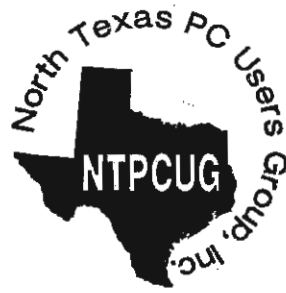
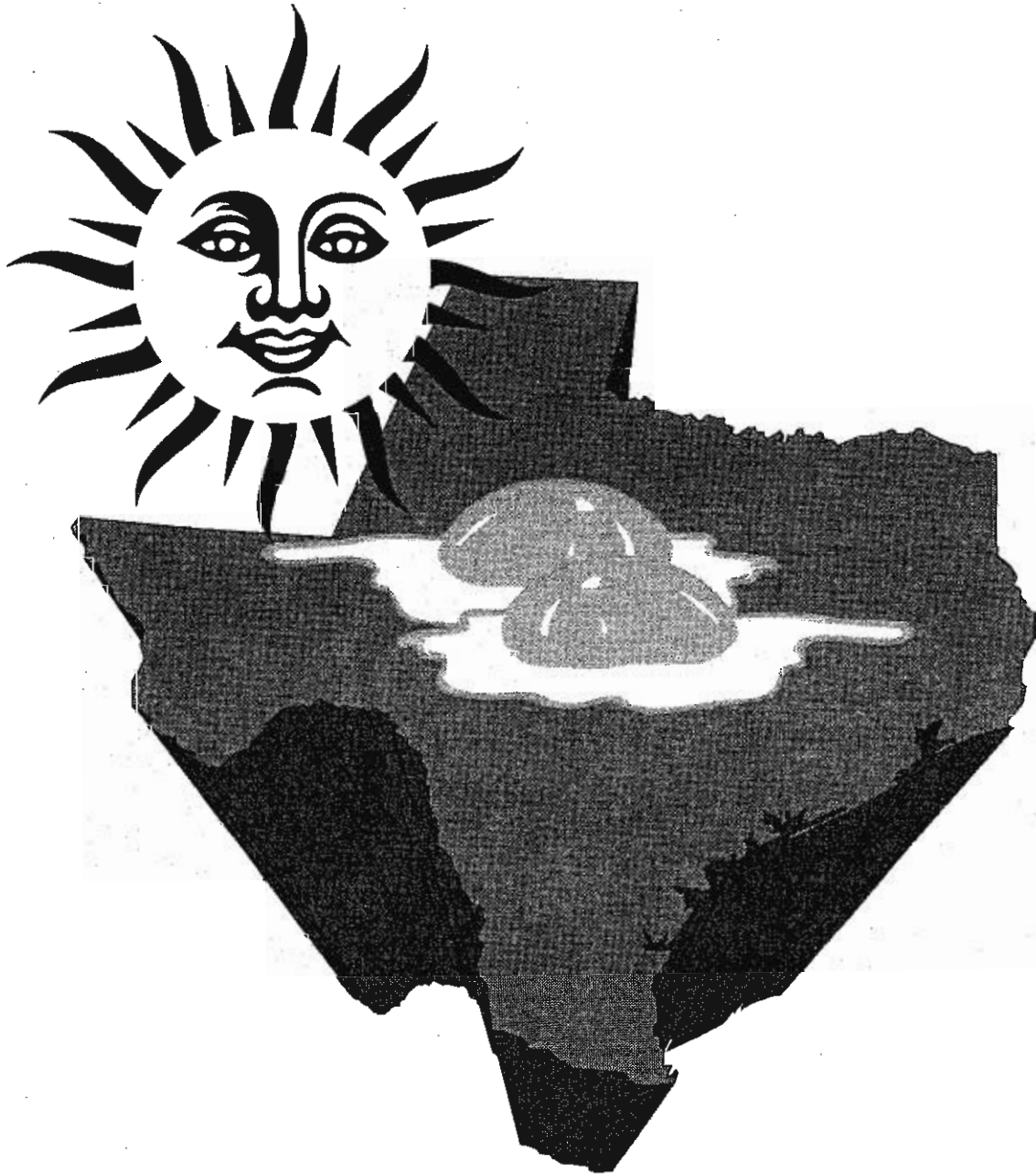


Price \$3.00

*North Texas*



# ***PC NEWS***



*August, 1998*

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 8



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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 15th of the month prior to publication unless otherwise listed. See deadline information below.

**Circulation:**

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 1,850 last month. Member distribution was 1,500; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows 97. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Corel Ventura 4.2, Corel Draw 8.0, Arts & Letters Express 6.01, Adobe Photoshop 4.01, Microsoft Publisher 98 and HP Scanjet IIP. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Times, Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, and Lithos.

**DEADLINE**

**Copy deadline for September**  
**North Texas PC NEWS:**  
**Wednesday, August 19th**

**Meeting Dates:**

**August 15, 1998 – 3rd Saturday**  
**September 12 – 2nd Saturday**  
**October 17 – 3rd Saturday**



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Submit Newsletter articles to: [reagana@swbell.net](mailto:reagana@swbell.net)  
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.

# NTPCUG AUGUST BUSINESS MEETING in Room 1061



## 11:00 A.M.

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

# AUGUST 15, 1998

### SIGs NTPCUG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

<p><b>8:00 - 8:55</b> Internet - WEB Developers Microsoft Networking Visual BASIC - Beginning MultiMedia</p> <p><b>8:00 - 9:55</b> Hardware Solutions</p> <p><b>9:00 - 9:55</b> DOS/ Operating Systems General Genealogy Internet-Advanced Introduction to the PC SQL Server Quicken Visual BASIC Windows Applications MS Word for Windows</p>	<p><b>9:00 - 10:55</b> Dallas Corel</p> <p><b>10:00 - 10:55</b> ACT! CAD Delphi Emerging Technologies Fox Pro Database Networking Internet-Beginning Introduction to the PC PAF-Genealogy WordPerfect for Windows UNIX</p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:30</b> <b>Business Meeting</b></p> <p><b>11:00 - 11:55</b> Assembly Language Family Tree Maker</p>
--	--

<p><b>11:00 - 11:55 Ctd.</b> CAD (Cont.) Investors Micrografx Microsoft FrontPage Paradox Ultimate Family Tree Spreadsheets Microsoft Visual C++/MFC</p> <p><b>11:30 - 12:00</b> <b>NTPCUG Orientation</b></p> <p><b>12:00 - 12:55</b> Access Alpha Four C++ Language Communications Desktop Publishing Introduction to the PC Java The Master Genealogist</p> <p><b>12:00 - 1:55</b> VRGN Internet Gaming</p>	<p><b>1:00 - 1:55</b> <b>ActiveX Developers</b> Business Apps./DAC Easy</p> <p><b>Introduction to the PC</b> Lotus Notes &amp; Domino</p> <p>QuickBooks</p> <p><b>2:00 - 2:55</b> Advanced Programmers</p>
--	--

**SIG Schedules may be subject to changes at the last minute. Please consult the BBS, or the NTPCUG Web page ([www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org)) and remember to check the hand-outs in the INFOMART lobby and at the NTPCUG Information Booth in the Vendor Area for latest SIG schedules and room locations.**

## BUSINESS MEETING

The July business meeting proved to be an excellent forum for our members to discuss what is going on in the Users Group. Of course, the main topic was our continuing search for a new place to hold the Users Group meetings.

It is interesting how many people READ the letter that the Board approved and I sent to the membership, only to show up at the July meeting asking if this was going to be our last meeting. The answer is NO. We will meet at the Infomart through the December meeting. Beginning in January 1999, we will have a new home.

Where are we? A committee, consisting of members from the North Texas PC Users Group and the Apple Corps of Dallas, has been pursuing a multitude of options for over two months. Our strategies include (1) find a place like we have now; (2) find a facility with classrooms for SIG meetings and a separate location for the vendor area; (3) look at a room large enough to have a main meeting, and separate SIG meetings during the month; (4) get a committee to agree. There is no perfect solution, and no ideal location that will make everyone happy. Our mission is to find the best overall solution for the continuation of the respective user groups.

## NTPCUG TRAINING VIDEOS

### Check out the new NTPCUG Multimedia Rental LIBRARY

*NTPCUG is now offering  
(as a member benefit) rental of training  
videotapes, audiotapes and CD's to  
Members at the NTPCUG Information  
Booth in the Vendor Area*

The NTPCUG Multimedia Library Includes:  
Program Tutorials, Interactive Learning Guides  
for Beginners and Advanced Users in a wide  
range of PC Applications from Arts & Graphics  
to Windows 95 and ... Everything in Between

Contact us NOW!  
NTPCUG Information Booth  
Claude McClure (972) 867-0978



Several members at the July business meeting suggested large churches, and another person suggested the St. Mark's Boys School. I asked the people making these suggestions to make the initial calls on behalf of the Users Group and report back on whether the options were viable. **Linda Moore** suggested that we post the places that have already been contacted and eliminated. I will post this information to the ALL Conference on the BBS.

As soon as a decision is made, we will use every form of communication available to get the word out. This will include the *NTPCUG News*, the Users Group BBS, the Web site: [www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org), handouts in the vendor area, ads in local newspapers, and we will utilize the services of the DFW Xchange's PR firm, **Read-Poland Associates**.

One thing that will most likely happen will be a charge to get into the vendor area for people who are not members of Apple Corps and NTPCUG.

At the end of the meeting, the Users Group gave away over 25 Windows '98 T-shirts, several Windows '98 hats, and two copies of the Windows '98 upgrade. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to Microsoft for the products.

### FORMER DOM VOLUNTEERS

This is a call to arms for the volunteers who used to work at the Disk of the Month table in the vendor area. We need your help at the Information Desk. Call **Claude McClure** at (972) 867-0978 and tell him that you want to help. The early morning hours are the busiest; however, Claude could also use help unloading and setting up in the morning, and reloading boxes in his car in the afternoon.

### Helping Others

**Dave Ewing**, NTPCUG member, is looking for one or two volunteers to help modify the computers at a charity. His number is 972-783-1531.

## Looking for Computers

**Bill Parsons**, who works with St. Phillips School in South Dallas, needs help finding suitable free computers for the school. Contact him at 972-248-4385 (home) or 972-380-5501 (work).

## Books, Books, Books

I received a catalog from IDG Books Worldwide, Inc. and it struck me as funny. Microsoft releases a new operating system, which starts authors, publishers, and printers to salivating. This catalog is devoted to Windows '98 books. Check out the titles:

- ❖ *Windows 98 Secrets* (people just will not keep secrets anymore)
- ❖ *Windows 98 Bible* (I'm surprised that this doesn't have its own "ANTI-" group)
- ❖ *Master Windows 98 VISUALLY*
- ❖ *Teach Yourself Windows 98 VISUALLY*
- ❖ *Windows 98 Simplified* (if you can not get it visually, maybe try this, one word at a time. TURN . THE . COMPUTER . ON)
- ❖ *Windows 98 One Step At A Time* (Page 1 - TURN; Page 2 - THE, Page 3 COMPUTER ...)
- ❖ *Windows 98 For Dummies* (you knew this was coming)
- ❖ *Windows 98 Programming For Dummies* (now I'm worried)
- ❖ *Dummies 101: Windows 98*
- ❖ *Windows 98 For Dummies Quick Reference*
- ❖ *MORE Windows 98 For Dummies* (for those who master the first one, but still feel like they are a "dummie")
- ❖ *Optimizing the Windows Registry*
- ❖ *Windows 98 Secrets GOLD* (rush down and stake a claim, there's gold in them thar secrets)
- ❖ *Dummies 101: The Internet For Windows 98*
- ❖ *Windows 98 Programming Secrets*
- ❖ *Windows 98 Visual Pocket Guide* (so it is easier to hold up next to your monitor and see what it is the screen is supposed to look like)
- ❖ *Windows 98 Networking Secrets* (a network is where more than one computer is connected to another, but shhhhhhhhh, it's a secret)
- ❖ *Windows 98 Secrets Bonus Pack* (bonus 1: How to keep a secret; bonus 2: Tell one person, but make them swear to keep it secret; bonus 3: we are not going to tell you)
- ❖ *Windows 98 Active Desktop For Dummies*
- ❖ *Windows 98 MSCE Study Guide*

❖ *Windows 98 Programming Bible* (for the technically religious)

*Andy Oliver*  
PREZ SEZ ... Ctd.

❖ *Teach Yourself Windows 98* (I guess this is for the non-visual.)

❖ *The Windows 98 Registry: A Survival Guide for Users* (the Swiss Army Knife for getting out of the registry)

❖ *Windows 98 Networking: A Guide For The Small Office*

You can reach IDG Books at [www.idgbooks.com](http://www.idgbooks.com). Aren't we glad that we now have a new desktop operating system so all of these authors can find employment, and we can further our support of the lumber and paper industries.

Next out:

❖ *Master The Simplified Self-Taught Windows 98 Active Visual Dummies Registry Programmers Secret Pocket Guide for Gold Desktop Bible Networks*

In bookstores soon.

*Andy*

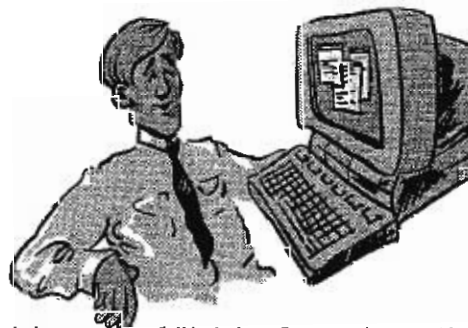
---

## PUBLICDATA.COM - Oh ME, oh MY...

*Tom A. Prickett*  
tap...

Have you really enjoyed the Internet? Are we having fun yet? I am, in the *Wild West Web*. I had been seeing its potential for years. I was the first SYSOP for the NTPCUG after Jim Hoisington set me up with the Capitol PC Users Group BBS for about \$3. This was before being online was fashionable. I certainly didn't cause it, but I watched it become popular. Cool, it was like floating downstream with the current in a canoe. Before the rapids hit you could afford to be lazy, and comfortably paddle to wherever you wanted to go.

Today is different. We are without question a global society. The rapids are here, and if you



What do you mean all this junk mail comes from cookies?

**PUBLICDATA.COM... Ctd.**

make a mistake it can cost your canoe, even your life if you didn't remember your life preserver!

There are new applications popping up everywhere. In this article, I will discuss something that both disturbs me greatly and excites me with its potential to do good. This on the WWW when I enter PUBLICDATA.COM from my favorite browser. I knew that there was a LOT of data available in the public domain. I didn't realize how powerful it could be when it is input into a computer database and well organized. It's a tough manual process without the database.

Do you realize that all the public data available about your Texas drivers license (an important legal document in the U.S.) is accessible through PUBLICDATA.COM for the entire state of Texas? All of this is not free (of course), it is worth something to somebody.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. The search capabilities really blew my socks off. Anyone can now find out every licensed driver at a particular residence provided they know the name of one licensed driver there.

I entered the zip code search (XXXXX-4001) for my specific nine digit zip code and found all my neighbors that were licensed drivers. The way the P.O. handles my neighborhood is to give everybody on one side of a block its own 4-digit code. I knew the name of at least one person across the street, yup it was the (XXXXX-4002) zip. Now I have data for everyone licensed to drive on both sides of my street.

Do you realize that everyone who holds a voters registration card leaves an audit trail that is also in the public domain? This is not how one voted (thank goodness), but each and every time I chose to vote, it can be told whether I did or did not vote in a particular election. For example, the PUBLICDATA.COM information was able to tell anyone that I voted more than both my wife and kid combined! My political party can be deduced because I voted in a primary run-off election.

There is license plate data, too. This means that when my daughter is out in my car, any crazed lunatic with access to PUBLICDATA.COM can find out not only where we live, but our date of birth, what race I called myself, even the last time I made a change (i.e. renewed) my license.

So are YOU a licensed Texas driver, own property in Dallas/Tarrant county, or have a Texas criminal record? PUBLICDATA.COM probably has an entry with your information on it.

Specifically, what is online today:

State of Texas Criminal Convictions (Dallas, Travis)

State of Texas Felony Deferred Adjudications (Dallas, Travis)

State of Texas Registered Voters

State of Texas Registered Sex Offenders

State of Texas Licensed Drivers

State of Texas License Plates

State of Texas Parole System

Ah yes, some of their data is not online. You can buy a CD that contains property owner data that will tell someone not what I paid for my house, but what it was appraised for tax purposes. This is available for Dallas, Travis, and Collin counties.

How do they get this data? Through the Freedom of Information Act and Open Records Laws. PUBLICDATA.COM believes it is the citizen's right to have this information available for their use. Besides, they can charge for it too. Who said there was no way to make a buck off of the Web?

Who is PUBLICDATA.COM? Your public data company is ShadowSoft Inc. out of Irving, TX. [www.shadowsoft.com](http://www.shadowsoft.com) is their URL. They have had a table in the vendor area in past months. There is some sort of line about a country of Anguilla British West Indies where PUBLICDATA.COM.AI, LTD. exists, but I fail to understand the relationship of all this. Electrons travel faster and cheaper than humans, perhaps this is a perk for their employees. Stand by, there are more states to come and more public data out there to sell. Some states have laws against this sort of thing. Texas is not one of them. The days of the *Wild West Web* are not yet over.

Check out my URL at [www.geocities.com/eureka/park/1490](http://www.geocities.com/eureka/park/1490) for something completely different. It is (how do you say it politely), a little graphics intensive.

*tap...*

[Ed. Note: Tom was always given to massive understatement, but nice to see *tap...* again.]

## Ask VERIO

If you have a question regarding the Internet that you'd like answered please forward your inquiries to sales@veriotexas.net. With offices located in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston and Austin, Verio-Texas is one of the state's largest Internet service provider. To learn more about Verio-Texas' products and services visit [www.veriotexas.net](http://www.veriotexas.net).

**Q.** I am interested in having my Internet Service Provider host my company's Web site. What types of things should I be considering in my decision?

**A.** Your company's Web site can be a critical component of your marketing and sales efforts as well as providing many people with their first impressions of your organization, so it is important that you select a provider that meets your needs and can provide you with superior hosting capabilities. Outlined below are some of the key criteria that you should use in making your Web hosting decision:



**VERIO**  
**TEXAS**

*Formerly OnRamp, National Knowledge Networks and Signet Partners*

### BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY

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

### WEB SITE HOSTING & MANAGEMENT

Virtual Domain, Server Collocation

### CONSULTING

Firewall Security, Network Design

### DIAL-UP ACCESS

28.8K - 56K analog, 64K - 128K ISDN, V.90

[www.veriotexas.net](http://www.veriotexas.net), [info@veriotexas.net](mailto:info@veriotexas.net)

**1-888-266-7267**



**Ask**  
**INTERNET**  
**VERIO**

**What speed of access does the company offer for its Web servers?**

Even the best Web site suffers in the eyes of visitors when response times are slow. Look for a provider with at least a T3 (45Mbps) Internet backbone connection with sufficient bandwidth for each of its hosted clients.

**Does the provider offer redundant connections?**

Since one of the major objectives of having a Web site is to allow people to visit it 24 hours a day, seven days a week, a redundant connection is essential. If your provider offers only a single connection point, your Web service is down for the count if that line malfunctions. A back-up connection is paramount to ensuring the maximum up-time for your site.

**How much control do you have over the site?**

Hey, this is your site and you need to be able to make the changes necessary to control how your company's image is portrayed. Some of the questions you should be asking include: Can I make changes anytime I want?, Do these changes need to be audited?, Can I use my own domain name for the site?, Can I use custom applications or scripts?

**How is server security maintained?**

Having some twelve-year-old put a mustache on the picture of your CEO is not a trivial event for your site. Make sure that you feel comfortable

## Who's VERIO? & ERRATA

Verio merged with ONRAMP earlier this year. Verio will be hosting the NTPCUG Web page and assisting with transition to a more integrated site that will feature member E-mail and newsgroup access in the future.

**Errata:** Readers brought to our attention that the URL mentioned last month was missing. Here it is:  
[www.3com.com/56k/need4\\_56k/linetest.html](http://www.3com.com/56k/need4_56k/linetest.html)



**Ask Verio... Ctd.**

with the security measures that your provider offers including the physical security of the server, partitioning of users on shared servers, ability to encrypt user access and the software security of the server.

**Is there a growth path?**

In other words, if your site starts getting more hits than a beanie babies promotion does your provider have the capability to offer you the increased bandwidth that you require?

**Are high performance Web servers used?**

Seems like a no-brainer but you'd be surprised how many providers still host sites on standard desktop machines. This might be sufficient for a small site, but they won't support high volume locations. Make sure that your provider's Web servers feature fast CPUs, high speed disk drives and a lot of memory.

**The Perfect Gift!**

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

Point out the Genealogy SIGs to people who are collecting information about their families, tell friends how much the Internet SIGs can help in easing their way into really using the Web, and the benefits of friendly, early computer lessons in the Introduction to the PC SIG.

More experienced users would appreciate value of vendor presentations in making important software and hardware decisions during the year.

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

**Does your provider have a good client base?**

Look at some of the other sites that your provider is hosting. How fast are they and are they easy to get to? If they're slow and difficult to access, don't expect that the rules are going to change for you—find a company that can do the job.

**AMAZING FEATS of DARING-DO  
with ADOBE ACROBAT v. 3**

*Oliver Eckles*

Want to view a WordPerfect document just as it was created...but don't own WordPerfect? Need to see the latest specs on that hot new gizmo...but don't have Illustrator? Guess what? With Adobe Acrobat v. 3, you don't need 'em.

Acrobat allows you to convert PostScript data to Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF), which retains all of the fonts and formatting of the original document(s). This PDF file can then be text-indexed, catalogued, and combined with other PDFs. Then, with either the (free) Acrobat Reader or Acrobat Exchange, the PDF document can then be viewed, its original look and feel intact, but now application-independent. Convert your entire presentation with Acrobat Distiller, clean it up with Acrobat Exchange, and burn it into CDs, along with the freely distributable Acrobat Reader.

**Acrobat Distiller/Distiller Assistant and Acrobat PDF Writer**

Distiller takes an existing PostScript file and converts it to PDF, via either a one or two-step process, depending on how much RAM you've got. The two-step process involves printing your document to the PostScript format (.ps or .prn), and then opening this PostScript file with Distiller, which then converts the document to PDF. Distiller offers a large variety of run-time options and settings to tweak file compression, font settings, and the like.

Distiller Assistant is the one-step solution (if, that is, you've got 20 MB of RAM over your source application's requirement). You print to Distiller Assistant from your application, which will then shoot the document off to Distiller for you. Distiller Assistant also utilizes Watched Folders; users put their PostScript documents in a specially created folder/directory, and Distiller Assistant



shoots them off to Distiller, which automatically converts the files. So in a client/server system, only one copy of Distiller is necessary.

PDF Writer is a quick version of Distiller that takes a document printed to it and makes a basic PDF document from it. This is a very fast way to convert an existing electronic document to PDF format, but that's because you don't get to set any sort of run-time options, such as font settings and compression. But if you have a basic word processed document, or other low-maintenance file, this is the quickest way to PDF it.

### Distiller Exchange

Thanks to the Capture plug-in, Exchange is the most versatile, powerful member of the Acrobat 3 family. Combining all the features of Acrobat Reader (re-viewed later in the article) with the power to edit, this is probably where you'll spend most of your time with Acrobat. Set World Wide Web Hyperlinks, insert movies, include dynamic, interactive forms, and edit document text in its original style. Create Thumbnail and Tree-View style tables of content for easy navigation of the document. Insert invisible text behind a graphic; it can't be seen, but it can be indexed and searched. Have actions occur automatically at the beginning or end of a document, such as sounds and movies. Import an image file (.GIF, .JPG, .BMP, etc.) directly, without having to use Distiller. Acrobat Scan, a plug-in, allows you to scan documents directly into Exchange.

Also included with Acrobat 3 is a plug-in for Exchange, called Capture. This is a pared-down version of the Capture stand-alone; plug-in loses batch-processing and several other high-powered features, but is still a very powerful tool. Capture takes an image file, either created or scanned-into the computer, and goes through finding all of the text. This text is then indexable, searchable, and editable in its native style. You can scan an entire set of paper documents, and Capture will turn them into electronic documents, with tables, forms, graphs and all intact.

### Acrobat Catalog

Acrobat Catalog is a very powerful text indexing tool. Take a single PDF document, or a whole collection, and index all of the text. The text is then searchable in Reader and Exchange. Dynamic information can be scheduled to automatically up-

date. A wealth of run-time options make your index adjust to fit your needs.

### Acrobat Reader

What use is it to create all of these wonderful documents, with their rich colors, exotic fonts, and lavish images if no one can view them? Fear not, for Adobe provides a (free) solution.

Acrobat Reader is a freely distributable viewing application for Acrobat PDF documents. You can give a copy of Reader to anyone you wish, especially those to whom you have just given a PDF document of your creation. Reader features enough tools to make itself useful, including a fast and accurate Find, three types of document navigation, and the ability to view document information, such as how/when the document was made, and who made it.

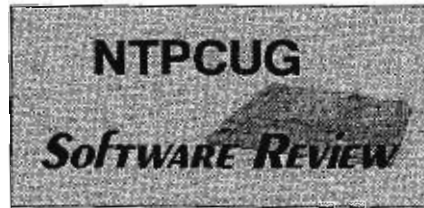
Adobe Acrobat v. 3 is a very powerful, well integrated set of applications. If you need to produce quality, functional, interactive documents, for distribution via the Internet, World Wide Web, Intranet, or CD/DVD, then Acrobat is the clear choice. It is application-independent; it doesn't care where it gets its data from, so long as it's PostScript or an image. And, the formatting and style of the original document is retained. This means that you can create a document with data from spreadsheets (Excel, 1-2-3, Quattro Pro), databases (Access, 1-2-3, SQL), and word processors (WordPerfect, Word). Then add a Web page, a Photoshop image, a technical drawing from Illustrator, and a movie from Quicktime. Include an interactive order form. Tie it all together with a searchable text index. All of this in one document.

### Rating

Installation/Setup:	★★★★★
Integration:	★★★★
Functionality:	★★★★★
Ease of use:	★★★★
Help/Support:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
OVERALL:	★★★★★

**System Requirements** :- Windows 3.1+, Windows 95, 386, 486, Pentium or greater, 8MB RAM, 16MB for Distiller & Capture plug-in, CD-ROM drive (floppies available)

*Reviewed by Oliver Eckles  
Edited by Wes Eckles, Jr. (Mem #95)*



**If They Wrote Error Messages In Haiku**

First snow, then silence.  
This thousand dollar screen dies  
so beautifully.

With searching comes loss  
and the presence of absence:  
"My Novel" not found.

The Tao that is seen  
Is not the true Tao, until  
You bring fresh toner.

Chaos reigns within.  
Reflect, repent, and reboot.  
Order shall return.

Three things are certain:  
Death, taxes, and lost data.  
Guess which has occurred.

A file that big?  
It might be very useful.  
But now it is gone.

Windows NT crashed.  
I am the Blue Screen of Death.  
No one hears your screams.

Errors have occurred.  
We won't tell you where or why.  
Lazy programmers.

Seeing my great fault  
Through darkening blue windows  
I begin again

The code was willing,  
It considered your request,  
But the chips were weak.

Printer not ready.  
Could be a fatal error.  
Have a pen handy?

Server's poor response  
Not quick enough for browser.  
Timed out, plum blossom.

Login incorrect.  
Only perfect spellers may  
enter this system.

This site has been moved.  
We'd tell you where, but then we'd  
have to delete you.

wind catches lily  
scatt'ring petals to the wind:  
segmentation fault

ABORTED effort:  
Close all that you have.  
You ask way too much.

The Web site you seek  
cannot be located but  
endless others exist

Stay the patient course  
Of little worth is your ire  
The network is down

A crash reduces  
your expensive computer  
to a simple stone.

There is a chasm  
of carbon and silicon  
the software can't bridge

Yesterday it worked  
Today it is not working  
Windows is like that

To have no errors  
Would be life without meaning  
No struggle, no joy

You step in the stream,  
but the water has moved on.  
This page is not here.

No keyboard present  
Hit F1 to continue  
Zen engineering?

Out of memory.  
We wish to hold the whole sky,  
But we never will.

Having been erased,  
The document you're seeking  
Must now be retyped,

The ten thousand things  
How long do any persist?  
Netscape, too, has gone.

Rather than a beep  
Or a rude error message,  
These words: "File not found."

Serious error.  
All shortcuts have disappeared  
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

*Patrick Dryden*  
*Computerworld Senior Editor*

# 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 August, Larry Linson will present "The Wide World of Access -- From Novice User to Professional Developer." Access is easy for the new user to learn and use, with Wizards for almost every task from implementing one of several complete databases, to creating tables, queries, reports, and forms. Many of these can be augmented by modifying the design and taking advantage of powerful query capability and automating with macros and Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) code to simplify the transition from casual to power user. Finally, there are plenty of features and functions so you can polish that database into a finished application, or, indeed, as many of us have found, into a "client application" to a server DBMS. We can only cover these levels "once over

lightly" in the time we have, but we're going to give it our best shot.

There's been no word at time of writing as to what the future alternative will be, if any, to our demo machine. We have other pressing decisions to address about the future of the NTPCUG organization; meeting times and meeting place are taking priority over demo machines. But, if we can't have a live demo, Larry will have highlights on transparencies.

Thanks to **John Criswell** for his presentation and demonstration at the July meeting of FMS, Inc.'s *Total Access Memo* control. John showed us some things you can do with the control and a few that you can't (only some of these have simple workarounds). John recently used this control to satisfy a cli-

## 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

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

### ACT I

Jim Thompson... (817) 281-6159 h  
 ..... (972) 487-8499 w  
 Deborah Bean... (972) 475-7463 h  
 ..... (972) 475-3124 w

### Access

Larry Linson... (817) 481-2350 HM  
 Jack Atkinson... (817) 481-6523 h  
 Dianna DeCicco... (972) 440-0639 h  
 Tom Lukers... (972) 429-4308 h

### Alpha 4 / 5

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

### ActiveX Developers

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

### Assembly Language SIG

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

### Business Applications/DAC

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

### C++ Language

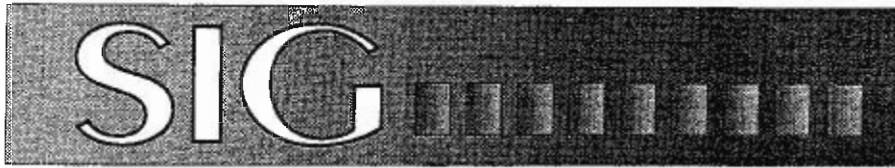
Howard Harkness (972) 492-1508

### CAD

Bill Sephton... (972) 298-1799 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  
 Birf Smith... (972) 960-8227 h  
 ..... (214) 220-9388 w



ent's need to include formatted text in an Access 2 application.

**Volunteer to Speak to the SIG:** You'll get advance publicity, public exposure, and you'll be doing the SIG attendees a special favor. You can present almost any Access or Access-related topic, for any level of Access user, novice through professional developer. See Larry at the meeting, or call him at the number in the SIG Leaders sidebar.

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. Oh, yes, while you're on the BBS, take advantage of the free Internet e-mail. 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 August meeting. Come join us!

*Larry Linson*

## ActiveX Application Developers SIG

Our plans for the August meeting were not complete (I'll be honest - they weren't even begun) at the time of this writing. Come see what developed in the meanwhile it'll be on or related to the topics of the SIG. We've even had some interesting but completely unstructured discussion sessions *What's on Your Mind* meetings in the past. This one will likely be at least a little more structured than those.

The ActiveX Application Developers SIG addresses issues of developing applications under the Com-

ponent 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 Internet is, our topics aren't necessarily about *Internetting*, since ActiveX controls work equally well on the desktop and in client/server environments. That's one of the attractive features: one type of control, usable in many environments.

Come join us in August, and we'll do our best to make it interesting and productive for you.

*Larry Linson*

## C++ LANGUAGE SIG July and August

General Format: Approximately one-half hour tutorial on the C++ language, followed by a Q&A session, with occasional presentations by guest speakers. Suggestions (and volunteers) for future programs welcome.

For the June meeting, I presented my revision of "The Big Three" lecture on the need for copy ctor, destructor, and assignment operator, plus a new presentation on one of the features of the STL - *auto\_ptr*.

For July, I presented a demo of the new Borland C++ Builder 3.0. I also have another book to give away - Tom Cargill's *C++ Programming Style*. You must be a NTPCUG member to be eligible for a giveaway.

I just finished an unexpected job search, due to the fact that the com-

## SIG LEADER LISTING

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### Dallas Corel

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 Stuertz..... (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  
*asanford@chrysalis.com*

### Genealogy - Family Tree Maker

Sandy Fritz..... (972) 539-5202

### Genealogy - PAF (Acting)

Al Sanford ..... (972) 278-7888 h  
*asanford@chrysalis.com*

### Genealogy - Ultimate Family Tree

Dave Heston ..... (972) 539-5202  
*heston@iname.com*

### Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

Jen Steele ..... (972) 306-1596 h  
..... (972) 917-3917 w  
*steele@pioneerint.com*

### 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 Gorne ..... (972) 618-8002 h  
..... (214) 464-4568 w

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

### Internet-Advanced

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



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M = Metro #

**Internet-Advanced Ctd.**

- Doug Gotrie ..... (972) 618-8002 h
- ..... (214) 464-4588 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**

- Harold (Spike) Smith
- ..... (972) 231-0730 h
- ..... Spike@altinet.net
- John Bardall

**Investors**

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

**Java**

- Kevin Starrett
- Don Benish ..... (972) 705-9512

**Lotus Notes & Domino**

- B.J. Shultz

**Micrografx (Graphics)**

- Neal Berkowitz ..... (972) 475-7483 h
- ..... (972) 475-3124 w

**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) 508-8370 w
- ..... (214) 317-7182 h

**Microsoft Visual C++/MFC**

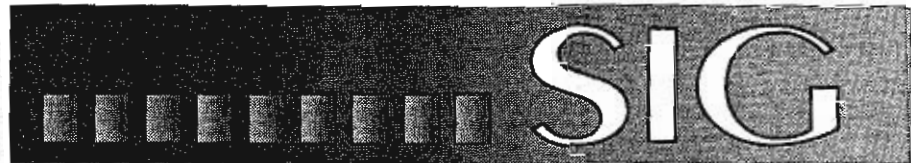
- John Cole ..... (972) 669-4700 w
- ..... jcole@airmail.net
- Wade Emmert ..... (214) 740-3164 w
- ..... emmert@airmail.net

**Multimedia**

- Dennis Rice ..... (972) 680-8299 h

**Networking**

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



pany for which I was working ran out of money. In the process, I meet several recruiters from contract placement firms, so:

For August, I am planning a panel discussion on Contracting vs. Direct Employment, featuring several local contract recruiters. I have asked them to bring goodies for giveaways. These folks are also actively looking for C++ programmers, so unless your boss is also coming, bring a half-dozen copies of your updated brag-sheet.

The C++ SIG meets at noon on Infomart Saturday each month. The meeting room is usually 7004, but be sure to check the schedule posted on the West wall of the vendor area.

SIG Leader information: Howard Lee Harkness (harkness@skeptics.org) has been teaching C++/OOA&D since 1992 for several national training companies. He is also a co-moderator of the Usenet group comp.lang.c++.moderated.

*Howard Lee Harkness  
harkness@skeptics.org  
New Phone # 972-492-1508*

**COMMUNICATION SIG**

Our July meeting featured a general Q/A session and included a discussion on 56k modems, ADSL, and the new cell transport service Asynchronous Transfer Mode or ATM. The 56k modem discussion centered on connect speeds and how does one measure the overall throughput. Next ADSL was discussed and when will we see it as a service. Finally ATM (not the money machine!) was discussed and how its Quality of Service Guarantees can provide an ultimate connection for voice, data,

video, and image applications. ATM over ADSL and using various protocols for different services makes the standard telco loop connection a multi-services access point to the network. Perplexing and confusing – you bet!

In August we will have Jeff Tokar from Marcus Cable. Jeff will present Marcus Cable and how Internet Services are provided over the cable to your home. Marcus Cable is offering 2-way cable for data applications at 3Mbps, providing a “lighting fast” connection to your PC and simultaneous to your cable TV service. Other issues like the cable bus architecture and if security is a concern will also be discussed and explored. So to learn more about cable Internet services and to see where the cable industry is going, plan to attend our August 15<sup>th</sup> Communications SIG meeting. You won’t regret the experience!

*Alan Brosz & Birl Smith*

**Dallas Corel SIG**

Presentations 8 Demonstration

Rose Anne Ellison, presentations expert extraordinaire, will bring her years of experience and her enthusiasm for Corel Presentations 8 to our SIG meeting August 15. She will cover presentation basics and then create a quick presentation for us. Remember, the Presentations 8 module is found in Corel WordPerfect Suite. Starting with an outline



Dallas Corel SIG A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group



in WordPerfect, she will enhance it with animations, graphics and other effects, showing how to make a good presentation even more effective. Join us!

### July in Review

John Carroll gave us a riveting program on digital cameras in July. He and Larry Brown brought us up to date on the current state of digital photography development, discussed the latest products and prepared us for the future. Both men speak from decades of experience as professional catalog photographers. They currently represent ProCamera, a professional camera store in Dallas. Don't let that scare avid amateurs away, though. If you want to find the perfect equipment match for your photography needs, ProCamera has it from A to Z. John helped us understand the various levels of photo equipment: consumer, prosumer and professional. He also offered a clue leading to the future when photography will be completely filmless: look for the CMOS chip. If you are like the rest of us in graphics, we are ready to find the right digital camera. John and Larry took us a long way down that road.

### Technical Support

Corel Technical Support offers many new and improved ways to find the information you are looking for. A complete listing of support options are available at <http://www.corel.com/support/technical/index.htm>

### CorelWORLD 98 User Conference

CorelWORLD conferences are annual multiple-day, multiple-track events that are held in major cities in North America. Remember when Rick Altman brought it to us

in Dallas/Fort Worth a couple years ago? CorelWORLD 98 will take place October 4-9 in San Diego, CA. It will feature award-winning CorelDRAW artists and recognized experts in graphics and publishing; it's ideal for CorelDRAW, Corel PHOTO-PAINT and Corel Ventura users. For more information on CorelWORLD User Conferences, please visit <http://www.altman.com/world.htm>.

Don't miss your chance to be included in a focus group at the San Diego, CA CorelWORLD, Oct 4-9, 1998. You could determine the next great feature to be included in CorelDRAW or Corel VENTURA.

### CorelPRESS

CorelPRESS publishes guides to Corel Corporation's graphics and publishing software. Call Osborne/McGraw-Hill at 1-800-227-0900 x 654 or visit via the Internet at <http://www.corel.com/book->

#### IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

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

❖ Technical Support Representatives..... 800-818-1848

❖ G1 Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products)  
..... 800-772-6735

❖ Customer Service Representatives  
..... 800-772-6735

❖ IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network)..... 613-728-1990

❖ 24 Hour Automated Fax System  
..... 613-728-0826 Ext.3080

❖ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays

❖ To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

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#### Paradox

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

#### Programmers

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

#### QuickBooks

Dave Girer..... (817) 429-7417 h  
..... (817) 265-1618 w

#### Quicken

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

#### Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev

Eb Foerster..... (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) 878-0367 wM

#### Visual Basic -- Beginning

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

#### Visual Basic -- Advanced

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

#### VRGN Internet Gaming

Al Aliman

#### 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

store. You may also check bookstores near you.

*CorelDRAW 8: The Official Guide*

ISBN: 0-07-882447-8, Authors:  
Foster Coburn and

Peter McCormick

*Corel PHOTO-PAINT 8: The Official Guide*

ISBN: 0-07-882445-1, Author:  
David Huss

*CorelDRAW versions 7 and 8: Studio Techniques*

ISBN: 0-07-882450-8, Authors:  
David Huss & Gary Priester

*Corel PHOTO-PAINT 7: The Official Guide, 2nd Ed.*

ISBN: 0-07-882321-8, Author:  
David Huss

*CorelDRAW 7: The Official Guide*

ISBN: 0-07-882278-5, Authors:  
Foster Coburn and Peter McCormick

*Corel(r) WordPerfect(r) Suite 8 Professional: The Official Guide*

ISBN: 0-007-8824-39-7, Author:  
Alan Neibauer

*Corel VENTURA 7 for Windows: The Official Guide*

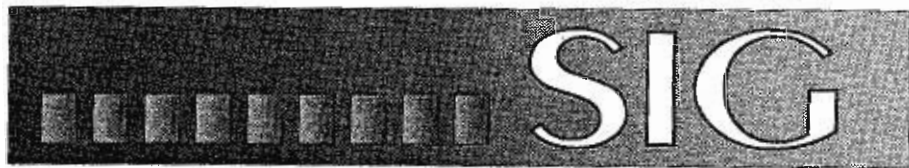
ISBN: 0-07-882169-X, Authors:  
Ed Brown, John Faunce, and Carol Lovelady

*Corel(r) WordPerfect(r) 8 Suite for Windows 95: The Official Guide*

ISBN: 0-07-882327-7, Author:  
Alan Neibauer

*Web Publishing with Corel(r) WordPerfect(r) Suite: The Official Guide*

ISBN: 0-07-882348-X, Author: Jeff Hadfield



**Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG**

- ❖ Aug/97 - WebMaster Suite, Lumiere and Click & Create
- ❖ Sep/97 - Presentations 8
- ❖ Oct/97 - Font Management and Acrobat
- ❖ Nov/97 - Customizing CorelDRAW 7
- ❖ Dec/97 - CorelDRAW 8 Launch by Corel Corp.
- ❖ Jan/98 - Roundtable Discussion
- ❖ Feb/98 - Inkjet Desktop Printing Papers by Red River Paper Co.
- ❖ Mar/98 - DRAW 8 Tips & Tricks
- ❖ Apr/98 - Web Page Design Tips & Trends
- ❖ May/98 - Member Showcase
- ❖ Jun/98 - Graphics Computer Trends Discussion
- ❖ Jul/98 - Digital Cameras

*Marsha Drebelbis*

**DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG**

Where do we go from here? Since I've "X'd-out" *Windows 98* for the present, will I bite on OSR 2.5? Good question since I didn't even know there was a 2.5 version of the Win95 OEM pack, and worse yet, I have no idea what 2.5 would do for me. Hell, I'm not even sure what Win98 would do for me.

I'm pretty sure it wouldn't do that much (that I'm interested in.)

What does/did grab my attention was response to my "Survive the heat" bit last month. (The issue members received after the meeting.) Got a lot of E-mail from users who

have been bitten by the commercial building bug. Seems a lot of office buildings turn off the air conditioning (A/C) over the weekend and office workers return on Mondays to systems that have frozen or "hung" from heat-related problems.

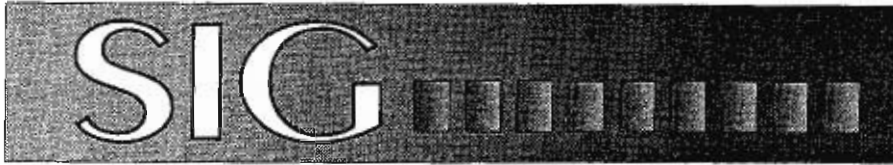
Heat problems are compounded by line-voltage problems resulting from the immense current demands of A/C units in homes and offices during these hot Texas days. When current demands become too high, line voltage drops, causing many peripherals to malfunction — even if the CPU/main system doesn't.

Solution is voltage regulators between critical items/peripherals and the wall sockets. Most uninterruptible power supplies (UPS's) also provide line conditioning and voltage regulation, and are quite facile in handling such problems. They're great for a single user, but may be a tad too expensive when 1000 users are considered. Glad I'm not in the MIS business during this summer!

Several members at the July DOS/Operating Systems SIG meeting reminded me that lots of PC's now have filters on their ventilation systems and these need periodic cleaning in addition to other precautions I mentioned last month. That's especially true if there are family pets such as dogs and cats in the area that may "shed" and contribute to early filter clogging. Jim Hoisington, SIG Co-leader, added that humidity lev-







els are lower than usual and "static electricity" problems have become a concern as well. He suggested using an anti-static spray in computer areas when users were experiencing otherwise undiagnosable "ghosts and gremlins."

Come to the DOS/Operating Systems SIG in August. Perhaps it will have rained — and cooled-off by then — and we can all share PC horror stories. Be careful though, I understand that the C/PM crazies have been permitted back in the building and are planning a mass protest against all other disk operating systems developed after 1982.

*Reagan Andrews*

### **INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING**

Our June and July meetings were general **Question and Answer** sessions. A lot of good questions came up, and a lot of good topics were suggested for the future.

One item touched on was **mailing lists**. Mailing lists are a function of **list servers**, which are special programs that relay incoming messages to all its "members". As an Internet user, you can generally join a mailing list by sending a mail message to the mailing list's associated list server. By doing so, you become a member.

The format of your enrollment mail message can vary, as there are a few different list servers. But generally, the results are the same. Once you have joined, every mail message sent to the list is relayed to you and all other members. If you reply to a message you received, it too is generally relayed to all members.

How are mailing lists used? They help disseminate information on

one or more related subjects to persons interested in the subject(s). For instance, I recently needed some information on how to repair the gas tank on my 15 year old sports car, which I intend to keep at least another 5 years. Repair manuals didn't provide enough information, and advice from local dealers was inadequate. In doing searches across the Internet, I came across references to a mailing list whose topic related to my model of car. I "joined", and began receiving messages sent to this list by others on a variety of issues for my model of car.

I sent my question to the list, and it was relayed to all the list's members. By the following day, I had at least one response, and as I had more questions, I repeated the process. Within a week, I had several ideas on how to extract the gas tank, get it repaired, etc. In some cases, where I didn't want to burden the whole "list" with minor items, I just requested clarification directly from the person that had answered my question through the list.

There are hundreds of lists, but there is no central repository that lists them. Finding them is "hit and miss." **At the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will look at mailing lists more closely** – how to find them, how to join, and some different ways you can receive the data.

We are always looking for feedback as to what our members want to see presented. This is an ongoing request. We encourage you to contact Doug Gorrie (dgorrie@on-ramp.net) with whatever thoughts you may have.

The ongoing purpose of the Beginning Internet SIG is to improve your understanding of the Internet.

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

See you August 15<sup>th</sup> !!

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

### **INTERNET SIG - ADVANCED**

Don't forget that we are always looking for additional assistants for the Beginning and Advanced Internet SIGs. Many of you probably have Internet and/or Web experience, or have access to speakers within your firm that could be persuaded to volunteer some time. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

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

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

We encourage you to join with us August 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Tom O'Keefe & Doug Gorrie,  
with ongoing assistance by  
Bruce DeGrasse*

## INTERNET — Web Developers SIG

### August Meeting

Due to difficulty with the overhead projector and other technical problems, we were only able to cover a small part of the Frames topic during the July meeting. Coverage of Frames began at the June meeting and will continue in August.

Frames are a technology introduced by Netscape in their 2.0 browser. Now a standard, Frames allow an HTML programmer to divide the browser window into multiple, independent sections. Frames are most commonly used to set aside content menus and other navigational tools so that they remain usable when viewing any other part of a Web page.

In August, we'll cover the <FRAME> tag, its attributes, and how to target "named" frames with links. This will finish up FRAMES. A copy of the Word 97 document we're using to cover frames is available at the Web Developers page in the SIG section on the NTPCUG Web site, .

### September and October Meetings

In September and October, we'll present a review of common Perl scripts used by various local Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Many of our members use the scripts to provide the backend to a form in their Web sites. Such scripts are usually used to take the data entered into a form and turn it into an E-mail message.

Most ISP's are unwilling to let users simply upload Perl scripts into their Web servers, and because most of our members do not want the work and cost of maintaining a Web server. The answer is a "trusted script" written by either the ISP or another Perl coder and loaded onto the ISP's Web server.



We're going to poll local ISPs and find out what "trusted scripts" they already have loaded and accessible to users. We'll go over these scripts and how to configure your front-end form to work properly with them.

*Mark Camp & 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.

### WHAT HAPPENS AT THE INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG?

A hearty thanks to Dr. Reagan Andrews for presenting the final episode in the 16-class series in June. Reagan brought his very own crystal ball and before long had all in attendance using their crystal balls for PCs into the 21st Century.

There were no classes in July. We will be starting the entire series over starting with the August meeting.

It has been my pleasure to have served as your leader for the Introduction to the PC SIG. I have now worked all sixteen sessions and am ready for following up with the next group of sixteen.

During this period I had solicited written comments of the participants' opinions concerning each of the presentations. We will make every effort (that we can afford) to incorporate your welcome suggestions and to continue to improve your understandings of the basics of PC computing.

When we started personal computing in offices and homes around twenty

August 15, 1998

- ❖ 9:00 Class 1  
Introduction to the PC
- ❖ 10:00 Class 2  
A Lot About Files & Directories
- ❖ Noon Class 3  
(DOS) Disk Operating Systems
- ❖ 1:00 Class 4  
MS Windows

September 12, 1998

- ❖ 9:00 Class 5  
PC Graphics
- ❖ 10:00 Class 6  
Word Processing

years ago, we needed to know much more about hardware and software than we are required to today. Our beginning days led to understanding and buying new hardware components and plug-ins and using BASIC computer language for writing a program to fulfill our needs. In today's world, our machines have become more sophisticated and there are literally thousands of choices for application software available. Our new needs extend more than ever into identifying what is available (and for how much) so we can start using it.

To insert an analogy associating PCs with automobiles, almost every one of us drives an automobile today. Who is to say that knowing how to change a flat tire isn't "more" important, especially when you find yourself 20+ miles away in a deserted area, in pouring down cold rain, wintry darkness has set in, gusty winds blowing, and damaged tire is submerged in a puddle of mud. Oh yes, we don't have a cellular phone with

Continued on next page.



❖ Noon Class 7  
Spreadsheets and Databases

❖ 1:00 Class 8  
Modems/Telecommunications

October 17, 1998

❖ 9:00 Class 9  
PC Hardware

❖ 10:00 Class 10  
PC Printers

❖ Noon Class 11  
Quicken/Money

❖ 1:00 Class 12  
Networks and Such

November 14, 1998\*

❖ 9:00 Class 13  
Neat and Necessary Software

❖ 10:00 Class 14  
Multimedia Software & Hardware

❖ Noon Class 15  
Virus and Protection Programs

❖ 1:00 Class 16  
PC's Into the 21st Century

December 19, 1998\* - No Classes

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

*Spike Smith*

## WHAT HAPPENS AT THE INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG?

us! It is uncomfortable to say the least. However, being able to take charge and use your knowledge to put on the pumped-up spare has saved you. As with your PC, a little knowledge of the basic hardware and software can help prevent disasters from arising or becoming worse, and to allow you to more or less gracefully recover and continue to enjoy.

Our attendees for the introduction programs has averaged about 50/50 percent members and guests. Their main responses to the questionnaires are as follows:

### Best Parts

- Converting complex issues into understandable examples
- Explaining the basics
- Informative handouts
- Desired Improvements
- Live demonstrations
- Use more overhead transparencies
- Need longer classes

As an engineer, I would like to have every class four hours long, every participant having his own computer, and everyone familiar with prerequisites and to do their homework assignments. On the practical side, I am pleased with the repeat attendees and also for those who dropped in for specific subjects.

In the next series of sixteen one-hour classes, you may look forward to more on the basics, analogies, increased transparencies, and informative handouts for home study. Newer operating systems, new technologies, and home and office networking will be discovered. Members are encouraged to join intermediate and advanced SIGs of their choice when they become familiar with the overall systems. Enjoy and share your computing with NTPCUG.

*Harold (Spike) Smith NCE*  
SIG Leader, Introduction to the PC  
[www.ntpcug.org/sigs/intro\\_pc/](http://www.ntpcug.org/sigs/intro_pc/)  
[www.altinet.net/~spike/tutorial.htm](http://www.altinet.net/~spike/tutorial.htm)

## JAVA SIG

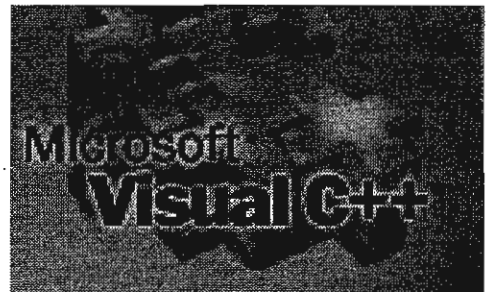
In this meeting we discussed the Java 1.1 Plug-in, previously known as Java Activator. Don Benish was the meeting presenter today with the discussion and demo of the plug-in. Don showed us examples of Java applets written in 1.1 and how they would fail in browsers because of older versions of the Java VM. Then he ran an HTML conversion utility to convert the HTML with the APPLET tag to use the Java Plug-in. He showed how it would resolve the JDK 1.1 class incompatibility in the older browsers. By viewing the converted HTML, he showed us how it would support the Netscape and IE versions of the browsers. The group also discussed issues using the plug-in and future considerations. We also discussed the JavaBean contest for the next meeting, where we will have prizes for the best JavaBeans.

Next meeting I will demonstrate some new exciting JavaBeans that I have found. Also we will discuss the new IBM Visual Age 2.0 IDE that was released in beta. We also discussed the upcoming meetings that will include Servlets, Enterprise JavaBeans, Swing, and Java vendor presentations.

*Kevin Starrett*  
[kstar@anet-dfw.com](mailto:kstar@anet-dfw.com)  
[webusers.anet-dfw.com/~kstar/javasig.html](http://webusers.anet-dfw.com/~kstar/javasig.html)

## MICROSOFT VISUAL C++/MFC SIG

In July, we began our study of the ActiveX Template Library, or ATL. In August, Rick Sivernell will ex-



pand on the previous meeting by showing us how to build NT Services using ATL.

In Windows NT, a service is a type of executable that gets special treatment from the operating system. The simplest definition of an NT service is "an executable program that's controlled, started, stopped, and paused with the service control manager." A service looks and smells just like a regular EXE program.

The services architecture also offers an attractive solution when you need an application to:

- ❖ Start when the operating system boots up even if no user is logged on.
- ❖ Start and stop the process remotely by authorized personnel such as domain administrators.
- ❖ Log on with an account in order to access domain resources with integrated security. Examples of these resources include Microsoft Exchange Server mailbox agents and data collection processes.

ATL makes writing NT services simple. Please join us and open up a whole new world of application development.

*D. Wade Emmert  
emmert@airmail.net*

## OS/2 SIG

The OS/2 SIG meets monthly on Users Group Saturday at the Infomart in the main Auditorium.

Meeting time is from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. An introductory to OS/2

**OS/2 WARP  
Server**



is offered from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for all who are interest in an alternative True 32bit, Truly Multithreaded, Truly multitasking Operating System with the best Java support.

### Agenda:

SIG Support is priority!

Informing members about OS/2's continued development.

Advances in the latest Java Technology.

OS/2's JIT Compiler is 40% faster than all other

Platforms on the planet.

Presenting the latest in Hardware and Software advances.

### Meeting Format:

10 Minutes: Latest OS/2 news and updates.

10 Minutes: Introduction of any problems by SIG attendees.

10 Minutes: Discussion of cool wares members have found.

30 Minutes: Special Guest Speaker(s).

05 Minutes: Break

45 Minutes: Continued - Special Guest Speaker(s).

15 Minutes: Q&A.

05 Minutes: Product Raffle



### The OS/2 SIG supports the following:

The Java Lobby:  
<http://www.javalobby.org>

Warp Stock: <http://www.warp-stock.org>.

Team Warp:  
<http://www.ionet.net/~colin/rc5.html>

The race to break the 64 bit key.

The RSA Data Security Secret-Key Challenge

### Contact Information:

Web Site: <http://www.dfwos2.org>  
E-Mail: [dfw.os2@usa.net](mailto:dfw.os2@usa.net)

SIG Leader: Rob Couch  
( [rob.couch@usa.net](mailto:rob.couch@usa.net) )

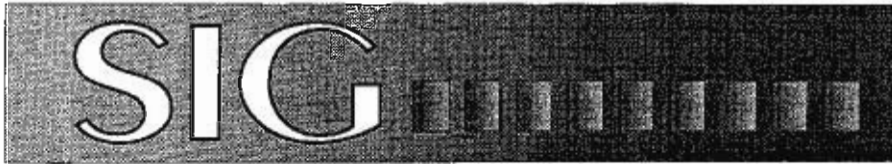
Assistant SIG: Gerald Meazell

Mike Persell

*Rob Couch  
rob.couch@usa.net*

### Pro SIG

With consolidation sweeping the industry, it's hard to remember who is currently responsible for your hardware and software. One of the Pro SIG members suggested that by the end of the millenium, we'll only have one number to call and that number will be in area code 206.



Join us next time when we try to guess which three companies will still be making PC's on January 1, 1999.

*Jim Hoisington*

## SPREADSHEET/SPREADSHEET DEVELOPERS SIG

The July meeting featured the development of a spreadsheet to calculate accrued cumulative interest based on the prime rate plus a percentage. Since the rate changes over the time that the interest is accumulating, the project required extensive use of lookup functions. The functions covered during the discussion were MATCH, INDEX, and VLOOKUP. We have had several questions relating to long nested IF functions in recent months. These can often be simplified by use of a lookup functions into a table. The spreadsheet was uploaded to the Spreadsheet conference on the NTPCUG BBS.

Next month we will demonstrate how to convert the spreadsheet into a user-defined function. This will greatly simplify the layout and complexity of the sheet.

### How Safe Are Your "Protected" Spreadsheets?

A recent discussion on a list server featured the fact that formulas on protected cells on a sheet can be altered by Cut & Paste or by Drag&Drop of unprotected cells. As an example, enter the formula A1+B1 into cell C1. Copy down C1 to C10. Unlock range A1:B10. Protect sheet. Now cut cell A1 and paste into any other cell in range A1:C10. The formula in "protected" cell C1 has been changed.

My solution to the problem was to disable all "Drag&Drop" and "Cut"

features from the spreadsheet as follows:

1. Disable "Allow Cell Drag & Drop" on the "Edit" tab of the "Options" item under the "Tools" menu or with the visual basic command:

```
Application.CellDragAndDrop = False
```

2. Remove the "Cut" item in the "Edit" menu of the "Worksheet" menu bar using the menu editor or with the visual basic command:

```
Application.MenuBars(xiWorksheet).Menu("Edit").MenuItems("Cut&t").Delete
```

3. Remove the "Cut" item in the "Worksheet Cell" menu of the "Shortcut Menus 1" menu bar using the menu editor or with the visual basic command:

```
Application.ShortcutMenus(xiWorksheetCell).MenuItems("Cut").Delete
```

4. Disable the shortcut key "Ctrl-X" with the visual basic command:

```
Application.OnKey "^x", ""
```

These commands can be placed in an AutoOpen macro to protect the sheet.

Another member of the list made an irate call to Microsoft about the problem and was told that is the way the Cut&Paste is supposed to work. They suggested that an INDIRECT reference be used in all formulas that reference non-protected cells. For example the formula

in C1 should be changed to

```
=INDIRECT("A1") + INDIRECT("B1")
```

The problem with this approach is that if you copy the formula in C1 down, the quoted strings in each formula must be manually edited.

I found a better solution to the above problem using the OFFSET function:

```
=OFFSET(C1,0,-2) + OFFSET(C1,0,-1)
```

or

```
=A:A + B:B
```

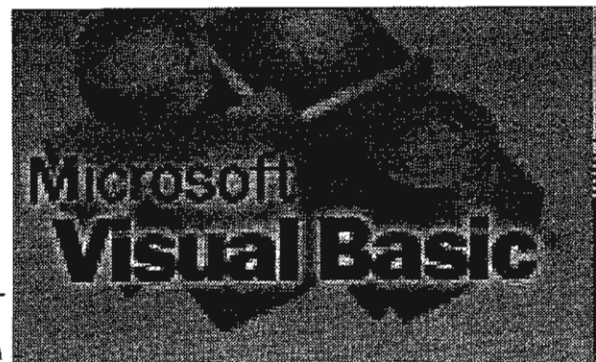
These two forms of the formula can be copied down in column "C" and will not be altered by the Cut&Paste or Drag&Drop operations.

*Eb Foerster*

## Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The August meeting scheduled for August 15, 1998 will be our semiannual meeting entitled "For Beginners Only" and will emphasize the resources available to a beginning programmer in Visual Basic. This presentation is updated and given each August and February to help beginning programmers get started in Visual Basic.

We will be discussing Visual Basic 5.0 in general, and the new Visual





Basic 6.0 briefly. The major topics of the presentation will include a brief history of Visual Basic, descriptions of resources available for beginners in Visual Basic, an introduction to the Windows environment, discussion of Visual Basic 5.0, and demonstration of the integrated development environment (IDE) that is a part of Visual Basic 5.0. Sample programs will be run on the NTPCUG computer projection system if it (or a suitable alternative) is available. Everyone is welcome to attend, of course. If you have a friend, relative, neighbor, etc. who would like to see what Visual Basic is about, this meeting would be an ideal one for them to attend. This would be a great opportunity for you to introduce the NTPCUG to a potential new member.

Last month, we discussed some of the new features expected to be in Visual Basic 6.0 which is scheduled to be released on September 2, 1998. We will take another look at Visual Basic 6.0 at the September meeting.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, August 15, 1998 at the Infomart. Check the projection screens in the vendor area on the first floor for the correct room assignments. I look forward to meeting you this month.

*Jim Carter*

## Visual Basic SIG - Advanced

Seems everyone is still very interested in the new features of Visual Basic 6.0. So I thought I would list another five new features.

**1. Data Form Wizard Enhancements** - Now gives you the ability to build code-only forms where controls are not bound to a data control (unless you want it to). It also allows you to use ADO as your data access mechanism. The wizard also integrates with the Ap-



plication, Chart, and FlexGrid wizards.

**2. Enhanced Data Binding** - In previous versions of Visual Basic, it was only possible to bind controls together on a form. In Visual Basic 6.0, it is possible to bind any ADO/OLE DB data source to any ADO/OLE DB data consumer. You can set the datasource property of controls at runtime to dynamically bind to data sources. You can create classes that are data sources and consumers, and bind them through the new BindingCollection object. You can create user controls that are data sources, similar to the ADO data control or create user controls that are complex-bound, similar to the DataGrid control.

**3. Data Object Wizard** - Automates creating middle-tier objects bound to the Data Environment or UserControl.

**4. Array Enhancements** - Procedures can now return arrays, which means that classes can have arrays as properties. You can also assign the entire contents of one array to another array, as long as the array on the left side of the assignment is a dynamic array.

**5. File System Objects** - Offers a streamlined set of routines to traverse the file system and create text files and directories.

These features are currently listed for the beta which means that it is possible they may or may not make it to the final product. I have been playing around with it and I must say that it looks like Microsoft has definitely figured out that the average Visual Basic programmer wants more tools to deal with data access. Microsoft is making it easier for the developer to

create applications or components that interact with databases. Good move, Microsoft.

## DevDays 98

DevDays 98, a global event hosted locally in more than 120 cities worldwide, will be held here on Wed., Sept 2nd. This year's event will feature a keynote by Bill Gates and in-depth product sessions on Visual Studio 6.0 and its component products: the Visual Basic development system 6.0, the Visual C++ development system 6.0, the Visual FoxPro database development system 6.0, the Visual InterDev Web development system 6.0, the Visual J++ development system for Java 6.0, as well as Microsoft Office programmability, featuring Visual Basic for Applications. DevDays 98 is expected to be the largest developer event ever, exceeding last year's worldwide record attendance of 64,000.

If you are interested in going for free, you can volunteer to help out at the one-day conference. You will help attendees check in and you will be responsible to man the check-in tables for one session. That way you will be able to see two other sessions (I suggest you see the Visual Basic session since I will be presenting it!). Also, only to volunteers, there will be software giveaways such as Visual Studio 6.0. Can't beat that! I will be passing out a list for those who would like to volunteer at the August presentation or you can send me an e-mail and I will add you to the list.

## Simplify your Life

An interesting question I am often asked is "How do you know all this stuff about Visual Basic?" Well, I must make a confession. I

# SIG

do not know everything there is to know about Visual Basic. If there is someone who does, please have them contact me so I can shake their hand. Since Visual Basic 3.0, each new version has added quite a few new functions. With Visual Basic 6.0, there is no exception to that rule. It is becoming very hard to be proficient at every new Visual Basic technology thrown at us. Here is a list of just a few:

DAO  
ActiveX Data Objects  
ActiveX DLL  
ActiveX Controls  
ActiveX Designers  
Classes and Objects  
RDO  
COM  
MTS  
Windows DNA

Notice I have not even mentioned the Visual Basic language itself! So what can the Visual Basic enthusiast do so that they are not drowning in a sea of technology barely keeping afloat?

Three words, simplify, prioritize and organize. The great thing about these words is that they apply to life as well (but that discussion is for a different type of group...hmmm, maybe not). I am going to give you a crash course 3-step method for keeping up on Visual Basic technology.

**Simplify.** One of the problems I had when I first started developing was understanding what everything was in Visual Basic. "What is the difference between ActiveX, OLE, and COM?" I would ask myself. So instead of trying to learn the low-level stuff about interfaces and marshalling, I just try to understand the concepts. Then when you are ready to apply the concepts, then you will need to know how to implement them. "So Thomas, how can you make good decisions on technology if you don't know every working piece?" you may ask. My answer is that you do not know. That is what design time is for, you find out if you can apply the technology. So if you simplify technologies and know when to apply them and what are they used for, then you can make a better decision on whether to apply them or not. Simply know what the technology can do, this will keep you from getting overwhelmed.

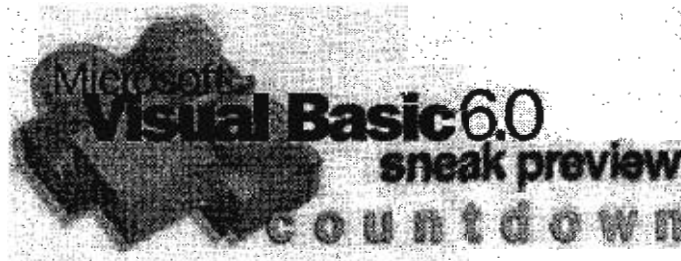
**Prioritize.** When I first began reading the *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal*, I read just about every article. How much of it did I retain -- probably 5%. This does not help you to become a better well-rounded Visual Basic developer! So now what I do is I decide which articles interest me and which articles I need to overview so that I am aware of a new technology or way

of doing something. For example, I do not completely read articles about ActiveX Documents because I do not use them that often. (Only once, and during the design phase we decided that we

would go with ASP instead.) I will read the first three paragraphs to understand the author's intent and stop. If I were to read it through, I would just load up on information I do not need at the time. This is a good way to keep from getting information overload but being aware of tools and techniques available to you. Then, when you decide to do a project including ActiveX Documents you might think, "Yes, I know that I can apply them in this manner and there is an article I can refer back to on how to implement them effectively." This way you are not just reading something that will be forgotten the next day. If you prioritize the information that you read, you have in-depth knowledge of that which is important to you now, and knowledge of different technologies that you can apply in the future.

**Organize.** Magazine articles are great, but how good of a tool is it if you cannot reuse it? I do not know how many developers, when getting ready to attack a new technology, go out and buy a book on the subject when there are articles that all ready cover it pretty well. Those magazines just sit in the corner of the office collecting dust. I suggest you create a database of articles that you can search on or get the end-of-year CD that most magazines offer so you can search the CD when looking for articles. The *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal* has a Web site where you can search for an article by keyword or subject. So when I am about to use a technology such as Microsoft Transaction Server for a project, I can look up the articles written about it and refer back to them. Talk about tool reuse!

I am not saying this is the best way for everyone to keep up with what is going on in Visual Basic, but it works for me. I would be very interested if anyone else has a way they keep abreast of all the new Visual Basic technology and hope you would share your strategy with us at the next presentation.





**Next Time**

At the August presentation, we will be discussing ActiveX Designers. I will also have a way for you to get a ActiveX Reporting Designer for free! So I hope to see you there.

*Thomas Lewis  
Aliensite@msn.com*

**WORDPERFECT/WINDOWS SIG**

At this month's meeting we are going to hash out a debate that I hear of often. "Which should I use, Tabs or Tables, and what is the difference?" Well, we are going to answer those questions, or at least make the issue more clear so you can decide which you would prefer to use. We will go over the advantages of using the Ruler Bar and the Tab Dialogue Box, create a basic table, and show you the secret of making a table "appear" to be tabs.

**So... WHAT HAPPENED TO MY NEWSLETTER LAST MONTH?**

If you really want to know what happened to the July PC News, here's the "short version." We got the issue to the printers on **June 29** and finished copies were taken to the Post Office **July 2** by our mailing service.

Connie and I received our mailed copies on **July 20**, two days after the July 18th NTPCUG meeting. Other members received theirs at about the same time. Conversation with Postal supervisors resulted in no information, just claims that delivery dates are not confirmed for our mailing class.

My best guess is that they were probably ignored for 10 days - two weeks by the PO.

*Reagan Andrews*



There are also new features and differences between using the table feature in WordPerfect 6.0 and the latest version of Corel WordPerfect 8.0. In 8.0, we also have a few really cool features for tables. For example, you can draw diagonal lines, split and join cells easier than ever, change the line formatting directly from the tool bar. You no longer "have to" go to the Borders/Fill dialog box.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Cindy Adams*

**Tip of the Month – Unusual Reveal Codes**

These are the codes that just "appear" in Reveal Codes.

**[Dorm HRT] ... Dormant Hard Return**

This code appears at the top of a page when the first line would have been a blank line. WordPerfect assumes you will not want a blank line at the top of the page, and thus, replaces the [HRT] code with a [Dorm HRT]. This hides the blank line, causing the remaining text on the page to move up one line.

**[Ignore:...]**

This code indicates that the code no longer makes sense and is therefore being ignored. If you used a unique font which was available to the computer when you created it, then opened the document on a different computer which did not have access to that unique font, the name of the unique font will be shown after [Ignore]. Another example is if you add bolding to a

font that was already bolded, you will see [Ignore:Bold]

**[TSRt] ... Temporary Code**

This is used to break text that would not fit within the margins. For instance, this occurs when you have typed a word that was too long to fit within a narrow column. The word will be made to fit, but will not include hyphenation. If the column is widened to allow the word to fit, the [TSRt] code disappears.



**[Unknown]**

This indicates a code that was created in another version of WordPerfect or in another word processing program. WordPerfect can't interpret the code, but leaves it in as "Unknown." If you open the document in the original word processor's format, the [Unknown] code will usually convert back to its original code.

*Diane Bentley*

# INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

### Dynamite in a small package

It is no news flash, that it takes many kinds of people and talents to put on a production like the North Texas PC Users Group Saturday event. One of those talented people is **Connie Andrews**. She arrives at the Information Booth early on meeting day and checks to see if everything looks in order. Her uncanny ability to spot a problem before it becomes too big to squelch is priceless. She might take time to help a new visitor with their application for membership. Then she's off to contribute to one of the nine concurrently running SIG groups. After that, it is a quick check at the Info Booth to pick up and drop off any messages as the morning events lurch into the second and third hour of activity. She will then hurry off to take raffle tickets to the Auditorium, or extra copies of the NTPCUG News to a word processor SIG. Connie is a ready volunteer for any of the thousand and one final touches and last minute tasks that must be handled to keep the wheels from coming off.

Connie's afternoon is usually spent preparing the statistics report of registration and membership for the officer's board meeting. That report is the first link in the

chain of events that guarantees each of us will have a membership card and the benefits that go with it. It wouldn't be too unusual to see her walking the Vendor Market area, later in the day, taking an unofficial audit of the floor activity.

Connie may leave the Saturday meeting with the rest of us, but her work is not over. She will also put in many hours every month working on this NTPCUG newsletter, and frequently calls late contributors to get their articles in for publishing.

Thanks to you, Connie, for being such a terrific volunteer. I don't know how we would ever get along without you. You set the standard for volunteering, and challenge the rest of us to do more.

Thanks to SIG leaders and other knowledgeable members without whom the NTPCUG would not be the same. Thanks to other volunteers who help during the monthly meeting. Many volunteers' names are mentioned below. Thanks to the officers and leaders who plan and guide the direction of the NTPCUG. Thanks for the high points of the meeting listed in this month's Newsletter.

#### Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus  
Robert Hilliard  
Alex Lilley

Jim Delaney  
Mark Guyer  
James Guyer  
Neal Van Pelt  
Janet Ward  
Robert Whiteside  
Peyton Weaver  
Jim Lubnicwski

#### Vendor Setup/ Breakdown

Anchor:  
David Slavik  
Kenneth Berg  
Dick Abbott  
Crew:  
Allen Drake

**Auditorium  
Presentations**  
Timothy Carmichael

Chris Jung  
Christopher Carmichael

#### Newsletter Labels

Charlie Fernandez

#### Information/ Registration Booth

Statistician:  
Connie Andrews  
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:  
Bob Wuller

Deborah Bean  
Glynn Brooks  
Randy Durham  
Tim Foster  
James Gorak  
Herbert Gross  
Neil Jochelson  
Steve Martinson  
John McNeil  
Carl Oehmann  
Raymond Reyes  
Ken Sauter  
Carol Tu  
Janet Ward

Anchor:  
Vernon Cates  
Albert Champon  
Hank Holt  
Cinda Lovil (Double)  
David Martin  
Bob McNeil (Double)  
Foy J. Mills  
Fred Toulmin  
Paul Williams  
Matt Williams

Booth Crew:  
Al Aston



### 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)

**Information Booth and General Information**

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

# NTPCUG User - To - User Program

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
<b>Access</b>				<b>Excel</b>			
	Ram Bhandari .....	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700		Warrington Williams.....	(214)348-6869	M-F 1800-2100
<b>Assembly Language</b>					.....		S&S 0900-2100
	Frank Cavallito .....	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200	<b>Hardware Help</b>			
	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200		Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
<b>BASIC</b>				<b>Internet - General</b>			
<b>Beginner Problems</b>					Erik Leaseburg .....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000		David Martin .....	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
<b>Brother's Keeper</b>				<b>Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)</b>			
	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200		Bob Wilson .....	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
<b>C++ (the language)</b>					.....		S-S 1000-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	<b>JavaScript</b>			
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100		Don Benish.....	(972)705-9512	M-F 1900-2200
<b>CA Clipper</b>					.....		S-S 0900-2100
	Richard Mitchell.....	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100	<b>LANs — Novell</b>			
	.....		SS 0900-2300		Joseph Beasley.....	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
<b>CorelDraw</b>				<b>— Lantastic</b>			
	Linda Hume.....	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200		Joseph Beasley.....	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	.....		S-S 1300-2200	<b>Managing Your Money</b>			
<b>Batch Files</b>					Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Charles Miller .....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	<b>Modems</b>			
<b>Borland C++</b>					Erik Leaseburg .....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	<b>MathCAD</b>			
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100		Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
<b>Borland Turbo C</b>				<b>Norton Utilities</b>			
	John Keohane .....	(972)690-8092	7 1900-2100		John Dyer .....	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
<b>CompuServe</b>				<b>OS/2</b>			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Larry Truesdale .....	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
<b>DOS</b>				<b>PC Tools/Win</b>			
	Bob Russell .....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
	Erik Leaseburg .....	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200	<b>Paradox</b>			
<b>DR DOS</b>					Fred Williams.....	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
	Ralph Beaver .....	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700				
	.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100				



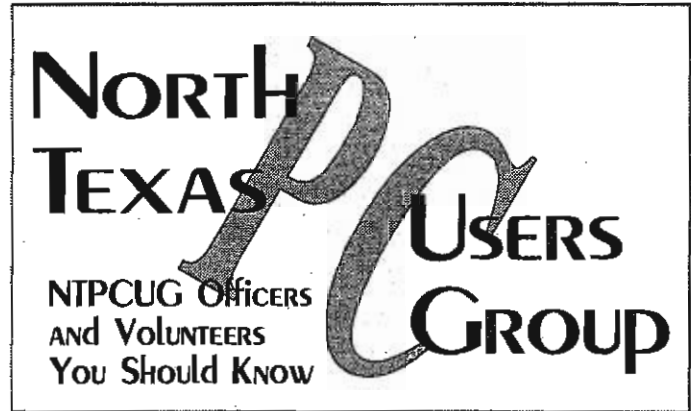
# North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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



## North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

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

## NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

## NTPCUG 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

Address Changes, etc...  
Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

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

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

## NTPCUG Officers

President	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	Wade Emmert	(214) 740-3164 w
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(972) 492-1315
DFW Xchange	Information	(214) 746-3365 <a href="http://www.dfwxchange.com">www.dfwxchange.com</a>

## Members Emeritus

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**Phil Chamberlain** **Jim Hoisington**  
**David McGehee** **Stuart Yarus**  
**Tom Prickett** **Connie Andrews**  
**Kathryn Loafman** **Reagan Andrews**  
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## *North Texas PC Users Group*

*Next Meeting:*  
**15 August 1998**

