the Access and Delphi SIG Notes for details.

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 *Interneting*, 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 December, and keep on coming in the future. We'll do our best to make it interesting and productive for you.

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

The presentation at our November meeting consisted of a review of a disassembler that advertised the ability to reconstruct C code. Unfortunately, it couldn't - I was unable to get anything resembling C code (not even an assembler listing) from their example program. I even tried code generated with (16 bit) TurboC. The documentation was poorly written and of little help.

Our topic in December will be a review of a recently published book *Inner*

SIG LEADER LISTING

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Susan Biggs (214) 340-7794

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Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h

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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

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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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B.J. Shultz

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Bob Rice (214) 885-0202 w

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Jeff Cooper

Microsoft Networking

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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

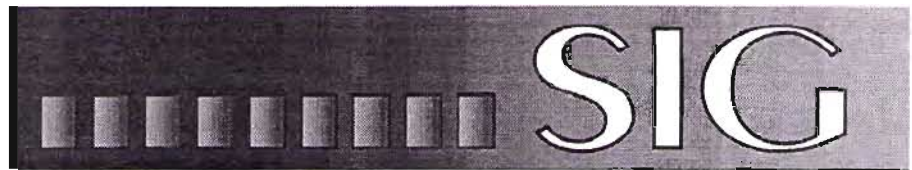
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Networking

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



Loops A Sourcebook for Fast 32-Bit Software Development (ISBN 0-201-47960-5) by Rick Booth. This book actually discusses assembler programming, optimization, etc.

We hope to see you in December - 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 December, we will be continuing a complete overview of C++, primarily geared to people who don't already know C++, but have programmed in some other language.

- ❖ **December:** Pointers, arrays, and character strings
- ❖ **January:** The "class" keyword, constructors and destructors
- ❖ **February:** Support for OO in C++; Encapsulation, Abstraction
- ❖ **March:** More on Pointers -- Inheritance, and Polymorphism

*Howard Lee Harkness
harkness@skeptics.org*

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

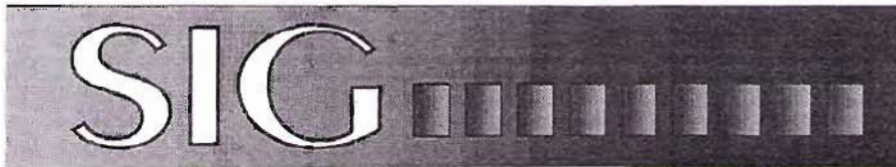
We will be discussing Universal Serial Bus in the December meeting. USB is a peripheral bus standard developed by Compaq, DEC, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, NEC and Northern Telecom. USB will allow the user to hook up monitors, audio devices, floppy drives, telephones, modems, keyboards, mice, CD

ROM drives, joysticks, tape drives, printers and scanners. Computers equipped with USB will be automatically configured as soon as the computer is turned on.

Products are beginning to appear that connect to USB ports. USB is a Plug and Play utility that allows up to 127 devices to be connected to a single port using one interrupt and port address. This bus provides 10 times the throughput of a standard serial port but does not increase the cost of a computer. We are told you can run out of bandwidth so it may not solve the IRQ, I/O limitations of present computers. It seems the only device which does not have USB product is the modem.

Motherboards and computers have been shipping with this port since January 1997. For those of us that don't have one of these ports attached, a CMD USB 6700 PCI to USB card will add this function to computers with a PCI bus. Support for USB's is in-





cluded in Windows 95 (OSR 2.1 released on October 29, 1996).

While researching this topic we learned about another new standard about to be released this year. Sony has developed the Fire Wire IEEE 1394 standard. This standard will add high bandwidth consumer video products, allowing connectivity of digital camcorders, cameras and video disc players. We have been told there will be USB and Fire Wire ports on computers in the future. 3-Com and Diamond (Supra Sonic II) have announced products that are double-line modems. We have heard rumors that a modem manufacturer has built a 73kps modem. Just when we thought we would run out of subjects to talk about, technology stepped-in and saved the SIG.

Alan Brosz & Birl Smith

DALLAS COREL SIG

Corel Corporation Launches CorelDRAW 8 at NTPCUG

Corel Corporation will launch CorelDRAW 8 in North Texas at NTPCUG's December 13 meeting at 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Alexandria Auditorium (Main Auditorium on the first floor). We are pleased that Corel accepted our SIG's invitation and all who want to be in the first group to see DRAW's new features demonstrated are invited to attend. Billed as "The Choice of Professionals", CorelDRAW 8 and Corel PHOTO-PAINT 8 have



Dallas Corel is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

been enhanced for maximum productivity in the least amount of time. Whether designing professional graphics for print media and presentations or for publishing to the Web, CorelDRAW 8 promises an outstanding tool set that facilitates creativity and job efficiency. Needless to say, Dallas Corel SIG will meet in the Main Auditorium, not in Suite 7007. Corel will offer special user group prices for its products for attendees, so remember to bring your checkbook. There will be door prize drawings for NTPCUG members too!

CorelDRAW 8 was scheduled to hit store shelves by the end of November and carries a suggested retail price of \$695 for the full version and \$249 for the upgrade version. Street price for upgrading has already been found for \$229. The following excerpts from Corel's press release suggest what lies ahead for us CorelDRAW addicts and newcomers alike.

Look for CorelDRAW 8 to be more intuitive, interactive and innovative. Professional graphic designers will definitely notice the refinements. Improvements like customizable docker windows, live display and multi-functioning tools make it easier than ever to be ultra-productive.

As well as the three main applications, CorelDRAW 8 contains a number of additional utilities: Bitstream® Font Navigator 3.0 is a font manager that provides a quick and easy way to find and install fonts, view and print font samples or organize fonts into manageable groups. Corel OCR-TRACE 8 is a bitmap-to-vector tracing utility that converts scanned or manually created bitmap artwork into vector images. Corel TEXTURE is a program that creates unlimited natural textures by combining up to seven user-defined shader layers. CorelSCAN 8 is a wizard-driven scanning utility that includes preset options that can remove red-eye

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Jim Hart

Visual Basic

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

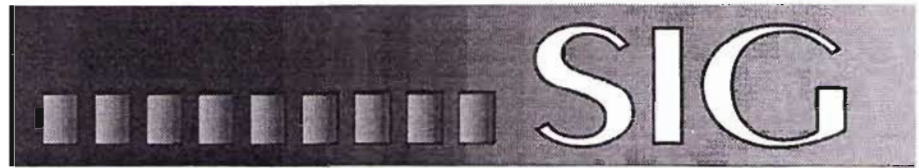
WordPerfect / Windows

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



from photos or automatically apply effects to scanned images. Core! CAPTURE 8 is an advanced screen capture utility that allows users to capture on-screen video or variations of current windows images. Kodak Digital Science Color Management System is a system to ensure consistent color between scanners, monitors and printers. Core! SCRIPT Editor is a scripting utility that can be used to create add-on utilities for Core!DRAW 8 and Core! PHOTO-PAINT 8 through OLE 2 automation. Plug-Ins included are Adobe® Photoshop® -compatible plug-in filters, including AutoF/X Photo/Graphic Edges, Cytopia PhotoLab, Digimarc® Digital Watermarking and Human Software Squizz!. They can all be used with Core!DRAW and Core! PHOTO-PAINT. Included are 40,000 clipart images and symbols, 1,000 TrueType® and Type 1 fonts, 1,000 photos, 450+ Core!DRAW and PaperDirect templates, Animated GIF files, Web background themes, floating objects, tiling textures and more.

Core!DRAW 8 has been enhanced to offer greater usability, interactivity and productivity than earlier versions. New Interactive tools allow users to apply effects and adjustments directly to an im-



age while easy-to-use on-screen controls provide immediate feedback on any changes being made. Object creation and editing has been streamlined, giving users the flexibility to perform basic node editing or transformations on an object using any selected creation tool. Object placement and display is smoother and more precise with the new bitmap display features. As well, keyboard shortcuts have been added to both Core!DRAW 8 and Core! PHOTO-PAINT 8 giving users faster access to tool selection, effects and other commands.

A number of areas in Core!DRAW 8 are now customizable to speed up the work process. Users can save magnification levels in the Zoom Property Bar and custom page size options can be added to the page type list. Hidden objects can now be located by simply clicking the image and holding the ALT key until the image is selected. The print engines in both Core!DRAW 8 and Core! PHOTO-PAINT 8 now support Adobe® Postscript® 3 and support has been added for the center wheel zooming and panning features with the Microsoft IntelliMouse

Core! PHOTO-PAINT 8 is becoming the product of choice for graphic designers and photographers wanting to produce high quality images for print, multimedia and the World Wide Web. Building upon the success of previous versions, Core! PHOTO-PAINT 8 is faster and easier to use than ever before. With multiple performance enhancements and a new streamlined object editing interface, Core! PHOTO-PAINT 8 is an outstanding application for painting, image correction and photo retouching.

Core!DREAM 3D 8, sporting a new flat-look user interface, features improved Internet connectivity with improved support for Virtual Reality Modeling Language (VRML) export that makes it simple to publish to the Web.

3D model creation makes it easier to manage and modify 3D objects with links such as lock, slider and axis and deformation tools such as stretch, shatter and twist. In addition, 3DMF import/export support has been added to the program. The intuitive Object Browser includes directory tabs and the ability to open/close files in the Object Browser and users can improve texture mapping on 3D models with versatile shaders.

Rebate Offers

User Loyalty Mail-in Rebate: Until February 28, 1998, Core! is offering registered users of Core!DRAW 7 the opportunity to upgrade to the full retail version of Core!DRAW 8 and receive a \$25 rebate. (This offer does not apply to Academic, OEM or licensed versions of Core!DRAW 8.) Call Customer Service at 613-728-3733 for the latest details regarding the rebate.

November Program in Review

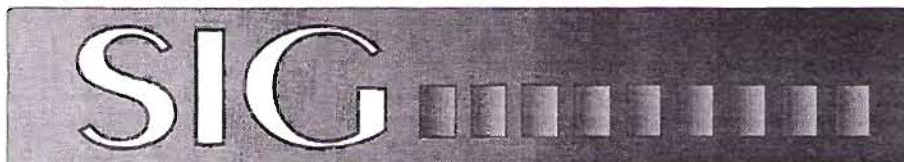
Have It Your Way. Our November SIG Program focused on customizing your tools for YOU. We learned to customize Core!DRAW 7's interface and streamline it to facilitate the way each of us prefer to work. Eliminate those rarely used buttons or bars and create short cuts for functions you use often. Make custom color pallets too. Rick Altman's amusing approach to Core!DRAW instruction gave us a jump start to this customization on his "Cool Tricks" videotape on the topic.

Jim Hart demonstrated TEKit, which he discovered at the Core! Conference in Canada in August. "TEK" in TEKit is pronounced the same as "tech" in technical. It is a third party plugin for Core!DRAW 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 way you

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- ❖ Technical Support Representatives..... 800-818-1848
- ❖ G1 Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Core! 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



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, patent seeker, manual maker, or anyone who needs to see their object "come to life" even before the actual object is manufactured!

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

1997:

- ❖ 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
- ❖ November - Customizing CorelDRAW 7

Marsha Drebelbis

Delphi SIG

This is the BIG ONE!

Keeping with the spirit of the season, I have invited all of the developer-oriented SIG's to attend our Delphi December meeting. I will be doing a long

delayed presentation of now Crystal Reports 6.0

Crystal Reports is a very robust and flexible report design and print tool intended for use by both developers and power users. Crystal has connectivity to all of the major PC and SQL databases currently on the market. Various tools are provided to allow the developer to painlessly incorporate Crystal Reports-based reporting in his deliverable applications. Target development platforms include C, C++, Pascal, Delphi, VB, and a handful of other less widely used developer environments.

The presentation which will provide a general overview of report development using Crystal Report's design package and a detailed look at how I seamlessly incorporate Crystal Report's runtime print engine in my deliverable Delphi applications.

The good part comes after the presentation! We will be giving away one copy of Crystal Reports 5.0. A full licensable multi-hundred dollar product which may be registered and upgraded to release 6.0 for about, \$199. In addition, Larry Linson has provided us with a full Microsoft Visual Developer's Suite.

I recently stumbled across a shrink-wrapped version of all things, dBASE IV for DOS. This and other things might also show up to be thrown in the giveaway pile. What luck! Well at least you might be able to use the old dBASE as a "hook" to receive a good upgrade price to the current Windows version of Visual dBASE. This is only a possibility, not a promise!

As a last reminder, the giveaway drawing will only be open to current verifiable members of the North Texas PC Users Group. So don't forget to bring proof of membership! And with a little luck, Ray Wright won't win them all.

Fred Williams

DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

December is one of my favorite months. It's one of the few times I can dig out some of the old woodcuts I like so much and adorn the newsletter like a Victorian greeting card. December is also a good time to reflect on the past year and promise we'll develop good PC working habits for a change. That's going to be focus of the December DOS/Operating Systems SIG.

At the top of my "to do" list is system integrity. If Win 95 or DOS has been acting a little "flaky," this is a good time to fix it, perhaps even reinstall from scratch. Along the same lines, I make sure I have the latest data file for my anti-virus program. All the anti-virus vendors make periodic upgrades to their anti-virus and downloading the latest from the vendor's BBS or Website should be a priority maintenance item. It's also not a bad time to scour the program vendors' sites for patches and upgrades to application software you use.

Make two new "Emergency" DOS/Win 95 boot disks. Be sure each has any necessary drivers required for CD-ROM and tape drive access. A small, self-contained editor such as EDLIN will also be handy. (I can hear the peals of laughter from readers now, but trying to create new configuration files via "COPY CON:" can be a major pain late at night.)

Establish and maintain a regular backup schedule. Media rotation is particularly important and you really should have at least three sets of tape for a machine that uses tape for backup. If your backup program permits, make an "Emergency Disk" to be able to restore from the backups.

Take the time to open your PC case periodically and clean out the accumulated dust from the insides. Canned air is available for this purpose from most computer and office supply stores. Don't forget to check and clean any filters in the PC. It's not a bad idea while you are inside the case to "snug up" all the cables and boards since both can

gradually work themselves loose over time.

Do watch the memory vendors' prices and upgrade memory when the price seems to have "bottomed" for a while. Adding memory is where most users will get the greatest bang for their dollars in terms of real PC performance increases.

Don't plan any major hardware or software upgrades for December, though. Wait till the January price drops after the Christmas gift and year-end business (tax) purchasers are finished. In recent years, major component prices have taken their biggest drops between January 1 and February 1. This may not hold now as profit margins are already minimal for most vendors.

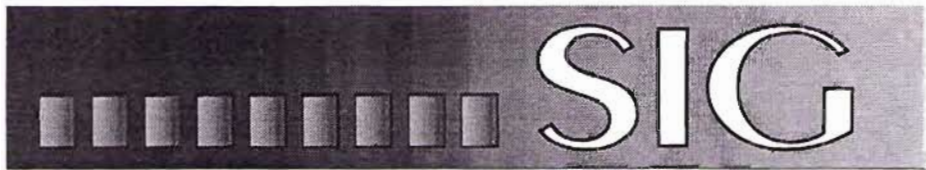
Reagan Andrews

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

The focus of the upcoming December SIG meeting will be on search engines, which we haven't discussed in several months. No, these aren't high-powered engines for race cars. They are really just tools available on the Internet to help you find "web sites" that contain information or data of interest to you. Even if you have no idea where to find "the answer" to today's question, a search engine can scour the Internet and present you with a list of relevant, user-friendly "links" that will take you to the desired site(s). We'll show you how they work and how to speed up your searches.

Also, be prepared to bring friends and associates to our 5-hour *Introduction to the Internet* session, to occur again at the **January 1998** meeting. This course is designed for the rank beginner, who just heard the word "Internet" yesterday. We expect to begin at 10 AM in our usual room. This course will give new folks the chance to ask those basic questions about the Internet that they may have felt uncomfortable asking in the general meetings. Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter.

The ongoing 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 acronyms and buzzwords. Although we have several "prepared" sessions and speakers, look for general Q&A sessions (Question and Answer) periodically, too.

See you December 13th !!

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

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

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

April 11, 1998*

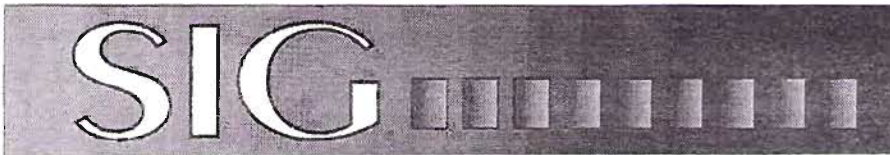
- ❖ 9:00 Class 9
Hardware for the PC
- ❖ 10:00 Class 10
Printers for the PC
- ❖ Noon Class 11
Overview of Quicken Accounting Software
- ❖ 1:00 Class 12
Modems & Telecommunications
- ❖ 2:00 Class 12a
NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS)

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

Alex Lilley

MS FRONTPAGE SIG

For all users of *Microsoft FrontPage*, both programmers and non-programmers, to share knowledge of the product with regards to Web publishing,



By staying informed of the activities of other NTPCUG Special Interest Group's (SIGs) and area Users' Groups with common interests, we answer members' questions and help them identify other resources available in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

*Richard Miles, Gil Brand
& Bruce Wynn.*

MS Word for Windows SIG

ATTENTION: Starting in December, the SIG moves to a new time, 8:00am to 10:00am and a new room which I don't have at this writing, so you'll have to look at the big screens to find out where we're going to be.

Thanks again to **Jan Patton** for taking over for me last month and the month before. I've been involved in the North Texas Stroke Survivors organization learning how to be a "peer visitor."

Stroke is the leading cause of neurological disablement in North America and can cause so many side effects that I don't believe that anyone has yet been able to count them.

I'm happy to report that I've had a Botox injection which has returned,

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 Networking SIG

At the December meeting, the SIG will focus on two product areas — *Microsoft Back Office* and *Internet Information Server (IIS)*. Exploration of Back Office will include:

- ❖ SMS - Systems Management Server
- ❖ Exchange Server
- ❖ SNA Server

Coming in January, 1998, topic will be Workgroup (Peer-level) Networking

- ❖ Win 95
- ❖ Win NT
- ❖ Mixed Win95 and WinNT

February, 1998, - Directory Services - NTDS

The MS Networking SIG meets monthly to technically showcase Microsoft Networking products, including *Windows NT Server, Windows NT Workstation, Systems Management Server, Exchange, SNA Server, Internet Information Server, and Windows 95.*

The SIG highlights the capabilities and features of these products for all users, from individual end-users to corporate users, small and medium-sized businesses, and beginning to experienced

administrators. We present the various options within Microsoft's networking products line and help members understand how they are positioned to solve their computing, connectivity and business needs. We help members understand how these products interoperate with other third party and legacy products.

The strength of an effective users' group is the opportunity to share common experiences and learn from others. We try to end each meeting with an open question and answer session which can transition to other SIG meetings, the DFW Exchange vendor area, or the Infomart restaurant.



temporarily, my voice! So hopefully when we meet in December you'll hear a smooth, steady voice instead of what you've been hearing.

Since I don't know what Jan covered last month, I'm just going to give a tip of the month.

I realize that a lot of you are not going to upgrade to 97, so I'm trying to keep the tips to cover both 97 and 95. Without further ado (what in the blazes is that, anyway?):

One of the most under-utilized features of Word seems to be InsertPicture.

As you might expect, Microsoft's engineers improved the mechanics of inserting graphics into 97. But not THAT much.

In Word 6 (95), you merely select Insert, then Picture. If you've included all of your graphics filters in your installation, Word can import a very wide variety of images: GIF, JPEG, WPG, etc. If your installation balks at import-



ing a particular graphic type, it simply means that you have not installed it.

Go to your original installation disk and find graphics filters on the Add/Remove section, and select the missing filter. It's not that hard to do.

In Word 6 there is a trick to making your picture moveable. First import it, then click anywhere INSIDE the graphic, it will show sizing handles. Select Insert, then choose Frame. A frame will conform to the size of the picture and you will see the four-headed "move" arrow.

HINT: You are now in the page layout view. Reduce the document temporarily to Whole Page, you can then see exactly where your picture is going.

Of course you can use the sizing handles (those black boxes that appear) and you can make the image large or smaller. Move it again, if need be.

Do NOT go back to Normal view or your picture will seem to move to the top left side of your page. That's the way things work in Normal view. Stay in Layout view once you start Inserting Pictures.

In Word 97, the big difference is that your picture comes up ready to move. And several enhancements have been made that allow you to use that picture with text.

As this is not a full-blown tutorial, I'll just say that you will want to first SELECT the picture or graphic go to Format, select Picture or AutoShape (if available), and a six-tab dialog box will appear. Click on Wrapping and you'll see what new and exciting possibilities are available to you.

See you in December, and once again, thank you Janet for a job well-done!

Bev Kurtin & Jan Patton

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.

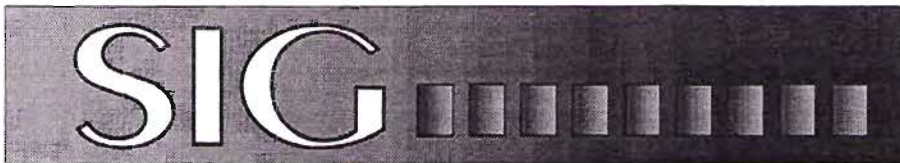
Of course, ASCII is always welcome.

Reagan Andrews

PARADOX SIG

In November we discussed query basics including what a query is, how does it work and how to create a query. Since the issue of querying a database is a bit more than a single session, we are going to cover ways in which queries may be used with reports and forms for our December meeting.

It is interesting to observe the SIG meeting dynamics. Sometimes those attending will sit quietly through the entire meeting. When the meeting breaks, many will come up to start one-on-one conversations about Paradox or surround Fred Williams or myself with questions. Most of the "off-line" questions or discussion I hear are very inter-



esting and usually represent everyday issues.

Ray Wright reports that the "Enterprise" edition of Paradox 8.0 should be available soon after the first of the year. We are still hoping any edition of Paradox 8.0 will show up at our door step. The features list looks like we will have a nice upgrade.

We are always looking for a "few good" presentations. Step forward and share the wealth of your experience.

Tom Browning

PRO SIG

Macros and carbonated beverages flowed freely at the December SIG meeting. There were numerous toasts to increasing contract rates for the new year. Toward the end of the meeting, one of the regulars suggested that if you had nothing better to do on New Year's eve, you could log in to the central computer and set the clock ahead two years. Talk about a wake up call!

Happy New Year!

Jim Hoisington

VISUAL BASIC SIG - BEGINNING

The December meeting scheduled for December 13, 1997 will describe the use of sample programs in Visual Basic 5.0. Microsoft includes over 200 applications with source code that provides opportunities for programmers to learn programming techniques by example. We will demonstrate several applications and answer questions. If you are needing help with Visual Basic 5.0, this would be an excellent opportunity to ask your questions.

Last month, we continued our discussion of the Visual Basic 5.0 Integrated Development Environment (IDE) em-

phasizing the debugging features in Visual Basic 5.0.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, December 13, 1997 at the Infomart. Check the overheads in the vendor area for the correct room assignments.

Jim Carter

WORDPERFECT / WINDOWS SIG

Well, the holidays are upon us and yet another year has passed. This month we will recap subjects covered this past year and answer any questions you may have. What a busy year we have had, too. We've looked at Tables, Merge, Graphics, Customizing, Table of Contents, Hypertext and Web pages, the Address Book, as well as peeked at WordPerfect 7 and WordPerfect 8. This year just would not have been successful without all of you and especially **Diane Bentley**, who without her help this year, I would have sunk the ship! I look forward to having her assistance this next year as the Assistant SIG Leader for WordPerfect for Windows. Thanks Diane!

Starting in January, we will focus primarily on the WordPerfect for Windows 8. Since the world is upgrading to the Windows 95 platform and version 8.0 is the latest and greatest, we will focus our class on the whiz-bangs of the 95 platform.

Now, for those of you who have not upgraded, don't be discouraged! Please still come. I guarantee we will cover subjects that are applicable for the Windows 3.1 versions of WordPerfect too. Several of the functions are identical. So don't despair if you have not upgraded. I will always include information for you as well!

It does not matter if you have never touched a PC before, or if you have

been an "almost guru" for years, we will have information that you will be able to take home and use. So bring a friend and let's have some fun next month! WordPerfect never looked so GOOD!

Thirsty for knowledge?

One of the best sources I have found for expanding my knowledge on WordPerfect -- regardless of the version number -- is the *WordPerfect for Windows Magazine*. Each and every month I read articles that the novice users can comprehend, to the "M"acro things I don't do. And if you are into creating graphical stuff, there is no one better on making it clear than the articles by Daniel Will-Harris and his Desktop articles.

Now the gurus at the magazine have taken it a step further -- the *WordPerfect Suite Magazine!* Now you can find interesting articles on everything in the latest WordPerfect Suite! So stop pulling your hair out and take a few minutes to read up!

Cindy Adams



NT BBS Approaching Reality & Fred Says 'Real' E-mail* Possible For NTPCUG MEMBERS

*Dispatches from Arkansas
— New NT 'Guru' Makes
Difference*

I'm writing this while in DeQueen, Arkansas and therefore do not have the luxury of access to last month's column, so if I repeat anything please bear with me. Between working on two major projects and deer season, I'm just real short on "spare" time.

I did have time to phone our NT guru, **Karen Brazeal**, and chat with her a few minutes as to how

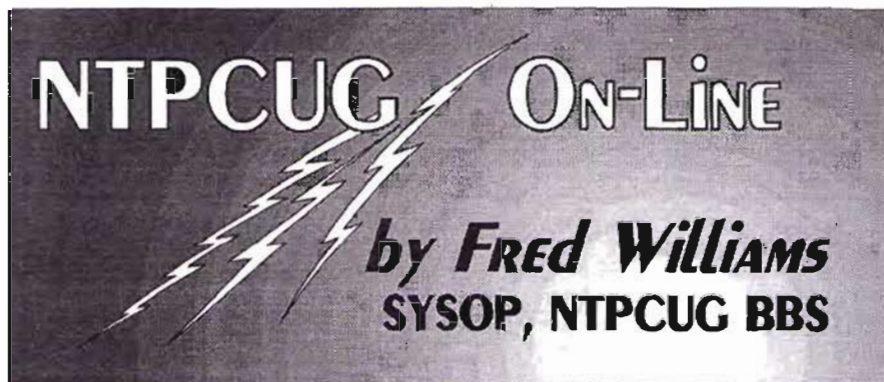
the NT Server project is coming along. Karen feels we may have something to begin initial testing and configuration, maybe before the November meeting. If this is true, I would hope that by the time this column is published the server project will be well along in testing.

Doug Gorrie and I have discussed our future connectivity requirements in general. It is rapidly becoming time to develop a more specific definition of the new machine's needs as to both incoming modem connectivity as well as Internet feed requirements.

ShareWare Browser?

Lewis Graber continues to work on developing the final shareware DOM offering that will be the NTPCUG "recommended" connectivity solution we will be making available to our long time DOS members. Last report I had from Lewis he was reaching the point where he was about to begin picking the actual pieces and revisions which

* 'Real' E-Mail — Currently, the BBS has capability of sending and receiving Internet E-mail. However, we are currently unable to 'attach' or receive binary, i.e., word processor, files to BBS messages, which is a significant limitation for any E-mail service.



he will use to make up the final DOM release.

I intend to concentrate on insuring the BBS Sysop Staff learns as much as possible about the new server setup without becoming an undue and unwelcome burden on Karen. This is also greatly affected by the fact that Karen has just recently become engaged. I know this can have a very adverse effect on someone's former definition as to what they want to do with their "spare" time!

BBS 'Unique' Intranet

One fact that is curbing my appetite for leaping forward and creating a "need" for additional hardware, software, and communications connectivity is the fact we are doing a somewhat unique Intranet implementation in the fact there will only be "remote dial in" users on the system. I see no serious issues with this concept, but wish to give the rest of the NTPCUG Officers as much exposure and insight into the new system's capabilities and concepts before hitting them



with a laundry list of "extra cost" items, like ISDN connectivity to the ISP and etc.

Karen still believes Internet e-mail service for members will be a "no brainer" and slick as a whistle. All I know is I have a lot to learn and very little time to do it. I think this one service, e-mail, will be the linchpin feature of the new system that will provide the membership with the greatest bang for the buck.

Once we have the e-mail installed and running smoothly, we will have gained enough experience to plan for future services, like once again offering a subset of Usenet News Groups, in house Web Page and even limited Web access.

'Mirror' FTP Site?

With the cost of huge capacity disk drives in free fall, the potential for becoming a "mirror" FTP site for major software and hardware vendors becomes even more of a possibility with each passing day. This could prove to be yet another real asset for our membership. This service would help in two ways.

Members would not need to have Web or FTP access to retrieve drivers and updates from mirrored vendors, and the Web would be unloaded the least little bit each time one of our members snagged a local copy of something instead of surfing the Net to fetch what he needed.

Fred Williams

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Excuses - Excuses

I love to call our many volunteers and have them tell me they can't help at the Information Booth or Vendor Setup/Breakdown or Auditorium. That's right, I said, "Can't." I had better get used to it, because I am going to hear that answer a lot. Before I lose you I should clear up this mysterious behavior, and explain why it is easy to feel that way. But, wait a minute; I am just now hearing another EXCUSE and I am enjoying every word of it.

You see, the NTPCUG meets on a Saturday, and the whole organization is staffed by volunteers who give a part of their week-end to help the rest of us learn more about computing. These volunteers have some kind of genetic defect that makes them want to contribute to society and the club couldn't run without that peculiar twist in their DNA. These sharing people are the

same ones who Lead a Scout Troop, or Build a Habitat for Humanity, or Install computers in a Church or Community Center. They visit the elderly, and coach kids athletic and scholastic events; usually on their days off. It makes sense that conflicts with our eventful meeting time would occur. So, get over it! What's that old adage about asking a busy person if you want to get something done?

When you call to ask someone to do some duty for the NTPCUG and you get an EXCUSE instead of a volunteer, then be ready to hear of some other good deed they may be performing at that time. Please don't let them talk you into helping them, because we asked you first, and we need YOU here.

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
Kenneth Berg

Crew:

Dennis Brininger
Jim Lubnicwski
Tim Foster
Tony Pham

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Christopher Carmichael

Newsletter Labels

Charlie Fernandez

Information/Registration

Booth

Statistician:

Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

Anchors:

Ralph Beaver

Vernon Cates

Eteta Eta
Hank Holt
Cinda Lovil (Double)
David Martin
Foy Mills
Carl Oehmann
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams (Double)

Booth Crew:

Al Aston
Roger Bopp
Glynn Brooks
Jim Boyce (Double)
Randy Durham
Tim Foster

Raymond Reyes

Ken Sauter

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:

Joe Allen
Roy Bales
Don Chick
James Donlon
M. Pat Henley
Arnold Krusemark

DOM Desk Crew:

Richard Abreu
Michael Ashley
Douglas Athas
Bernie Baars
Richard Blair
Jim Boyce

Philip Bridge

Linda Campbell
Gene Carleton
Norm Dang
William Farris
Brad Ficke
Martin R. Gluck
Edwin Griffin
Jimmy Hurst
Tom Jackson
Tom Jones
Mac McKeethen
Mark Miller
Nancy Ogden
John Primm
George Read
Jim Russell-Redman
Oscar Tyler
Lee Williams

With Special Thanks to:

Set Up Crew:

Mark Gruner
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
David Huckabee
Jerry Stone

Inventory and Take-down Crew:

Richard Blair
Mark Christopher
Brad Ficke
Martin R. Gluck
Arnold Krusemark

DOM Desk Scheduler:

Philip Bridge

Disk Production:

Gene Carleton
Howard Hamilton



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael (972) 661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler

Phil Bridge (972) 422-5400

DOM Software Review

Mark Gruner (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				Excel			
	Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700		Warrington Williams.....	(214)348-6869	M-F 1800-2100
					.....		S&S 0900-2100
Assembly Language				Hardware Help			
	Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200		Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200	Internet - General			
BASIC					Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200		David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
Beginner Problems				Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)			
	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700		Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
	Shirley Hudgens	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000		.....		S-S 1000-2200
Brother's Keeper				LANs - Novell			
	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200		Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
C++ (the language)				- Lantastic			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100	Managing Your Money			
CA Clipper					Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Richard Mitchell.....	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100	Modems			
	.....		SS 0900-2300		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
CorelDraw				MathCAD			
	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200		Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	.....		S-S 1300-2200	Norton Utilities			
Batch Files					John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	OS/2			
Borland C++					Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	PC Tools/Win			
	Howard Harkness	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
CompuServe				Paradox			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Fred Williams.....	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
dBASE III, III+, IV & Windows				PKzip/PKUNzip			
	Ted Gillam.....	(972)964-7923	7 0800-1700		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
DOS				ProComm/ProComm+			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200		Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308	
	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
<i>ProComm/ProComm+ (Cld.)...</i>			
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
<i>Publisher (Microsoft)</i>			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Pat Cole	(972)831-8055	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972)496-3894	7 1000-2200
<i>Quicken</i>			
	Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
<i>Quickbooks</i>			
	Jim Thompson	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
<i>SPFPC</i>			
	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
<i>UNIX</i>			
	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
<i>Virus & Anti-Virus</i>			
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
<i>Visual Basic -</i>			
	Jim Carter	(972)235-5968	7 1700-2130
	L.J. Johnson	(972)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman	(972)495-6342	7 1700-2130
<i>Windows for Workgroups</i>			
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
<i>Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51</i>			
	Richard Miles	(972)296-5356	M-F 1900-2200
	.....		SS 10:00-16:00
	.....	(214)767-7315	M-F 1500-1700
<i>Word for Windows</i>			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
<i>Works, Microsoft</i>			
	Mike Firth	(214)827-7734	7 0800-2200
<i>XENIX</i>			
	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 Gorrie at (214)464-7924 M-F 0800-1700 or Sa & Su 1000-1900 at (972)618-8002. Doug will send you a form on which you can list your qualifications and sign.



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc

Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name (Last): _____ (First): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Work: (_____) _____ - _____ Ext _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below

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

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

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

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

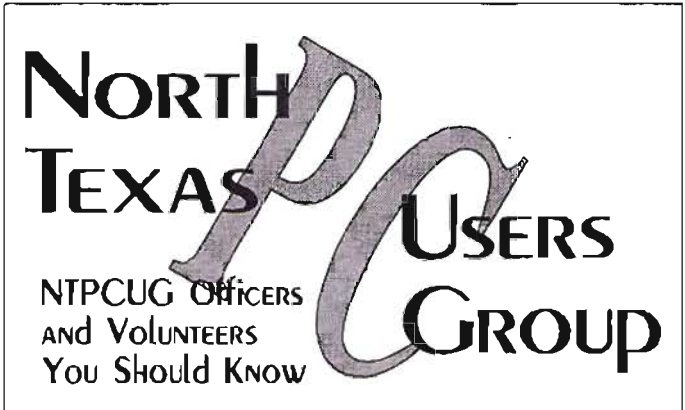
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
President-Elect	Andy Oliver	(972) 462-1896 h (972) 960-4215 w
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 566-4626 w
Treasurer	Eb Foerster	(214) 357-7602 h
Secretary	John West	(972) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
Disk of the Month		
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(972) 492-1315

Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)
Phil Chamberlain *Jim Hoisington*
David McGehee *Stuart Yarus*
Tom Prickett *Connie Andrews*
Kathryn Loafman *Reagan Andrews*
Fred Williams *Timothy Carmichael*
Andy Oliver *Mark Gruner*

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:

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

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

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

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

Address Changes, etc...

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

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

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



North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 703449
Dallas, Texas 75370-3449

Address Correction Requested

Non Profit Org.
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Arlington, TX
Permit No. 823

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North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:
13 December 1997

