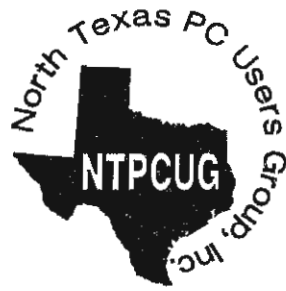


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**PC NEWS**

ALEX LILLEY - FRED WILLIAMS  
DREBELBIS - MARSHA  
JIM HOISINGTON - REAGAN ANDREWS - TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

# NTPCUG Officers for 1998

*February, 1998*

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 2

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**Deadline:**

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

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**DEADLINE**  
**Copy deadline for March**  
**North Texas PC NEWS:**  
**Saturday, February 21st**

**Meeting Dates:**

**February 21, 1998 – 3rd Saturday**  
**March 21, 1998 – 3rd Saturday**  
**April 11, 1998 – 2nd 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. . . . .		
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**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

**"Internet Access Via Satellite - The Speed Limit On The Internet Just Went Up"**

**Skylynx Communications (www.skylynxcom.com)**

*John Gaunt, Regional Sales Manager, Hughes Network Systems*

DirecPC offers you faster access and greater efficiency, at home and at work. Switching from your current Internet connection to DirecPC is like going from ground transportation to air travel. So what is it going to be, the bus or the Concorde? That is the question! It's your choice. It all comes down to how much you value your time. There may be a drawing for free something. \*

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS...**

*TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL*

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

**"Supporting Microsoft Windows 95"**

**KnowledgePool Inc. (www.knowledgepool.com)**

*Thad King, General Manager*

This seminar will cover topics which will help you configure and fine-tune Windows 95 operating systems. Issues will include: distinguishing between the Windows 95 and Windows NT Workstation systems and determining which would be appropriate for a given situation; managing files, folders and partitions on hard drives; the issues involving FAT32; implementing, managing and supporting applications; and tuning a computer for optimum performance. There will be a drawing for a free 5-day class at KnowledgePool, valued at \$2,125. \*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**"NTPCUG Business Meeting" (Room 1061)**

12:00 PM - 12:55 PM

**"Introduction to OS/2"**

**OS/2 SIG**

*Mike Persell, Instructor from IBM*

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

**"OS/2 CONFIG.SYS in Simplest Terms"**

**OS/2 SIG**

*Rob Couch, OS/2 Guru*

\* 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.

**FEBRUARY 21**

**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  
**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  
**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

**The Master Genealogist**

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

**1:00 - 1:55 Ctd.**  
**QuickBooks**

**2:00 - 2:55**  
Advanced Programmers

**Special Meeting for SIG Leaders and NTPCUG Officers & Members (Check overheads -- time may change.)**

**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 IN-FOMART lobby and at the NTPCUG Information Booth in the Vendor**

## IDEAS, IDEAS, AND... MORE IDEAS

A very big thank you goes to all of the members who participated in the Future Directions discussion at the January NTPCUG meeting. I enjoyed the opportunity to discuss ways to help the Group and this was an excellent forum to provide feedback to the officer and directors.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a letter from Board of Directors member, SIG Leader, and BBS Sysop **Fred Williams**. Thank you Fred for your concern and your suggestions. I will discuss the next steps at the end of this column.

Below are the ideas, in no particular order. Please read them over and provide the Users Group leaders with your feedback. There are several ways that you can communicate with us, phone, e-mail, and writing a letter.

This is your Group, let us know what you think.

1. Add corporate sponsors as a membership category. Two suggestions are:
  - (1) the contribution is a sponsorship and buys goodwill with the NTPCUG; or (2) the contribution buys a number of memberships that the corporation can disperse to their employees.
2. Sell corporations on the personnel resources available through the Group, especially in these low unemployment times.
3. Limit the Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings to members only. Start by conducting a survey of how many attendees are members. Possibly only limit certain SIGs to members.
4. Move some SIG meetings to other nights of the week at a "resource center" leased by the Users Group. (see Fred's letter)
5. Institute a follow-up survey to find out why members did not renew their memberships.
6. Move part of the *NTPC News*, like past articles, to the Web.
7. Provide member E-mail accounts via the Web.
8. Offer fee-based PC courses. Apply for certification of the courses for continuing education credits for professionals.
9. Establish a Gaming SIG (for game enthusiasts.)
10. Add the SIG leaders E-mail addresses to the SIG leader listing in the newsletter and on the Web site.
11. Convince Infomart tenants to have an Open House to explain who they are and what they do. Let them know what a great resource the Users Group can be to them.
12. SIG's should have agendas that are published early.
13. SIG's should always have a planned program.
14. Do market research on current members to determine their needs and how to best fill those needs. Possibly enlist SMU class in market research project.
15. Allow ongoing tasks to be contracted out.
16. Become an Internet Service Provider.
17. Ask corporate sponsors to consider providing space for a resource center.
18. Try to quantify the perceived benefit of membership to better "sell" the Group.
19. Have vendors offer discounts to members.
20. Provide cards to members that give the location, phone number and meeting dates. Have members pass these out.
21. Close off the vendor area to members only for the first one or two hours.



22. Have computer vendors publicize NTPCUG.
23. Get a TV station to do a special on NTPCUG.
24. Do radio and TV spots.
25. Get on a talk show as a guest.
26. Make a better effort to reach younger computer users.
27. Have open discussion meetings more often.
28. Establish working groups for special tasks.
29. Rent videos on software instruction, etc. to members.
30. Have a list of positions that are in need of volunteers posted at the Information Booth.
31. Have software instruction through the Web site like ZDU, and charge a fee for the instruction.
32. Give members a reward for recruiting new members.
33. Establish a repair clinic to help members identify and replace hardware components.
34. Advertise, advertise, advertise.
35. Have members contact any and all stores that sell computers and obtain permission to put up a sign or brochures about NTPCUG.
36. Keep the Web page up-to-date. If a SIG is not meeting, post it on the Web site.
37. Find out why/why not and where we are allowed to charge for attending Users Group functions.
38. When a vendor insists that everyone at an event be eligible for a drawing, provide members with an extra ticket.
39. Provide volunteers with a coupon for an extra ticket at drawings.
40. In both 38 and 39 above, limit winning to one prize per person.
41. Limit the Introduction to the PC SIG to members only.
42. Publish an annual NTPCUG Membership Directory.

43. Publish a "Letters to the Editor" column in the NTPCUG News. [Ed. note: We've always welcomed "Letters to the Editor" — we just haven't received very many for a number of years.]

44. Negotiate a membership to Sam's Club for NTPCUG Members.

45. Hold an annual membership get-together, like a bar-b-que.

And that is it, so far. This is a super list of ideas. The next step is to get moving on them. We will schedule another meeting for February, possibly in the morning if we can find an empty room. There, we will have these tasks categorized, summarized, and ready for action committees to pursue. A committee representative will then present the committee plan to the Board of Directors for approval and action.

Great job. Let's crank it up.

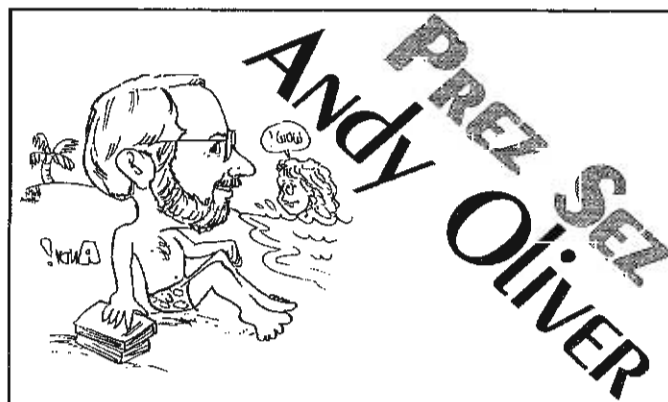
## MICROSOFT EXTREME 2

Please reserve Saturday, April 4th, for a special Microsoft event entitled "Extreme 2" to be held at the UA Prestonwood Theaters.

You must register to attend. Check out our BBS and our Web site for more information.

Also, we are expecting Microsoft to have a table (next to the NTPCUG Information Booth - north wall in the vendor area next to the glass doors) at the next Users Group Saturday meetings to sign up NTPCUG member volunteers to act as helpers and greeters at this event.

*Andy*



## AN OPEN LETTER TO NTPCUG MEMBERS CONCERNING FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE GROUP

*Fred Williams*

[Ed. note: The following is a position statement written by NTPCUG Board of Directors Member Fred Williams concerning his views for future directions the NTPCUG should take. It was presented at the special planning meeting in January. Fred has been an extremely active member of the BOD, has nurtured the BBS, and has led more SIGs for the NTPCUG than any other volunteer.]

In my absence, I have asked Lewis Graber to read the following position statement.

A few years ago I recognized that there was a very large population of PC users which I felt North Texas PC User's Group was not serving.

For many years I have been a member, or am a past member, of several "Professional" organizations. Paradox Users of North Texas, Independent Computer Consultants International (past chapter Vice President), Data Processing Managers Association (past chapter President), Oracle Users of Dallas (past Membership Chairman) to name a few.

During my various associations I learned one thing about my fellow "Professionals". Generally we did not do meetings on Saturdays due to job commitments, golf foursomes, fishing trips, lawn maintenance, or etc.

With this known fact, I decided to run for NTPCUG Board of Directors in an attempt to implement some changes which would allow expanded services for the current membership, as well as greatly improve our appeal to the "Professional" crowd. To date my

ideas have received at best minor lip service from the majority of the Board of Directors.

We, the NTPCUG, have obviously reached a major fork in our road. We can either do nothing and continue down the slow road to decay, or choose to study and implement successful programs and services of other like groups.

We can both learn from their mistakes and better emulate their successes.

Since joining the Board of Directors, I have proposed, to the point of major irritation of some, that we:

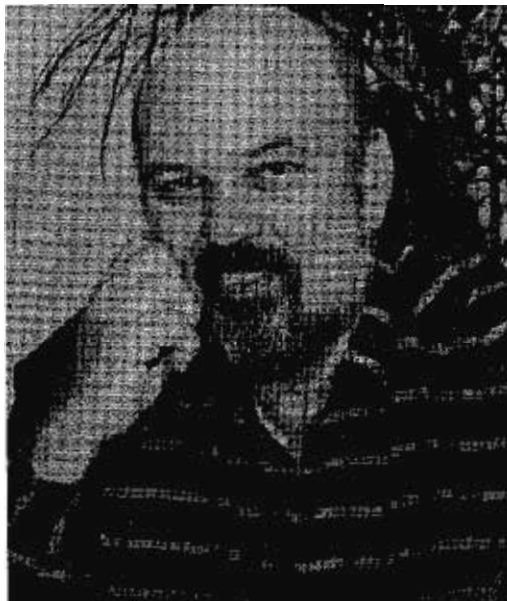
- ❖ Establish a permanent "Resource Center". Services could include our new, exciting, but wilting "Multimedia Library", on-site video training, and meeting/demo room for use by SIG's and etc. through the month, as examples.
- ❖ Allow certain major ongoing tasks to be contracted for. This could include Newsletter Advertisement Sales, Saturday's "Vendor Wrangler" management and any other major undertakings that might be done cost-effectively by contracted services.

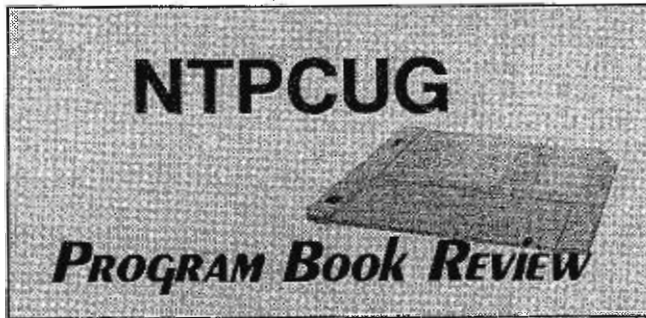
I know the "hated" HAL, Houston Area Computer League, and the renowned ALAMO, San Antonio's group, are both running very successful user groups which, as a minimum, incorporate my ideas.

I am now appealing for help from the general membership to voice your Ideas and to pressure your Board of Directors to do anything different. I've had little to no success, so far.

Thank you for your time and attention.

*Fred Williams*  
NTPCUG BOD





## BORLAND C++ BUILDER HOW-TO GETS HIGH PRAISE

*Borland C++ Builder How-To*, by John Miano, Tom Cabanski, and Harold Howe. Published by Waite Group Press, ISBN 1-57169-109-X, 822 pages, \$50. Review by Howard Lee Harkness, C++ Language SIG Leader, North Texas PC Users' Group.

I almost passed this one up. It looked a lot like another 800-page "Teach Yourself Y in X Days." The title struck me as a tad pretentious. The cover proclaimed it as the "Definitive C++Builder Problem-Solver," to which I reacted with some skepticism. I hadn't seen any recommendations in any of the Borland newsgroups for this one. On the other hand, while the Waite Group Press isn't exactly the most consistent publisher out there, they have had a few winners, and besides, I *really* needed some more information on BCB. The book I was actually looking for wasn't on the shelf, so I picked this one up and thumbed through it.

I'm glad I did. Based on skimming a few random pages near the middle, I bought it and took it to work. If you want to write useful software using BCB, you are going to want this book, too.

Maybe a better title for this book would have been, *Stuff Borland Either Forgot to Tell You About BCB, or Didn't Explain Very Well*. (Well, OK, maybe not.) It's a great reference book, and well-organized. It covers about 100 different real-life programming problems which are all specific to using Borland's C++ Builder. The problems vary from elementary to advanced, although some of the stuff they rated as elementary looked pretty advanced to me, and vice versa.

The problems are organized fairly logically into 17 chapters. Each chapter begins with a one- or two-sentence synopsis of each problem, then each problem is covered in four parts. Part One is generally posed as a question, or as a background statement

followed by a question. Part Two gives a recipe for solving the problem. Part Three discusses the solution and explains how it works and why the authors chose the particular solution they did. The last part discusses any known shortcomings of the solution, and suggests ways to improve or extend it. The approach was similar to a FAQ book, but a little more immediately practical.

There were several things I really liked about this book (in addition to the way it is organized). First of all, the authors did *not* waste a lot of dead trees congratulating Borland on what a marvelous product BCB was, and going on and on about how it was the Solution to the Software Problem, the Bringer of World Peace, the Cure for the Common Cold, etcetera ad nauseam. Second, they didn't scrape the bottom of the barrel trying to be funny. If this had been yet another attempt to write *BCB for Dummies*, I would have left it at the bookstore. Third, they did exactly what I needed most - they got right down to business and did a good job of explaining how to use BCB to do lots of common programming tasks. Fourth, the authors are all ex-

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## SIMM's, DIMM's & Volts Glynn Brooks Explains

### Question on the BBS:

I keep running into NOT knowing enough about how one can determine what memory chips are what. One 32-Meg DIMM might have 8 or maybe 9 chips on it. But what's to look for to be sure that the SIMM or DIMM is really a 32-megabyte, 16M or 8M, etc.?

### Glynn Answers:

Your question is a common one and so far as I know there is not a single reference book that would answer it. Each manufacturer marks their parts differently and I've seen very little consistency to the numbering schemes.

However, you don't really want to know all the different ways that SIMMs and DIMMs can be labeled. The really important question is always "Will this particular SIMM or DIMM work with the ones I've already got installed in my computer?"

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## BORLAND C++ BUILDER... Ctd.

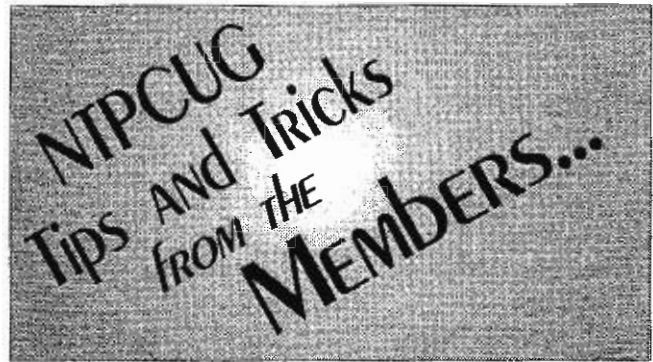
perienced Windows programmers, and you can tell that they know what they are writing about. Fifth, this book doesn't pretend to cover everything, but what it *does* cover, it covers well.

It is noteworthy that the three authors live in different parts of the country; one in New Jersey, one in Iowa, and one in Texas. Despite this, their collaboration is so well-woven that you can't tell just by reading that there was more than one author. The writing style is even and consistent throughout.

The book comes with a CD which has all of the source code in the book, along with a crippled trial version of BCB. Since I already have the full version, I didn't need to install the trial version. In fact, I haven't yet broken the seal on the CD because I haven't needed it. The book stands on its own without it.

Waite Group Press has another winner.

*Howard Lee Harkness*



The answer to that one can be found in the manual that comes with the motherboard, and there are no universal answers. Some motherboards will accept either SIMMs or DIMMs, but not both. Others will accept a combination of SIMM and DIMM but only when installed in certain sockets.

My point is that you have to know what the rules are for *your* motherboard before you will know what kinds of SIMM/DIMM combinations are allowed.

Here's an actual example of what I am talking about from the manual that came with my QDI motherboard. The board has two DIMM sockets and 4 SIMM sockets. Please try to ignore the off-shore English.

"If using DIMM together with SIMM, you must install the DIMM and SIMM as the following table.

[Ed. note: I omitted the table described as the language is quite sufficient to illustrate.]

REMARK: DRAM and SDRAM modules can be installed in a variety of configurations. Please understand that not all possible combinations of installation are list here."

In answer to your question, I recommend that you do the following:

1. Find the manual that came with *your* motherboard and look for a section that describes what is/is not possible to do with memory upgrades. Pray that it is a little easier to understand than the example above.
2. Carry the manual with you when you shop for the memory modules.
3. Get the company that sells you the memory to agree to take it back if it won't work in *your* system.

*Continued on Page 10*



## **MICROSOFT v. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONTINUES TO FAN ANGRY FLAMES AMONG LEGAL & PC COMMUNITIES DOJ SUIT INCITES MS 'ARROGANCE' & JUDGE'S IRE - STILL NO RESOLUTION IN MICROSOFT v. EVERYONE**

What a start for a year! Microsoft and DOJ continue to play hardball while judge looks less and less unbiased and Compaq pays attention to rumors and buys DEC while Gateway2000 announces much lower prices and Cyrix announces 6x86 from .25 micron FAB while media rumors IBM will (at least) demo a 1+ GHz *Power PC* CPU and Power Computing closes down and sells the farm.

Locally, vendors are dropping CPU-mainboard (motherboard) prices drastically while DRAM appears to be holding kinda steady in terms of price. "Typical" PC headed toward 200+MHz Pentium (or AMD/Cyrix equivalent) with 32M DRAM and 5+G hard disk while drive makers lose megabucks in ongoing and very bloody drive wars as various "super" floppy drives and other removable media initiate a new war for the desktop and challenge the Zip drive for supremacy.

Where's it all going? I haven't the foggiest idea, but it looks like fun for awhile until the dust settles.

Mix this with announcements from a bunch of folks about ADSL "Lite" that promises users mucho speed in Internet access and maybe the 56K (or whatever) standard is superfluous when finally announced in March or April. That's really the Telco's looking at the prospect of being left in the dust by the cable operators if they ever get their act in order.

Wish I could believe all the rosy PR releases from SBC, but I still get a lot of "busy" signals and "unable to connect to the network" messages from SWBELL.NET and find this a tad hard to believe until I see it working.

### **MS Still Losing as Result of ARROGANCE, but Bill and Crew Learning DC Dance Tunes**

Let's take it from the top... The unending Microsoft v. DOJ saga didn't end again this month.

That's no news. However, readers who've been watching closely will observe MS trying to "soften" the image Chairman Bill and other top MS officials create in the media. Ballmer as "soft and fuzzy?" No way.

None the less, MS is making a valiant effort to reduce the apparent MS "arrogance" in the media

and in the public eye - if not in the courts' and DC's eyes.

### **Logic isn't Fact in Legal Eyes Microsoft & Programmers Learn the Hard Way,**

Problem is the eternal struggle between "Logic" and "Fact." MS (and most people in the programming business) pride themselves on ability to recognize and deal with a "logical" universe. That's where Microsoft thought they should have prevailed. So did I.

But, and I have to be reminded of this from time to time, "Fact" is what the legal world lives by, not

# THE VARIETY STORE

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

"Logic." You and I may see the two as identical - but it's definitely not the case in the legal sense of the matter. "Fact" is what a judge determines, sometimes with assistance of a jury, sometimes not.

### **FACT & REALITY RARELY CONVERGE**

If you get the feeling that "Fact" in this sense and reality may rarely converge, you are quite correct. Reality really has very little

# THE VARIETY STORE

to do with the law until a judge says it's "Fact."

## MEANING IS CLEAR — MS MUST 'PROVE' THEIR CASE, DEVELOP NEW/BETTER TACTICS

What does that mean? Mostly it means that Microsoft could easily lose this round if it doesn't quit jabbing at the Federal judge involved and get down to the business of making its case for IE 4.0 as an integral part of Windows 98 more appealing/understandable to the court.

The tactics MS has used so far haven't worked with this judge at all. Hence the "new" soft MS we are all seeing in the media.

## MS LEARNS HOW TO 'COURT' DC INSIDERS AS WELL AS Sell Public 'SOFTER' IMAGE

Much more important work is going on behind the scenes as MS becomes a political animal for real within the Washington Beltway. Credit this to rapid learning on Bill Gates' part and acquisition of a politically savvy PR firm hired late in the game by the Redmond, WA, giant.

Strange as it may seem, the DC crowd is perfectly willing to eviscerate one of America's most successful corporations just to teach them a lesson. Doesn't matter that MS has been one of the major contributors in terms of overseas product sales and makes the balance of payments problems a little less troublesome.

That's not as relevant in DC as it is in the "outlands,"

## RELEVANT IS A 2:1 Stock Split

Microsoft for the 'Rest of us?' Microsoft announced in late January they will split their stock 2:1 for the seventh stock split since they've gone public. MS said it will split the common stock 2:1 for shareholders of record by February 6, 1998. (Gosh, I wish I'd bought some when MS went public in 1986. Or, I wish I'd even had the cash to buy some then. On the other hand, I'd probably have put the money into I-30 condo's...)

## Compaq Bids for DEC in JAN. \$9.5 billion offer in biggest COMPUTER-RELATED MERGER YET

Biggest story for January may be Compaq's bid to acquire Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) which didn't catch anybody by surprise since it's been a constant rumor for the last six months. Has to be some sort of poetic justice here in terms of PC history.

## DMN History Distorted

Saw a recent column in the *Dallas Morning News* that addressed the history of the PC (very inaccurately) and DEC's failed role (equally inaccurate.) Compaq won't care since all Houston wants is the DEC "big iron" business and reputation. Fact they will acquire a bunch of (?15,000?) Windows NT techies doesn't hurt either.

## Compaq — DEC Makes Sense

Unlike some other possible DEC suitors, Compaq makes some

sense at both the community level and at the business level. Both Compaq and DEC were founded by engineers/scientists. Both have early and enviable reputations for hardware excellence, and both have a level of arrogance that might be healthy.

## BOTH PARTIES will NEED MAJOR ATTITUDE shifts FOR MERGER SUCCESS OVER NEXT TWO YEARS

DEC will need to get over the "Boston/Cambridge as center of the universe" attitude as Compaq will need to get over the "Savior on a white horse" attitude if the deal is to really work well. DEC's employees can savor fact that they were passengers on a sinking ship that miraculously managed to keep floating.

Maybe DEC can live past their massive fumbling in the PC arena. I remember the early DEC PC's that were technically superior in many respects to the "genuine" IBM PC, but were quite a bit less than 100% compatible. By time DEC entered the PC market seriously, less than 100% compatibility spelled "Death."

Compaq knew this from the beginning even though another Texas firm, Tandy, really didn't and produced a series of PC's that looked promising, but failed to catch consumer favor. DEC was in good company - AT&T didn't do any better with 8086-powered boxes that were really Olivetti's in disguise and eventually died as a result of bungled marketing.

## Compaq's 'Edge' is Marketing

Marketing may be Compaq's "edge" in this effort. If anyone can market PC's in spite of incompatibilities, mechanical blunders and completely non-stand-

ard foibles, Compaq can. Moving into the "big iron" country via DEC's standing and trained personnel may work for Compaq much better than it did for DEC.

### **CYRIX 0.25 MICRON CPU ANNOUNCEMENT NO SHOCK AFTER NATIONAL DEAL**

Can't forget Cyrix this month. January saw the first, fully-functional Cyrix 6x86 CPU coming off the 0.25 micron FAB lines at National Semiconductor.

That brings another prediction to examination. Cyrix was very careful in wording of their PR release announcing this step forward. Real news will be production quantities of the CPU line.

### **0.25 MICRON LEARNING CURVE 'KILLER' FOR LOTS OF FABs GOING TO THE SMALLER TRACES**

Why? Blame the "dreaded" 0.25 micron learning curve and FAB problems working at this very small level. Reaching acceptable yield rates will be the real test and will make the difference between a real achievement and just another PR release.

I have my own issues here. Cyrix is a local company based (I really don't know after the National Semiconductor acquisition) in Richardson, TX. Recently decided to upgrade my base system and picked-up a Shuttle *Space-walker* HOT-603 mainboard and began looking for a Cyrix 6x86 MX 233 CPU to power the new system.

### **CYRIX -- LOCAL COMPANY, FEW LOCAL CPU VENDORS BUT, DEFINITELY NOT ALONE**

I was only able to find one local vendor who had the 233MHz CPU - Fry's in Arlington and I



think I got their last CPU. I've heard similar complaints with AMD 233's so Cyrix isn't alone in this area at least.

### **AMD HAS .25 MICRON DELAYS AS WELL AS CYRIX/NATIONAL**

AMD has been rumored to be fighting the 0.25 micron learning curve themselves and haven't been able to boost production to anticipated (expected/advertised) levels.

Reason is the difficulty at this level. Industry media is awash in stories extolling the problems any FAB will encounter moving from the 0.45 micron or 0.35 micron trace width level to the 0.25 micron stage. Equipment to achieve this level is scarce and the technology is new to almost everyone except Intel.

### **INTEL SPREADING FUD UNTIL THEY CAN DO COPPER? MEDIA HINTS AT INTEL PLAY**

And Intel is another story. A number of Intel engineers and scientists were very busy over the past two months trying to convince other CPU folks that the "bounty" promised by copper v. aluminum traces in microcircuit manufacture was false or elusive.

Some media sources hinted that Intel may have been spreading FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) over the process announced by IBM and others in a defensive strategy aimed at dissuading investment in the process - until Intel can catch up.

### **Will IBM PUT POWER PC WHERE INTEL will FEEL MOST PAIN with 1+GHz CPU**

Maybe IBM can stuff the Intel rumors into a place that might be quite painful for Intel. Saw a blurb in early January that IBM may "sample" a 1G+ MHz Power PC CPU this year. Would make the recently released/advertised Pentium II 333 look just a little obsolete if it happened. Question would be are the super high-speed CPU's bound for desktop machines, or for embedded applications? Don't think there's any love lost between IBM and Apple after the licensing debacle and Motorola makes Apple's CPU's anyway.

Other vendor who definitely would have been interested, Power Computing, is reported to be out of the business anyway according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Seems Power Computing held an auction recently, selling everything in the complex including desks, chairs and fixtures. I had hoped Power Computing would be able to make it in the Wintel arena after Apple pulled the MAC OS rug out from under them. Looks like it killed them as contenders in both markets since Apple bought the license for the MAC OS with Apple stock.

### **NEW 3.5" FDD's with 100M 200M CAPACITIES HIT PC MARKET WITH DIZZYING IMPACT**

I'm getting dizzy just contemplating the floppy disk drive situation now. I didn't really consider the Iomega 100M ZIP drive

## The VARIETY STORE

seriously since I am not dealing with service shops very much now. The SuperDrive at 120M looked more promising, but I really prefer SCSI to an IDE interface and really don't want to replace four 3.5" floppy disk drives with the new units.

### DVORAK'S COLUMN MADE DECISION WORSE WITH REPORTS OF 200M+ DRIVES

Problem was made worse by a recent Dvorak column in PC Magazine touting the virtues of coming 200+M 3.5" drives that are equally backward compatible with the standard 3.5" floppy disks. I routinely use either CD-ROMS or tape to carry large files between my office machine and home. It's an "involved" process since I need to use Connie's PC and 250M Colorado drive to backup the file(s), then carry the tape to my office when I am able to restore them on my Colorado 250M drive.

### TAPE STILL 'BACKUP KING' AS SYSTEM DISKS REACH 5G - 9G CAPACITIES NOW

The reverse is easier. My Seagate 8G, Travan 4 drive can read the "antique" QIC-80 tapes made by the Colorado and restore large files without difficulty. Since I can do this with existing hardware, I'm reluctant to run out and buy the new drives.

### WHEN THE DUST FINALLY SETTLES I'LL PROBABLY BUY ONE OF THE NEW HIGH-CAPACITY DRIVES

Will I? Probably since I hate the time delays involved in tape backups and the new drives are much faster (within limits) than the tape drives.

I'll still rely on the tape drive on my main machine for backup, though. Even 200M floppies will require a lot of disk changing to back up 4G of disk. When I look at the 8+G of capacity on the peer-to-peer network at home,

tape continues to be the backup media of choice for this task.

### ADSL, ADSL AND MORE ADSL WILL 'NEW' 'LITE' STANDARD SET PACE FOR HOME USERS?

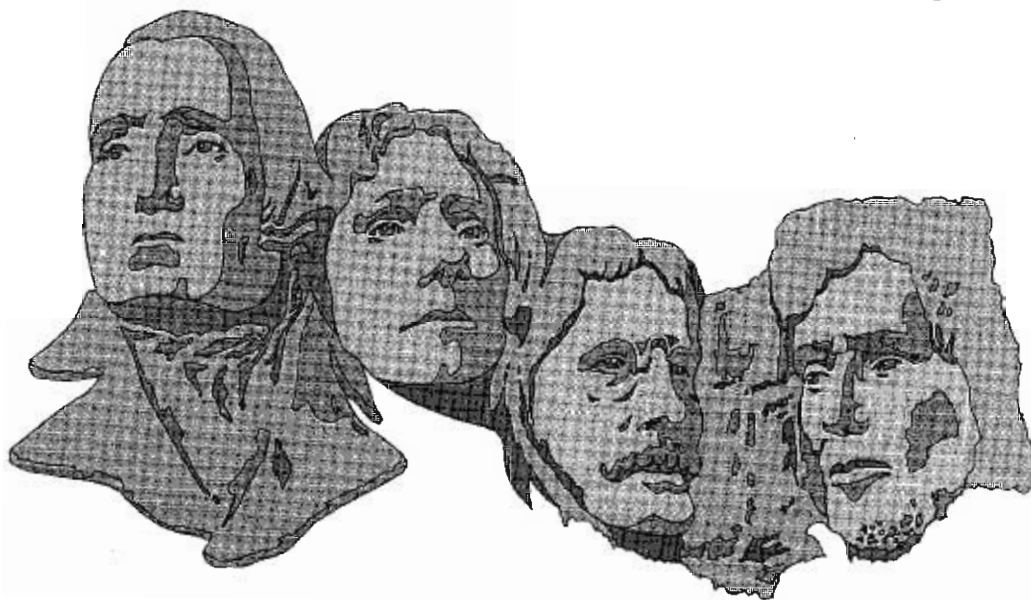
Have been hearing about the coming ADSL revolution for months. Didn't really expect to see it until I saw a story that inferred that Microsoft, Intel and Compaq had conspired to develop a new standard for "home Internet" connection.

Among the other vendors mentioned was SBC (Southwestern Bell Corporation), i.e., the local 'phone company.' Projected costs are approximately \$45 month (a tad 'high' in light of the bloody competition among ISP's) but up to 30 times faster connections than via my more expensive than I like to remember 56K USR Courier V. Everything that swbell.net only sees as a 33K modem.

There are still the usual caveats, users must be within 12,000 feet of the exchange although articles imply this will be extended to 18,000 feet shortly. Problem is now and has been, speed with which Telcos are prepared to upgrade their systems.

Since I still remember the much less than pleasant experiences I've had getting noise-free lines so I could operate at 28.8K, I have difficulty imagining much more success with ADSL unless SBC experiences a significant change of practice/heart with the individual users.

*Reagan Andrews.*



# Selected SIG Reports . . .

## News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

### Access SIG

Mike Fleming is our February speaker, on the subject "Year 2000 Issues for Microsoft Access Developers and Users." Don't think that just because the internal storage format for dates doesn't lead to "mistranslation" as in some products, or because there's a date translation algorithm included in Access 97, that you're home free and can just sit back and chuckle at the poor users of other software who are scurrying to fix their software. There are still a lot of Access 2 and Access 95 applications in use, and short date-format translations can be a pitfall. You may even be surprised to find that when the date turns to January 1, 2000, your computer suddenly thinks it's 1980! Mike will tell us how we can determine in advance if we're likely to have problems and give us some tips on how to avoid them. I'm

looking forward to this one with great anticipation.

In January, Larry Linson showed additional controls from FMS, Inc.'s *Total Access Components - Custom Controls for Microsoft Access*. The product is available in versions for Access 2 or 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.

Coming soon: Larry's tutorial on processing different kinds of files in Access VBA - text files, random files, and binary files. Although we handle much of our data in the database itself, and Access provides good facilities for importing, ex-

### FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

#### Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- Introduction to the PC [Contact Alex Lilley @ (972) 517-7430 h]
- Spreadsheets SIG [Contact Eb Foerster @ (214) 357-7602 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.

If you have a group that meets these qualifications or would like help in finding others who might share your interests, please contact me at (972) 517-7430 (H) or (972) 960-4276 (W).

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Diana 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

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Linda Moore... (214) 342-8833

Vince Prehn... (214) 830-0000

Dan Ogden... (972) 417-1916 w

#### Assembly Language SIG

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Glynn Brooks... (972) 578-8737 h

..... (972) 716-3281 w

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#### C++ Language

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#### CAD

Bill Septon... (972) 296-1799 h

..... (972) 387-3500 w

Neil Culver... (972) 690-6552 h

..... (972) 235-3031 w

#### Communications

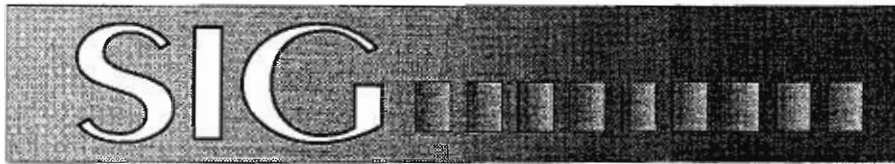
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#### Dallas Corel



porting, and linking to specific types of data files, we still encounter situations where there is no substitute for reading and writing disk files.

Just in case you missed the notice in last month's *PC News*, I'll repeat it: If you registered your copy of *Microsoft Office 97*, you probably are aware that Microsoft has issued a Service Release. They mailed an alert from which you could order the CD. They haven't publicized as much that you can obtain, free, the *Enterprise Update* -- a complete new Office CD with the corrections incorporated, and it even has a correction or two that isn't on the Service Release CD. There is a special Microsoft number for ordering the *Enterprise Update*: (800) 370-9272. Have your MS Office CD ROM key ready. You'll usually find that on a sticker on the jewel case in which you received the Office CD. There are versions of the *Enterprise Update* CD for Office 97 Standard and Office 97 Pro (the difference, of course, being that Pro includes our favorite database, Access 8.0). They have had some supply and internal communication problems -- if the person who takes your call doesn't know about the *Enterprise Update* or tries to steer you to the Service Release, politely ask to speak to a supervisor, or even better, just call back later. I had no such problems and I hear they've solved many of the problems.

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 "meet-

ing place" is the *comp.databases.ms-access* newsgroup.

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

Larry Linson

## ActiveX Application Developers SIG

In February, Larry Linson will review the Microsoft Press book *Office 97 Developer's Handbook*, by Christine Solomon. As the title suggests, it's about using Microsoft Office 97 to develop business solutions. Now that all the Office component applications support VBA and are Internet-enabled to publish to the Web, they all fall right in our subject area.

Earlier editions of Christine Solomon's book, under the title *Developing Applications with Microsoft Office*, have been very popular in fact, Dan reviewed the Windows 3.1 edition in a meeting of this SIG over a year ago.

In January, Larry led our exploration of the TechNet offering from Microsoft. It's a subscription service, and each month you receive two CD's chock full of information: Knowledge Bases, fixes and patches, explanatory whitepapers, updated and revised hardware drivers, and more. We reviewed a pair of those CD's, courtesy of Microsoft, and then dismissed a little early so attendees could get good seats for the 2:00 PM special meeting on Future Directions for the NTPCUG.

Owners of Microsoft Office 97 who haven't obtained a copy of the *Enterprise Update*, with significant corrections and improvements, take a look at the Access SIG Notes

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Jeff Cooper .....

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Leroy Tennison  
Francis Bright

**Paradox**

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Fred Williams .... (972) 492-1315 h



for information on how to get yours, free, from Microsoft.

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 February, 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 January meeting consisted of a presentation demonstrating data alignment issues from an Assembler, C and VB perspective. Data alignment can be critical to performance (tests indicate that one byte a source and destination misalignment can double the number of cycles per byte with double word moves). The easiest optimization in Assembler is the use of the ALIGN directive.

Our topic for February will demonstrate the use of the MSVCRT.DLL (the runtime DLL that implements some of the standard library functions for Visual C++) from Assembler programs. Since these are available on most Win95/NT machines, it should be possible to allow Assembler programs access to the C standard library.

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

*Frank Cavallito & Glynn Brooks*

**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. Suggestions (and volunteers) for future programs welcome.

In February, 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. Tentative schedule for next 3 meetings:

- ❖ February: Support for OO in C++; Encapsulation, Abstraction
- ❖ March: More on Pointers -- Inheritance, and Polymorphism
- ❖ April: Templates

*Howard Lee Harkness  
(harkness@skeptics.org)*

**COMMUNICATIONS SIG**

Our January meeting hosted Dave Casey from Westron Communications. Dave presented remote access products from Cisco Systems and shared with us the different options for remote access, especially to the home for telecommuting applications. ISDN is the way to go with its voice/data capability and "everywhere" connectivity. Now if we can only get 2B+D at \$19.95 a month. Thanks Dave for a great presentation!

Our February meeting will feature a Q/A session followed by a presentation in March by our very own



**Bob Giles.** We might also discuss the option for occasional group meetings with the Emerging Technologies and Microsoft Networking SIG's. Both groups provide interesting topics for discussion and can provide insight to the future of PC communications.

So come on out to the Communications SIG meeting in February. We meet at 12 noon and do our best to keep it interesting for you.

*Alan Brosz and Biril Smith*

**Dallas COREL SIG**

Although February's topic is not established at this writing, you can be sure something interesting to CorelDRAW users will surface by then. Come and join us!

**January In Review**

Attendees enjoyed a Roundtable Discussion to answer questions from soup to nuts about CorelDRAW and other Corel software. Everything from layers, to desktop printing papers, to import/export, to Corel Presentations module, to Web graphics was touched on. A "wish list" was created for future SIG topics in 1998. A casual survey of attendees showed current use of DRAW from version 4 to 7. Nearly all were using Win95 and the highest number currently use DRAW 7. A large percentage had already ordered the

new version 8. With that in mind, we together installed DRAW 8 on our SIG computer in preparation for demonstrations in future meetings this year.

Canada's Ice Storm Delays DRAW 8 Delivery

December's SIG meeting attendees, who ordered DRAW 8, expressed concern at our January SIG meeting they had not yet received their copies. In answer to our question, a prompt e-mail from our SIG's User Group Coordinator at Corel shed some light on the topic. While orders may normally take 4 to 6 weeks for processing and shipping, the extremely bad weather that Canada suffered recently caused a setback. Canada experienced the worst ice storm ever (it has been called the worst disaster that Canada has ever encountered). Corel's Fulfillment Centre was affected by this and was without electrical power for approximately one

**IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS**

**Corel Corporation**  
**1600 Carling Avenue,**  
**Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**  
**K1Z 8R7**

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

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 Jim Hart

**Visual Basic**

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

**WordPerfect / Windows**

Cindy Adams ..... (617) 481-1300 wM  
 Diane Bentley



Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group



week, therefore creating a huge backlog for all orders in progress. Everything is now returning to normal and the warehouse is working diligently at processing and shipping orders. Corel Corp. thanks its customers for their patience.

**Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG**

- ❖ Jan/97 - Web page design with Corel Web.Graphics Suite
- ❖ Feb/97 - Photo Retouching in CorelPHOTO-PAINT 7
- ❖ Mar/97 - VENTURA 7 Demonstration
- ❖ Apr/97 - CorelDRAW 7 & PHOTO-PAINT 7 in Real World Uses
- ❖ May/97 - Corel SIG Members Showcase Their Work
- ❖ Jun/97 - Productivity in DRAW 5, 6 & 7
- ❖ Jul/97 - CorelDREAM 3-D 7
- ❖ Aug/97 - WebMaster Suite, Lumiere and Click & Create
- ❖ Sep/97 - Presentations 8
- ❖ Oct/97 - Font Management and Acrobat
- ❖ Nov/97 - Customizing CorelDRAW 7
- ❖ Dec/97 - CorelDRAW 8 Launch by Corel Corp.
- ❖ Jan/98 - Roundtable Discussion  
*Marsha Drebelbis*

**CorelDRAW! 8 Unleashed One-Day Seminar in Dallas**

Unleashed Productions has the best training available on CorelDRAW and CorelPHOTO-PAINT. Each of the classes is designed to bring out the best in your designs. The seminar is presented by Foster D. Coburn III and Peter McCormick, co-authors of the best-selling *CorelDRAW 8: The Official Guide*. By the end of the seminar, your head will be swimming in new ideas and your creativity will be unleashed. All seminar atten-



dees are eligible to purchase CorelDRAW 8 for only \$98!!!

They'll give away lots of valuable goodies including a full copy of CorelDRAW 8.0 & *Alien Skin's Eye Candy 3.0*.

CorelDRAW! 8 Unleashed One-Day Seminar will be held in Dallas, Texas on March 2, 1998 at:

The Fairmont Hotel  
1717 N. Akard Street  
Dallas, TX 75201  
Hotel Phone: (214) 720-2020

The Unleash Seminar only comes to Dallas once a year so don't miss this chance to learn how to get the most from this incredible new release. Remember this is not a flashy demo. You'll be learning from the experts! Best of all, a full day of training is only \$129!!!

Visit <http://www.unleash.com> for more details and to register.

**1998 CorelWorld User Conference**

The 1998 CorelWorld User Conference is returning to San Diego on October 4-9, 1998. The annual Ventura Summit is being integrating into this event, to make a big week-long extravaganza.

Details and further news will be announced in the coming weeks and months, but here is what we know now: The CorelDRAW portion will be October 5-7, with Sunday, October 4, featuring an afternoon of our popular half-day optional seminars. The Ventura portion will be October 7-9. Wednesday, October 7 will be a cross-over day, with seminar tracks of interest to both DRAW and Ventura users.

There will be separate admission prices for the DRAW conference

and the Ventura conference, and a special price for attending the entire week.

**California Drawing**

The CorelWorld Traveling Seminars

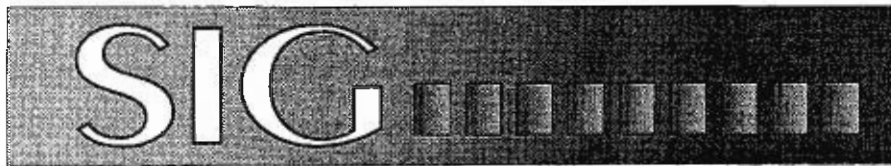
Join **Rick Altman** for two days of discovery and insight into CorelDRAW 7.0 and 8.0. Whether you use CorelDRAW for traditional graphics or for the World Wide Web, you will find unparalleled value in Altman's two-day CorelWorld Seminars. Come for just one day or for both days, and you'll find stimulating topics, expert demonstrations, real-world projects with real-world solutions, relevant discussion, and generous time for questions and answers, including the new features of CorelDRAW 8.

You'll see drawings created from scratch, expert effects produced, and a barrage of tips and tricks for users of all levels. Day One offers four project-oriented seminars for those who wrestle with the creation of business graphics, while Day Two explores the mysteries and the wonders of developing and producing an attractive and effective World Wide Web presence.

As with all of Altman's events, both days include comfortable seating, a sit-down lunch, and many nice prizes to be awarded.

CorelWorld Traveling Seminars include the following Cities & Dates:

- San Diego .....February 25-26*
- Burbank ..... March 3-4*
- Anaheim ..... March 5-6*
- Walnut Creek .....March 12-13*



San Jose .....March 17-18

Sacramento .....March 23-24

Visit <http://www.wco.com/~rick> for more detailed information.

Rose Anne Ellison

### Delphi SIG

Well, since I'm writing this before the January meeting, I know I will not be there. For family reasons, I will be in Arkansas and unable to attend. I have not asked, but I hope Frank Cavallito will be able to stand in for me in my absence.

Things remain a little more than busy for me after the holidays. I see no immediate end in sight, which is naturally good and bad.

I've been researching a little-known Borland product *Delphi for SAP*. If trial period issues can be addressed we will most likely be bringing it in for evaluation. My big-time chicken bid'ness client is in the throes of a major conversion effort to the latest in SAP. They keep telling me I should not call it sap!

I have just about converted all of the "old" 16-bit projects to 32-bit Delphi 3.0. We are now deploying the 32-bit stuff throughout the WAN and things are improving. We were blaming some order processing anomalies on some suspected 16-bit short file name issues. Seems after the upgrade to 32-bit, many of the symptoms remained.

Further research has unearthed an obscure bug in some of the Powerbuilder code that was choking when confronted with lower case in a key field. Next time I will not

be so hasty to blame a strange result on a suspected and untested issue. The quick solution, move to 32-bit, was not the silver bullet after all!

On another note, I have been warned if delivery of some scan guns is not made to a Texas Department of Corrections bologna factory, real soon now, they are considering granting a couple of their "three time losers" a weekend pass. Yikes!

So, guess I'd best return to the Scan Gun C code and forgo the Delphi stuff for now. Hope to see y'all in February. If I don't get fitted for a pair of them cement shoes, that is!

Fred Williams

### DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

What hath the Internet and *IE Explorer* or *Navigator* wrought? More of everything, that's what! Add any of the new office suites and what was a *giant* disk two years ago has become inadequate.

Since February is a month of opportunities and both browsers mentioned above can be sadistic system resource hogs, members may be looking forward to upgrades in both storage and memory. If members are keeping their usual sharp eyes on the vendor ads, they've noticed that system and component prices are still dropping like cockroaches at a convention of RAID distributors. That means more of you will be looking at 5+ G hard drives and motherboards with faster CPU's with more serious eyes.

How to upgrade? We've reached a point that a whole new system may be cheaper than upgrading the existing PC. On the other hand, if your system is pretty current, consider bigger disk and memory (DRAM) as starting points. First, 32M DRAM is (now) a near-bottom limit. Disks smaller than 2.1 G may not handle heavy Internet usage if one (or more) of the major "office" suites is also loaded.

And, a lot of this may be wasted space. Unless you chop-up one giant volume into many smaller partitions, you may be looking at 16K, 32K or larger cluster (allocation unit) sizes.

FAT16 (FAT) can waste immense amounts of hard disk space if users have volumes of 1G or larger in play. That's a good reason to go to Win 95's FAT 32 and drop the cluster size back to 4K. Example: my C:\ drive (1.0G) has 6,598 files on it. Most are "small" Windows files and Corel files. And, it's nowhere near "full." If each file "wastes" 15K, more than 98M would be taken by empty space. It's not. I've installed *Win 95 OSR2.1*, so maximum possible wasted space is 24M. If this were a 2+G partition, wasted space could reach 200M for the same number of files.

If users are considering one of the really big, 6+G drives, FAT32 is the only way to go in Win 95. Win NT NTFS, OS/2 HPFS and UNIX are different beasts and don't gobble



up disk space as rapidly as FAT16 used by DOS 5.x, Win 3.x and Win 95(old.) Price FAT32 users pay is possible non-compatibility with "legacy" applications and DOS games and a (reported) 5% decrease in speed. I haven't seen the decrease so far.

If the user has several PC's connected by a peer-to-peer network such as that included in Windows 3.11, Win 95 and Windows NT, there's no problem in file transfers. Win handles this in a completely transparent manner with exception of LFN's (Long File Names.) Applications that run in a DOS "box" may stumble, though. Not always. I'm still using Norton Commander 4.0 on a system that is FAT32 without problem (except for inability to handle LFN's) that breach the old DOS 8.3 filename convention.

We'll focus on this issue at the February DOS/Operating Systems SIG meeting if user questions/rumor mongering allow. It should be a very good session and users should plan to attend for the enjoyment of watching SIG leaders **Jim Hoisington** and **Reagan Andrews** bluff their way through questions/issues about which they haven't a clue

*Reagan Andrews*

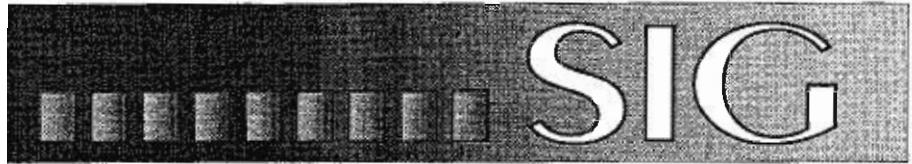
## INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

The Introduction to the PC SIG has been discontinued unless and until a new SIG Leader is found. If you know of someone who might volunteer for this position, please persuade them and ask them to contact Alex Lilley at (972) 517-7430 (H) or (972) 960-4276 (W).

*Alex Lilley*

## MICROSOFT NETWORKING SIG

Next Meeting: February 21st, 8AM - usually in Infomart Room 7004, but check the overheads in the vendor area for last-minute changes.



In February, we will continue last month's look at Microsoft components and how they relate to each other. We will also begin our discussion of NT server monitoring.

### Schedule:

- ❖ March 1998 - Conclusion of the NT Server Monitoring discussion
- ❖ April 1998 - Overview of the Development effort for a new SIG web site
- ❖ May 1998 - Per-to-peer Networking (Win95, WinNT, Mixed 95/NT)
- ❖ June 1998 - Windows 98 Overview.

### Purpose of the SIG:

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-size 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.

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.

### Past Meetings:

January 1998 - Richard Miles presented an overview of Win95/NT components/products and how they relate to each other. The reference handout will be particularly useful, especially if you (like me) have trouble remembering just which components are part of Site Server, Option Pack, or Enterprise Edition NT.

**Site-of-the-month:**  
[www.nmrc.org/files/nt](http://www.nmrc.org/files/nt)

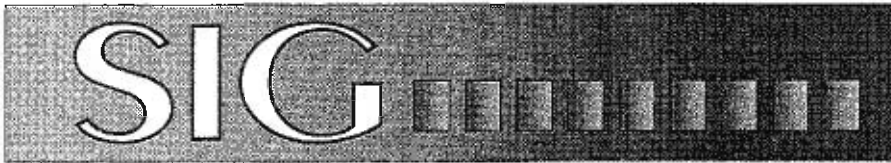
This site contains "The Unofficial NT Hack FAQ". It contains information on numerous NT security concerns. Last update was October 97.

**December 1997** - There was no formal presentation this month. A general Q&A session was held.

**Site-of-the-month:** [www.microsoft.com/windows95/info/kerneltoys.htm](http://www.microsoft.com/windows95/info/kerneltoys.htm)

Kernel Toys is a set of Win95 utility programs from the kernel support team at Microsoft. One of the best is the Windows Process Watcher, which displays the CPU utilization percentage for all programs that are running. Try it out!

**November 1997- Windows NT v5.0 Features Preview**



Mark Moore of Microsoft will be back to do his presentation on the upcoming features of Windows NT v5.0. Bring all of your questions and wish list items. Mark should have updated his presentation since our initial attempt to have him in October.

#### October 1997 - Dial-up Networking and RAS

Paul Sloane, one of our members, did an excellent step-by-step presentation on installation and configuring Windows NT RAS (Remote Access Server) on a Windows NT server and a Windows 95 laptop client. Many thanks to Paul on the fine job he did for the SIG.

#### September 1997- Windows NT v5.0 Features Preview

Mark Moore and we missed each other in the early morning fog. Instead of having his discussion of features of the upcoming Windows NT v5.0, we had a spirited question and answer session and general discussion. This was an unexpected boon for the attendees and we promised to have more such sessions.

*Bruce Wynn, Richard Miles & Gil Brand*

#### Paradox SIG

I missed the deadline for the January issue...Sorry. Billable hours, Christmas, New Year's, and laziness kept me from my appointed rounds. We had a very instructive session in December discussing queries and ending the session with specific "how to" issues in everyday, real situations.

In this and the coming months we will continue to discuss queries, forms, and reports in real applica-

tion. If you have a Paradox problem or solution, bring it in and we can talk about the solution you need or the solution you have. With the new year well underway, I ponder the Paradox future. I observe that my work is shifting from Paradox development to Paradox conversion. I think a 'findfirst' is 'nomatch' to a tcursor 'locate', however.

*Tom Browning*

#### Pro SIG

Java Everywhere was the topic of the February meeting. There was a demonstration of a microwave oven controlled by a touch panel which was programmed in Java. The demo didn't go too well when the microwave disconnected three times while trying to warm a cup of coffee.

Join us next month as we attempt to program the interface to a car wash machine using RPG.

*Jim Hoisington*

#### QuickBooks SIG

This meeting began covering a few announcements from Intuit regard-

ing Year 2000 and QuickBooks and recommended steps for year-end closing and opening up the new year.

The topic covered today was Inventory accounting. We also briefly covered navigating by use of QuickBooks Navigator, icons, menus and keystrokes. Vendor records were discussed. Address information, important additional information, notes, and examples of customized fields were reviewed. An inventory item was created with a demonstration of the accounting around its creation. We saw where it showed up in the balance sheet, income statement and various inventory and purchase order reports that help track the item. A purchase order was filled out and the items ordered were traced through the processes of receipt, bill entry and payment by use of various QuickBooks reports.

Next time we'll finish the area of inventory purchases early payment discounts. The group will then take up the topic of selling the item. Inventory, cost of goods sold and other reports will be covered.

*Dave Guier*

#### Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The February meeting scheduled for February 21, 1998 will be our semiannual meeting entitled "For Beginners Only" and will emphasize the resources available to a beginning programmer in Visual Basic. This presentation is updated and given each August and February to help beginning programmers get started in Visual Basic.

We will be introducing Visual Basic 5.0 in general, and the new Visual Basic 5.0 Learning Edition. The major topics of the presentation will include a brief history of Visual Basic, descriptions of resources available for beginners in Visual Basic, an introduction to the Windows environment, discussion of Visual Basic 5.0, and demonstra-



tion of the new integrated development environment (IDE) made a part of Visual Basic 5.0. Sample programs will be run on the NTPCUG computer projection system. Everyone is welcome to attend, of course. If you have a friend, relative, neighbor, etc. who would like to see what Visual Basic is about, this meeting would be an ideal one for them to attend. This would be a great opportunity for you to introduce the NTPCUG to a potential new member.

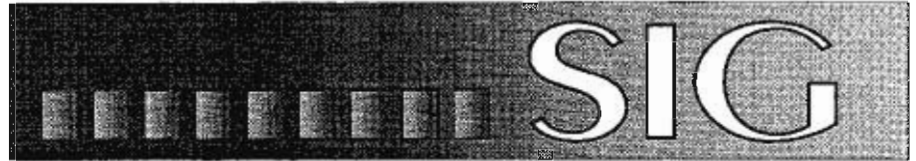
Last month, we discussed the data control and how it is used to interface with the Biblio.mdb database provided with Visual Basic 5.0

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, February 21, 1998 at the Infomart. Check the projection screens in the vendor area on the first floor for the correct room assignments. I look forward to meeting you this month.

*Jim Carter*

### Visual Basic SIG - Advanced

At our January meeting, **Bill Kennedy** of Minerva Technology, Inc. spoke to our Advanced Visual Basic SIG about the Windows CE operating system and developing for it using the Microsoft Windows CE Toolkit for Visual Basic 5.0 which is currently in Beta. The Windows CE operating system has been explained as a leaner Windows 95 that can run on many different processors and hardware units. Currently, the operating system is being used for Handheld PCs. At the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Bill Gates introduced the Palm PC, a rival of 3Com's PalmPilot, and the Auto PC which will function as a radio/cd-player/e-mail/wireless phone/etc. which will be voice-activated. There was also an announcement that TCI Cablevision will be using the Windows CE operating system on 5 million digital cable boxes.



What is next, Windows CE for your toaster?

### Visual Studio

Also, Bill had plenty of giveaways! He gave two copies of Microsoft (Enterprise Edition), Developer Edition of Microsoft Office 97, three Microsoft Visual Basic Profession Editions, a copy of Microsoft Visual Interdev, a Microsoft Training Course, tons of Microsoft Windows CE T-shirts and baseball caps. Wow! Thanks Bill! At the February meeting we will be giving away more T-shirts compliments of Microsoft and Micrografx!

The Visual Basic Insider's Technical Summit will be held in San Francisco March 23-27 also referred to as VBITS. What is VBITS? It is only the biggest Visual Basic conference. There are tons of interesting sessions such as "Distributing Applications Using DCOM", "The VB Y2K Problem: There Isn't One, Is There?", and "Multithreading Applications and Servers". There will also be a preview of Microsoft Visual Interdev 2.0 which allows you to write applications for the Internet using VB Script. Also, Alan Cooper, known as the father of Visual Basic and one of my favorite speakers, will give a Keynote Address called "The Inmates are Run-

ning the Asylum" which will surely be the most interesting and entertaining speech there. I encourage you to come if at all possible, you will learn quite a lot, hope to see you there!

Did you know that since Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 came out in March 1997, there have been over one million copies licensed worldwide? That is one copy every 25 seconds! Also, hundreds and thousands of the Microsoft Visual Basic Control Creation Edition have been downloaded from the Web. The latest results coming from Microsoft say that there are 3.2 million developers using the Visual Basic language. Web applications, or "weblications", are using Visual Basic more and more. Not only used for writing ActiveX Controls, but Visual Basic is being used for middle-tier components too.

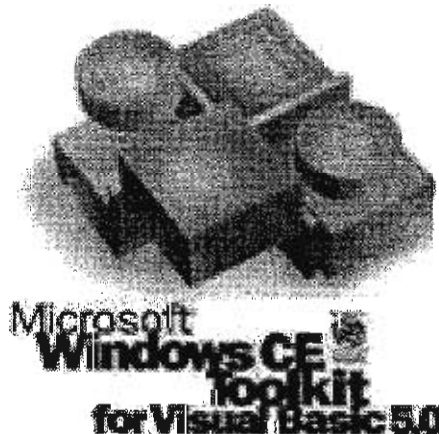
You may have passed our SIG meeting and thought "Wow, Ed sure looks younger these days!" Well, Ed has turned over his duties as SIG leader to myself. Ed still plays an important role as mentor and I hope I can do as great of a job with the group as he has.

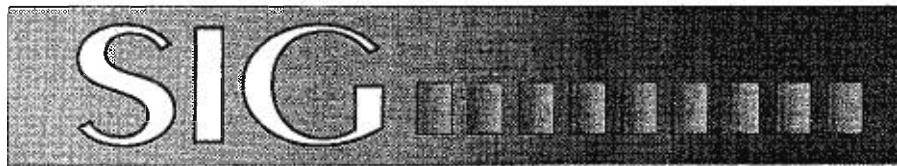
I encourage you to come to the next Advanced Visual Basic SIG meeting in February. If you are new to Visual Basic or a seasoned veteran, I am sure we will have something of interest for you. Remember, if you are a member you will be eligible for our drawing of T-shirts!

*Thomas Lewis*

### Web Development SIG

At our next meeting, we will go over the results of the survey currently being conducted to compare costs and services provided by





DFW-area Internet Service Providers and Presence Providers who support Alliare's *Cold Fusion* and Microsoft's *Active Server Pages*.

This support is crucial for Web developers who want to create back-end scripts and other applications, ranging from simple form-to-E-mail applications to complex database-driven sites and transaction systems. Although *Perl* has a larger user base and the advantage of being a non-proprietary language, newer application/language combinations such as ASP and Cold Fusion offer an easier learning curve and API integration.

The February meeting will also feature a how-to programming on either Tables, Layers or Image Maps. At this time, the final choice has not been made.

Meetings currently have 60 - 80 attendees and are open to all.

*Mark Camp*

## WORDPERFECT / WINDOWS SIG

In January we introduced you to WordPerfect 8. We reacquainted ourselves with new locations of features and made note of name changes due to the upgrade from WordPerfect 6.1. Yes, it is alarming that we are going more and more to MS Word terminology. However, this will also make it easier for Word users to transition to WordPerfect faster. I think I understand that . . .

This month we are going to make WordPerfect a little more "ours." We are going to show you how you can customize WordPerfect so it works like "we" want it to. We will do this with toolbars, customizing the preferences and making the desktop a little more "you."

One question we get often is "How do you fax out of WordPerfect?" We will go through the steps of installing a fax print driver and how that works. You will be surprised at how much you really already know!

Diane has done a wonderful job with the Tip of the Month. And remember, keep up with them for the end of the year prizes!

### Tip of the Month - 5 Ways for Keeping Text Together

There are many instances where you may want to prevent text from being split at a certain place. Here are a few examples with their solutions. The last two are added di-

## ATTENTION ALL SIG LEADERS!

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

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

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

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

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

reagana@swbell.net

*Reagan Andrews*

rectly from the keyboard. The first three can be chosen from:

WP8

Format, Keep Text Together

WP7 & WP6

Format, Page, Keep Text Together

**#1. Widow/Orphan.** Prevents the first and last lines of a paragraph from being separated from the rest of the paragraph at a page break. Position the cursor on the page where it should take effect. The code (in reveal codes) will appear as: Wid/Orph:On. This code should be set as a default for all documents by:

- ❖ WP8 - File, Document, Current Document Style; Mark the box *Use as Default*, Format, Keep Text Together; Mark the box *Prevent the first and last lines of paragraphs from being separated across pages*; and then OK out of the dialogue boxes.
- ❖ WP7 & WP6 - Format, Document, Initial Codes Style; Mark the box *Use as Default*, Format, Page, Keep Text Together; Mark the box *Prevent the first and last lines of paragraphs from being separated across pages*; and then OK out of the dialogue boxes.

**#2. Block Protect.** Can be used to prevent tabbed text or other selected text from being separated from the rest of the paragraph at a page break. Select the text first, then



- ❖ WP8 - Format, Keep Text Together; Mark the box *Keep selected text together on the same page*; and then OK out of the dialogue boxes.
- ❖ WP7 & WP6 - Format, Page, Keep Text Together; Mark the box *Keep selected text together on the same page*; and then OK out of the dialogue boxes. Do not use this to keep a heading with part of its paragraph. The codes will appear as: [Block Pro] around the selected text in Reveal Codes.



**#3. Conditional End of Page.** Use this to prevent a heading from being left at the bottom of a page while the paragraph moves to the top of the next page. Do not select the text. Position the cursor at the beginning of the heading. Go to *Keep Text Together* and *Mark Number of lines to keep together*, and type the number of lines that need to be kept together (usually, 3 if there is no blank line between the heading and the paragraph; 4 if there is a blank line between the heading and the paragraph). In reveal codes, the code will appear as: [Condl EOP:n], where n represents the number of lines it will keep together.

**#4. Hard Space.** Is used to prevent two words (e.g., dates, names) from separating at the end of a line. Instead of typing a regular space between the words, use a Ctrl+spacebar. The code will appear as [HSpace].

**#5. Hard Hyphen.** Is used to prevent two hyphenated words or numbers using dashes (e.g., area code, social security number, account number) from separating at the end of a line. Instead of typing a regular hyphen between the words, use a Ctrl+hyphen. The code will appear as a hyphen: -. Compare this to a regular hyphen code: [Hyphen].

## Important Message to SIG Leaders!

The PC News will be on an extremely short turnaround between the March 21, 1998, meeting and the April 11, 1998 meeting.

We will have to take the April issue to the printer Monday, March 23, early in the morning. That means we really do need your SIG notes copy no later than March 14 at the absolute latest.

I realize this may mean exercising your "creativity" to come up with April SIG notes before the March meeting is held, but there's nothing we can do about the timing. You might consider a "generic" SIG note explaining the mission and goals of your SIG without mention of a definite program.

Thank you for your help.

Hope these tips come in handy as you create your next document.

Cindy Adams & Diane Bentley

# INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

*by Claude McClure*



### The Postman

Perhaps you found time over the holidays to take in a movie, and you may have felt the ticket lines for Titanic were a bit too long. The option may have been to stay for the popcorn and digital sound in one of the other offerings on the *silver screen*. There is this one story about civilization being rekindled by the simple act of communicating. Because this newsletter is our major club communicator, I visualized a copy of the *NTPCUG News* jolting the consciousness of a nearly lost memory.

I saw computer users isolated in front of their SVGA monitors moved for a moment from that hypnotic trance by the glimpse of a gray cover and 24 white pages of next week's promise. There too was a brief commitment to make that next meeting and at-

tend those SIGS and view the Special Events in the Alexandria Auditorium. An unmistakably human smile acknowledged that it was good and how the low prices of goods sold in the vendor area would make it all worthwhile.

The writers of this valuable and humankind-redeeming missal crafted it long ago (about 15 days before you read it) while the events of a previous meeting were still fresh. They shaped it and edited it and put into it all the best of the Users Group monthly meeting activities, along with a contemporary view of the computer world.

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**

- Anchor:**
  - David Slavik
  - Kenneth Berg
- Crew:**
  - Dennis Brinninger
  - Aaron Burton
  - Tim Foster
  - Mark Guyer
  - James Guyer
  - Julie Guyer
  - Larry Matzek
  - Janet Ward

**Auditorium Presentations**

- Timothy Carmichael
- Christopher Carmichael

**Newsletter Labels**

- Charlie Fernandez

**Information/Registration**

**Booth**

- Statistician:**
  - Connie Andrews
  - Ralph Beaver (Assistant)
- Scheduler:**

**Bob Wuller**

- Anchor:**
  - Ralph Beaver
  - Vernon Cates
  - Eteta Eta
  - Hank Holt
  - Cinda Lovil (Double)
  - David Martin
  - Bob McNeil (Double)
  - Foy Mills
  - Martin Moomaw
  - Carl Oehmann
  - Fred Toulmin
  - Paul Williams

**Booth Crew:**

- Al Aston
- Roger Bopp
- Glynn Brooks
- Randy Durham
- Tim Foster
- James Gorak
- Thelda Opella
- Raymond Reyes
- Ken Sauter

**Disk of the Month (DOM)**

**DOM Shift Supervisors:**

- Joe Allen
- Roy Bales
- Philip Bridge
- Don Chick
- James Donlon
- M. Pat Henley
- Martin R. Gluck
- Arnold Krusemark

**DOM Desk Crew:**

- Richard Abreu

**Michael Ashley**

- Douglas Athas
- Bernie Baars
- Richard Blair
- Jim Boyce
- Linda Campbell
- Gene Carleton
- Norm Dang
- William Farris
- Brad Ficke
- 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 Bridga ..... (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
<b>Access</b>				<b>Excel</b>			
	Ram Bhandari .....	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700		Warrington Williams.....	(214)348-6869	M-F 1800-2100 S&S 0900-2100
<b>Assembly Language</b>				<b>Hardware Help</b>			
	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	<b>Internet - General</b>			
<b>BASIC</b>					Erik Leaseburg .....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
<b>Beginner Problems</b>					David Martin .....	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700	<b>Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)</b>			
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000		Bob Wilson .....	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200 S-S 1000-2200
<b>Brother's Keeper</b>				<b>LANs — Novell</b>			
	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200		Joseph Beasley .....	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
<b>C++ (the language)</b>				<b>— Lantastic</b>			
	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	<b>Managing Your Money</b>			
<b>CA Clipper</b>					Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Richard Mitchell.....	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100 SS 0900-2300	<b>Modems</b>			
<b>CorelDraw</b>					Erik Leaseburg .....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Linda Hume .....	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200 S-S 1300-2200	<b>MathCAD</b>			
<b>Batch Files</b>					Bob Adams .....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	Charles Miller .....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	<b>Norton Utilities</b>			
<b>Borland C++</b>					John Dyer .....	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	<b>OS/2</b>			
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100		Larry Truesdale .....	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
<b>CompuServe</b>				<b>PC Tools/Win</b>			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
<b>dBASE III, III+, IV &amp; Windows</b>				<b>Paradox</b>			
	Ted Gillam.....	(972)964-7923	7 0800-1700		Fred Williams.....	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
<b>DOS</b>				<b>PKzip/PKUNzip</b>			
	Bob Russell .....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200		Erik Leaseburg .....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Erik Leaseburg .....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200	<b>ProComm/ProComm+</b>			
<b>DR DOS</b>					Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308	
	Ralph Beaver .....	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700 SS 0900-2100				
	.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100				

# NTPCUG User - To - User Program

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
<b>ProComm/ProComm+ (Cld.)...</b>				<b>Visual Basic -</b>			
	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
<b>Publisher (Microsoft)</b>					Gene Hamelman.....	(972)495-6342	7 1700-2130
	Bob Russell .....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200	<b>Windows for Workgroups</b>			
	Pat Cote.....	(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
<b>Quicken</b>					Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100	<b>Windows NT 4.0 &amp; 3.51</b>			
<b>Quickbooks</b>					Richard Miles .....	(972)296-5356	M-F 1900-2200
	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800		.....		SS 10:00-16:00
<b>SPFPC</b>					.....	(214)767-7315	M-F 1500-1700
	Doug Gorrie .....	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700	<b>Word for Windows</b>			
	.....	(972) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900		Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
<b>UNIX</b>				<b>XENIX</b>			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200		Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
<b>Virus &amp; Anti-Virus</b>				<b>XTREE</b>			
	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400		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.

**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

*Membership*



## Users Group, Inc

*Application*

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

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last): \_\_\_\_\_ (First): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Check preferred.) Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one from each column below

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

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

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

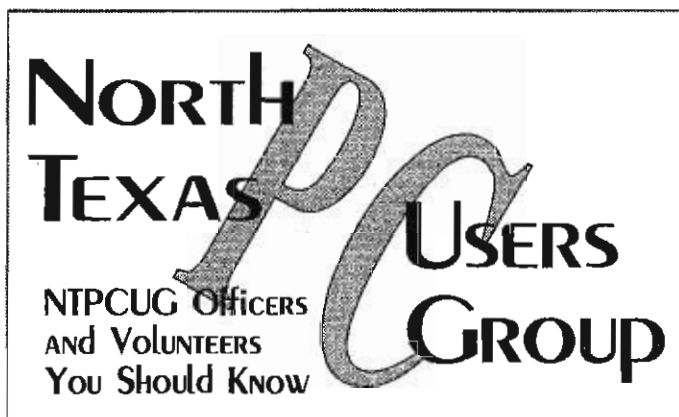
# North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

**Andy Oliver** *Chairman*  
**Reagan Andrews** **Marsha Drebelbis**  
**Timothy Carmichael** **Alex Lilley**  
**Jim Hoisington** **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 Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(972) 462-1896 h (972) 960-4215 w
President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
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
DFW Xchange	Information	(214) 746-3365 <a href="http://www.dfwxchange.com">www.dfwxchange.com</a>

## Members Emeritus

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**Phil Chamberlain** **Jim Hoisington**  
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## 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..)



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*North Texas PC Users Group*

*Next Meeting:*  
**21 February 1998**

