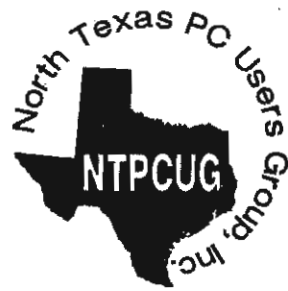


Price \$3.00

North Texas



PC NEWS



Windows 98 Preview See Page 1

March, 1998
VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 3

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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.

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 1,900 last month. Member distribution was 1,600; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for April
North Texas PC NEWS:
Sunday, March 15th

Meeting Dates:

March 21, 1998 - 3rd Saturday
April 11, 1998 - 2nd Saturday
May 16, 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:

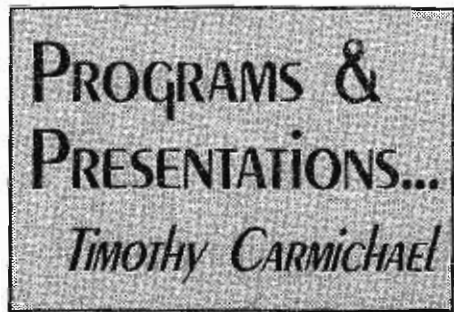
- Commercial ads must be in repro form, in final size, ready for printing.
- Halftones must be furnished as final size, screened prints or negatives.
- Halftone screens cannot exceed 100 LPI maximum.
- No ads on front cover. Bleed pages and color must be discussed with Publisher before submission.
- 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 - 9:55 AM

"Windows 98 Preview"
Microsoft Corporation (www.microsoft.com)
Chris O'Rourke, Microsoft Systems Engineer

Come see the sneak preview of Windows 98, before the big Microsoft Extreme tour featuring Windows 98 coming April 4. This overview will cover the new features and benefits of Windows 98, and also the pros and cons of upgrading. Windows NT 4.0 topics will be addressed, too. There will be drawings for *many* free products. *



10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

The Mind Blowing Micrografx Webtricity™ 2
Sneak Preview Tour '98

Micrografx, Inc. (www.micrografx.com)
Amy Iverson, Sr. Product Evangelist

Micrografx Webtricity 2 is an integrated set of four powerful applications that allow anyone to create the most exciting variety of professional graphics and animated effects. Micrografx Webtricity 2 is the most exciting, productive, and comprehensive collection of applications and content for designing professional graphics for the Web and beyond. There will be drawings for free products. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting
(Room 1061)

* 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.

MARCH 21

SIGs NTPCUG Special INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>8:00 - 8:55 Internet – WEB Developers Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning MultiMedia</p> <p>8:00 - 9:55 Hardware Solutions MS Word for Windows</p> <p>9:00 - 9:55 DOS/ Operating Systems General Genealogy Internet-Advanced SQL Server Quicken Visual BASIC Windows Applications</p>	<p>9:00 - 10:55 Dallas Corel</p> <p>10:00 - 10:55 ACT! CAD Delphi Emerging Technologies Fox Pro Database Networking Internet-Beginning PAF-Genealogy UNIX</p> <p>11:00 - 11:30 Business Meeting</p> <p>11:00 - 11:55 Assembly Language Brother's Keeper</p>
--	--

<p>11:00 - 11:55 Ctd. CAD (Cont.) Investors Graphics Microsoft FrontPage Paradox Roots III/IV - Genealogy Spreadsheets Microsoft Visual C++/MFC</p> <p>11:30 - 12:00 NTPCUG Orientation</p> <p>12:00 - 12:55 Access Alpha Four C++ Language Communications Desktop Publishing Java</p> <p>The Master Genealogist</p> <p>1:00 - 1:55 ActiveX Developers Business Apps./DAC Easy Lotus Notes & Domino</p>
--

<p>1:00 - 1:55 Ctd. QuickBooks</p> <p>2:00 - 2:55 Advanced Programmers</p> <p>Special Meeting for SIG Leaders and NTPCUG Officers & Members (Check overheads -- time may change.)</p> <p>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</p>

MICROSOFT EXTREME 2

Microsoft Corporation will hold their Extreme 2 event, including a preview of Windows '98 on Saturday, April 4th, 12:00 noon, at the UA Prestonwood Theaters in Addison. The theater is located at 15100 Prestonwood Blvd. (east of Prestonwood Mall between Arapaho and Beltline.

The event is free, but you must register in advance for it. Check out our Web site at www.ntpcug.org for a link to the registration, or call 1-800-550-4300. The event code number is 16124.

Theresa Jacobs with the local Microsoft office was at the Feb. meeting in the vendor area promoting this event, and she will be back in March. Theresa, a Reseller Marketing Rep, is helping to promote the NTPCUG with vendors, all over North Texas. Stop by and say hi. We will need volunteers, also, to help hand out NTPCUG literature and assist the Microsoft people. Our meeting will be the following Saturday.

THERE WILL BE A DRAWING FOR PRIZES.

ACTION TIME

After the great turnout and suggestions from members, comes the time to take action. I have divided the suggestions into committees, and we need volunteers to serve on these committees. There are only a few rules for each committee.

Rules

- ❖ Committees must have a Chairperson, and two committee members.
- ❖ Everyone on a committee must be an NTPCUG member.
- ❖ Each committee needs to outline their goals in writing to the NTPCUG Board of Directors.
- ❖ Each Chairperson needs to make a report to the Board of Director's either in writing, via e-mail, via the BBS, or in person on or before the April 14th BOD meeting.
- ❖ The BOD will report back to the membership of the NTPCUG on the committee findings, results, and action taken. If action is postponed or vetoed by a vote of the BOD, the BOD will provide the reason to the membership.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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.

Sell corporations on the personnel resources available through the group, especially in these low unemployment times. Try to quantify the perceived benefit of membership to better "sell" the group. Publish an annual NTPCUG Membership Directory.

SIG COMMITTEE

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. Establish a SIG for games. SIG's should have agendas that are published early, and SIGs should always have a planned program.

Establish a repair clinic to help members identify and replace hardware components.

RESOURCE CENTER COMMITTEE

Move some SIG meetings to other nights of the week at a "resource center" leased by the users group (see Fred's letter in the January newsletter). Ask corporate sponsors to consider providing space for a resource center.

WEB COMMITTEE

Move part of the NTPC News, like past articles, to the Web. Provide member e-mail accounts via the Web. Become an Internet Service Provider. Keep the Web page up-to-date. If a SIG is not meeting, post it on the Web site.

Continued on Page 4

Products featured at eXtreme: Microsoft Windows 98 Office 97 Small Business Edition Outlook 98 Publisher 98 Money 98 Financial Suite Products featured at eXtreme: Microsoft Windows 98 Office 97 Small Business Edition Outlook 98 Publisher 98 Money 98 Financial Suite Products featured at eXtreme: Microsoft Windows 98 Office 97 Small Business Edition Outlook 98 Publisher 98 Money 98 Financial Suite Products featured at eXtreme: Microsoft Windows 98 Office 97 Small Business Edition Outlook 98 Publisher 98 Money 98 Financial Suite Products featured at eXtreme: Microsoft Windows 98 Office 97 Small Business Edition Outlook 98 Publisher 98 Money 98 Financial Suite Products featured at eXtreme: Microsoft Windows 98 Office 97 Small Business Edition Outlook 98 Publisher 98 Money 98 Financial Suite Products featured at eXtreme: Microsoft Windows 98 Office 97 Small Business Edition Outlook 98 Publisher 98 Money 98 Financial Suite

Get
ready
for
Windows 98!

North Texas PC User's Group Inc.
presents:



DATE: **Saturday, April 4, 1998**
PLACE: **UA Prestonwood
Dallas, TX**
TIME: **12:00 P.M.**
EVENT CODE: **16124**

Register now to attend!

You must register to attend this free event. For registration and complete information, visit:
www.microsoft.com/magazine/msextrime/
and be among the first to eXperience Windows 98! Or call (800) 550-4300 to register.

**Register early.
Seats are limited.**

VIP CODE: **31233-077A0**

FREE EVENT!
Saturday, April 4, 1998

LIVE SATELLITE BROADCAST

Be the first to preview Windows 98!

Microsoft eXtreme is:

A two-hour LIVE broadcast with Microsoft product managers presenting NEW product demonstrations of the most eXtreme features of:

- **Microsoft Windows 98 operating system**—*Works Better. Plays Better* (in-depth, 45-minute demo)
- **Office 97 Small Business Edition**—*Essential Tools for Running Your Small Business*
- **Outlook 98 messaging and collaboration client**—*One Window to Your World of Information*
- **Publisher 98 desktop publishing program**—*Create Unique. Professional-looking Color Publications*
- **Money 98 Financial Suite**—*The Complete, Integrated Personal Financial System*
- **An eXclusive inside look at future technologies**

You'll get:

- **Firsthand eXposure** to the most eXceptional features of Microsoft's new products
- **Free popcorn and soda**
- **eXcellent giveaways, special offers, and more**
- **Plus, the first 400 attendees at each theatre receive an eXtreme T-shirt**

Microsoft

NTPCUG COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Continued from Page 2

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offer fee-based PC courses. Apply for certification of the courses for continuing education credits for professionals. Rent videos on software instruction, etc. to members. Have software instruction through the web site like ZDU, and charge a fee for the instruction.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Add the SIG leaders e-mail addresses to the SIG leader listing in the newsletter and on the Web site. Publish a "Letters to the Editor" column in the NTPCUG News.

INFOMART/VENDOR COMMITTEE

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. Have vendors offer discounts to members. Close off the vendor area to members only for the first one or two hours. Have computer vendors publicize NTPCUG.

MARKET RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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. Institute a follow-up survey to find out why members did not renew their memberships.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Provide cards to members that give the location, phone number and meeting dates. Have members pass these out. Get a TV station to do a special on NTPCUG. Do radio and TV spots. Get on a talk show as a guest. Make a better effort to reach younger computer users.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

Have open discussion meetings more often. Establish working groups for special tasks. Find out why/why not and where we are allowed to charge for attending user group functions.

When a vendor insists that everyone at an event be eligible for a drawing, provide members with an extra ticket. Allow ongoing tasks to be contracted out.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Have a list of positions that are in need of volunteers posted at the Information Booth. Give members a reward for recruiting new members. Have members contact any and all stores that sell computers and obtain permission to put up a sign or brochures about NTPCUG. Provide volunteers with a coupon for an extra ticket at drawings. Limit winning to one prize per person.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Negotiate a membership to Sam's Club (or other locations) for NTPCUG members. Hold an annual membership get-together, like a barbeque.

I will serve on the President's Committee. Now it is your turn, send me an e-mail, or call me or one of the BOD members (phone numbers listed in the back of the NTPCUG News), and give something back to the group.

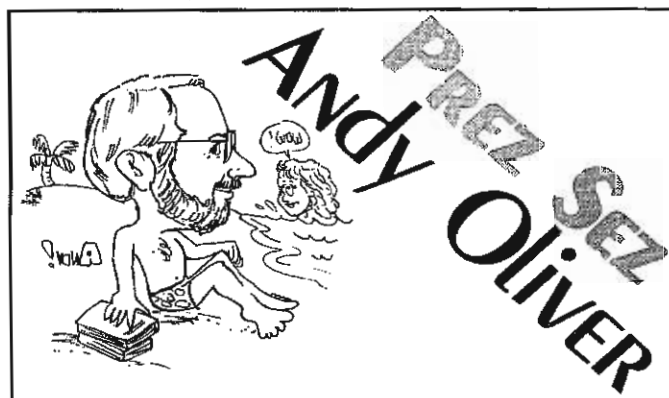
NOTE TO THE MEMBERSHIP ABOUT FRED WILLIAM'S LETTER LAST MONTH

I received several comments at the February meeting from members who were concerned that Fred wants to hold meetings *only* on weeknights and not on Saturdays. Please be assured that the Saturday meetings are not going away.

What Fred is promoting is office space where SIG's could meet during the month and have longer more detailed discussions. There are some users groups that do meet on weeknights, and those attending prefer it that way.

I also know of groups that meet, just on a Saturday. What we would like is the best of both worlds. We just need committee members to study the proposal.

Andy



WHERE'S THE Disk?

James Dunn

There is a disturbing trend in the selling of PC's these days. Many new machines are being delivered without the CD-ROM containing the OEM version of Windows 95. The vendors say you should just do a backup of the OS! I suspect that a lot of unknowledgeable people are falling for that. A woman I know works for a school district that has been purchasing quite a few new PC's for use in her school. Nearly all of them are coming with no OEM media. I was surprised because the most recent machines were made by Compact. The book with the OEM certificate was there, but no CD. Inside the book were instructions on how to send \$14.95 and the Certificate to them to obtain the CD that should have been there. The local vendor suggested it wasn't necessary as one could rely on the emergency repair disk and the cabinet

Members' Gripes Comments & Opinions

NTPCUG



files stored on the hard drive. This information is extremely bad information.

When the inevitable virus showed up it corrupted the hard drive. The emergency boot disk would boot the machine, but too many of the programs on the drive were infected. Probably the program that could unpack the cabinet files was, too. Several anti-virus programs were tried, but they only detect the virus, they do not give you much of a fighting chance to remove it. How would you know if the virus was ALL gone? When all else fails, of course, it is time to save off the data files, reformat the hard drive and re-install the OS. But wait - re-install from what? The cabinet files? Even if you had copied them off the hard drive how do you go about a complete re-install from cabinet files?

I have been recording my own CDs these days. I can buy the media in lots of 10 for about \$1.00 each. So what does it cost the OEMs to supply the Windows 95 CD? How much are they saving and how much grief are they going to cause to people who don't yet know that they need those CDs?

Errata - We inadvertently left the last paragraph of Glynn Brooks' DRAM article out last month, so I have included it below.

... If you can't find the manual or didn't receive one in the first place, try the vendor's Website support area. Most major motherboard vendors have such sites. If not, try <http://www.motherboards.org/> for assistance.

Good luck,

Glynn

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by *SmartMoney* Magazine (May 1997)

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

WEB SITE HOSTING & MANAGEMENT
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DIALUP ACCESS
28.8K - 56K analog, 64K-128K ISDN

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

IF IT WERE A SNAKE, IT WOULD HAVE BIT ME!

Connie Andrews

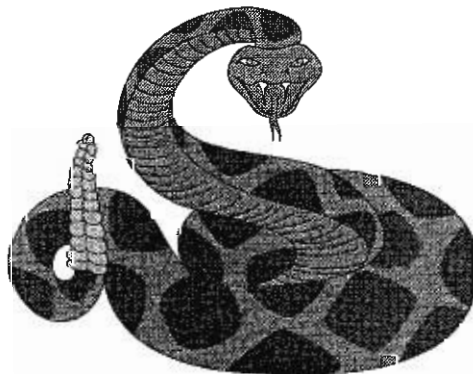
Sometimes we don't see something because it's right in front of our very eyes. You've heard that one before, right? Well, I'd like to take you on a tour of some things in the newsletter you may not know about and dispel some myths.

Things That Go Bump in the Night

For instance, contrary to popular belief, boilerplate DOES change. Usually it does this in the middle of the night so nobody will notice. It really does seem to have a life of its own.

The newsletter has its share of boilerplate. Some of it changes every month and some just occasionally. For example:

- ❖ Monthly changes include the next three meeting dates listed on the inside front cover at the lower left and the copy deadline for the next newsletter listed right above the meeting dates. Obviously, month, volume number and things of this nature change every month, too.
- ❖ Changes are made fairly often to the SIG listings and meeting times on page 1, the SIG Coordinator note on the first page of the SIG Reports, and to the SIG Leader listings in the shadowed box in the SIG section.
- ❖ Look for occasional changes in the ad rates and policy on the inside cover, the User to User section at the back of the newsletter, and the inside back cover. For example, note that the NTPCUG Web Page address is listed on the inside back cover toward the top, and recently, for members' convenience, we added the Web Page address for DFW Xchange Corporation. I'm not sure why Reagan stuck it under the listing of Officers, but there it is.



WHERE TO FIND IT? ... THE SIG'S EDITOR SPEAKS



The Kitchen Sink

We often get requests about how to submit articles for the newsletter. Look for the sidebars in the SIG Reports section about how to submit articles via the BBS or via the Internet.

If you are a SIG Leader, the fastest way to get any changes you wish to the newsletter is to send them to **Reagan** or me directly and send **Alex Lilley** a copy of the changes via e-mail. If you phone us with the changes, we will see that Alex is also notified.

The policy of the *PC News* is to print everything submitted by members. If there is too much material for one month, an article may be delayed a month or so, but eventually will be printed. However, occasionally an article might not be printed. If an article is submitted without an author's name and no way to verify who wrote it, it might not get published. Over the years, a few articles submitted have been impossible to understand and/or edit. They probably won't make it in either. And, it's an absolute No-No to imbed graphics in a text file, as Reagan's version of Ventura doesn't like it AT ALL. Send your graphics and text files separately to keep Ventura happy.

One last thought (I'll probably think of others after this goes to the printer): Articles or tips need not be long files. Short ones fill out some pages very nicely. Please submit freely.

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to submit articles and suggestions to the newsletter over the years. You have enriched the lives of our members by sharing your knowledge and you are very much appreciated!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

REFLECTIONS ON YEAR PAST, VENDORS' CONCENTRATION CHANGES IN THE PC USER POPULATION AND TRUE MEANING OF THE PC AS A USER 'TV EXPERIENCE'

Memories of 'Cruising' Cloud Speed Picture

Where are we going now? Most of the last year has been a surprise, trying to see where the industry was headed and what this means for us, the users. Recent acquisitions and mergers have placed many of my previous suppositions in question, not the least of them the Intel/DEC/Compaq triad being formed.

It's no secret that Compaq has been quite uneasy with Intel's near monopoly in the x86 arena. That goes way back — several years, in fact, when Compaq was a major contributor to the formation of NexGen and their x86 (*Pentium*) clone chips. When NexGen was merged with AMD and the K5 CPU was announced (really the NexGen design with an FPU included on the chip) I'd thought Compaq would rapidly embrace the new chips. Cyrix won instead with the *MediaGX* CPU set allowing *Pentium*-level performance in a very inexpensive package.

Biggest market last year was the sub \$1,000 PC using either the Cyrix or Intel chips with AMD still struggling to produce enough K6 CPU's to really enter the race. (The AMD K5, which might have given a good showing was D/C'd by AMD due to the lack of MX capabilities, and by sub \$1,000 PC makers for the same reason.

Looks like we are headed toward a 3-tier PC world, and rapidly. Intel has been pushing the *Pentium II* with all its capabilities for the middle tier, with the *Pentium MX* CPU's relegated to the lowest tier along with (supposedly) the K6 and Cyrix 6x86MX CPU's, i.e., the PC's for the unwashed masses. Upper tier is going to be the new Intel/HP RISC chip CPU intended for workstations and "serious" users. Guess I'll put the DEC (?Compaq?) Alpha in this category as well since it rocks along at 500 MHz.

**IF WISHES WERE HORSEPOWER
We'd all be 'driving' 300+
MHz Pentiums this month**

Why the emphasis on so much speed? Because the software we are being sold is bloated, buggy and incredibly clumsily written with no regard for efficiency or wasted space. We actually need the speed increases being offered — to a point — as a result of poor programming practices fostered by the vendors' rapid upgrade cycles. Programmers who once took pride in tight and efficient code are out of fashion.

This hold true for all the major vendors. Name an office suite, and I'll guarantee its last released version was bigger, slower and buggier than its predecessor.

**NEW VERSIONS —
NOT ALWAYS BETTER
Word 97 Stings**

I've been fighting *MS Word 97* since I installed it on my machine. Only reason I did was Dragon Systems *NaturallySpeaking Preferred*. I was sorry immediately after the dust cleared from the installation. Not only did

Word 97's installation wipe out my very solid *Word 95*, but it found *Word 6.0c* and took it out as well. That's really arrogant. It's also a good reason to consider one of the other brands next time around.

To make matters even worse, it forces users into paths Microsoft thinks are appropriate, even if the users don't in this version. If what I've seen is 'progress,' we are all in for a very rough dec-



ade. If you have an opportunity to upgrade to 97, think twice or three times before you commit unless Microsoft releases a total re-write eliminating some of the 'forced' styles.

Is it AN INTEL World? CYRIX AND AMD don'T AGREE TO THE INTEL Rules

Problem is that both AMD and Cyrix aren't in tune with Intel's view of the PC world. Both are producing Socket 7 CPU's that rival the *Pentium II* in real performance although both have somewhat less-than-optimum FPU performance in current designs. Improved FPU (Floating Point Unit) performance is promised by both vendors and both should be "comfortable" with 0.25 micron production by mid year and may announce 300+ MHz CPU's before year's end.

Since my PC, a Cyrix 6x86 233MX spends inordinate amounts of CPU time waiting for me to hit a key, i.e., I spend most of my time in word processing, I doubt I'd see a lot of performance increase going to a *Pentium II* 333MHz machine. Actually, I'd be ashamed to spend the \$100's more to get to this level. I've grown out of that stage

'CRUISING' AT 20-35 MPH With 300+ HP WASTE of HORSE POWER & GASOLINE

Example: Back in the "dark ages" (late 1950's) I had a '46 Ford sedan with a Chrysler hemi 413 and twin Holley 4-throats that would do an honest 135

MPH. (I know because I paid the ticket for that to the coffers of a local municipality.) That was once. Most of the time I "cruised" several local areas at speeds ranging from 20 - 35 MPH, doing what most young men/boys do. I had almost unlimited horsepower doing exactly what any family sedan usually did. Difference was, I needed 100+ octane gasoline and averaged around 7 - 8 MPG.

Was it worth it? Then, yes.

PC AS Household Appliance CHANGES Rules/Goals for USERS Seeking 'TV EXPERIENCE'

As the PC becomes a household appliance, we, the users, become less concerned with what's in the box than what the box does. Because I looked over the shoulder of a TV repairman, I do know (vaguely) what's inside our TV, but don't really care that much — as long as it continues to operate properly.

I think that's the attitude of the average "new" PC user now.

The new user wants and expects a "TV experience." Problem is, we ain't there yet by a long shot. Software continues to be bug infested as a result of very short release cycles, new PC's are frequently delivered with components that don't operate properly and most users don't receive any training in troubleshooting the problems they encounter.

Even Microsoft's best efforts haven't resulted in a seamless operating system for the home user.

'Help' Really DOESN'T AND USERS LEFT TO OWN INGENUITY WHEN THE 'BOX' BREAKS DOWN

I use *Windows 95* in several versions and can guarantee that the *Help* function in the operating system is very close to useless unless the user has a long history with arcane terminology and patience in trying to guess what dictionary Microsoft's writers employed in constructing the *Help* index.

This is almost as humorous as the instructions several ISP's give their customers to look for technical assistance at their Website Support area in case of trouble connecting to the Internet.

It just isn't working when the systems and software have become so complicated that even the support technicians are lost trying to figure out what went wrong. Installing *Windows 95* is a real challenge for even the experienced user. I feel sorry for the new user who encounters some of *Windows'* more nasty traps.

INTEL'S MOVE TO NEW BUS MAKES SENSE — IF WE CAN GET AWAY FROM THE IRO'S

I think Intel may be right in moving toward a new bus for their advanced CPU's — but for the wrong reasons. Think Intel is moving in that direction in an attempt to stymie the "Socket 7" competition, i.e., Cyrix and AMD who have been very successful in producing CPU's that rival Intel's best. But, motivation aside, it's time to move out of the outdated 1980 universe of IRQ congestion and arcane I/O addressing. I stick with the more expensive SCSI instead of EIDE because of IRQ limitations and in spite of the greatly increased boot time.

USB (Universal Serial Bus) was supposed to solve some of these

problems along with the PCI (another Intel development) bus mastering. I still haven't seen any USB peripherals — and more new peripherals available for enhanced performance are demanding their own IRQ's. To make matters worse, some products reserve IRQ's for non-used functions.

Case in point is one of the PnP SoundBlaster (Creative Labs) AWE cards that conspires with *Windows 95* and the PnP BIOS to "reserve" either IRQ 14 or IRQ 15 for the unused IDE port on the card. I received an eight-page E-mail from their support site with instructions on how to solve this problem.

**CONTINUING THE DIATRIBE
LOCAL VENDOR PROVOKES
RAGE WITH RETURN POLICY**

This concerns my experiences with a local dealer, Fry's, who have moved into the D/FW area recently. Fry's is a discount house with an enormous array of PC parts and components and are open seven days a week. In addition, Fry's 'specials' are extremely attractively priced. That's the good part.

I recently purchased several new motherboards from Fry's. The last, a Shuttle HOT 569, was in a 'sealed box' and sold as new — or at least I was under the impression it was a new motherboard. When I opened the box, the motherboard (?mainboard?) had two plastic stand-offs attached, indicating it was returned to Fry's by the original purchaser who evidently was either too lazy or unable to remove them.

I had no way of knowing why the board was returned. I didn't know if the board was faulty, or if the purchaser returned it for some other reason. I just knew it had been used.



I went back to Fry's with the motherboard. I dealt with a number of Return Personnel, not one of whom apologised for the inconvenience or the aggravation involved. I also had the opportunity to watch several people act as if this was pretty common.

I asked to speak with a supervisor/manager. After waiting 15 minutes, one finally appeared. He also failed to apologise for the mistake and inconvenience.

Two things came out of this experience. I recognized a desperate need for Fry's to invest in some basic employee training in such matters. I also discovered that the same motherboard was available from IMS for \$40 less than I (originally) paid at Fry's.

I won't go back.

Reagan Andrews

Bill GATES & THE CREAM PIE...

"Brussels police department, how may I assist you?"

"Uh.. yes.. I just got hit in the face with a cream pie."

"Okay, sir. Have you called the Brussels police department before?"

"No"

"Well, let me get a little information about you for our records. Your name?"

"Bill Gates"

"Country?"

"The USA"

"Native language?"

"English"

"Okay, sir. Your police department ID number is BP31415927. Please use this number the next time you call. Now, you say you were hit in the face with a pie?"

"Yes, I was just about to meet with the Belgian Prime Minister. One person distracted me while another hit me with a cream pie."

"We've had other customers report that they were hit in the face with a custard pie. Are you sure it was a cream pie?"

"Well, I have white stuff all over my face and I don't see any custard, so I

really don't think it was a custard pie."

"Have you visited the Prime Minister before?"

"Yes"

"Were you hit in the face with a pie then?"

"No"

"Hmm... have you visited any other Prime Ministers in the past month?"

"Yes"

"Any pies then?"

"No"

"Okay, well.. let's try something. Go outside the building and come in again. I'll wait."

"OK' Several minutes pass

"I'm back."

"Did you get hit by another pie?"

"Of course not"

"Well sir, I don't know what could have caused the first pie, but it looks like things are working fine now. I'll make a note of the problem, though. If it happens again, please note the exact details of the situation and call us again. Thank you for calling the Brussels Police Department. "

Submitted by Patrick Dryden
Computerworld senior editor

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

The FAST Machine

I was thrilled by the performance of my 16 MHz 386 clone. I invited friends in to watch the directory command fill the screen. We commented that we could barely make out some of the file names, as they spilled into a second and third page. DOS was wonderful and we marveled at the CGA color palette. The machine was fast enough to run some fractal programs while we waited, but the neat stuff was run at night and set to save the image in a file for viewing the next morning. Mandelbrot, you know.

Today the word is 333 MHz and 400 MHz processors that will make anything we did with our computers as recently as last year obsolete. Writers will need to learn how to include pictures, colors, action and sound along with interesting, "well presented" topics. Designs will live longer in phosphor dots on the monitor before coming to life in clay, wood, or metal. Those skills must also be learned at the computer level. Students of this new art are our future salesmen, musicians and architects.

Already, buyers are sending their drawings of partially specified requirements to vendors who make the problems solving changes necessary to complete the concept and make the sale. Computer skilled scientists are speeding decisions on material selection through computer modeling, with number crunching formulas.

I would like to think volunteers of the NTPCUG would have a role in providing the tools for the businessperson of this new age, both in education and in the computer awareness that must accompany them. I would see the new professional using the SIG as a resource for information and instruction. The NTPCUG offers it all, at the juncture of software, knowledgeable users, and fast machines.

This page is dedicated to the many volunteers who have coached and helped me and others learn more. Some of them are named in this newsletter. Thanks to the officers and leaders who make the NTPCUG a possibility, and an opportunity for all of us.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchor:

David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Dick Abbott

Crew:

Dennis Brinninger
Allen Drake
Tim Foster
Son Hong
Larry Matzek
Chris Sherrod

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
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
Chris Brooks
Jim Boyce
Randy Durham
Tim Foster
James Gorak
Neil Jochelson
Thelda Opella
Ralph Pinkus
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:

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
Gene Carleton
Howard Hamilton

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael (972) 661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler

Phil Bridge..... (972) 422-5400

DOM Software Review

Mark Grunerl..... (972) 964-8147 (h)

Information Booth and General Information

Claude McClure..... (972) 867-0978 (h)

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

In March, Larry Linson has another FMS, Inc. product to show and tell: *Total Access Analyzer*. Available for all versions for Access, this product has been the answer ever since Access 2.0 to the question, "What will give me better documentation of my Access database than the built-in Database Documenter?" Since first using this product on a large Access 2.0 project, I've been impressed with its flexibility and usability.

Many thanks to Mike Fleming for a very useful and interesting program in February on the subject of "Year 2000 Issues for Microsoft Access Developers and Users." Mike's tips and examples will save some of us a lot of grief with our favorite software.

Coming Soon to An Access SIG Near You: FMS, Inc. "Total Access Code Tools," tools to make life easier for the Access user and developer, "Miscellaneous Musings on Access and Server Databases," odd and not-so-odd items far back from the bleeding edge (not even remotely connected with Internetting), and, finally, "That Presentation You've Been Planning to Tell Larry You'll Do," the one that can be for any level of Access user.

Third Time's the Charm Department (for those who lost their last two months' copy of the *PC News* before reading the Access article): 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

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:

- MS Word for Windows [Contact Jan Patton @ (903) 886-6249h or janpat@unicomp.net]
- Spreadsheets SIG [Contact Eb Foerster @ (214) 357-7602 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).

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h

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M = Metro #

ACT!

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

Access

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 hM
Jack Atkinson (817) 481-8623 h
Dianna DeCicco (972) 446-0639 h
Tom Lukers (972) 423-4308 h

Alpha 4/5

Ron Jackson (972) 278-3681 h
Bill Parker (214) 369-5889 h

ActiveX Developers

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

Assembly Language SIG

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

Business Applications/DAC

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

C++ Language

Howard Harkness (972) 492-1508

CAD

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

Communications

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



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).

On the Back Burner For Now Department (or time comes at a premium): 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, exporting, and linking to specific types of data files, we still encounter situations where there is no substitute for reading and writing disk files.

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 March meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers SIG

In March, Dan Ogden, Larry Linson, or both will present more samples and examples from the *Office 97 Developer's Handbook*, by Christine Solomon. We couldn't do it justice in just one meeting maybe we *do* need two-hour meetings.

In February, Larry reviewed the Microsoft Press book *Office 97 Developer's Handbook*, by Christine Solomon. The subject of the book, of course, is using Microsoft Office 97 to develop business solutions. Ms. Solomon covers a lot of ground in the book, but doesn't try to give a "cookbook" of detailed steps for every kind of application.

Correction (or, having to write articles about events before they happen means you occasionally have to eat your words): In January, Co-Leader Dan Ogden (not Larry as reported in the February issue) led our exploration of the TechNet offering from Microsoft.

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 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. Just because so many of our attendees work in Microsoft Office and other software using it, we have considerable emphasis on VBA issues. We still ask and answer a few questions about *Open Database Connection (ODBC)* technology, too. As hot as the In-

SIG LEADER LISTING

Legend: h = Home #, w = Work #
M = Metro #

Dallas Core!

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

DOS/ Operating Systems

Jim Holsington..... (972) 416-3101 h
Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h

Delphi

Fred Williams (972) 492-1315
Tom Browning (214) 692-9784 h
Frank Cavallito ... (972) 423-9221

Desktop Publishing

Mark Stuert (214) 528-5311 h

Emerging Computer Technologies

Dick Vedder..... (817) 481-6457 w
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 Waidrop (817) 496-5856 h

Genealogy - Roots III / IV

John Wylie..... (972) 496-4410 h

Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

Jeri Steele (972) 306-1596 h
..... (972) 917-3917 w

Graphics

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

Hardware Solutions

Charles Miller (903) 938-4220 h
Ralph Beaver (817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson (972) 938-0344 h

Internet-Beginner

Tom O'Keefe (972) 247-8812 h
Doug Gorme (972) 616-8002 h
..... (214) 464-4568 w
Erk Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM

Internet-Advanced

Tom O'Keefe (972) 247-8812 h

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Internet-Advanced Ctd.

- Doug Gorme (972) 618-8002 h
- (214) 464-4568 w
- Erik Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM

Internet-WEB Developers

- Mark Camp (214) 583-9012 w
- David Maxwell ... (214) 977-7584 w
- (972) 299-6295 h

Introduction to the PC

- Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h
- (972) 980-4276 w
- Bob Russell (972) 422-4269 h

Investors

- Dick Richtman ... (972) 437-0322 h

JAVA

- Art English (972) 567-2253

Lotus Notes & Domino

- B.J. Shultz

MS Word for Windows

- Jan Patton (903) 886-6249 h

Microsoft FrontPage

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

Microsoft Networking

- Bruce Wynn (972) 335-2507 h
- (972) 756-7832 w
- Richard Miles (214) 767-7315 w
- (972) 296-5356 h
- Gil Brand (214) 506-8070 w
- (214) 341-7182 h

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC

- Art English (972) 567-2253

MultiMedia

- Dennis Rice (972) 680-8299 h

Networking

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

Paradox

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

Programmers

- Jim Hoisington ... (972) 416-3101 h



ternet 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 March, 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 February meeting consisted of a presentation showing how to access the Microsoft VC++ standard runtime library DLL (MSVCRT.DLL) from assembler programs.

Exported functions from this (and any other Windows DLL) can be accessed by most Windows programming environments. While documentation is nice to have, standard programming tools and techniques can be used to list the exports, determine the number (and likely usage) of function parameters.

While the C standard library is detailed in numerous places, MS has added some new functions, such as 64-bit arithmetic, that make the documentation useful.

Our topic for March will continue along these lines - we will develop a complete console utility function using the Win32 API and the C standard library functions.

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

Frank Cavallito & Glynn Brooks

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

It's late at night and you are "surfing the Net". Have you ever wondered if your friends are also "surfing"? If they are "surfing", what if you could "chat" with them using the Internet?

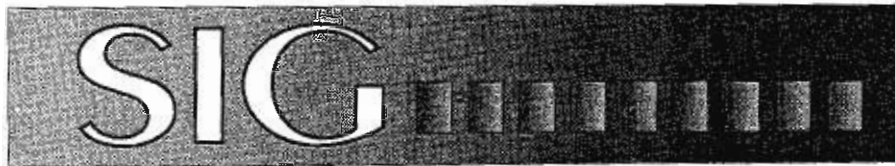
If these questions are what you have been thinking about, then come to the Communications SIG meeting in March. Here our very own **Bob Giles** will present ICQ (pronounced "I - Seek - You") from .com. ICQ is revolutionary as it allows you to determine who is "on the Net" so that you can contact them. Once contacted, the ICQ application software provides "real-time" communication services for the selected dialog. It's real slick and Bob is willing to demonstrate his ICQ knowledge and experience with us.

Also stay tuned for some great presentations forthcoming. I am talking (finally!) with a cable modem vendor and have had good discussions with the Microsoft Networking SIG for possible joint presentations. So delay those Saturday errands and come to the March meeting of the Communications SIG for a stimulating presentation on "I - Seek - You".

Alan Brosz and Birl Smith

DALLAS COREL SIG

Have you seen what the new *CorelDRAW 8* offers? Some of our SIG members, who attend the March 2 Unleashed Productions seminar in Dallas, will bring some of the best Corel 8 tricks and tips to share with us. The Unleashed seminar is presented by Foster D. Coburn III and Peter McCormick, co-authors of the best-selling *CorelDRAW 8: The Official Guide*. Come join us March 21. Get a little



snippet of what attendees learned and see what most entices them about DRAW 8.

February in Review

Dick Clampitt of Red River Paper Company gave a fascinating presentation on a newly emerging line of specialty papers for color inkjet desktop printers. Each attendee received a sample kit, competitive price sheet and loads of paper information to help them get the best results when printing for proofs or for end product. Premium Gloss, Klondike Gloss, Frio Gloss, Transparency, Card Stock, Matte, Gloss or Matte Canvas, and more. Finally a paper company is offering products to satisfy the needs of the designer's paper-hungry desktop printer, giving alternatives to what the office supply stores offer. We printed examples and compared the results. With today's ever more capable desktop printers, we expect a lot from the papers which receive our CorelDRAW masterpieces. Not to be overlooked were the prizes generously provided by Red River Paper. NTPCUG members were eligible in the drawing for the nifty paper packs, mugs, sweatshirt and denim jacket, all bearing the handsome Red River Paper logo. Top prize was the coveted Epson Stylus 800 Printer, which was used in the demonstration to produce fabulous photographic results. The happy, rather ecstatic, top prizewinner was SIG

member **Carlos Alvarado**. To learn more about Red River Paper call 1-888-248-8774 or visit the Web site at <http://www.redriverpaper.com>.

Dallas Corel Web Page

Jay Bartlett and **Rose Anne Ellison** do a great job monthly of updating Dallas Corel SIG's Web page at <http://www.ntpcug.org>. Check out its new look. You may want to add our SIG's direct address to your "Favorites" list. Go to <http://www.ntpcug.org/signs/corel/new/index.htm> to learn about past and future meetings and to find helpful Corel links. While you are there, leave Jay and Rose Anne an e-mail to let them know how they're doing and to contribute "Links" and "Gallery" additions.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ Jan/97 - Web page design with Corel Web.Graphics Suite

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



Dallas Corel is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

SIG LEADER LISTING CONTINUED ...

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QuickBooks

- Dave Guiter (817) 429-7417 h
- (817) 255-1618 w

Quicken

- W. L. Harns (972) 291-7616 h
- Phil Faulkner (972) 239-0561 h

Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev

- Eb Foester (214) 357-7602 h

SQL Server

- Ada Finigan
- Steven DeSalvo (972) 716-2684
- John Penaska (972) 431-3979
- Ern Welker (972) 462-6033

UNIX

- Doug Scott (817) 261-4653 hM
- (817) 678-0367 wM

Visual Basic — Beginning

- Thomas Lewis (972) 994-6387
- Jim Carter (972) 235-5968 h
- Jim Hart

Visual Basic — Advanced

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

Windows - Applications

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

WordPerfect / Windows

- Cindy Adams (817) 481-1300 wM
- Diane Bentley

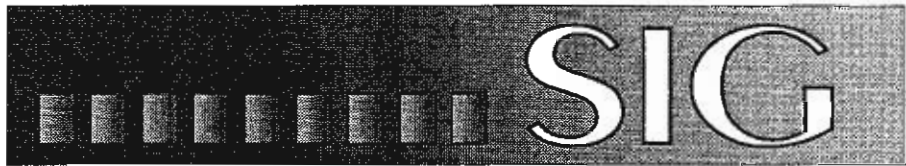
- ❖ Feb/97 - Photo Retouching in CoreiPHOTO-PAINT 7
- ❖ Mar/97 - VENTURA 7 Demonstration
- ❖ Apr/97 - CoreiDRAW 7 & PHOTO-PAINT 7 in Real World Uses
- ❖ May/97 - Corel SIG Members Showcase Their Work
- ❖ Jun/97 - Productivity in DRAW 5, 6 & 7
- ❖ Jul/97 - CoreiDREAM 3-D 7
- ❖ Aug/97 - WebMaster Suite, Lumiere and Click & Create
- ❖ Sep/97 - Presentations 8
- ❖ Oct/97 - Font Management and Acrobat
- ❖ Nov/97 - Customizing CoreiDRAW 7
- ❖ Dec/97 - CoreiDRAW 8 Launch by Corel Corp.
- ❖ Jan/98 - Roundtable Discussion
- ❖ Feb/98 - Inkjet Desktop Printing Papers by Red River Paper Co.
Marsha Drebelbis

Delphi SIG

I want to express my appreciation for Frank Cavillito stepping forward in my absence in January. I needed to be in Arkansas that meeting Saturday and in my hurry failed to warn anybody of my pending absence. For that I apologize.

I am planning on attending the March meeting, and hopefully was able to make the February meeting as well. I've been keeping a sharp lookout for pasty pale types carrying violin cases here lately, as we still are attempting to deliver to the State of Texas "Bologna factory". Seems now that final integration testing needs to happen, one of the principals in the deal is stuck in Lufkin working on a high speed chicken scale that naturally did not perform in production as in test. Surprise, surprise!

The good news, or bad news depending on how you look at it, I



have finally got the barcode scan gun talking to the Delphi application. So now I'm planning a dog and pony show of same at the March meeting.

The application is interesting in that I am using a Delphi VCL component to manage the serial communications to the barcode scan gun. Plus it gives a little insight into the level product tracking is reaching in the agricultural industry, all through the aid of barcode generation and recognition.

I won't bother dragging in the scale head and barcode printer, as that is all done with a boring subset of Quick BASIC. The scale head is really a fairly sophisticated embedded micro-controller which has it's own ROM based BASIC interpreter. There is a simulator for use on a standard PC, which allows one to develop and test the Scale control program, then load it into the scale head using a null modem.

I'll just bring a handful of pre-printed labels to scan for the demonstration. Y'all will just have to imagine if you will the label printing. That label printer is carved out of solid steel, I think. And that is the real reason I'm not going to lug that turkey around!

I'll give a quick overview of UCC/EAN 128 barcode as well as the SCC14 product identification standard. Then maybe the beauty of barcode identification will make a little more sense.

Anyhow come on by the SIG and see a computer that looks like a barcode scan gun, or is that a scan gun that acts like a computer?

Fred Williams

DOS/Operating Systems SIG

Are we ready for Y2K? Have we checked our PC's BIOS to see if the hardware is Y2K capable? Then, have we checked our software for the same capability?

We'll address these issues at the March DOS/Operating Systems SIG since it could be a really nasty surprise to wake up January 1, 2000 and discover everything has crashed — or reverted to January 1, 1980 and frozen. It's bad enough to worry about our banks, credit cards, mortgages, elevators and cars without adding the home PC to the mix.

First, check the hardware, i.e., BIOS for Y2K compliance. If your PC has an Award, AMI or Phoenix BIOS, note the BIOS release date on screen during system bootup. The release date usually displays in the left upper corner of the monitor. Don't mistake the copyright date for the release date. The following suggestions were taken from the Award, AMI, Phoenix and Unicore Websites at time of this writing.

AwardBIOS — www.award.com

- ❖ AwardBios compliance with Year 2000 depends on the release date:
- ❖ If the AwardBIOS was released before 26 April 1994, you only need to reset your system clock once. Turn the system off before midnight on 31 December 1999. Turn it back on sometime after midnight, on 1 January 2000. Then set the system date correctly in Setup.
- ❖ If the AwardBIOS was released between 26 April 1994 and 31 May 1995, you need to obtain an



AwardBIOS update, or reset your system clock every day!

- ❖ If your AwardBIOS was released after 31 May 1995, its calendar automatically rolls from 1999 to 2000 at midnight. You don't need to do anything, whether the system is turned on or off at midnight (31 December 1999).

AMIBIOS — www.ami.com

- ❖ All current versions AMIBIOS, core date 7-15-95, and future version of AMIBIOS are year 2000 compliant. All previous versions of AMIBIOS can be changed only by the system OEM to support the year 2000 feature. This change can be given directly to the system OEM from American Megatrends. [Ed. Note: See following section on Unicore

Phoenix BIOS — www.phoenix.com

Phoenix had the following tip on checking the Y2K compliance, which I copied from a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) in their Website Support section:

Q. How can I find out if my computer supports the year 2000?

A. If your owner's manual doesn't mention this issue, and you can't call the computer manufacturer for some reason (they are the only ones who will know for sure), then the only way to tell is to try it. Follow these steps:

- ❖ Set the time on your computer to three minutes before midnight (23:57:00), and the date to December 31, 1999.
- ❖ Turn your computer off and wait for five minutes.
- ❖ Turn your computer on, booting from a "system only" floppy disk

(DOS with no CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT files).

If the date prompt displays "2000" as the year, you have nothing to worry about. If it displays any other year, you have two solutions:

The easiest solution is to take these steps:

- ❖ Wait for the year 2000 to actually occur.
- ❖ Enter your BIOS setup program.
- ❖ Change the date to the year 2000 manually.

"You will only have to do this once, since the system should retain and advance the date accurately from then on. (Changing from 1999 to 2000 is the problem, not advancing from 2000 through 2099.) If you are skeptical, you can test the subsequent-date advancement by changing the date in step 1. of the test sequence above from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000. If the date advances to January 2, 2000, you have no problem."

The other solution is to upgrade your BIOS.

"Phoenix fixed this problem in February of 1995, but our customers (PC and motherboard manufacturers) may be using BIOS source code purchased prior to February 1995. There is no BIOS version number that guarantees your system will report the proper date in the year 2000. This same problem will surface again in the year 2099."

[Ed. Note: Ain't necessarily so. Award adds that their BIOS will "correctly read and report dates be-

yond Year 2000 from the system real-time clock, including leap year dates."]

UNICORE — www.unicore.com

Unicore Software Inc. is a replacement BIOS vendor and has a free software program, *Survive2000*, to check for Y2K compliance available on their Website. The program is big, 2.2M and comes with a lot of disclaimers. I downloaded it and it confirmed that the two-month old BIOS on my machine is Y2K compliant.

Unicore also sell upgrades for Award, AMI, Phoenix and other BIOS sets from their Website, or at 800-800-BIOS. I checked Unicore on the BIOS on an "old" Genoa 486 motherboard and was informed that replacement BIOS for the "antique" wasn't available.

However, Unicore did have a solution, an update board that would fit in an ISA slot and would make the machine Y2K compliant. Cost was approx. \$80. If users absolutely must keep their older PC's in service, this is an available solution.

Back to DOS

Sorry this went so long, but felt it was important to users. Hardware is just the first step, software will also need to be checked, especially home finance/check register programs, PIM's (Personal Information Managers) with appointment



and meeting scheduling functions, and last, but not least, the operating systems themselves. I'm not aware of any Y2K problems with *Windows 95*, *Windows NT*, *OS/2* or *UNIX/LINUX*, but older versions of DOS may exhibit some. I'm sure **Jim Hoisington** will know if there's danger there. Come to the March DOS/Operating Systems SIG for the latest info.

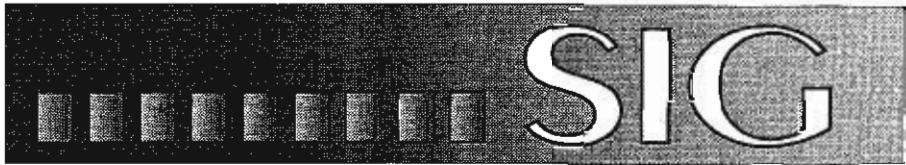
Reagan Andrews

Graphics SIG

Micrografx will be in the big hall in March which means that the SIG hours will be a follow-up on the activities in the main presentation. The topic will be the new release of *Webtricity*. From what Brian has told us, we will be the first group anywhere in the US to see a demo of the product which will still be in beta testing at the time of the presentation.

Webtricity is the Micrografx all-in-one suite consisting of *Designer* for drawing, *Picture Publisher* for image manipulation, and *Simply 3D* for three-dimensional objects. Each product is magnificent by itself, and each could easily take up a full hour to cover. I am not sure of when the main presentation will be so we will either have one or two hours for follow-up. Brian and Amy will be doing a tag team match showing off the suite so they should have plenty of energy to answer any and all questions that we might have.

Last month the group had a sneak peak at *Simply 3D* which will be released both as a stand-alone and as a component of the suite. The program is magnificent. The old version of *Simply 3D* was one of the easiest and cheapest 3D programs on the market. Micrografx has made it even easier by beefing up the wizards to fully walk the user through even the most difficult tasks. But the program is not only easy to use, it also walks the user through the process of saving the



results for either stand-alone mode, exporting to a Web page, or exporting to a presentation program. As an example, you can create a fully animated 3D image and incorporate it into a *PowerPoint* demonstration.

Other new features kept the group fully entertained. I can not go into details here. Let's just say that all were impressed.

The presentation was concluded for a drawing for copies of *Picture Publisher*, *Simply 3D*, and *Webtricity*.

What is ahead for future months is still partially open. Interest in the SIG has picked up again from Micrografx and they really want to work with us as much as possible. More important, they have.

Neal Berkowitz

INTERNET -

Web Developers SIG

In March we will talk about **Tables**. Tables are HTML tags that allow developers to "lay out" a page onto columns and rows, controlling the placement of text and images. Tables give you 2-dimensional control of your pages. Additional commands for tables include the ability to set background colors and images, font styles and colors, borders and spacing between table elements.

In addition, we'll cover **Latin ISO** character commands. These are special characters that display like: ©, , or ® on a webpage. There are about 300 of these characters. They are vital for accurate expression, not to mention legal requirements.

April Meeting

At our next meeting on **April 11**, we will take a look at **Forms**. Forms are the key to business online, either through transactional systems such as "shopping baskets" or search engines for databases. Forms provide the "front end" for just about any type of user interaction. They transform a static Web site into something your customers can use.

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

*Mark Camp, Clifford Lopez &
Chris Nelson*

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.

March 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

April 11, 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

May 16, 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)

June 20, 1998*

- ❖ 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

July 18, 1998*

- ❖ 9:00 Viruses and
Their Prevention

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

Spike Smith

Microsoft Networking, SIG

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

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

*Bruce Wynn, Richard Miles
& Gil Brand*

MS Word for Windows

For health reasons, **Beverly Kurtin** has decided that she will no longer be able to lead the SIG. Thank you, Bev, for all your help and wisdom over the years!

I will be acting SIG Leader until we find additional volunteer(s). Please contact me at (903) 886-6249 (home) or at if you are interested in helping.

This time we'll meet from 8:00 to 9:00. We will probably change the meeting time to 9:00 or later, depending on equipment availability. Any new time will be announced here.

Jan Patton

PRO SIG

Dynamic HTML was the topic of the March meeting. All the programmers got the HTML part but were too tired to understand the dynamic part. We decided to stick with *somewhat active HTML*.

Join us next month for the annual programmer's tug of war at the creek beside the north parking lot.

Jim Hoisington

QuickBooks SIG

At the February meeting we covered vendor early payment discounts. Looking at it from as many angles as we could come up with, there was only one way to

take discounts. This involved selecting the discount on each individual invoice as it was selected for payment.

We then took questions. The topic was on Accounts Receivable/Collections reports. We had no luck trying to display customized fields and were not able therefore to sort off customized fields. Another question involved printing out "to do" list details. Since we didn't have a printer, our homework is to try it on our own computers.

Next time we will finish sales invoicing and cash sales and how it affects inventory and financial statements. If you have topics you wish covered, email me at Dguier@AOL.com.

Dave Guier

Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The March meeting scheduled for March 21, 1998 will emphasize setting goals for the Visual Basic Beginning SIG. I would appreciate input from all participants in our SIG, even from those of you who have been attending for just a short time.

In order to stimulate some discussion prior to the meeting, here are some subjects you might want to comment on:

- ❖ **Meeting Format:** Currently, we start with an introduction which includes some recommended books and a schedule of topics for the next few meetings which takes about five minutes. Then the floor is opened for a Q&A session to help anyone having trouble coding in Visual Basic which has lasted from two to twenty minutes. Then the "Topic of the Day" is presented by me or a guest lecturer. This usually takes about 30-40 minutes or until the end of the hour (whichever comes first!). We base the topic selection on specific requests from the SIG attendees. In what



ways can we change the format to satisfy your expectations?

- ❖ **Meeting Timing:** The SIG meets at 8:00 AM and I thought no one would show up when we started nearly five years ago. We must be missing a few folks that can't get to the Infomart that early, but attendance has not been a problem. We surely want to continue to meet just before the regular Visual Basic SIG to permit continuity for those ready to move on up. The parking is sure easier at 7:45 AM! Any comments/suggestions about the meeting time?
- ❖ **Assistant SIG Leader:** I have had several folks inquire about helping out with the running of the Beginning Visual Basic and some have actually given presentations when I was unable to attend. It is not a lot of work and it can be quite rewarding (not financially, however!) to help folks enjoy the fun of Visual Basic. I sure would like to hear from someone who can attend most of the meetings and give a presentation once in a while. If you think you could serve, please speak up.

That should get you thinking about how we can make the SIG better. Let's discuss this more at the meeting on Saturday, March 21,

SIG LEADERS, SEX & E-MAIL

Thought that would get your attention. If you are a SIG Leader or Co-leader and want to have your E-mail address listed in the *PC News* SIG area, send us an E-mail with the preferred listing to one of the two following E-mail addresses:

reagana@swbell.net
candre@worldnet.att.net

1998. Meeting begins at 8:00 AM. Check the overheads/schedules at Infomart in the vendor area and at the NTPCUG information desk.

Jim Carter

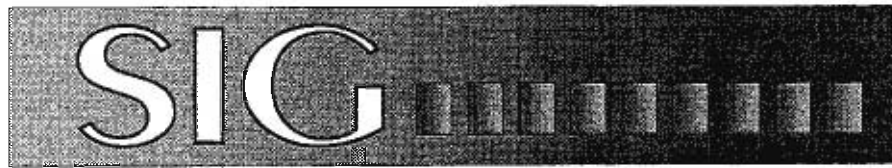
Visual Basic SIG - ADVANCED VBITS

The Visual Basic Insider's Technical Summit will be held in San Francisco March 23-27. This is the biggest conference for Visual Basic developers. I will be sending out e-mail dispatches from the conference. If you would like to receive a daily e-mail on what is happening and information from some of the technical sessions, send your e-mail address to alien-site@msn.com. Unfortunately, I will not divulge information that falls under the Non-Disclosure Agreement sessions.

Windows DNA

One of the latest buzzwords coming from Microsoft these days is "Windows DNA". No, it is not what they used to convict O.J., but a name for an architecture for developing applications. Windows DNA is short for Windows Distributed interNet Applications Architecture. Microsoft designed this architecture so that applications based on the Windows platform combine the best of the PC and the Internet. If you are familiar with the Client-Server or Three-Tier application models, Windows DNA is an extension of those models.

As Microsoft says "Windows DNA applications use a standard set of Windows-based services that address the requirements of all tiers of modern distributed applications: user interface and navigation, business processes, and storage." So,



for example, we could use Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Dynamic HTML, HTML, and Microsoft VBScript to handle user interface and navigation, use Microsoft Internet Information Server, Microsoft Transaction Server, and Microsoft Visual Basic Components for the business processes and Microsoft Exchange Server and Microsoft SQL Server for storage. The environment would be Microsoft Windows NT. The tool of choice would most likely be Microsoft Visual Studio. The glue for all of these would be COM, the Component Object Model.

The great part about this architecture is that it will provide built-in scalability, component-based architecture, use of best-of-breed technologies, use of any language, and the leverage of COM. It has been compared to Lego's, where the pieces fit together, through COM, and you can choose the component, or Lego, that works best for you.

If you are still confused, let me walk you through it. Let's say that Sales has asked your Rapid Appli-

cation Development Team to develop an application so that orders can be placed through the network and over the Internet so that mobile sales staff may place orders when visiting clients. Your crack team decides to develop an application according to the Windows DNA architecture. Your team consists of three members: an interface developer, a component developer, and a systems administrator.

First, the systems administrator sets up a Microsoft Windows NT machine and installs Microsoft Internet Information Server, Microsoft SQL Server, and Microsoft Transaction Server and sets up security. Now the interface developer can start creating the front end with either Microsoft Visual Basic or use Microsoft Dynamic HTML or just HTML. Good examples of HTML-based applications are Microsoft Money 98 and Microsoft Encarta 98. Now the component developer can develop ActiveX Servers in Visual Basic and wrap them in Microsoft Transaction Server to make them scalable.

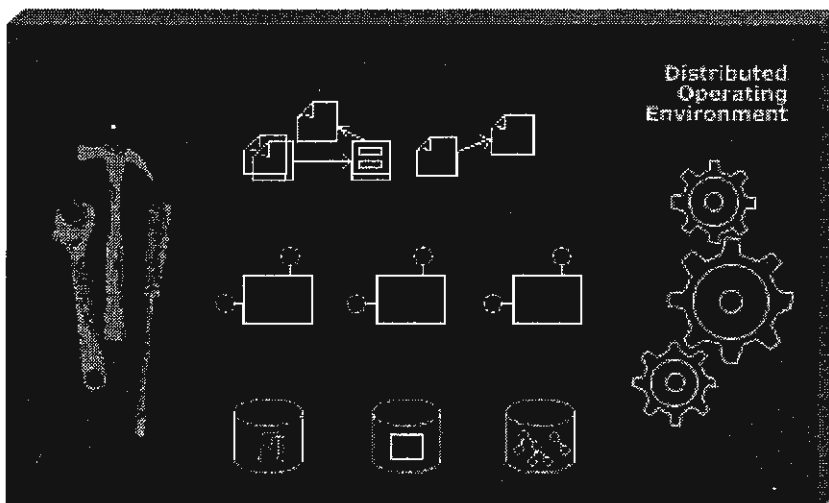
Now, the great thing is that we could have used Microsoft J++ to write our components, we could use Netscape Navigator as our browser, or use a different ODBC database for our storage. Since it is component based, it is easier to maintain. The sales people only have to have a browser and proper security access to use the system either at the office or on the road. Also, notice the developers can build their separate pieces as components and can put them together, the interface developer does not have to wait on the component developer to finish what they are doing before the developer goes on to their work. Another advantage is that the individual developers do not have to know exactly what the other component does, just how to implement it.

I would suggest looking at www.microsoft.com/dna and discovering what Windows DNA can do for you. At the site, you can read case studies where Windows DNA is used to build an E-commerce site and how a company was able to automate their loan processing by developing an application using the Windows DNA architecture.

If you have used Windows DNA for an application you or your team have developed, write me at aliensite@msn.com and maybe you could discuss it at one of our SIG meetings.

*Thomas Lewis
aliensite@msn.com*

Windows DNA Architecture



WORDPERFECT / WINDOWS

Now that everyone knows how to "Love Their Toolbars," in Corel's WordPerfect 8, it is time to get into "spiffing up" our documents (you remember those . . . the things we TYPE up, then don't know what to do with?!?). This month's meeting we are going to focus on formatting text, lines, paragraphs and entire pages.

When we create a document that has the wording just right, then need to give it "eye appeal." I will show you how to use Styles to make the formatting consistent throughout the document. Let's say we have a handbook we have created with Titles, subtitles and important words you want to stand out. It is hard to remember exactly which fonts were used to make each of these items stand out, what the font size was, were small caps used, is it bold, etc. By creating a style that includes all of these settings, you can apply the style to the text, thus creating a consistent looking document.

After reviewing the entire document, you change your mind and decide that the subtitles need to be bold and italicized, not just bold. Well, if you did not use styles in this long document, this could take a lot of time. By making the change within the style, it will automatically be changed throughout the document in only one step. Much more productive, don't you think!?

We will also take a look at the styles which come with Corel WordPerfect 8, including the bullets and numbering lists. I will also show you how simple it is to



capture the settings you have on selected text, quickly pull all the attributes, fonts, etc., and apply these settings to additional text like a paintbrush using the feature called QuickFormat. These features are very easy to use and are convenient as well!

Tip of the Month — Undelete and Undo



Undelete remembers the last three deletions. You have the option of undeleting any or all of the three. As you continue to delete, the oldest of the three deletions is removed to make room for the new deletion.

Undelete remembers only actual deletions — not changes — made to your document. Text is deleted when you:

- ❖ *Delete Backspace Typeover*
Alt+Delete (Table rows) Select text, then Delete, Backspace, Spacebar, or type

Deleted text can be Undeleted anywhere in the document ... and for as many times as you want to Undelete it (as long as it is one of the last three deletions). This is a great supplement to Cut, Copy, Paste when you have something on the Clipboard you don't want to lose, and you need another way to move or copy text.

1. Position the cursor where you want the text to be placed (it doesn't have to be its original location), **Ctrl+Shift+Z**
2. The last text you deleted reappears highlighted at the cursor position.
3. The Undelete dialog box provides several options

Restore .. if the highlighted text is what you want to undelete

Next or Previous ... to display the last three deletions

Cancel (or Esc) . if the deleted text was not one of the three

Undo, by default, remembers the last ten actions you performed on the document (not simply deletions). This default can be changed: Edit, Undo/Redo History, Options,

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.

Reagan Andrews



Number of Undo/Redo Items (up to 300).

If you marked Save Undo/Redo Items with Document, you shouldn't increase the default be-

cause this increases the size of your document. However, if you don't mark it, then each time you save your document (including as you're working in it), the history is cleared. Thus, you can no longer

HOW TO GET YOUR SIG NOTES IN THE NTPCUG NEWSLETTER

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 or as an attachment to an E-mail message to the *PC News* publisher.

reagana@swbell.net

Using the NTPCUG BBS is also 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

undo or redo anything in the past. You must "do" something else, which can then be Undo'd (I like this better than Undone). [Joke — Question: Do you know what an Undo'd is? Answer: A cowboy who drinks 7-Up. I'll bet you couldn't tell that I just now made that up, could you?] So ... the choice is yours.

I have chosen to set my Number of Undo's to 25, and Save Undo/Redo Items with Document. This is not a recommendation for you; rather, this is how it works best for me. This will allow my document size to increase according to the size of my last 25 actions — sometimes this results in only a small increase; sometimes a large increase.

Undo= Ctrl+Z SIG members know this command as "Cindy's Favorite Key"

Redo= Ctrl+Shift+R (this is wonderful in case you Undo too many times, or if you can't make up your mind)

Undelete= Ctrl+Shift+Z

Diane Bentley

I know your time is valuable. So treat yourself by coming to this month's meeting and learn about creating, editing, and using Corel's WordPerfect 8 Styles.

Cindy Adams



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				
BASIC				Internet - General			
Beginner Problems					Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700		David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000	Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)			
Brother's Keeper					Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200		.....		S-S 1000-2200
C++ (the language)				LANs -- Novell			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100	-- Lantastic			
CA Clipper					Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Richard Mitchell.....	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100	Managing Your Money			
	.....		SS 0900-2300		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
CorelDraw				Modems			
	Linda Hume.....	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	.....		S-S 1300-2200	MathCAD			
Batch Files					Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	Norton Utilities			
Borland C++					John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	OS/2			
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100		Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
Borland Turbo C				PC Tools/Win			
	John Keohane	(972)690-8092	7 1900-2100		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
DOS				PKzip/PKUNzip			
	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	ProComm/ProComm+			
DR DOS					Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308	
	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
ProComm/ProComm+ (Ctd.)...			
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Publisher (Microsoft)			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Pat Cote.....	(972)831-8055	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972)496-3894	7 1000-2200
Quicken			
	Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
Quickbooks			
	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
SPFPC			
	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
UNIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus			
	Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Visual Basic -			
	Jim Carter	(972)235-5968	7 1700-2130
	L.J. Johnson	(972)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman.....	(972)495-6342	7 1700-2130
Windows for Workgroups			
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51			
	Richard Miles	(972)296-5356	M-F 1900-2200
	.....	.....	SS 10:00-16:00
	.....	(214)767-7315	M-F 1500-1700
Word for Windows			
	Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
XENIX			
	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
XTREE			
	John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200

The subject areas below do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Doug Gorrie at (214)464-4568 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:

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

LEGEND:

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



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: Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____	Membership Classification: Regular (\$30.00) _____ Student (\$25.00) _____	Application Status: New Member _____ Renewal _____ Address Change _____
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Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449 (Make checks payable to : NTPCUG.)

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

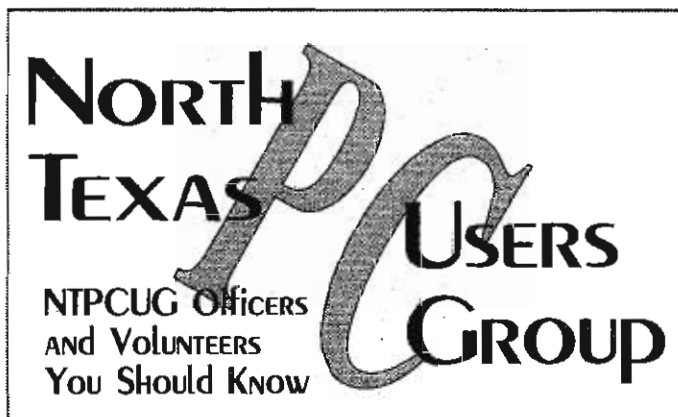
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

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 Alschbaeh	(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 www.dfwxchange.com	(214) 746-3365

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 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

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North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:
21 March 1998

