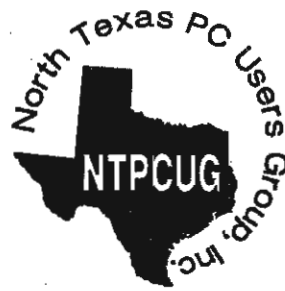


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PC NEWS

September, 1998

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All advertising and other material for publication in North Texas PC NEWS must be received by the NEWS staff by the 15th of the month prior to publication unless otherwise listed. See deadline information below.

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DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for October
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, September 23rd**

Meeting Dates:

**September 12 – 2nd Saturday
October 17 – 3rd Saturday
November 14 – 2nd Saturday**

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Submit Newsletter articles to: 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.

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . . *TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL*

SEPTEMBER 12

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM E-commerce for Small Business: Use Your e.go

Encanto Networks (www.encanto.com)

Mr. John Rush, Encanto System Engineer

Encanto Networks presents the first complete Internet solution for small business that includes e-commerce capabilities. e.go Commerce web server is an all-in-one hardware, software, email and Internet access package. Web page and storebuilder templates help merchants establish an electronic presence. Commerce software lets companies accept secure credit card payments over the Internet. Multiple email accounts are managed by an SMTP/POP3 server. Reasonably priced, e.go Commerce allows small businesses to start making money on the web - fast! There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM Alps Micro Dry Printers: Seeing is Believing

Alps Electric (www.alpsusa.com)

Bobby Thomas, Field Marketing Supervisor

The Alps line of Micro Dry printers is unique, offering full-color printing with inks that are fade proof, waterproof, and smear proof. There are some models which can print at resolutions up to 1200 dpi and have a white ink capability. One model is a dye sublimation printer, printing photographic images at 600 dpi. Come see what Alps printers can offer you. There will be a drawing for two free printers. *

11:00 AM - 11:55 AM Presenting With Power

Data Projections, Inc. (www.dpict.com)

Starr Alvarez, Senior Account Manager and Nancy Ducole, Presentation Specialist

Do you ever leave a presentation feeling that your audience didn't get your message? Learn how to get the results you want out of every presentation you give. In this exciting seminar, you'll learn how to make your audience sit up and take notice! We'll show you how presenting without a podium, using key body angles and incorporating gestures can make you a more effective presenter. We'll also discuss the logistics of setting up the room for a presentation as well as the latest presentation technology. Join us for an exciting session you'll never forget! There will be a drawing for free products. *

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

SIGs NTPCUG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:55
Internet - WEB Developers
Microsoft Networking
Visual BASIC - Beginning
MultiMedia

8:00 - 9:55
Hardware Solutions

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

9:00 - 10:55
Dallas Corel

10:00 - 10:55
ACTI
CAD
Emerging Technologies
Fox Pro Database
Networking
Internet-Beginning
Introduction to the PC
PAF-Genealogy
WordPerfect for Windows
UNIX

11:00 - 11:30
Business Meeting

11:00 - 11:55
Assembly Language
Family Tree Maker

11:00 - 11:55 Ctd.
CAD (Cont.)
Investors
Micrografx
Microsoft FrontPage
Paradox
Ultimate Family Tree
Spreadsheets
Microsoft Visual C++/MFC

11:30 - 12:00
NTPCUG Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
Access
Alpha Four
Communications
Desktop Publishing
Introduction to the PC
Java
The Master Genealogist

12:00 - 1:55
VRGN Internet Gaming

1:00 - 1:55
ActiveX Developers
Business Apps./DAC Easy

Introduction to the PC
Lotus Notes & Domino

QuickBooks

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers

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

USER GROUP MEETING PLACE - 1999

I am optimistic that we will have good news about a meeting place for 1999 by the September business meeting. Just in case we do not, several members requested that I provide a summary of the space requirements and possible meeting places to stimulate thought, and action on the part of our membership.

Ideal Facility (WHAT WE HAVE NOW)

Second Choice

User Groups - 10 classrooms seating up to 50 people and 2-4 rooms that will seat up to 100 people. Available one Saturday per month. Cost - minimal

Vendor Area - 40,000 - 60,000 sq. ft. hall with heating and air conditioning with access to tables for vendors. Available one Saturday per month.

Next Choice

User Groups - One 2,000-2,500 sq. ft. office/space that we can rent and use all year. The SIGs would meet every night of the month with four SIG's meeting on Saturdays and Sundays. The space should be located in a strip shopping center or a one or two-story office complex where we would have adequate parking for members. Easy evening entry would also be necessary.



Places to consider, that have been considered, or should be considered:

- ❖ Convention Centers - no luck (already booked for most 1999 Saturdays)
- ❖ Community Colleges - no luck (Saturday classes)
- ❖ Large Hotels - they want to fill hotel rooms first
- ❖ If these don't work, then we will start all over with a Commodore 64, an Osborne portable, and a TI994a and meet in Alex Lilley's garage.

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

Beginning in October, there will be a \$3.00 admission charge to the Vendor Area for nonmembers, so please remember to bring your membership card or your newsletter with a current label as proof of membership. Don't leave home without it. New members receive a receipt at the Information Booth which also proves membership.

GENEROUS Gift TO THE USERS GROUP

Member Robert Hilliard, through his employer, Net work Associates, has donated to the Users Group virus and network security software for our new Web and mail server now under development. You can read more about this in the Advanced Internet SIG notes and in the article written by Doug Gorrie elsewhere in this newsletter about the status of this project.

ON THE RADIO

This announcement should have been in last month's newsletter, but I forgot to include it. I was a guest on "Computer Talk," a call-in radio program, after the August User Group meeting. "Computer Talk" can be heard on the Internet, or on 570AM KLIF on Saturday's from 4:00pm-5:00pm. The opportunity to promote the User Group was great. The regular hosts of the program are John Staples of Computer Junction, and Kathleen Weaver, a teacher at Hillcrest High School, with Gail Lightfoot moderating.

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

July 20, 1998

Dear Mr. Oliver & Mr. Williams:

It was fun to be addressed by a Board Member in the July 1998 issue, which I received on Monday after the Saturday meeting.

I can be a member of the greater audience, which I rarely attend anyway, with a refund of my remaining dues in my pocket. My membership # 5429 expires in 4/30/99. So whether I am a trader or an investor or just a plain old tight fisted Scotchman, please refund the balance of my membership dues as of 7/20/98.

Even potatoes have character and when you develop some character, I will rejoin!

Bullishly,

Bullish Bob

Turn on your radio, and if you have a computer question, call in.

Andy Oliver
PREZ Sez ... Ctd.

In Seattle

I attended a User Group Roundtable sponsored by Microsoft in Seattle on August 17-18. Since I am writing this article on August 16, I will fill you in on the meeting in next month's newsletter. [Ed. Note: First installment appears in this issue.]

Andy

Members' Gripes Comments & Opinions
NTPCUG
8

August 22, 1998

Dear Bullish Bob:

When I received your letter, I was, at first, dismayed. As a group where every membership counts, and every member's opinion should be heard, I do not like to lose members. Each month, I look over the membership numbers and work with the Board on ways to boost them.

My next reaction to your letter was, maybe I didn't get the point. So I found my June issue of the NTPCUG News and reread your original letter and then I read Fred's response again, in the July issue. I sometimes disagree with Fred's opinions, but then at some point in time everyone disagrees

ego \ e-go\ n. pl egos[L, I] 1: the self as distinguished from others

e.go \ e-go\ n. pl e.go [L, I] 1. A web server offered by Encanto Networks which gives the small business owner the easiest and most cost effective way to do business on the Internet.

Get out of the dictionary and into doing business on the Internet 1. www.encanto.com 2. 888-362-2686

We look forward to seeing you at your September meeting, Saturday, September 19, 1998 where we will present the Encanto e.go Commerce™ web server



- Easy web site creation
- Secure E-commerce transactions
- E-mail for all your staff
- All-in-one hardware & software solution
- Reach new customers
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networks

WHAT ABOUT THE NEW NTPCUG WINNT (BBS) SERVER, THEN???

For those not aware, NTPCUG has maintained a Bulletin Board System (BBS) for many years. The current iteration is based on TBBS, a once popular program that served many User Groups and businesses well. With the screen layouts and menuing system incorporated into TBBS by Sysop Fred Williams, it provided the e-mail, conferencing and file handling functions NTPCUG needed for information sharing among members.

Alas, with the widespread deployment of the Internet, we (and most other BBS users) found that routine BBS software does not mesh easily with the Internet. The Internet exists and thrives on TCP/IP, a protocol essential to it's operation and success, but which is totally absent in TBBS and most BBS software.

Andy's Response to Bullish Bob... Ctd.

with one of Fred's opinions. However in the July News, Fred was at his most eloquent.

This group has more character than you will ever realize, because you rarely attend a meeting. This group is not about software giveaways, this group is about helping people with their computers and computer software, answering their questions and passing on information. Having character and being a character are two different things.

If you want to see character, attend a SIG meeting where the SIG leader is overcoming numerous physical ailments to teach her SIG because she loves doing it. Attend a SIG where the SIG leader puts in a 60-hour work week and then spends hours preparing to teach what he has just learned himself. Character is in the volunteers who do not get to attend meetings because they are making it possible for others to attend.

If all you want are handouts, get a piece of cardboard, make a sign "NEED WINDOWS '98, WIFE AND KIDS WANT TO USE TWO MONITORS AT ONCE, BLESS YOU", and stand on the street corner. If you need help with a computer question, attend a user group meeting.

Mr. Bagley, your check is in the mail.

Andy Oliver
President
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

Realizing early on the value of e-mail connectivity to the Internet, Fred Williams researched, acquired and installed a workaround that let our members send and receive mail to/from the Internet using our BBS. But as a "kludge", it had limitations that forced certain operational constraints on its users. Although it provides Internet e-mail, the manner of inputting e-mail addresses, and the limits on the size of messages and attached files, made it inefficient as a long term tool.

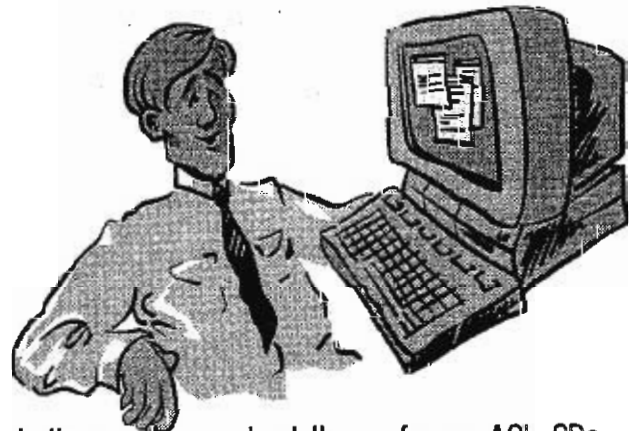
The User Group began pursuing a new Windows NT-based "BBS" many months (eons?) ago. Although we had several members volunteer to assist as a means to learn more about WinNT, we felt we lacked the core level of knowledge and available time (man/hours) that this project would require.

Things began moving when the Microsoft Networking SIG volunteered to champion the project, by getting WinNT and Internet Information Server (IIS) installed and operational, and getting the necessary dial-up and Internet connectivity in place for member use. Content and ongoing management of data would, of course, come from the users in the form of Web pages, conferences, e-mail, etc.

Now how do we stand?

As of this writing (mid-August), WinNT 4.0 and IIS are installed and generally operational. SLmail, an e-mail product of Seattle Lab, has been contributed to us, installed, and found to meet our needs quite well. Seattle Lab is also contributing an NT remote management tool and other software for our use.

Continued on page 6.



Let's see, I've received three of your AOL CDs in the mail and found two more in PC magazines. That means I'll get 500 free hours on AOL, right?

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 the state's largest Internet service provider. To learn more about Verio-Texas' products and services visit www.veriotexas.net.

Q. What is Java?

A. Java is a language developed by Sun Microsystems which allows Web pages to contain code that is executed on the browser. Because Java is based on a single "virtual machine" that all implementations of Java can emulate, it is possible for Java programs to run on any system which has a version of Java. It is also possible for the "virtual machine" emulator to make sure that Java programs downloaded through the Web do not attempt to do unauthorized things.



Actually, Java can be used in absence of the Web, but the application that has sparked so much interest is HotJava, a Web browser written in the Java language. You can learn more about Java and HotJava from Sun's HotJava home page (<http://java.sun.com/>).

Q. What are SLIP and PPP?

A. SLIP (Serial Line Internet Protocol) and PPP (Point to Point Protocol) are two ways of connecting to the Internet over a serial link (modem/ISDN/Frame Relay, etc.) that make the calling computer a node on the Internet for a session. SLIP is the older version of this protocol, and has been superceded by PPP. PPP is a bit more defined, supports negotiation of the connection compression, and is more immune to line problems. Speed and functionality, however remain about the same for both protocols.

Q. Can I catch a virus by looking at a Web page?

A. No. Your computer can, of course, catch a virus if you download an executable program from an untrustworthy site, and then, of your own free will, double click on it in your file manager. This is the same risk you run when downloading programs from bulletin board systems or via anonymous FTP.

Viewing images, filling out forms and so on is harmless. So, most likely, is downloading a program from a respectable source with a reputation to protect.

Verio

Who's VERIO?

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.

VERIO
TEXAS

*Formerly OnRamp, National Knowledge
Networks and Signet Partners*

BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY

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www.veriotexas.net, info@veriotexas.net

1-888-266-7267

NTPCUG BBS Progress... Ctd.

We are still looking for a user-friendly newsgroup product to provide internal conferencing, and to carry selected Usenet newsgroups. While this product may not be needed on Day One, we anticipate having a solution to this need shortly.

An Equinox card has been installed that connects to an 8-port "octopus" cable, and will provide dial-up access to members if needed. Remote Access Service (RAS) will provide connectivity, although alternate, more user-friendly methods continue to be pursued.

Users already having an Internet Service Provider (ISP) will be able to access the NTPCUG mail server and newsgroups directly from the Internet.

Arrangements have been made with our ISP, Verio Texas (formerly Onramp Technologies) to co-locate the new server on their backbone, giving us direct Internet access. Verio has been a supporter of the User Group since their inception 4+ years

ago, and we continue to thank them for that support.

When will the new server be ready?

At the August business meeting, I suggested mid-to-late September (I didn't say what year, though !!).

Initially, our intent is to provide NTPCUG members true Internet-friendly e-mail, as well as *limited* newsgroup (conferencing) access. While our own Web page will be visible on our server, other sites will not be since we are not planning to become a full-fledged ISP. But for \$30/year, can you find a better deal for e-mail *and* User Group membership?

One goal is to ensure that members without an ISP can access such services through dial-up facilities, just as they do today, without having to perform any hardware or software upgrades. While the success of this objective cannot be guaranteed, we think it is feasible.

CONVERSION PLAN

Our overall conversion plan is as follows (subject to change):

- ❖ Notify existing BBS e-mail users of our conversion plan. Request specifics of their current operating system, communications software, modem type and speed, etc. (We are aware that several users are still operating at the DOS level.)
- ❖ Develop, test and disseminate documentation to these users explaining what will be required to access the new server, and assist in resolving any questions/difficulties.
- ❖ Advise current e-mail users of the cut date, make the cut, and debug any residual issues.
- ❖ Open the new server up for general e-mail use by the entire membership.

At the time of the cut, we expect all incoming and outgoing Internet e-mail to be handled by the new server. Existing e-mail users will have accounts placed on the new server in the same format as on the existing BBS (i.e., John.Smith), so no change will be required in each user's announced e-mail address. As expected, we will have a restoral plan available if things fail.

BBS Won't Suddenly Disappear

In addition, the current BBS will remain operational for an indeterminate period after the cut is complete to aid members in problem resolution. Also, we will have presentations at each meeting

The Perfect Gift!

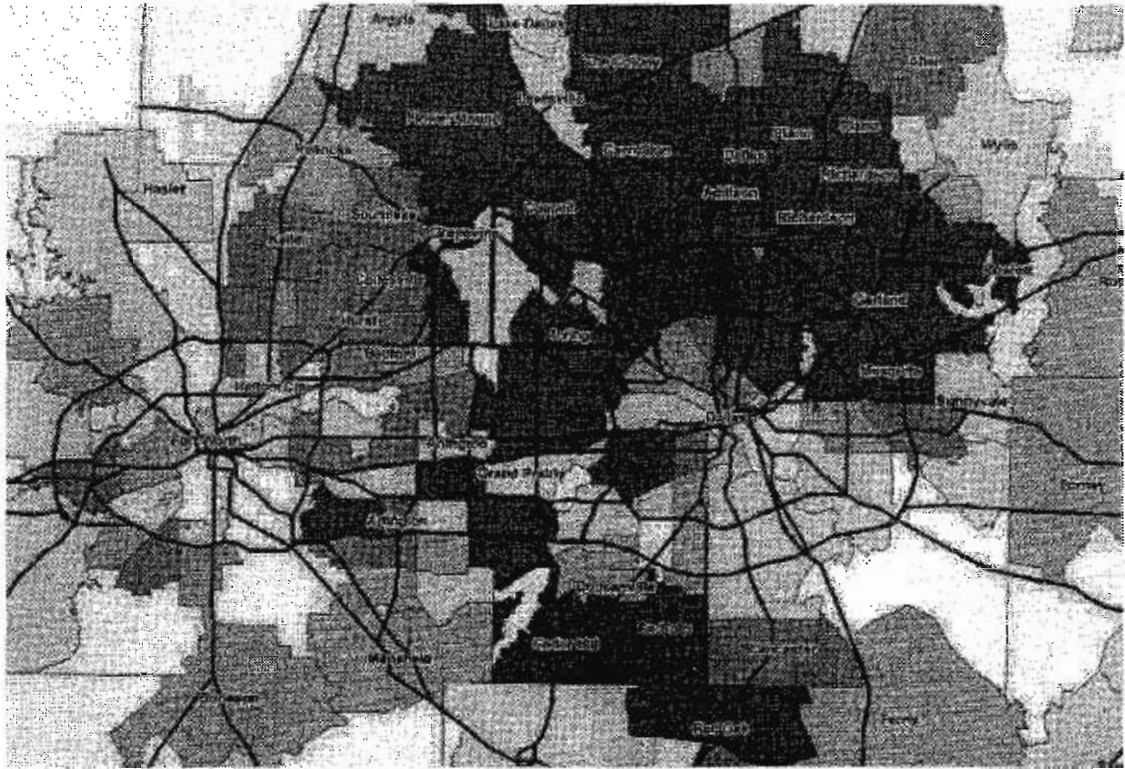
Looking for a last-minute gift that's quick, easy and keeps on giving for the entire year? Take a tip from Doug Gorrie and consider giving a one-year membership in the North Texas PC Users Group. This is an especially appropriate gift for a friend or relative who is new to computing and interested in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

Here's what we are looking at in finding a meeting place. The darkest areas represent largest concentrations of NTPCUG members' mailing addresses by ZIP codes. The map appears to display that most of our members reside (or have mailing addresses) in the northern part of the two adjacent counties, Dallas and Tarrant.



Andy's Magic Trip to Redmond & Microsoft

by Andy Oliver

(1st in a series of how ever many I decide to write)

On August 17th and 18th, I joined about 40 other user group representatives in Seattle to express our opinions to Microsoft, about Microsoft, and to listen to Microsoft about their direction. The User

BBS CHANGES... Ctd.

for several months to demonstrate its operation and access.

Additional status information will be available at the September meeting at the Internet, Communications and Windows Networking SIGs. If you have specific concerns that you do not feel are being addressed, feel free to contact (Fred Williams) – uhhh – I mean any of the following members or the BOD.

Doug Gorrie (dgorrie@onramp.net)
Richard Miles
Gil Brand
Bob Webber

Group Roundtable discussion centered on Microsoft's renewed commitment to information technology professionals. Microsoft supports their developers with the MSDN (Microsoft Developers Network), and they are supporting their channel partners (resellers) with Microsoft Direct Access. This latest initiative centers on the non-channel, non-developer. In other words, all of the rest of us grunts in the trenches every day.

I will write more on the new initiative, after Microsoft's formal announcement. But first, let me tell you about the other things that I learned. We were provided with advanced questions, so we could attend this roundtable with a clear understanding of what information Microsoft wanted to gather.

The first question posed to us was "As IT Professionals, what are your biggest challenges (professionally speaking!)" The group divided up into 8 (round) tables, and each table spent 7 minutes writing down their answers and 3 minutes ranking their answers. Then one representative from each table presented the subgroup's responses to everyone.

Andy's Trip to Redmond... Ctd.

Our moderator was Paul Bazley, General Manager, Technical Community Development, Organization Customer Unit, Microsoft Corporation (he didn't carry a business card, just a business easel, with a title like that). What we felt were the top challenges facing IT professionals are listed below:

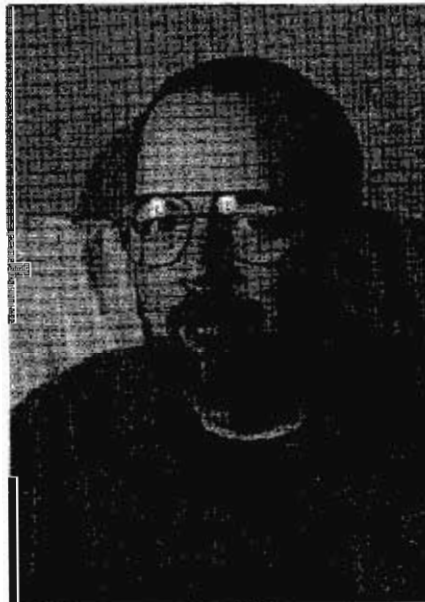
1. Staying current with technology changes
 - a. Education for IT professionals and end users
 - b. Sometimes technology is coming at us too fast
2. Labor shortage (hiring and retaining good people)
3. Technical support
 - a. Bug support
4. Enterprise management
 - a. Platform stability
 - b. Interoperability with non-Microsoft products
 - c. Interoperability with Microsoft products
5. Security (protecting our corporate data)
6. Y2K - getting ready for the year 2000
7. Information or the lack of information

Other challenges included (in no particular order):

- ❖ Legacy systems
- ❖ Web integration
- ❖ Unqualified "certified" people (paper MCSE's)
- ❖ Bandwidth

This is quite a list. It is the collaborative effort of professionals from all parts of the country including Alaska and Hawaii.

Many of these people were user group presidents, like myself. Others were more specialized in that they presided over Microsoft NT user groups, or the BOPA (BackOffice Professional Association), or WANTUG (the Worldwide Association of NT User Groups).



But as you know, all user group people volunteer for that job, so our real jobs as IT professionals give us a broad perspective of the marketplace (which includes feedback from our user group members).

Continuing, Paul had us move around and change the mix of people at each table. The next question posed was, "What Microsoft products are you most interested in over the next 12-24 months?" The combined answers were:

1. NT Server 4.0
2. NT Server 5.0 (especially directory services, training and planning)
3. Exchange & Outlook
4. SQL 7
5. Office (97 & 2000)
6. Web development, Visual InterDev, & Visual Fox Pro
7. Proxy server
8. SMS
9. NT Workstation Client

Other products included:

- ❖ E-commerce
- ❖ NT Enterprise
- ❖ Y2K Tools

How many vendors ask our opinions? And better yet, how many vendors do you know will promise action based on the concerns of you and your peers? In the next installment, I will concentrate on the next two questions:

"What is Microsoft doing well to assist you in succeeding with our products?", and the biggie "What is Microsoft doing poorly, what's missing, where do we need to improve?"

This will be followed by what Microsoft is doing to address these issues.

Andy Oliver

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Access to Virtual Storage

It was a dark and stormy night. The NTPCUG Board of Directors Meeting had just adjourned when the question of ten-foot poles for the User Group banner came up. It seems the forty feet of pipe used to support our banner was another victim of the cruel loss of storage space at the Infomart. Alex Lilley and his small crew of movers were able to save the poles by moving them and all of our other community belongings that wouldn't fit under someone's bed or closet, ten miles north to the BBS office.

Enter the second heroic volunteer of the evening, past President, Doug Gorrie. He volunteered to carry the pipe to a place for cutting to a portable length. I forgot to mention, Doug drives a Porsche 944, but the amazing thing is that he was able to fit the entire uncut lengths inside his sports car. It seems the impossible just takes a bit longer, where he is concerned. Doug is spending a lot of time at the BBS office while Fred Williams is out of town, and elbow room is at a premium. He was glad to

haul the stuff from the Comm-Shack, but it makes you wonder what he could do with an eighteen wheeler?

The bonus of the evening's activity was that the remainder of the NTPCUG multimedia videos were found in a dark corner of the office. Marsha Drebelbis, Deborah Bean, and other contributors spent many hours accumulating the training tapes, which were available for monthly rent at our last meeting. That is another story, but we who benefit from the multimedia library will write it.

Every page of this newsletter mentions the contributions of our volunteers. We owe them our gratitude for the many hours of valuable assistance and quality service to the User Group. Many volunteers are named on this page. They show up every meeting and help us get more out of our Saturday experience. We appreciate our officers for the diligent effort toward getting the best location for the future growth of the NTPCUG.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Allen Drake

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

Timothy Carmichael

Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Al Aston

Deborah Bean
Glynn Brooks
Randy Durham
Tim Foster
James Gorak
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Raymond Reyes
Ken Sauter
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Vendor Setup/Break-down

Anchors:
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Kenneth Berg
Dick Abbott

Auditorium Presentations

Newsletter Labels

Charlie Fernandez

Information/Registration Booth

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Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:

Bob Wuller

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Vernon Cates
Albert Champon
Hank Holt
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Paul Williams
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Booth Crew:



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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Microsoft Still at the Top of Month's News, Attacked by Both DOJ and Caldera's Noorda, Win95 Source Code at Center of Legal Maneuvering while Gates fights for Privacy

Roll out the black shrouds — DES is Dead

I've stayed away from the Microsoft v. World cases as long as possible, but think time may be on my side this month. Last month was a "killer" from MS' point of view with very important "losses" on the "evidence" side of the ledger in two separate matters.

Focus was/is Microsoft's source code for Win 95. DOJ wants it entered into evidence in their antitrust suit against MS in addition to many, many hours of testimony by Bill Gates and other top MS officers. MS has protested both requests and for good reason. Microsoft claims that Windows' source code contains too much proprietary data that would be far to open to industrial espionage in open view. Granted it's millions of line of code, but Microsoft competitors could have a field day looking at those parts they haven't already disassembled so far.

I really don't know what Gates' time is worth, but DOJ inquisitions surely could match the Special Prosecutor's \$40+ million bill if it went on too long. Same goes for the other MS officers asked to attend.

Noorda/Caldera Returns With Anti-Microsoft Suit Claiming MS Cheats DR DOS

Another interested party wanted — and got — Win95's source code in the same breath as the DOJ. Caldera (Ray Noorda's closely-held, post Novell company) also won right to view the millions of lines of code in their suit against MS for "purposely trying to assure that Win95 wouldn't run" on top of the Caldera DR DOS product. Noorda, sometimes called "the grandfather from Hell," acquired the rights to DR DOS when he left (was ousted from) Novell some-time back.

PC History in order to Understand Caldera Suit

I'll supply a little historical background here to make this all a little easier to understand.

Go back to 1980, when both MS and DRI (Digital Research Inc.)

were approached by IBM to supply the disk operating system (DOS) for IBM's new PC. DRI's head was absent and his wife was unwilling to sign IBM's typical non-disclosure agreement when IBM called. IBM went to MS instead.

Gates & Allen Happy to sign

MS's Bill Gates and Paul Allen were happy to sign thinking IBM was interested in their BASIC product. When they discovered that IBM was most interested in a DOS, they agreed to supply one for the new PC. OS's were not in MS' portfolio, but they were able to acquire *Seattle DOS* from Seattle Computing for a modest sum, \$75,000, rewrite portions and sell it to IBM. The rest is history.

Here's where Noorda, new owner of DRI's DR DOS, comes on the scene. Rumors floated about the techie community for years that Seattle DOS was an amateurish "hack" of DRI's CPM

THE VARIETY STORE

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

by REAGAN ANDREWS

and that portions of the DRI code could be found in PC-DOS 1.0. If so, then MS might owe a lot of money to Caldera, Noorda believes.

'GRANDFATHER FROM HELL' Nearly Destroys Novell in Pursuit of Microsoft and Gates

Noorda himself is interesting. He absolutely hates Bill Gates and Microsoft. Novell is still reeling from two of Noorda's moves to unseat MS and Gates as kings of the PC software hill. First, he acquired DRI and DR DOS, then

THE VARIETY STORE

proved Novell couldn't market the product effectively to a mass market. Second, he purchased WordPerfect for far more than it was actually worth and repeated the DRI non-marketing debacle. WordPerfect, absolute ruler of the DOS wordprocessing realm had already backed the wrong horse, betting that Windows 3.0 was not going to unseat DOS as the preferred desktop standard until very late in the game.

CALDERA'S LATEST MOVE HAS TRAGIC OVERTONES THAT REMIND US OF MOVIE

This latest move reminds me of one of the final scenes in *Independence Day* when Randy Quaid yelled, "I'm back!" as he was about to destroy the giant alien space craft. Lots of similarities in both moves to thwart a giant and implacable foe.

Wonder if Noorda sees himself in this role — and remembers what happened to Quaid?

MS AVOIDS 'MEDIA CIRCUS' IN APPEALS COURT REVERSAL OF ANTI-TRUST JUDGE ORDERS

Microsoft looked like it was going to be the center ring in genuine media circus for a while when the judge in the DOJ case decided that the depositions of Bill Gates and other MS officers would be "open" to the media. Luckily for MS, the appeals court prevailed and the proceedings will be closed to the media.

Since I've been involved in this process in the past, I tend to

agree with the appeals court decisions in regard to "public access" to this process.

Would have been a Hell of a show. However, I agree with MS that it would have been inappropriate to allow media to participate given the nature of such beasts. Attorneys for both sides would be on "fishing expeditions" which would have been difficult, if not impossible to explain to the general public in a "fair" light.

I also agree that MS would have been at some risk of revealing "trade secrets" in such an event no matter how carefully they tried to control the testimony.

CALDERA, ORACLE AND NOVELL GIVE RECOGNITION TO LINUX IN AUGUST SURPRISE MOVES

Want to give MS an ulcer? Could be that Caldera, Oracle and Novell may have found a "back door" to Microsoft's vulnerability by giving some de facto endorsement to LINUX, the underground OS that's developing a substantial cult following.

Most impressive was Novell's announcement that they would support NDS on the LINUX platform, thus giving a lot of credibility to an OS that costs a fraction of that of Win NT. IBM added to the pile-on with their announcement they would distribute and support *Apache*, the free-ware Internet server utility that has become the unofficial "standard" in the LINUX server camp..

SECRETS? DES IS DEAD — SINCE THE CODE WAS 'BROKEN' IN TWO DAYS.

DES is dead. Long live 128-bit encryption (if we can get past NSA.) DES (Data Encryption Standard) at 64-bits was broken this month in less than 48 hours by a specially-equipped PC. That means no one will "trust" valuable business or technical data to this standard.

Actually, they haven't for some time. Security level of any code or encryption system is a function of the time it takes a determined opponent to break it. This is why there has been so much conflict over the proposed "standards" for encryption between users and the Federal establishment. Users want the security of the longer keys while the FBI, local police departments, Treasury and NSA (National Security Agency) have clamored for some data encryption "standard" they could break easily in order to "combat child pornography and drug dealers."

This is the usual cry heard from such agencies when better (harder to break) data encryption standards are proposed by vendors. It's also an interesting conflict between national needs/desires and governmental policy.

VENDORS FORM 'SUBSIDIARIES' SOLVING THE 'WEAK ENCRYPTION' CODES FORCED ON US CONCERNS

Vendors know that their European competitors are producing encryption software that will probably drive NSA crazy. American vendors have their hands tied in many circumstances by American restrictions on shipping systems to foreign countries that our governmental

agencies will have problems breaking. One "out" is to establish a foreign company that can supply more secure encryption systems for databases, communications software, etc., to meet the demand.

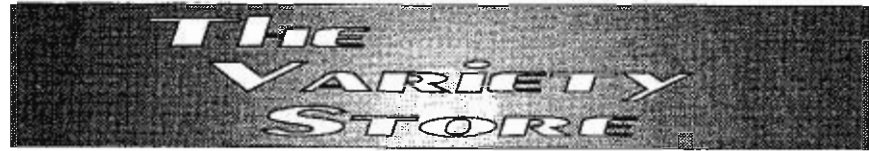
For a better understanding of this issue, I'd suggest a quick reading of James Bamford's *Puzzle Palace*, published by the Penguin Group, Penguin Books USA, Inc., available in paper back from Amazon.com. I can guarantee most will find this 16 year-old book a fascinating and frightening journey into paranoia. (If you are not paranoid after reading *Puzzle Palace*, you either work for NSA, or you are just numb.)

BEWARE THE WINMODEM IF YOU HAVE 'OLD' DOS COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE

Modem vendors have a neat idea — shift some of the functioning to the CPU/Windows and cut back on the necessary parts count. It can be less expensive and tends to work well with Windows communications software, but may stymie use of older, DOS communications software. A case in point is my DOS/Operating Systems SIG note this month.

Reason? If you have a PnP (Plug 'n Play) system, your BIOS and Windows may install a port address that your older software can't live with gracefully. Software written for the 8-bit DOS-driven PC's usually can't recognise IRQ assignments higher than "7" and Win95 may cheerfully place COM3 at IRQ-15 in the installation process. You can get things back in control, but it may take more work than you'd like to expend on such a project.

Easiest solution may be replacing your old, DOS favorite with



more modern software that is Win 95 aware — or using *Windows HyperTerminal*.

A LITTLE APPLIED RANTING AND RAVING, MICROSOFT, COREL, ET AL, IN AREA OF INSTALLATIONS

Windows 9x and *Office 9x* may force me to reconsider *Linux*. I'd reconsider *NT* except that I'd still probably be tempted to install *Office* in spite of its many, many "undocumented features."

Why? It's the installation followed by inclusion of many "features" that slow me down, hinder accomplishment of what I want to do that should, otherwise, be simple and generally make work much less pleasant.

'USER FRIENDLINESS' A CURSE HIDDEN IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING FOR MOST PC USERS TODAY

I think MS has significantly erred in attempting to beat Apple at its own game in the case of "user friendliness" in *Windows* and *Office*. Both are guilty of forcing the user into operations/patterns Microsoft thinks are "appropriate" and denying users opportunity to do things how they, and not Microsoft, wish.

MS NOT ALONE AS OTHERS JUMP ON 'FEATURES' BUS WITH SIMILAR POOR RESULTS

No, this isn't a diatribe against the Microsoft hegemony. It's mostly a complaint against vendors who wish users to do/install something without asking first.

Corel is as guilty as Microsoft — as are many, many other vendors these days. Increasingly, I'm discovering that "new features" are ill thought out, frequently don't work as described/documented and often make users' tasks more difficult rather than faster or easier in the long run.

Office 97 is a major thorn in the side. I don't want the damned "Office Bar" on my desktop. It takes up valuable screen space, ignores the IE 4.0x interface (hides the right scroll bar) and is a nuisance in general. It's almost as bad as the *WordPerfect Office Bar* that does the same thing, but is smaller (only saving grace.)

If I had an IQ of 75 and couldn't possibly think what I wanted to do and double-click the appropriate program icon, I guess I'd enjoy/use it. No, probably not. With an IQ of 75, I'd probably have purchased a *Macintosh* in 1984 and still be using it.

I really wish Microsoft had asked me if I wanted it installed. Same thing goes for all the bizarre/funny fonts that *WordPerfect* installed without asking first. It takes way too much time to find all these useless "features" to delete/eliminate them afterward for this to be even remotely amusing late at night.

Wonder what Microsoft/ Corel/ IBM et al. would do if I submitted an invoice for my time spent undoing what they did without asking first? Let's see, at \$150/hour for my time...

Reagan Andrews

Selected SIG Reports . . .

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Access SIG

In September, **Larry Linson** will present "An Introduction to Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) and the Access Object Model." Access is one of many software packages which use Microsoft's VBA as the programming language (both Microsoft's and other companies'). VBA is descended from the original BASIC (*Beginner's All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code*), retaining much of its ease of use, but with enhancements that make it a heavy-duty development tool. When you use the Control Wizard to generate a Command Button, Access creates VBA code in the Click event, so people often begin using VBA in their Access databases without even realizing it. Many begin their transition from "power user" to "developer" by just modifying some of that command button code. Larry will cover some essentials of VBA

and show examples of VBA interacting with the Access object model.

In August, **Larry Linson** presented "The Wide World of Access -- From Novice User to Professional Developer," covering "once over lightly" the levels of user that Access supports: from novice user to professional developers of "client applications" for server databases. There are good reasons why Access is the most popular database product ever, going far beyond the fact that it is part of the Microsoft Office suite. Many thanks to **Dan Ogden** for bringing his notebook computer and serving as "Console Commander". In our continuing saga of trying to learn to live with the projection plates, we could see the display either on the screen of the laptop or on the projection screen, but not both, so Dan navi-

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).

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M = Metro #

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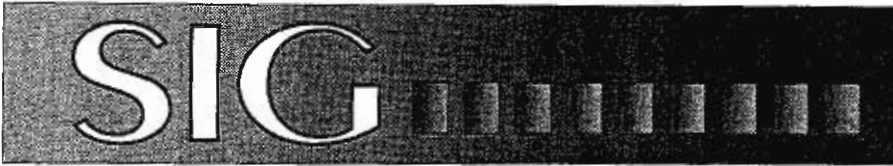
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Communications

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gated through Access while Larry talked about it.

Problems of Publication Deadlines: The "Thanks to John Criswell" in the August issue were, of course, written before the July meeting. If you attended, you know that John was unable to attend and do the planned demo and presentation. Instead, we had a discussion session covering a number of topics raised by attendees.

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 September meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers SIG

In September, Larry Linson's presentation will be on "Classic" *Structured Analysis and System Specification*, as published by Tom DeMarco

of Yourdon, Inc. and taught by the Yourdon trainers, in the late 1970s. The computer business has changed dramatically since that time (remember that the first IBM PC didn't appear until 1982) but the need for recording, understanding, and agreeing to a set of requirements for a project hasn't changed, and neither have people. Structured Analysis is one good approach to this goal. The three primary components of DeMarco's methodology are: data flow diagrams, structured English explanation of processes, and a data dictionary.

When DeMarco introduced it back in the heyday of mainframes, the diagrams had to be hand-drawn, the structured English text could be automated with mainframe word processors, and the data dictionaries were either very expensive mainframe software or text on paper. Now, Visio Professional has the necessary symbols for drawing DFDs, simple and inexpensive word processors can prepare the structured English process descriptions, and personal databases abound in which you can easily create a data dictionary. (There have been updates to Yourdon's methodology in later years, but this "original-version" methodology works as well now as it did when first presented. You can't, I fear, obtain the 1978 edition of the book that Larry used, but you can still get the newer edition with the updates.)

In August, as a "preview and sneak peek", Larry Linson conducted a brief tutorial on "Classic" *Data Flow Diagrams* (DFD), the simple version with four symbols: rectangles for data source and data sink, connecting lines with arrows representing data flow, circles or ovals for processes, and straight lines (single or

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parallel) for files or data stores. We discussed the usefulness of DFD in some approaches to documenting user requirements and system specifications, as well as some "do's and don'ts" for creating easy-to-follow DFDs. DFDs can be a big help in mutual understanding of, and (more importantly) agreement to requirements by users and data processing personnel who must implement those requirements.

The ActiveX Application Developers SIG addresses issues of developing applications under the Component Object Model (COM) using ActiveX Controls and other ActiveX components. Just because so many of our attendees work in Microsoft Office and other software using it, we have considerable emphasis on VBA issues. We still ask and answer a few questions about *Open Database Connection (ODBC)* technology, too. As hot as the 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 September. We think you'll find it an it interesting and productive hour.

Larry Linson

ASSEMBLER SIG

Our August presentation concluded a two-part, feature-length discussion on CPU identification and speed determination. Some interesting points regarding instruction set capabilities were covered (for example, how to determine whether your CPU supports the RDTS instruction - this is useful information. Attempting to execute the RDTS instruction on a ma-

chine that does not support it leads to a system lockup).

Our presentation in September will consist of a review of the book, *Windows Assembly Language and Systems Programming*, by Barry Kauler. This is the second edition of a book we had covered a number of years ago - the book now covers 32 bit ASM programming.

We hope to see you in September. As always, suggestions for presentation topics are always welcome.

Frank Cavallito and Glynn Brooks

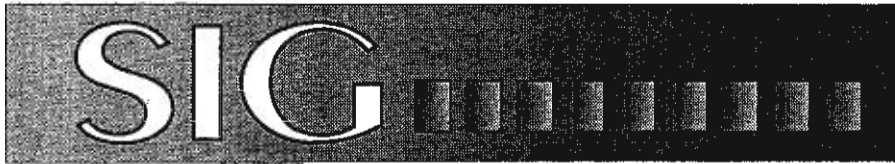
C++ LANGUAGE SIG

August was the last meeting of the C++ Language SIG unless somebody else wants to take over leadership and there is significant attendance. Please contact Alex Lilley at (972) 517-7430 if you wish to look into this.

Howard Harkness
harkness@skeptics.org

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

Last month the Communications SIG hosted Jeff Tokar, Director of New Business and Technology at Marcus Cable. Jeff presented an overview of Marcus Cable and explained how it was delivering Internet services to the home simultaneously with the TV programming. The Internet service is always connected, incredibly fast, and proposes to be an alternative to POTS using 56k modems and ADSL. Jeff also presented how the cable bandwidths are allocated, the delivery architecture using fiber and ATM, and how the spectrum is separated for down-link and up-link speeds. Next, the cable modem was presented and how it is used for the



data application at your PC. Eventually voice will be integrated into the cable services, allowing Voice over IP to be a reality. In summary a great presentation from Jeff on a technology that has lots of interesting potential and certainly lots of questions!

In September we are planning a general Q/A session although a "last minute" speaker might be found in the queue. Ordinarily our Q/A extends to PCs and communications in general, thus making our meeting an interesting forum for all topics. So for fun and a truly great learning experience, join us on September 12th at the Communications SIG and bring your questions and valuable expertise, you won't regret the experience!

Alan Brosz and Birl Smith

DALLAS COREL SIG

Explore VENTURA 8

Before heading to San Diego in October for the CorelWORLD 98 User Conference, **Jim Hart** will give an overview demonstration of VENTURA 8 at our Dallas Corel SIG in September. Jim will be available as the Technical Representative again at this year's conference, but we can sneak in a few questions early. His unique qualifications include Technical Support Analyst for VSI (VENTURA Software, Inc.) when Xerox owned it, and beta tester through Corel's purchase, development and "Corelization" of it. He continues to provide his own clients with professional document management, layout and publications services using VENTURA. To learn about 8's new and improved features and how it differs from version 7, join us September 12.

August in Review

Rose Anne Ellison, from **WorldLink Solutions**, brought her years of experience and her enthusiasm for Corel Presentations 8 to our SIG meeting August 15. She reviewed presentation basics and then created a quick presentation for us. Remember, the Presentations 8 module is found in Corel WordPerfect Suite. Starting with an outline in WordPerfect, she enhanced it with animations, graphics and other effects, showing how to make a good presentation even more effective. **Jay Bartlett** took care of technical details and made the presentation go smoothly. Thanks for a motivating session! The lucky door prize winners were **Nancy Ogden** (winning "Live Art") and **Judy Loper** (winning Zase Software).

In reality all in attendance were winners being able to gain from the skills of professional graphics people such as Rose Ann and Jay. As a refresher to those in atten-

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Corel Corporation
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- ❖ 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
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- ❖ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays
- ❖ To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

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WordPerfect / Windows

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 Diane Benlev

dance and as a guide to those absent, Rose Anne supplied the following excellent tips:

Richard Blair

Presentation Guidelines

Guidelines to remember while creating computer delivered/online presentations include the following:

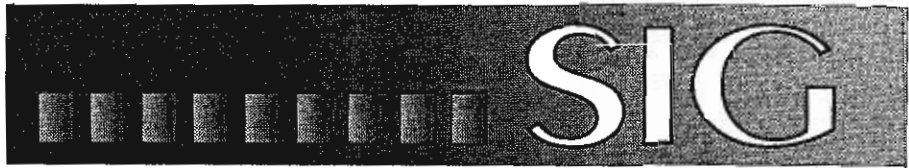
- ❖ know the type of equipment you will use to present your visual aids
- ❖ use transitions between slides or sections to indicate real time
- ❖ use slow dissolves to indicate a time delay
- ❖ use quick cuts to show two views of the same scene at the same moment in time

Quality presentations use:

- ❖ a consistent style throughout (same font family and sizes, same color theme, same location for title, bullet items, etc.)
- ❖ light background colors for overhead transparencies
- ❖ dark background colors and light text for 35mm slides and PC-based online presentations



Online Corel & SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group



For Word Charts use:

- ❖ text of 16 points or larger with a limit of 2 or 3 font sizes
- ❖ font titles at least 30% larger than the next largest type
- ❖ six ideas or items per chart (maximum)
- ❖ six words per item (maximum)
- ❖ Helvetica-like font (sans-serif) my personal favorite and current trend is Arial
- ❖ upper and lower-case letters
- ❖ outline main points (avoid details)
- ❖ KISS (Keep It Super Simple)

Guidelines for Using Color

Use the following guidelines for adding color to your presentation but realize that your audience, the message, the environment, and the context should be considered when choosing your colors.

- ❖ Limit your color to two or three on a single transparency or slide. Too much color (six or eight colors) is too much of a good thing.
- ❖ Colors like pink, orange, and yellow are difficult to see from the back of a room.
- ❖ Use red to indicate danger, a problem, or an opposing force.. Use blue or green to indicate a calm or peaceful message.
- ❖ Complementary colors such as green and red will fight with each other by creating an optical strobing effect when placed close together and viewed for too long.
- ❖ As a rule, reds, yellows, and oranges will seem to project forward and dominate the screen, while purples, blues, and greens will recede.

❖ Shapes painted in bright colors will tend to look larger to the eye than darker-color shapes.

Color has three basic uses in presentations:

- ❖ identifying
- ❖ contrasting
- ❖ highlighting

Color can be used in backgrounds, text, lines, and shapes. It can be used in patterns, textures, and gradients. The important thing to remember is to be consistent with the color you use.

Rose Anne Ellison

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>.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ May/98 - Member Showcase
 - ❖ Jun/98 - Graphics Computer Trends Discussion
 - ❖ Jul/98 - Digital Camcras
 - ❖ Aug/98 - Presentations 8
- Marsha Drebelbis*



DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

*Darkness finds me screaming
in the night for mercy! Every-
thing's closed, all the support
desks are firmly unavailable
"Our normal business hours
are" and the damned machine
is frozen again. Is it the PC?
Or the software that's killing
my efforts to prevail?*

If you know this feeling of pure anguish, then you must also be a member of the DOS/Operating Systems SIG. If everything runs perfectly and there's never a stumble from the PC, OS or applications software, there's no reason to gather with us on bleak Saturday mornings. That's where the less fortunate get together to share the latest "undocumented and interesting feature" that Microsoft, Corel, IBM or some other promulgator of "bloatware" has foisted off on the unwary public.

PnP is an excellent example

It's PnP that fostered the first sentence in the first paragraph of this note. Has to do with an Award BIOS, Windows 95 OSR 2.5 and an internal 56K modem installation in a machine that also has a SoundBlaster card with an unused IDE port installed. I planned (I thought) this machine pretty carefully with a PS/2 Mouse port (IRQ 12) and two serial ports, COM1 & COM2. The modem should have been installed at COM3, IRQ 4, where it could have been terribly happy since I wouldn't think of using COM1 and COM3 at the same time.

Diamond and Windows had a "better" idea and installed its version of COM3

at IRQ 15, well out of the range of ProComm+ 2.01 (DOS) which thought it would live forever in an 8-bit world, and in direct conflict with the SoundBlaster-demanded IDE port at IRQ 15. Got to see a lot of "yellow" after that debacle. Yes, I could have easily disabled the IDE assignment, but still couldn't have gotten to ProComm. I played quite a while with this PC to make things work the way I, and not MS/Diamond/Award planned.

I did prevail

While I was cursing Diamond, et al, I looked carefully at the PC's BIOS setup and sure enough, part of the problem was me. I had placed IRQ 3, 4 & 5 off-limits to PnP auto assignment. Back into Award's SETUP, went to the PnP/PCI screen and toggled IRQ-4 from "LEGACY/ISA" to "PCI/ISA PnP." Then, back to Windows.

You can set the modem/port characteristics from several locations, but I usually choose to do this via the "Start - Settings - Control Panel - System" sequence. Go to "Device Manager," select the modem, then select "Properties" and go to "Resources" where Windows displays the Input/Output Range address and the IRQ setting. Click on the IRQ setting to select, then disable "Use Automatic Settings" if enabled by clicking on the small box, then click on the Change Settings button and select the appropriate IRQ for the modem/software.



Windows really wants to protect us from our foolish desire to do things our way and will present you with a series of warning screens threatening dire consequences if you continue. Last screen finally tells you how to undo the damage if you change your mind later. Actually, this advice isn't bad if you don't know what you are doing since you are messing with the very guts of the system.

September should be fun.

Come to the DOS/Operating Systems SIG in September and share your own, personal horror stories. You may make the "Best of the Vendor Bloopers" circle and win a genuine 2,400 Baud modem. Second place will get a monochrome graphics card for an 8-bit ISA bus PC. Third place gets a bank of 16K DRAM, a flack jacket and helmet.

We're posting several heavily-armed guards at the door, stringing concertina entanglements, adding sand-bagged bunkers and think we'll be able to guarantee most members will be safe from rumored assaults of the CP/M-Caldera fanatics for most of the meeting. Jim and I, of course, will be in full body armor.

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

The focus at our August meeting was Q&A, and on Mailing Lists, in that order. In fact, we had a lot more to say and demonstrate on Mailing Lists, so will continue on that topic in September. We're sure there will be additional Q&A in September also.

We're also planning our October 17th meeting, where we hope to do our periodic, multi-hour Intro to the Internet session. For members and nonmembers, this is an opportunity to talk about the Internet at length, starting with "How do you spell INTERNET". It's a session of basics,

where we talk until we drop, or until no one is left to talk to.

Based on past sessions, that can be up to five hours of information on how the Internet works, how to choose an Internet Service Provider (ISP), what the differences are between Online services (e.g., America Online) and regular ISPs (e.g., Verio Texas, FlashNet, Cyber-Ramp), how to use a Browser to "surf the Net", and so on.

If you are confused about all this Internet stuff, I encourage you to consider attending. If you know of friends, associates or relatives that want to understand the basics of the Internet, make them aware. It will probably occur at 10 AM on October 17th, but watch for confirmation of time and place in our October newsletter, or on our Web site (www.ntpcug.org).

Now, regarding the September meeting and the Mailing Lists topic, I'll merely repeat what was said last month, for those that missed it.

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 September 12th meeting, we will continue to examine mailing lists** - 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 September 12th!!

Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe & Kiff Barnes

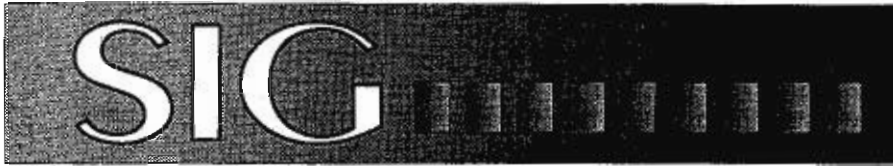
INTERNET SIG- Advanced

September 12th presentation - Internet Security (End User Perspective)

At the **August 15th meeting**, we were privileged to have **Robert Hilliard of Network Associates** (formerly McAfee & Associates, and Network General) with us to discuss Internet Security. Robert focused on helping the end user (you and me) avoid the pitfalls that can make WWW surfing dangerous.

Robert encouraged every attendee to secure some version of anti-virus program, and keep it up-to-date against new viruses. With the proliferation of Internet e-mail, the probability of receiving a virus has increased significantly. In addition, there are even Usenet newsgroups available that offer example source code to the prospective virus builder, so even amateur fruitcakes can get into the "virus" business. End result: more risk of viruses to ALL of us !! Of course, Robert uses **McAfee AntiVirus !!**

Robert also pointed out that your e-mails are normally transmitted across the Internet "in the clear", meaning that anyone can read them. Hence, if your e-mail contains sensitive or proprietary information, you could be unknowingly passing it along to others. To



avoid this, you might consider encryption software such as **Pretty Good Privacy (PGP)**, a product purchased by Network Associates. Through the use of "public" and "private" keys, PGP can be used to secure your e-mail from prying eyes.

PGP can be downloaded and used without cost for non-commercial purposes. Robert indicated that there are also "plug-ins" that allow PGP to be easily incorporated into mail readers such as Eudora, Microsoft Exchange, MS Outlook, and MS Outlook Express.

Another risk while "surfing" is unknowingly downloading ActiveX or Java applets that contain malicious code. The code might be hidden in some of those fancy graphics you see and enjoy. To solve this problem, there is **WebScanX**, also from Network Associates. WebScanX actively monitors Web pages you surf to and prevents potential damage from occurring.

As our meeting wound down, we noted that there were more questions coming. Robert agreed to return in September to pursue Internet Security further, and this time will (hopefully) demo the products and explain in more detail how to acquire them. So if you missed this session in August (BIG MISTAKE !!), September will offer you a change to recoup your loss. Come join us.

We also want to thank Robert and Network Associates for the virus and network security software being donated to NTPCUG's new Web and mail server, now under development. Needless to say, we will use these tools to better ensure that our members do not encounter viruses and malicious Web code while working with our site. And

our thanks again to Robert for a job well done!

And, 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 September 12th.

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

INTERNET - Web Developers SIG

August Meeting Recap

During the meeting, we introduced for discussion, one of our primary goals for 1999. With DSL Internet access and fixed IPs just around the corner, we're going to introduce our members to some of the free, powerful tools available on

the Linux platform, to create and run web servers and sites. In particular, we'll demonstrate the Apache web server, the GNOME graphic user interface, Cold Flame for easy and powerful scripting with tags, and the Linux operating system itself.

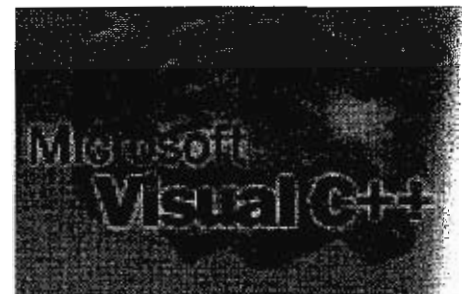
Our goal is not to pressure our members to use Linux, but to show off its capabilities. We would also like to dispell many of the negative myths about Linux-based web administration, which keep many people from exploring this powerful & robust (did I mention the free part?) OS.

During previous meetings, we have gone over HTML Frames. An online tutorial on this set of tags is the subject of the latest SiteBuilder column. You can also download a Word 97 file of this tutorial by clicking here.

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 want to use these scripts to provide the back-end 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 Email message.

Most ISPs 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 other Perl coder, 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.

November Meeting

In November, we will learn how to make JavaScript "rollovers". A rollover is the effect you get when you move your mouse over an image on a web page, causing it to change from an "off" image to an "on" image. This is probably the most common use of JavaScript for most sites. We'll provide code examples and show you how to modify these for your own use.

December Meeting

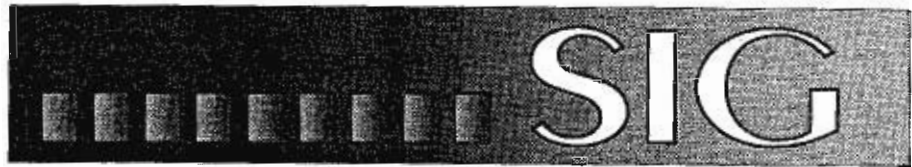
The December meeting will be the last to be held in the InfoMart Building. Hopefully, we'll know by that time the new location for the XChange Saturday Show. We'll review an impressive HTML editor called HomeSite. HomeSite is made by Allaire Corp., creators of the Cold Fusion application server and scripting language. This is a non-WYSIWYG editor with some really nice features.

Meetings currently have 40-50 attendees and are open to all.

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.



September 12, 1998

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

January, 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

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

Spike Smith

JAVA SIG

In August, we held our JavaBeans contest. Don won first prize of a copy of IBM VisualAge, which is a Java IDE, for his Bean that provided date calculation functions. It can be viewed at <http://www.megaconverter.com/dab/datelist/dateconvert.html>. (You will need to download the Java Activator plugin). Second prize of a fifty dollar gift certificate to CompUSA went for a Bean that was created to pass text from a textfield to a textarea. Third prize of a ten dollar gift certificate went for a Bean that interfaced with Oracle. Kevin plans to take these to a Java conference where he will present them as samples of our work.

Next month's presentation will be on Java servlets.

bryan-ross

MICROSOFT NETWORKING SIG

Next Meeting: September 12, 1998

We have tentatively scheduled a demo of the new server running WinNT 4.0 and IIS 3.0 for providing a new NTPCUG Web site, member email and SIG-related Newsgroups. Stop by and give us feedback on the new capabilities.

Last Meeting: August 15, 1998

Our "Stump the SIG Leaders" Q&A session was quite a success!. Fortunately for the co-leaders, most of the questions were answered (with a lot of help from



some of the regular attendees). Discussion was very lively and we did not have time for the review of the SIG's project for enhancing the NTPCUG Internet server and providing SIG-related Newsgroups; join us in September for a demo of the new server.

Upcoming Schedule

Oct/Nov/Dec - Open for suggestions (email gbrand@home-mail.com)

Purpose of the SIG

To technically showcase Microsoft Networking products, including Windows NT Server, Windows NT Workstation, Systems Management Server, Exchange, SNA Server, Internet Information Server, and Windows 95.

The SIG highlights the capabilities and features of these products for all users, from individual end-users to corporate users, small and medium-size businesses, and beginning to experienced administrators. We present the various options within Microsoft's networking products line and help members understand how they are positioned to solve their computing, connectivity and business needs. We help members understand how these products interoperate with other third party and legacy products.

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

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

Past Meetings

July 18, 1998. Jim Magnuson gave a brief overview of TCP/IP subnet masking in response to a question during the June session. It all made perfect sense when he finished, but is getting hazy now (3 weeks later). I may need a refresher course every month!

Also, Mark Mills of the DFW Exchange group presented an overview of the new LISTSERVE service that will soon be made available to all SIGs in the NTPCUG. Members of the MS Networking SIG were asked to 'volunteer' as Beta testers for the system. More on this next month.

Gil Brand

June 20, 1998. Paul Sloane presented a brief presentation on Peer-to-peer Networking of Win95 and/or WinNT workstations.

Dave DeBoo and Terry Brantley assisted with their laptop PCs in a demonstration of these concepts by connecting, through the SIG's Ethernet hub, to the SIG NT system and to each other.

May 1998 - Richard Miles presented an overview of Peer-to-Peer Networking (Win95, WinNT, Mixed 95/NT). While he covered a significant amount of ground, technical problems prevented completion of the presentation within the available time.

At the end of the meeting, we agreed to have Paul Sloane and a working group of 3 put together a peer level network of 2 WinNT Workstations and 2 Win95 PCs and do a more interactive presentation for the next meeting in June.

April 11, 1998. Richard Miles and Gil Brand discussed the SIG's project for implementing the NTPCUG Internet server. The project's approach will be a business-like managed project which could be used as a model for a small to medium sized business in putting together a Web presence on the Internet. The SIG members will benefit from a practical application of Windows NT Server and Microsoft networking technologies in a fully integrated Internet networking environment. Members interested in what it takes to have a presence on the Internet and those interested in working on the SIG project are especially encouraged to volunteer.

Site-of-the-month: www.ntinternals.com

This site is arguably the best site on the Web for NT technical information and source code.

February and March 1998 - Gil Brand discussed Windows NT Server monitoring

Site-of-the-month: www.genevasoft.com

This site contains a full functional evaluation copy of Geneva Software's Windows NT AlertPage software for monitoring the Windows NT Event Log and paging defined systems administrators.

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

Site-of -the-month:
www.nmrc.org/files/nt

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

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

Site-of -the-month: www.microsoft.com/windows95/info/kernel-toys.htm

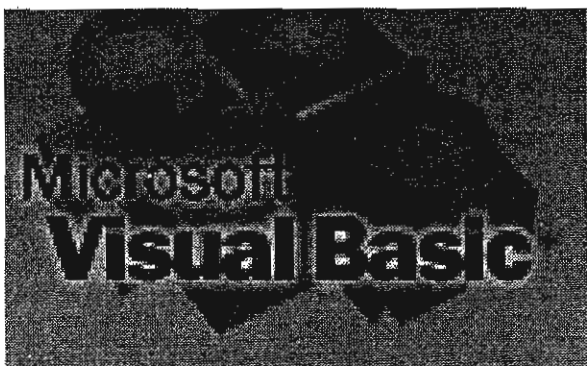
Kernel Toys is a set of Win95 utility programs from the kernel support team at Microsoft. One of the best is the Windows Process Watcher, which displays the CPU utilization percentage for all programs that are running. Try it out!

November 1997- Windows NT v5.0 Features Preview

Mark Moore of Microsoft was back to do his presentation on the upcoming features of Windows NT v5.0.

October 1997 - Dial-up Networking and RAS

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



September 1997 - Windows NT v5.0 Features Preview

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

Bruce Wynn, Richard Miles & Gil Brand

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC SIG

In July, we began our study of the ActiveX Template Library, or ATL. In August, Rick Sivernell was going to expand on the July meeting by showing us how to build NT Services using ATL. That presentation was postponed until the September meeting.

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



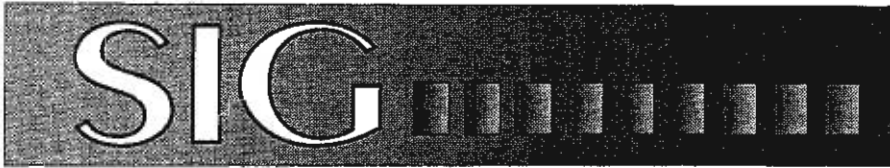
OS/2 SIG

The OS/2 SIG meets monthly on Users Group Saturday at the Infomart. Please check the projector screens in the vendor area each month for the actual meeting room for that month.

Meeting time is from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. An introductory to OS/2 is offered from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for all who are interested 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.htm>
1
- ❖ 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
- ❖ SIG Leader: Rob Couch (rob.couch@usa.net)
- ❖ Assistant SIG: Gerald Meazell
- ❖ Mike Persell

Rob Couch
rob.couch@usa.net

PRO SIG

The Pro SIG meeting coincided with the first sub-hundred degree day since July. Most of the attendees were in a mood to celebrate. The topic for discussion was how to code the equivalent of Java Interfaces in C++. The discussion was never completed because the whole group fell asleep.

Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - ADVANCED

By the time you read this, Visual Basic 6 will be out on the shelves and ready to order. Will you or your company be upgrading soon? It may seem that Visual Basic 5 just came out and you are still trying to learn how the new functionality works. Now comes Visual Basic 6 with its new Web Classes and DHTML applications with plenty of new database features to make any Visual Basic developer think he or she has reached a higher state of "nerdvana".

One of the problems though is that we hear about all these great new features that are supposed to make our life easier, do they really? Or is it marketing hype? Let's take an example of the new Web Classes feature. Simply put, Web Classes are ActiveX Designers (if you were at the last meeting, you should know what I am talking about) that allow you to take an HTML page and write VB code that ties into the HTML page. The VB code runs on the server and sends HTML back to the browser. So you can write your Web Classes so that they are able to send back information to any browser. You may ask, isn't this what ASP (Active Server Pages) are for? You can still use ASP that makes calls to a component written in VB, but you do not get the VB IDE and all the great

tools VB has to offer. Also, with Web Classes you can use VB to create your "weblications" instead of having to learn a new product like Visual Interdev. Microsoft is touting this like it is the next big thing, so I am quite sure that in within the next few months your head will explode from all the marketing hype about Web Classes.

So you know what a Web Class is, so now what is a DHTML application? DHTML is short for Dynamic HTML in which elements of an HTML page can be programmed against or altered without having to be attached to a Web server. For example, you could have an HTML page with a list of cars and when you mouse over the name of the car, a picture of the car appears. When it is downloaded to your browser, the pictures are cached locally but do not appear until the mouse event fires. Well, with DHTML applications, you can take it one step further. Not only can you create DHTML pages within VB, you can then write VB code to respond to events that occur on the page. Somewhat similar to the Web Class but it is doing it locally and the VB code is on the client wrapped up in a DLL file. Unfortunately, there are a caveat, it will only work with Internet Explorer 4 with the service pack. So you will have to make sure that your users have standardized with Internet Explorer.

Microsoft is quite aware that we are not all Webheads and don't want to be. We love our databases and the clients we write to access them! Microsoft has done quite a bit to Visual Basic 6 in the data department. Number one on the list is the full inclusion of ADO (ActiveX Data Objects) built into Visual Basic 6. No longer do we have to go to the Web site and install it separately and write kludges to our setup files to include it in our installs. Also, in the ADO department we have a new ADO data control. We add it to a form, tell it what database we want it to attach to (Access/ODBC/OLE

DB), and bind the fields. The Data Form Wizard also supports creating data forms using ADO.

Microsoft included a Data Environment that allows you to create connections and commands to a database and be able to easily create data forms by simply dragging the fields from the Data Environment and dropping them on the form. You can also create hierarchical recordsets. For example, this allows you to combine customer records with their orders. So for each customer record, there would be an associated recordset containing the customer's orders. Pretty neat, huh? The more interesting thing is that you can drag this hierarchical recordset from the Data Environment onto a form with the right-mouse button and before it draws controls, you can decide if you want it to create a data grid, hierarchical flexgrid, or bound controls on the form. Talk about making life easier! Don't forget that Visual Basic 6 comes with a Data Report Designer, so it is just as easy to create reports by simply dragging fields from the Data Environment and dropping them in the Data Report Designer. If you have worked with Access before, then you will be quite familiar with creating reports with the new Data Report Designer.

Talking about Access, one of the interesting features is scrolling forms. You can have a form with customer information for the current customer. Then you can scroll down to see the next customer and scroll up to see the previous customer. Visual Basic 6 now has a Data Repeater control that mimics this functionality.



They have also added a DateTime Picker control. Now your date fields can have a month-view dropdown to let the user choose from. That is a very good thing.

Visual Basic 6 also has some language enhancements, too. We are now able to use the FileSystem objects to deal with the file system on our clients. It is an object-based way to do anything with files such as searching for a file or counting the amount of files within a directory. Also, there are over 13 new string functions!

Don't forget that we got a new setup wizard called the Package & Deployment Wizard. Not only can we create our setups but we can deploy our setups on a network, local system, or Web site with a few mouse-clicks.

There are some items, though, I wish we would have gotten in this version. First, will we ever get a better menu editor? That editor has been around a while and could use some sprucing up. Also, many will probably give a collective groan that we do not have inheritance yet. It is complicated to inject it into VB at this time and we will probably not see it until COM+ comes full swing. With all this new functionality, there are still quite a few windows in the VB user interface and the screen can get quite cluttered. (FYI, I am working on a 17-inch monitor with 1280x1024 resolution) I guess you can't always get what you want.

My opinion is that Visual Basic 6 is a buy. I think there are new features that will make it easier to develop not only database applications, but weblications and COM components. Send me

your thoughts on Visual Basic 6 at the address below.

Year 2000 and Visual Basic

So are your applications compliant? You might want to go over to www.microsoft.com/y2k and make sure the tools that you use are Year 2000 compliant. Visual Basic 6.0 is fully Year 2000 compliant using a 100-year sliding date while Visual Basic 5.0 & 4.0 (32-bit) are somewhat compliant. According to the site, Visual Basic 5.0 converts two-digit years to four-digit years based on the default in the Automation libraries for all date functions. Visual Basic 5.0 shipped with version 2.20.4054 that converts two-digit years to the 1900s if the two-digit year is between 30 and 99. If the two-digit year is between 00 and 29, the date is converted to the 2000s. Visual Basic 4.0 (32-bit) converts two-digit years to four-digit years based on the default in the Automation libraries, except when using the DateSerial function that converts all two-digit years to the century of the current system date. The 32-bit Automation libraries (OleAut32.dll version 2.10) that shipped when Visual Basic 4.0 was released converted all two-digit years to the century of the current system date. Later 32-bit Automation libraries (OleAut32.dll version 2.20 and later) convert two-digit years to the 1900s if the two-digit year is between 30 and 99. If the two-digit year is between 00 and 29, the date is converted to the 2000s. If you are using Visual Basic 4.0 (16-bit) or earlier, I suggest you immediately go to the Web site and look at their fixes for those applications. It is best not to assume that Microsoft has fixed everything for you in the operating system and that all your old apps will magically fix themselves. This is a very large issue which I think most persons are truly unaware of the consequences. I remem-





ber speaking with someone about it one time and they said "I am not concerned with it, I don't use a computer." I asked if he had credit cards, a bank in which he held money, gets bills for utilities, and other questions which he answered that he did. I said that without planning by these organizations, he could be "inconvenienced". Unfortunately, we will probably not know until it is too late. That is why I suggest to not assume that everything is OK and to take a serious look at this issue and your applications.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be a continuation of the Visual Basic 6 presentation in the Beginner Visual Basic Sig. We will pick up with a demo of new functionality within Visual Basic 6. I will probably work more with data access issues rather than I*net functions since I find them the most compelling and more appropriate for our group.

Thomas Lewis
aliensite@msn.com

WORDPERFECT/WINDOWS SIG

I hope everyone survived the summer and it's time to get down to fall business. This month we are going to delve into the makings of columns - I know, ick, ugh, pooooo. However, if you are going to create fun interoffice memo's or newsletters, the spiffiest are done in Corel WordPerfect 8 Columns!

Did you know that it is only in columns that you can have an image (whether it is a photograph or just clipart) lay over both columns? Congratulations if you did. However, if you didn't know that, come

and learn. If you are coming from the WordPerfect 5.1 DOS version, into the world of 8, then you might be interested in knowing that you can now put a table into columns. Have I piqued your interest yet?

We will also be discussing how to make a page look balanced, justification, using textures as a background fill and using borders (and not necessarily the borders that show up in the dialogue box!) So come and visit us this month and we look forward to seeing you and your friends.

Cindy Adams

Tip of the Month - Keyboard Customization

Do you find yourself accessing Symbols (WordPerfect Characters) frequently to use the same symbols repeatedly? Here's an absolutely wonderful way to put those symbols at your fingertips.

You cannot customize any default keyboard, but you can copy it and customize your copy of it. You can then edit your copy of the keyboard.



To Create and Edit a Keyboard:

- 1. WP8: Tools, Settings, Customize, Keyboards
- WP7 & WP6: Edit, Preferences, Keyboard
- 2. Highlight the keyboard you want to customize, Create...
- 3. At New Keyboard Name: type a name for your new keyboard definition, OK
- 4. WP8: At Customize Settings: click on the Keystrokes tab
- WP7: At Keyboard Shortcuts: click on the Keystrokes tab
- WP6: Skip to step 5
- 5. At Assign Key To, choose: Play a Keyboard Script
- 6. At Type The Script This Key Plays: Ctrl+W ... to display the WordPerfect Characters
- 7. Select and Insert a symbol
- 8. At Choose a Key to Assign or Unassign: highlight the key combination you would like to use for this symbol, click Assign Script
- 9. "Script" will appear next to the Shortcut Key you selected.
- 10. You can now place this symbol in any document at any time by pressing the shortcut key you chose.

To Edit Your Keyboard in the Future:

- WP8: Tools, Settings, Customize Keyboards
- WP7 & WP6: Edit, Preferences, Keyboard
- Highlight your keyboard, Edit...

Diane Bentley

NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

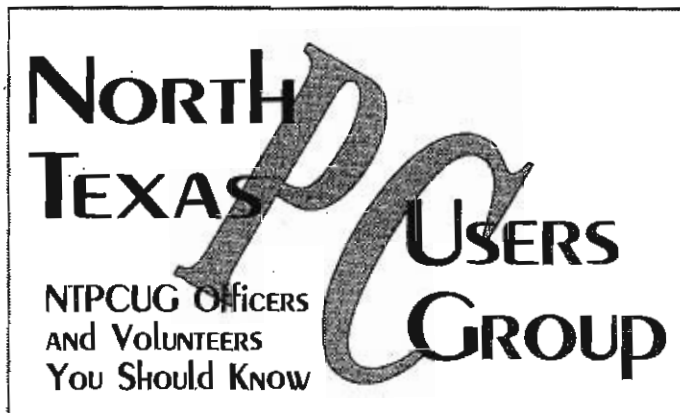
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG 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

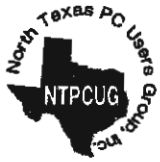
(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)

NTPCUG Officers

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President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
Programs 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 www.dfwxchange.com

Members Emeritus

~~John Pribyl~~ (1924 - 1993)
~~Phil Chamberlain~~ Jim Hoisington
~~Donna McGhee~~ Stuart Yarus
~~Don Prickett~~ Connie Andrews
~~Reagan Andrews~~ Reagan Andrews
~~Timothy Carmichael~~ Timothy Carmichael
~~Mark Graber~~ Mark Graber



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North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:
12 September 1998

