North Texas

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

NTPCUG

PC NEWS

Beginners' Guide to the Internet

9 - 15

Y2K

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for November
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, October 21st.

Meeting Dates:

October 17 – 3rd Saturday
November 14 – 2nd Saturday
December 19 – 3rd Saturday

NT ★ PCUG
NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, INC

In This Issue...

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

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM   **Hard Disk Drives: How To Upgrade**

Maxtor Corporation

@AGENDA DESC = What does downloading from the Internet, video/graphic applications, and Windows 95 have in common? They all demand space on your computer's hard disk drive. We will discuss the features you should look for in a new hard drive, what system requirements you need to be aware of, as well as troubleshoot any problems or questions that you may have with your current hard drive or operating system. Come see the latest technology from Maxtor. There will be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:55 AM   **Preview: Office 2000**

Microsoft Corporation

Microsoft Office 2000 won't be in the store shelves until early next year, but you can be among the first to experience its great new features and capabilities at this event designed specifically for user groups. You will see how Office 2000 extends traditional desktop productivity to the Web to help you streamline the way you work with people and information. You'll also see how this new version of Office once again delivers great ease of use improvements that will save you time creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and much more. Finally, you'll get a preview of two new applications that will now be part of Office 2000 - Microsoft FrontPage 2000, our best-selling Web-creation tool-and Microsoft PhotoDraw 2000, a brand new product that makes it easy to create cool images for the Web or print.

Honest-to-goodness Microsoft Office Product Managers will conduct demonstrations, so you'll know you're getting the most accurate information from the experts who know the products best. You'll see what's new and exciting in this major new release, plus be able to ask the Office 2000 product manager for additional information and demos that interest you.

Best of all, everyone who attends the tour will receive a free copy of *Office 2000* beta, including *FrontPage 2000*.

* 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.

OCTOBER 17

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
Y2K SIG (new)

9:00 - 10:55
Dallas Corel

10:00 - 10:55
ACT!
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

1:00 - 1:55 Ctd.
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 handouts in the INFOMART lobby and at the NTPCUG Information Booth in the Vendor Area for latest SIG schedules and room locations.

GREAT NEWS!

We have found a location for our Saturday Vendor events in 1999. The Saturday Sale will be located at Big Town Mall. The first two shows are scheduled for:

JANUARY 16, 1999

FEBRUARY 27, 1999

Big Town Mall is located east of downtown Dallas. From Interstate 35E, take Interstate 30 east until it splits with Highway 80. On Highway 80, it is just a short distance to the Big Town Boulevard exit. The Mall is at the corner of Highway 80 and Big Town Boulevard.

[Editor's Note: We will publish a detailed map in both the December and January issues of *The PC News* showing members how to get to the Big Town Mall Vendor Area and the new NTPCUG meeting site.]

The new vendor location is larger, parking is free, and there will be a food service vendor on the premises. More information will follow.

Still on the Agenda

Finding a place for the user groups (North Texas and Apple Corps) to meet. The search continues.

Thanks for Your Participation

Spike Smith, our SIG leader for the Introduction to the PC SIG, gave a talk to the first meeting of the Senior Adult Users Group at Brookhaven College on Friday, September 12. **Jim Manning** helped to organize the event and asked that the NTPCUG have a representative explain our group to the seniors. Spike volunteered and brought a copy of the NTPCUG video to show, as well as information sheets and newsletters. Jim said that Spike did a great job, and we might be seeing a few new members based on Spike's talk.

New Member Benefit

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. has filed the paperwork to join the Texans Credit Union. Texans Credit Union has been providing financial services for over 45 years and currently has assets exceeding $835 million. Their services include an ATM network, telephone and personal computer access systems, loans by telephone, and an automobile purchasing assistance program. The Texans Credit Union has seven Dallas offices, and offices in Midland, Austin, Houston, and Sherman.

As soon as I receive approval from their Board of Directors, I will invite Texans to one of our Saturday meetings to hand out literature and answer your questions. We will also come up with a way for you to receive their literature on benefits, locations, and fees if you do not attend that Saturday meeting.

Just like the Sam's Club membership, the Board of Directors is looking for ways like this credit union to enhance your $30 annual investment in the NTPCUG.

New SIG

We have a **Year 2000 SIG** (the **Y2K SIG**) that started in September. Check out this newsletter for additional information.

Questions About Using the Internet?
October will Feature Special 5-Hour "Internet for Beginners" Session
Basics of the Internet - A Presentation

It's almost Christmas!! You (or someone you know) will receive a new PC that just *SCREAMS* to be connected to the Internet. Or you have had a PC for months now, but still don't know how to even *find* the Internet. Friends and relatives keep asking what your e-mail (electronic mail) address is, and your long distance calls to your kid in college are becoming as much as tuition!! But what is the Internet ?? How do you get to it ?? Once connected, what can I do?? The answers are in the North Texas PC User Group's Beginning Internet SIG.

At our October 17th meeting, we will repeat our multi-hour *Introduction to the Internet* session. This periodic course is primarily designed for the beginner or novice user who has had little or no experience with the Internet. No question is out of line – in fact we strongly encourage *any* question of a beginning nature.

We plan to start at 10:00 AM and go about five hours. Our usual room is 5006, but please verify the location on the schedule sheets (available in the Infomart lobby) or from the overhead projectors in the vendor sales area.

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

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

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

Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe & Kiff Barnes

$3.00 Per Person Boo-Boo

Prez Sez ... Ctd.

Since these columns are written way ahead of the meeting, I reported in September that there would be a $3.00 admission fee to the vendor area beginning in October. Several meetings have occurred since then, and it has been decided that the fee will start in November, after the logistics including personnel issues have been ironed out.

A Very Special Thank You

I wanted to express my sincere appreciation, and that of the Board of Directors and Officers of the NTPCUG, to **Stuart Yarus** for all of his hard work and dedication to the user groups, the Computer Council of Dallas, and the DFW Xchange Corporation. I would award him a free membership, if he was not already a Member Emeritus in the group. Stuart, your contributions have played a major part in our success. Thank you.

Andy Oliver

ANNOUNCEMENTS NTPCUG & Special Events

Subject: Tiger Distributing

During the beginning of the year I purchased a 166-MMX CPU and motherboard from Tiger Distributing at the DFW Xchange Vendor Area during the monthly NTPCUG meeting. I asked that the motherboard be 'tuned' for the CPU and it was done. The installation was a "plug 'n' play" experience, and the performance afterwards was very satisfactory. Based on this experience, I went to purchase a similar combination during the June 20, 1998 meeting.

They did not have a P166 CPU available. The Tiger rep assured and convinced me that the AMD K6-200 was as good as if not better than the P166. He mentioned that he uses the same K6-200 and M570 motherboard combination in his office without any problems. I went ahead and purchased it from them after requesting that the motherboard be jumpered for the K6-200 CPU. It was handed to me with the assurances that the jumpers were set.

When I went to install it during my system upgrade, it would not work. I installed 2 32mb 72pin SIMMs memory. During POST, it only registered 4mb. After numerous troubleshooting attempts I could not get it to work. The following month, I brought the K6-200/motherboard combination to the NTPCUG meeting. Tiger Distributing was nowhere in sight. When I inquired at the vendors' desk I was told that they might show up during the August meeting. The August meeting took place but they were still a "no show". During my inquiry I was told that they might not be coming back.

Towards the end of August I took combination already installed in the chassis to Tiger's storefront in North Dallas. The RMA desk person told me that they would charge me US$49 labor fee if they have to check the combination whilst in the case. I left without them checking it. A few days later I returned with just the combination. It was checked and supposedly fixed by setting the correct CPU speed in the bios. When I got it home and installed it, the POST still only recognizes 4096 bytes instead of the 64mb.

Once again I called Tiger and informed them of the previously mentioned problem. I was told to bring the whole case in for further testing. After this testing the technician decided to replace the motherboard with another supposedly new one. The new one came in an already opened static bag, and when I called their attention to this fact, the RMA person told me that all motherboards are

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opened for testing prior to their sale. I left with the new motherboard and my disassembled system.

The supposedly new motherboard did not work either. The video did not come on during or after POST. When I called Tiger once again, they mentioned that maybe the video card was defective. I informed them that the system was tested with 3 different video cards that were taken from functioning systems. They countered that ISA video cards were old technology and that is why it might not work and I should use a PCI video card. I reminded them that "open system" includes backward compatibility.

In exasperation I called the head of Tiger Tech Support (Scott Faulkner), who asked me to bring the system back in after relaying my numerous encounters with getting their product fixed including the lack of response from the front panel controls. They had a look at it last Friday, and it worked whilst there. When I brought it home, it worked once and failed again. The video and front panel controls did not work again.

On Saturday, I bought a brand new PCI video card which I installed. It did not work on any of the 3 PCI slots on the motherboard.

Also, last Saturday I found out that Tiger Distributing lost their financial backer and was having major cash flow problems, which I suspected. They are rumored to be selling returned parts as new and not even testing these parts before putting them back in sales inventory.

I was also informed that some members of DFW Xchange administration were aware of Tiger's financial plight but did not inform the membership.

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.

How do I find out what's new on the Web?

comp.infosystems.www.announce:

The newsgroup comp.infosystems.www.announce carries announcements of new resources on the World Wide Web. Since newsgroups are distributed, it can be accessed reliably even when the net is very busy.

What's New With NCSA Mosaic:

The unofficial newspaper of the World Wide Web is What's New With NCSA Mosaic (URL is: *http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/SDG/Software/Mo-*

saic/Docs/whats-new.html), which carries announcements of new servers on the web and also of new web-related tools. This should be in your hot list if you're not using Mosaic (which can access it directly through the help menu).

comp.internet.net-happinings:

You can also check out the newsgroup comp.internet.net-happenings, which carries WWW announcements and many other Internet-related announcements. [Editor's Note: The newsgroups are probably the best & worst sources for news about almost any subject the user can imagine. Users need to remember that many newsgroups are not monitored and are often filled with material of somewhat questionable veracity. Both IE and Navigator have integrated news readers.]

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.

Tiger Distributing... Ctd.

NTPCUG members continue to do business with them based on their DFWX "vendor area" relationship, and they are being victimized by Tiger and its financial predicament. The membership needs to be informed of the situation.

Francis Bright

[Editor's Note: Mr. Bright's letter is published as a result of other complaints about Tiger we have received lately. The Vendor Area is managed by DFW Xchange Corp, not NTPCUG. If either were aware that a vendor was not operating honestly, they wouldn't be allowed to do business in the Vendor Area. However, being in 'financial difficulty' does not mean 'dishonest.'

September's Variety Store Refuted, Partly

Let me state publicly that the first thing I look for when the *North Texas PC News* arrives is our very own curmudgeon-in-residence's "Variety Store" column. I do that because I have always wanted Andy Rooney to talk first on CBS's "60 Minutes" so I could change channels and watch something more interesting, like test patterns.

I like curmudgeons. They tweak our noses and make us enjoy that they ARE tweaking our noses. They can be imperfect. That is okay, we forgive them; we do not like our curmudgeons to actually BE perfect. Actually, we do not like our politicians to be perfect either, but that is quite another topic of discussion.

My dictionary defines a curmudgeon as "a crusty, ill-tempered, and usually old man."

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Sorry about that, **Reagan**, because I don't consider you to be old or ill-tempered. Crusty? Yes, that part fits you to a "T." I trust that you will take that as a compliment; I mean it to be a compliment. After all, when one has added a certain number of candles to their birthday cake, they are entitled to be a tad crusty, if not old or ill-tempered.

So it was with a degree of dismay that I read about Reagan's lamentations about "user friendly" programs driving him up a wall. Was he upset because they are friendly? No, our curmudgeon would not want a program to be particularly antagonistic, would he? Instead, he railed against the injustices of programs inserting things he finds useless, such as Microsoft's MOM and WordPerfect's POP.

Hopefully you all know what Reagan and I are talking about. It's those annoying toolbars that let us hop from one program to another without having to think. The first thing I do is get rid of anything remotely resembling them. However, I do it before the fact.

Don't ever use the "Standard" installation option. Look at the "Complete" button first. There are all sorts of goodies that can be turned on or off. Most programs even have text or graphics filters that you won't ever need, thus saving you valuable real estate on your hard drive(s).

Spend a few extra minutes when first installing a new application and you will find that you can save aggravation, stress, time, money, and column space.

Bottom line, if all else fails, read the instructions. But that does take all the fun out of things, doesn't it...unless, of course, you are a curmudgeon.

Beverly Kurtin

[Curmudgeon Editor's Note: Here's where I take Bev to task. Either of us would have no difficulty doing as she suggests. For the new user, it's an entirely different universe and only the brave should attempt the "Custom" installation unaided — even after reading the instructions. For more details, please see the DOS/Operating System SIG Notes on pages 21-22 this month.]

HTML & the 2000++ problem

Tom A. Prickett

I'm of the old school when it comes to programming. My introduction to writing code began with an NCR 500 used by a mortgage company. There were little magnetic stripes on the back of each mortgage ledger card that contained the ones and zeros important to them, the computer's version of reality. The programming code was inserted the same way, on a special ledger card. There was only one language, the codes that particular machine used. Now THAT was a programming language worthy of cutting your teeth on, there HAD to be a better way.

So I went back to school to learn how to do it right. In those days, to telecommute you did 300 BAUD. That was when you got the fast line. There were two other lines at 110 BAUD if you were not first. The 56,000 BAUD modem I use today pushes the limit of the twisted pair telephone lines; they are often becoming the limiting factor. Back then hardware to fix the communication speed wasn't available at a reasonable cost. You just couldn't get it.

Then I got a job programming using the F language (ForTran Four), and then Clubfoot (COBOL). Later we graduated to PL-1, then to A, BCPL (Basic Computer Prog. Lang.), and finally C. These were called high-level languages over the usually faster & smaller assembly language (particular machine code).

Learning a new language became part of the deal. The first error messages generated by the language compilers were somewhat valid. But the last error messages were highly questionable. Reading computer memory "dumps" became an art form. The first question on everybody's mind was - Can you quickly solve the problem? The second seemed to be - Can you make it faster & smaller? They all happened, because that was the focus of attention.

First, you wrote the program in the high-level language to show you could quickly solve the problem, then you re-coded the slowest parts in assembly language to make it run faster & smaller.

Enough reminiscing, we are in the modern age now. What have we learned in this age of the Internet? The Hyper-Text Markup Language (HTML) does do the job. It is easy for a the browser on your computer to download and interpret what was compiled code in the past.

Speed will not be such a high priority of the software. The possibility of a speed problem could be many things probably somewhere in this order: (1) you, (2) the telephone line, (3) the Internet itself, (4) your Internet Service Provider (ISP), (5) the rest of your computer hardware, or (6) the computer software you use. Today the slowest link is probably (1) the amount of data you are trying to download. Things you typically can't improve immediately are (3 and 4). Your line speed (2) and hardware (5) are suspect too, but the software on your machine (6) is no longer one of the first suspects to round-up.

Space too will not be such a high priority of the software. The year 2000 problem which has been the darling of the popular press today was basically a space problem that caused programmers to lob off the 19 part of the dates to save space. Today you can fix the space problem best by reducing (1) the amount of data you are trying to download. Other options are to improve the hardware to make your line faster (2), or hardware(5), then the software on your machine(6). Again (3 and 4) typically can't be improved immediately.

Today the same questions are still there. How fast can I show I can solve the problem? Then you concentrate on making the slowest parts faster & smaller. The questions are the same, but the high level languages and assembly languages have been changed on the Internet.

Enough about today, what about tomorrow?

There is always a slowest link in the chain. HTML alone will begin to cause severe maintenance problems, sort of a 2000++ problem. Hmm. Rewriting or debugging is not a good way to keep programmers employed. HTML, the language we love to hate, is becoming a replacement for the assembly language of the past.

The principal browsers (Navigator and Explorer) run on HTML, and they are quickly becoming the Internet machines of tomorrow. There will be better versions of HTML, AFTER the browser programmers have agreed and changed their browsers.

But wait, aren't there high-level language solutions? C is part of Java, the Sun Microsystems language. If the question is how quickly can you get my company visible on the Internet, this seems to be the quickest way to show you solved the problem. After the smoke clears and you have something that works, then go around fix the pieces you need to re-code into HTML. Java is becoming a replacement for the high-level languages of the past.

Microsoft Answers

Provided by Robert Russell

Hello, we are the folks at Microsoft Product Support Services. Some of us have participated over the past few years as individuals with the local special user community. In the future, we would like for Microsoft PSS to have a more formal presence here at North Texas PC Users Group (NTPCUG). We hope to bring you a monthly note on items, products and concerns of the Microsoft PC community. We will give news, updates, and anecdotal stories concerning any issues that may come up and answering (if we can) questions you may have.

PSS has been a long time part of Microsoft. In March of 1987 Microsoft combined End-User and OEM support services into a single Product Support Services group in order to serve customers more effectively.

We have gone hard after it ever since, spreading to multiple sites in the U.S. as well as our international subsidiaries.

PSS is tasked with helping Microsoft's customers, whether they are individual end users or from a major corporate installation involving thousands of seats. We help users with usability questions,

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HTML & 2000++... Crd.

Can I remember doing this for errant F & Clubfoot programs? You bet! There has to be a better way. Is speed & space still a question? You bet! Are the solutions different? You bet! Will there be other languages in the future? You bet! Will the Internet and your ISP tend to still be out of your control? Again, you bet!

If you would like to vent, I sometimes reply, use my eMail address. Check out my URL on the Internet for something completely different. It is (how do you say it politely), a little graphics intensive. Speed is still a problem.

> URL: www.geocities.com/eureka/park/1490
> eMail: tom.prickett@chrysalis.org
> tom.prickett@ntpcug.org

Tom A. Prickett

tap...

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problems of interoperability with other software, programmatic support, and network issues.

We have created and maintained a database of issues pertaining to our applications, operating systems and the BackOffice family of products. We refer to this database as the Knowledge Base and refer to the various articles as KB articles. Most of these KB articles are available at our web site on the Internet at *http://support.microsoft.com*.

At Microsoft, we maintain a set of downloadable patches, fixes and drivers. These can be found at our Internet site (noted above) or from our download bulletin board at (425) 936-6735. This is operated from 2:30 am to 1:00 am seven days a week (shut down an hour and a half each night for updating and maintenance). All the files on the system are compressed self-extracting archive files unless otherwise stated. Run the file once it has been downloaded, and it will extract into the desired file(s) and documentation.

If you require Support on your Microsoft product(s) you have several options:

1. You can use FastTips. You can hear recorded responses to common questions and order technical notes that will be sent to your fax machine. FastTips is available 24 hours a days, 7 days a week. To access FastTips or to receive a map or catalog, call the FastTips number listed for the product type in which you are interested:

> Desktop applications (800) 936-4100
> Microsoft Home products (800) 936-4100
> Desktop Systems (800) 936-4200
> Development products (800) 936-4300
> Business systems (800) 936-4400

2. You may call Microsoft Product Support Services between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Friday. To obtain the support phone number for your product, refer to your product literature or call (800) 426-9400 and select option 1.

In the future we will do our best to answer any questions you may pose to us at NTPCUG. You may send E-mail to *askmslc@microsoft.com* and we will respond in the next NTPCUG Publication.

Until next time,

Dan Gholston,
Support Engineer at Product Support Services
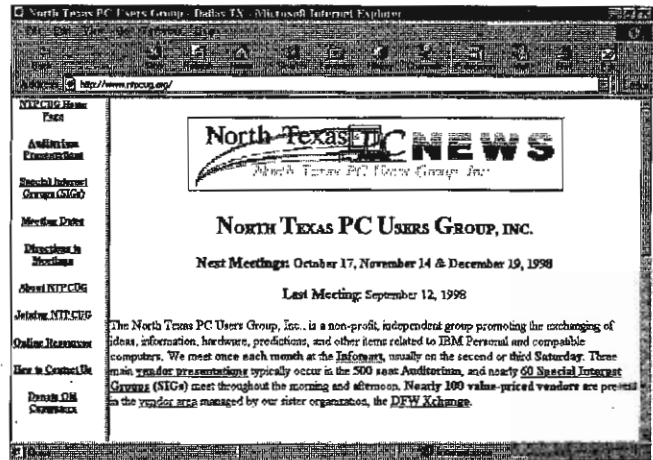
Beginners Guide to the Internet, 3rd Edition

By Erik Leaseburg,
Revised by Doug Gorrie

Over the past several years the popularity of the Internet has exploded. You cannot seem to get through a day without seeing an advertisement on TV, in the newspaper, or hearing one on the radio encouraging you to visit a company's web site or send them your comments via email. Your co-workers, friends, and relatives are talking about all this neat "stuff" they found while surfing the Net. So, why do so many feel like outcasts from this global village the Internet has helped create?

The problem is that the Internet seems so big and vague that most do not even know where to begin or what questions to ask. If this describes your predicament then read on. In this article the following questions will be raised and their answers given: What is the Internet? What equipment do I need? How do I connect to the Internet? How much will it cost me? What can I do on the Internet? What do all these strange-sounding Internet terms mean (web, email, etc.)? Where can I go to learn more about the Internet? These questions are the most common ones asked by beginning Internet users. By seeing these questions and their answers, this article hopes to bring a few outcasts into the Internet community.

What Is The Internet?

In a nutshell, the Internet is the largest computer network in the history of mankind, allowing millions of people to communicate and share information with one another.

The amount and diversity of information available on the Internet is enormous, exceeding even the United States Library of Congress. The beginnings of the Internet started in the 1970's when the United States Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency sponsored a computer network called the ARPANet. This network connected several government and university labs together allowing researchers to communicate and share information and computer resources. The original ARPANet has long since been replaced, and the government no longer owns or runs the Internet.

Today, parts of the Internet are owned and run by numerous commercial companies. No one organization owns the Internet. The important thing to remember is that the Internet is more than just a bunch of networks and computers. It is people communicating, sharing thoughts and information with other people. The computers and the network are just there to do the grunt work of moving the information between those on the Internet.

What Equipment Do I Need?

Since the Internet is just a big, complex computer network, you will need a properly equipped computer to use the Internet. The following list gives the typical minimum requirements and optional hardware your PC should be equipped with before you venture out onto the Information Superhighway.

Making sure your system meets or exceeds these requirements will help you avoid a big pothole found on the information onramp.

Minimum Requirements

❖ - 486 PC Compatible
❖ - MS Windows 3.1, 95, or NT
❖ - 3.5" Floppy Drive
❖ - 4MB of RAM (8MB or more preferred)

❖ - 14400 Baud Modem (28800 or higher preferred)

❖ - Standard Analog Phone Line

❖ - 10MB of Free Hard Drive Space

Optional Hardware

❖ - VGA/SVGA Monitor and Graphic Card

❖ - CD-ROM Drive

❖ - Sound Blaster Compatible Sound Card

How Do I Connect To The Internet?

To be able to communicate and find information on the Internet, you have to first connect your computer into this global network. This requires both hardware and software. The hardware involved in making the connection is your computer's modem. Your modem may be internal (inside your computer) or external (separate from your computer). If external, a cable connects the modem to a "serial port" on your PC, which is often labeled as COM1 or COM2.

A modem is a device which allows your computer to dial phone numbers and send and receive information over a standard phone line. You simply plug your phone line into your computer modem and the hardware part of the process is complete. A later section will detail who your computer must call to connect to the Internet.

Installation of software on your computer is the next step to connecting to the Internet. First, consider the following: When people wish to speak to and be understood by each other, they have to agree on a common language (English, French, etc.). The same applies to computers – since the Internet is a computer network, you have to configure your computer so that it can understand what other computers on the Internet are saying. This "common language" is called a protocol, which is simply an agreed upon approach for two systems to communicate with one another. Nearly every type of computer imaginable is connected to the Internet, and they can all share information because they all use the same protocol, known as TCP/IP.

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol is the basic communication protocol that forms the

foundation of the Internet. Most other Internet protocols, such as FTP and HTTP (explained later) are components of TCP/IP.

TCP/IP was not designed to communicate directly over regular phone lines. So to connect your TCP/IP equipped computer to the Internet, your software must also carry your TCP/IP information to the Internet, which it does using another protocol known as PPP, or Point-to-Point Protocol.

You may occasionally hear references to a predecessor of PPP, called SLIP. The Serial Line Internet Protocol is an older, less sophisticated protocol which has been replaced by PPP. Except in unusual circumstances, PPP is preferred over SLIP.

So, who should your computer call to connect to the Internet? That would be your friendly neighborhood ISP. An Internet Service Provider is a company which sells you a connection to the Internet. ISPs own their own computers, which are connected to the Internet 24 hours a day. ISPs pay big fees so that they can connect to the Internet. These big fees are paid to commercial companies like Sprint who own a portion of the Internet. ISPs then spread that connection cost among all their customers, people like you, who dial into the ISP's computers to connect to the Internet.

In summary, the process of connecting to the Internet involves you having your computer make a local call to your ISP's computer, which in turn connects you to the Internet.

Once you have the hardware and software installed properly on your computer, you are ready to begin making your connection. First, you have your modem dial the local phone number of the ISP, which your ISP will give you when you sign up. The phone call is answered by a bank of modems connected to the ISP's computer. After the computers and modems determine that they can talk to one another using a common protocol, you are prompted on the computer screen to enter your personalized name and password (already assigned by the ISP when you signed up). This is done to confirm that you are a paying customer of the ISP, and to tell the ISP's computer which of

their customers is wanting to connect to the Internet. Once you enter this information correctly, you officially become a computer on the Internet.

How Much Will It Cost Me?

The price of connecting to the Internet is made up of several costs. First, you must have a computer. Second, you may have to augment your system with the appropriate equipment required for logging on: a modem, sufficient RAM (Random Access Memory), etc. The third is a fee charged by the ISP for Internet access. If you already own or have access to a computer, a decent 28800 bps (bits per second) modem costs as little as $50 (more for faster modems). Note that the higher the bps rate of the modem, the faster your computer can receive and send information over the Internet. Faster is always better unless the cost of the modem is prohibitively high.

Most ISPs support modem speeds up to 56,000 bps, although higher speeds are availible with newer phone line technologies (ISDN, for example). Check with your ISP first before buying the latest, greatest, and fastest modem to make sure they can support the higher speeds on their end. Otherwise, you are stuck driving a really fast car in a school zone.

What Fees are Involved?

The fee for a connection to the Internet is typically a setup fee plus a monthly or yearly fee charged by your ISP. The setup fee is a one-time cost the ISP charges for signing you up **and sending you the software needed to connect** to their services. This fee is usually $15 - $30, but is often waived. Most ISPs have several connection to choose from, but they typically fall into two main categories: hourly access and unlimited access. Hourly con-

Xchange Saturday, Largest monthly user group meeting in US
Hosted by DFW Xchange

A typical Xchange Saturday, around 9:30 AM

Xchange Saturdays:

October 17
November 14
December 19
January 16
February 27
April 17
May 15

Computer User Groups:

Apple Corps of Dallas
Atari Users of North Texas
DalCOGS - Dallas Computer Oriented Geoscience Society
Dallas Personal Robotics Group
Dallas Small Computer Society - Timex/Sinclair/Amstrad
Dallas TI Home Computer Group, 99/4A
North Texas PC Users Group

North Texas Linux User Group

BEGINNER'S INTERNET GUIDE

nection plans charge you a given rate for each hour you are connected to the Internet. Unlimited connection plans charge you a fixed fee per month or year no matter how much time you spend on the Internet. A typical price figure for an hourly plan might be $10 per month for the first 5 hours, plus $3 per hour for each hour over 10. The unlimited plans average $20 per month. Many unlimited plans will let you pay for a year of access in advance at a reduced rate of around $120 (a deal at $10 per month). In general, if you plan to be dialed in frequently, flat rate plans are generally cheaper.

Finding ISPs in My Area

How do I find the phone numbers of ISPs in my area? The latest edition of your yellow pages should have a section titled "Internet" or "Internet Service Providers," which lists local and national sales numbers. You can also try a company called ISP Finder (1-888-ISP-FIND) that will mail, fax, or email you a list of ISPs with local phone numbers in your area. Most computer magazines also have many advertisements for ISPs and often run ISP comparison articles several times a year to help you find and choose a good ISP. There are at least two free monthly Dallas-area magazines that typically contain advertising by local ISPs – *Computer Currents* and *Current Technology*. One or both are available at the monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (NTPCUG), and at local book stores.

The best resources for ISPs are friends, relatives, and coworkers that are already connected, and asking at the monthly meeting of NTPCUG. They can tell you how satisfied they are with their service.

How do I know which ISPs are the best? Here are some points to keep in mind when making your choice. ISP access is divided into two groups, local and national. A local ISP generally serves a small region, usually within a single area code. Whereas, a national ISP provides access in areas all over the United States. Local ISPs are typically cheaper, but if you travel often and want to connect to the Internet while you are on the road, you should definitely go with a National ISP with local numbers in the cities you frequent. National ISPs are further divided into two basic groups: the Big Four online services (America Online, CompuServe, Microsoft Network, and Prodigy) and everyone else (ITR, Netcom, Pipeline, etc.). Along with providing Internet access, the Big Four offer their own content, including chat rooms, news updates, searchable references (travel guides, cookbooks, and encyclopedias), special interest groups, and online shopping — all accessible from an easy-to-use interface. Recently, other big national ISPs such as Netcom and PSINet Pipeline USA have begun to look like online services by adding original content and slick interfaces, but they lack the breadth and depth of the Big Four's offerings.

Cheapest ISP Not Always Best

Choosing the cheapest ISP is not always the best move. Because they are inexpensive, there may be too much demand for the company to handle, making it difficult for you to dial into their computer during peak hours (evenings). With any provider, 24-hour customer support is a plus, especially if they provide a toll-free support line. Before signing up with a specific ISP have the salesperson give you their local access phone numbers (the numbers your computer uses to hook up), and their customer support phone number (the number you use to speak to a human being). Try dialing both these numbers during peak evening hours and see if you get busy signals or have to wait a long time to talk to someone.

Other questions include how long they have been in business, and what procedures they have in place for when they get overloaded with new customers. ISPs have large numbers of modems to serve their customers who dial in. They should keep the customer-to-modem ratio between 8:1 and 12:1. This means that on average, every 8 to 12 customers will have one modem at the ISP that they can dial into for Internet access. While only one user can use each modem, the likelihood of all the ISP's customers calling in at the same time is small. The only time this is a problem is during peak hours.

The ratios above are usually sufficient to cover demand. If the ISP does not have plans to add more modems as their customer base grows, you may not be able to connect to the Internet during peak hours. But as you inquire about modem ratios, remember that you have no way to confirm the accuracy of what you are told.

What Software is Provided?

The ISP provides two groups of software when you sign up. The first is used to connect your computer to the Internet (often called dialer software). It is this software that negotiates the protocol between your computer and the Internet. The second group is used once you have made your connection. The Internet is full of many different services that will be detailed below. This second group of software is required to utilize these Internet services. Both software packages are part of the service provided by your ISP and should not incur any extra cost.
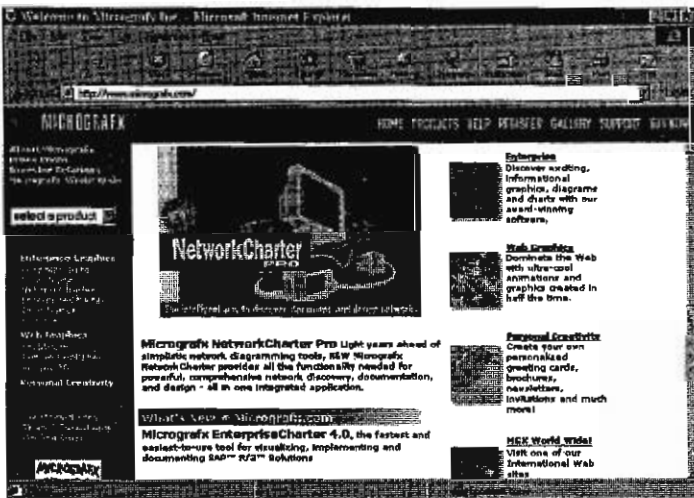
What Can I Do On The Internet?

Once you are on the Internet, you will want to partake of the many different services available. You can communicate with friends using electronic mail (e-mail), visit great places on the World Wide Web, peruse topics of interest in Usenet Newsgroups, and take home some cool souvenirs by downloading free software, pictures, movies, songs, and games with FTP. These specialized Internet programs will be discussed in greater detail below. As you read about these programs keep in mind that there are many different makes and models of each Internet software utility for your computer.

One of the reasons for the explosion in Internet popularity is the addition of the World Wide Web (WWW or Web). Quite a bit of confusion exists over the distinction between the Internet and the World Wide Web. Originally, there were many different smaller information sites on the Internet, and each required a different way to access and download their information. The World Wide Web came along to make access to these sites more centralized. If you can envision the Internet as a large library full of card files, microfiche, magazines, books, and audio-visual resources, and the World Wide Web as a device to view all these resources from one place, you have an idea of how the Web functions within the Internet. The advent of the Web has made the Internet much more accessible to the average home computer user.

Web Browser Most Powerful

A web browser is the most powerful and versatile Internet software program a surfer of the Net can own. The web browser, which runs on your PC, makes finding and viewing information on the Internet an easy point-and-click task. The two most popular web browsers used today are Netscape's *Navigator* and Microsoft's *Internet Explorer*, and one of these is usually part of the software provided to you by your ISP. The Web utilizes the HTTP protocol (HyperText Transfer Protocol) to send multimedia documents (containing text, pictures, sounds, and hypertext links) from remote Internet computers to your PC. Hypertext refers to a system of linked information that works similarly to the underlined areas in a Windows help files. Just as the underlined, colored text in a help file jumps you to another help screen with related information, a Web hypertext link jumps you to another multimedia Web document somewhere

Beginner's Internet Guide

else on the Internet. Like tangents of a spider web, these hypertext links effortlessly connect you to related pieces of information found on the Internet.

Another reason for the popularity of the Internet is the wide variety of free and demonstration software available for download to your PC for personal use. The program and protocol used to download this information is called the File Transfer Protocol, or FTP. In the past, a separate FTP program was used to download files and software from computers on the Internet. Today, with the increasing popularity and ease-of-use of the Web, downloading files on the Internet is done mostly through the web browser's built in FTP program. When you see a file on a web page that you want to download to your computer, you simply click on it.

If you like reading newsgroups covering topics of interest, you may love the variety provided by the Internet's Usenet Newsgroups. Usenet is the Internet's worldwide bulletin board system, consisting of over 15,000 topical discussion groups, called newsgroups. Nearly every topic you can think of is covered by one or more newsgroups. The program on your PC allowing you to view these newsgroups is called a newsreader. Again, newer web browsers include an integrated newsreader, although several popular newsreaders exist which are not part of a web browser.

Of course, one of the first uses of the Internet was to send electronic mail, or "e-mail", from person to person. Most ISPs let you choose your own e-mail address so anyone on the Internet can drop you a note at your own personalized email ad-

dress. E-mail is still the most popular utility used on the Internet. Most avid e-mail users have all but forgotten how to use the U.S. Mail system. The advantage of email is that it usually gets to its destination, anywhere in the world, in just a few minutes, and you never have to buy a postage stamp!

There are some final steps you must take after using FTP to download files (programs, text, graphics, movies, sounds, and games) so that you can use them. Because a modem connection to the Internet is relatively slow (e.g., a 1MB sized file takes approximately 12 minutes to transfer using a 14440 baud modem), most files are compressed. The concept of compressed files is similar to evaporated milk or orange juice concentrate, all the essential elements are still there, but it's volume is smaller. This saves storage space at the Internet source and decreases the time necessary to download the file to your PC. There are several common compression programs on the Internet, but the main one used is PKZip. You will use a program on your PC to decompress the data before you try to use it. Such a program will be included with the software package from your ISP. Alternately, the compressed file may be "self extracting", meaning that it can uncompress itself merely by running it.

If you are concerned with protecting your PC from viruses, you will want to check all files you copy from Internet sites with some type of virus scanning software. As you download, you are exposing your computer to files copied from exotic sites all over the world, and viruses spread easily in the global Internet village. If you feel uncomfortable with the level of cleanliness on your local public phone, you should be equally concerned for your computer.

Now that the downloaded file is decompressed and free of any viruses, your PC must run software that knows the format of the file and knows how to display or play its contents. "Viewer" applications are software that you run on your PC to display images, play sounds, or run movies you downloaded. On the other hand, setup programs that come with the downloaded file are used for installing and running games and programs. The difference is that a viewer is used to read passive documents and pictures, while a setup program is used to install and run active games and programs.

WHERE CAN I GO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTERNET?

The world of the Internet is the newest and probably most dynamic area in the computer world. Some books and software utilities written only a year ago are already out of date. Publishers and software firms are rushing to keep up with the tremendous growth of the Internet. Most good Internet books are into their 2nd and 3rd editions, and program versions are changing almost monthly. Always buy the latest version of any book or software package.

As a new Internet user, you should read a good book which covers the Internet in general. Some people hope to gain all the knowledge they need by simply using the Internet. You will learn much more about how to effectively use the Internet, if you take the time to read a good reference guide. Listed below are several good Internet books which are available in the computer section of local bookstores, such as Barnes and Noble, Taylor Technical Books, and Pro-Tech Books, and computer stores such as the Micro Center. When choosing, please remember that these books may have been revised since this list was created. Also, a lot of other good books are available - be sure to pick one that meets your needs.
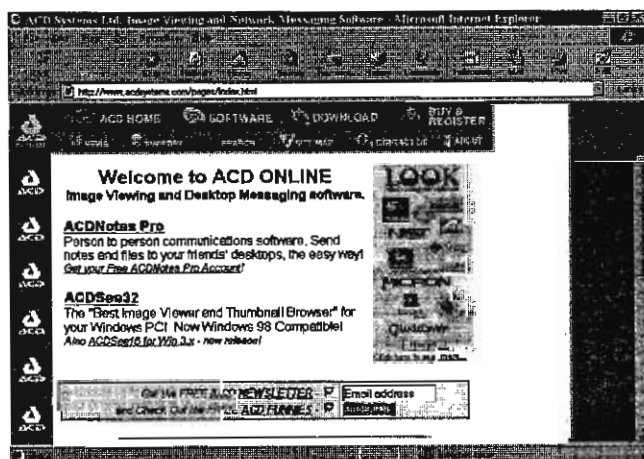
Beginning Internet Books

- ❖ *The Internet for Busy People*, $24.99 by Christian Crumlish, Osborne Publishing 1998
- ❖ *The Internet for Dummies 4th Ed.*, $19.99 by John Levine, Baroudi, and Young, IDG Books 1997
- ❖ *Official Netscape Navigator 4.0 Book*, $39.99 by Phil James, Vantana Co. 1997
- ❖ *The Internet Complete Reference 2nd Ed.*, $32.95 by Harley Hahn, Osborne/McGraw Hill 1996
- ❖ *The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog*, $24.95 by Ed Krol, Wadsworth Publishing 1996

After getting a firm grasp on the basic Internet concepts, you can keep your knowledge current by subscribing to any of the many monthly Internet magazines listed below. Most computer stores and bookstores carry several of them.
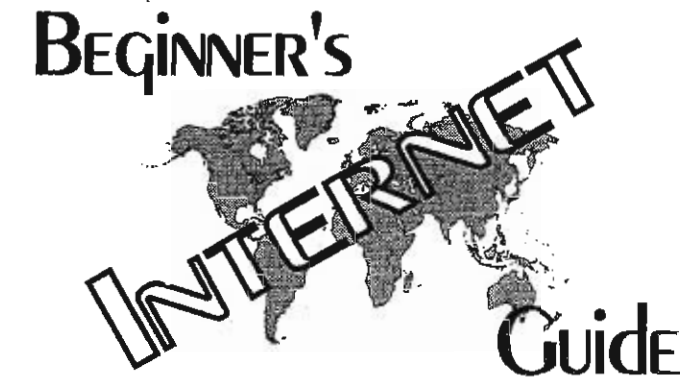
Beginning Internet Magazines

- ❖ - Internet World, $4.95
- ❖ - ZD Internet Magazine, $3.99
- ❖ - Online Access, $4.95
- ❖ - The Net, $4.99
- ❖ - Wired, $4.95
- ❖ - Computer Currents, Free!
- ❖ - Current Technology, Free!

Because of the popularity of the Internet, you can often find inexpensive and even free courses and group discussions being held on using the Internet. Listed below are some places to begin looking.

Beginning Internet Class Locations

- ❖ - Community College and University Classes
- ❖ - Company Classes
- ❖ - Public Library Books and Classes
- ❖ - Internet Service Provider Classes
- ❖ - NTPCUG Beginner and Advanced Internet SIG Meetings

Many TV and radio shows have popped up in recent years to discuss how the Internet is being used, and where its future is headed. Below is a list of some of these shows.

BEGINNER'S Internet Guide

Beginning Internet TV & Radio Shows

- ❖ - NetTalk Live, The Internet Talk Show, 27 KDFI TV, 570 AM, Sun 10pm-Midnight
- ❖ - The Web, Sci-Fi Channel, Sun 11am & 10pm
- ❖ - The New Edge, Sci-Fi Channel, Sun 12pm & 11pm
- ❖ - CNET Central, Sci-Fi Channel, Sun 12:30pm & 11:30pm, USA Network, Sun 5am & Tue 12pm
- ❖ - TV.COM, FOX - Dallas, Sun 5am, ABC - Dallas, Sun 5am, FOX - Ft Worth, Sat 10am

Hopefully this article has given you enough information about the Internet to get you started. Building a network of other NTPCUG members and friends that share an interest in the Internet is a terrific way to ensure that you continue to learn new and exciting things occurring in and around the Internet. The NTPCUG has a Beginning (10-11am) and Advanced (9-10am) Internet SIG that meets each month to talk about current and future Internet developments and products. The Beginning Internet SIG also plans on holding an "Introduction to the Internet" course series several times a year specifically for new Internet users.

The Internet is an exciting place to be. Good luck on your journey.

Erik Leaseburg
&
Doug Gorrie
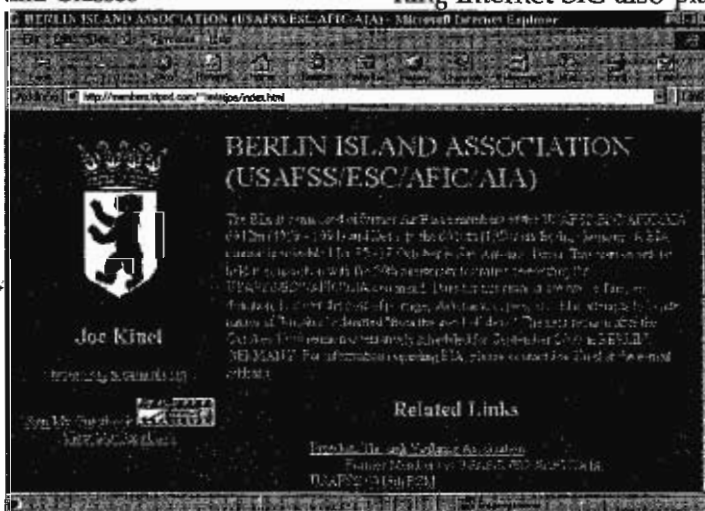
Inside The North Texas PC Users Group Community
Volunteers in Action   by Claude McClure

New and Improved - Does Everything

We are talking about a volunteer here, not the latest cold water detergent. **Bob McNeil** wasn't happy with the legacy folders the Information and Registration Booth used for renewal applications. The paper covers had aged appreciably since their inauguration by **Connie Andrews** in 1992. He donated colored folders for each hour, and presented them to the Booth in time for the first hourly volunteers to use. Each folder is designated with the hour, and labeled inside with pockets for *New Member* and *Renewal* applications. This has improved record keeping and Booth effectiveness.

As if that was not enough, Bob launched into another self-assigned project, which benefited new members. He took the impetus from a evening meeting last Spring with Volunteer Committee members **Jim Boyce** and me. The value to new members is increased by rewriting the hard copy new member kit and also putting it in computer disk format. Bob did both of these projects and produced a kit which is now eagerly accepted by our new members. He is probably standing in the wings waiting for our communications guru to unveil the new Web server specifics so he can update the kit.

Finally, Bob supplied the statistics people with two new tabulation forms which have corrected data columns for easier and accurate input. What a guy! Thanks for all you do, Bob.

Other volunteers who make the NTPCUG meeting possible, are list on this page. Take a moment to thank them as well as the SIG leaders and club officers. The NTPCUG is fortunate to have such a great group of volunteers.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Dick Abbott
Crew:
Dennis Brininger

Aaron Burton
Mark Guyer
James Guyer
Charles Kemp
Fred Steadman
Daniel Thomas
Robert Whiteside
Peyton Weaver

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael

Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Newsletter Labels
Charlie Fernandez

Information/Registration Booth
Statistician:
Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)
Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors:
Roger Bopp
Vernon Cates
Albert Champon
Cinda Lovil (Double)
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams
Matt Williams
Booth Crew:
Al Aston
Deborah Bean

Glynn Brooks
Randy Durham
Eteta E. Eta
Tim Foster
James Gorak
Herbert Gross
Neil Jochelson
Steve Martinson
John McNeil
Martin Moomaw
Thelda Opella
Raymond Reyes
Ken Sauter
Oscar Tyler

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael........ (972) 661-4626 (w)

Information Booth and General Information
Claude McClure........... (972) 867-0978 (h)

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 October, **Deborah Bean** and **Neal Berkowitz** will lead our meeting, to which we ask that you *Bring Your Thorniest Access Problems*. Deborah and Neal are collaborating on a book on Access, planned to be published early in 1999, and are seeking "real-world problems" to use as examples. Bring your problems and questions — Deb and Neal (and the rest of us) will try to propose a solution, workaround, or approach on the spot. If we can't, there may be a "second chance": your problem will be considered for use as an example , and if it is, you'll get credit for your assistance by having your name mentioned.

In September, **Larry Linson** presented "An Introduction to Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) and the Access Object Model." Because of our discussion of the significant Access bug that was recently found and verified, and workarounds and solutions to that problem, we started late on the presentation and didn't cover nearly as much as planned. Larry will continue our VBA discussions at a future meeting. What a relief to have a notebook and projection plate work together with only a *little* experimentation!

Service Release 2: Service Release 2 for Office 97 (including Access 97) is now available. According to Microsoft, it contains corrections for over 100 reported issues, including the recently discovered bug which could, under some conditions, result in the wrong record being updated. Visit *http://www.microsoft.com/office/info/sr2/info.htm* for information on how to download

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FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

New SIG

— **Y2K (Year 2000) SIG** [Contact Gary Lenamond @ (972) 272-2098 h or garylena@gte.net]

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).

SIG

(it's over 25 megabytes, so don't try this unless you have a fast, fast connection!) SR2 or to order it on CD (not only is the CD free, but apparently so is the postage and shipping). There's also a revised Jet database engine update, which seems to fix the recently discovered bug. You can download it (this one is less than 1 megabyte) from *support.microsoft.com/download/support/mslfiles/jet35upd.exe*. As far as I know, the Jet engine update is *not* included with SR2, but must be obtained separately.

Coming Soon: Larry will speak again in November. Topics under consideration are "An Access Application in an Hour" or "More About Access VBA and the Access Object Model." Perennial favorite **Jack Atkinson** will speak in December.

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.

Check out our local MS ACCESS message conference on the NTPCUG BBS. We ask and answer questions, post sample code, and keep in touch between monthly meetings. And, while you're on the BBS, take advantage of the free Internet e-mail. Telephone numbers are inside the back cover of this issue. 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 October meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers SIG

In October, **Larry Linson** will conclude our discussion of "Classic" Structured Analysis and System Specification. We'll briefly review data flow diagrams and structured English definitions of processes, which we've already discussed, and then cover the final element, data dictionaries. DeMarco said that your data dictionary could be as simple as index cards and three-ring binders, but, remember, in 1978 commercial mainframe data dictionaries were quite expensive and many were tied to some particular CASE methodology. We will also discuss some approaches to automating your own data dictionary.

In September, Larry Linson began a presentation 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.

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 October. We think you'll find it an it interesting and productive hour.

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

Our September presentation consisted of a review of the book *Windows Assembly Language and Systems Programming*, by Barry Kauler. This second edition of the book, and to a large degree, is a rehash of the first edition. While 32-bit ASM programming is covered, the primary emphasis of the book is DOS and Win3.X, with some additional material on Win95. The book does present some 32-bit GUI skeleton programs, and our presentation in October will be on doing 32-but GUI programming in Assembler.

Based on a suggestion by one of the attendees at the September meeting, our November meeting will feature a presentation on doing 32-bit DLLs in Assembler, primarily for VB.

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

Frank Cavallito and Glynn Brooks

Communications SIG

Phone Company Alternatives

We will be hosting Adrian Rosales , account executive with Allegiance Telecom, Inc.   This Dallas based company provides a "one-stop shop" for telecommunications services, including long-distance, international calling, high speed data transmission and Internet services.

Allegiance has targeted 24 U.S. markets with its one stop shopping approach, with Dallas being the first. Allegiance is not just another reseller, they are a facilities based company with their own switch in every market they compete. Allegiance is able to offer integrated billing for all telecommunications services and the company provides their own repair services.

Allegiance is an alternative to the local phone company. If you are not able to use their services it is still good to know there are alternatives.

Birl Smith and Alan Brosz

DALLAS COREL
OCTOBER 1998

Web Site Design and Corel

Pamela Lugo, from Lugo Consulting Group in Irving, Texas, will present our October 17 program at Dallas Corel. Her firm designs web

SIG

sites using Corel products. While the Internet is still a relatively new medium, it evolves so quickly that it presents a challenge for us designers to keep up with the latest. Pam will demonstrate how she designs custom menus and graphics and then integrates them into a site with various web publishing software. She will also discuss recommended resolutions for graphics and how to compress them before placing on a web site. You want to keep your site fresh for the search engines, don't you? Come and learn how to register new sites to major search engines and how to receive optimal placement within the search engines. See you in October.

September in Review

Susan Biggs, from Performing Technologies, generously agreed at the last minute to lead our discussion about Ventura 8 at our September SIG meeting. Jim Hart was unfortunately called out of town for a family matter and could not present as previously announced. Susan brought her years of experience using Ventura to create publications for Performing Technologies and as a beta tester for each new Ventura version. She compared and contrasted Ventura with other publishing programs like Quark and PageMaker. She is convinced that Ventura still leads the pack and she joins the many who are perplexed that Corel doesn't market it more aggressively. For the uninitiated, Ventura is the best choice for long documents, like catalogs, magazines, directories and the like. You bring files from various sources and formats into Ventura and compile them into a single layout. Then you output to negatives for offset printing, to the Internet, or to a Docutec, among other options. Source files may include various word processing, graphics, photos,

spreadsheets, charts and more. We were glad several Ventura groupies showed up and further enriched the discussion. Among additional topics discussed in depth were NT and computer protection. For your review, there are 4 devices you need to protect your computer from disastrous crashes: 1) a power line conditioner, 2) a UPS, 3) a surge protector, and 4) a backup such as tape or DAT. Thanks to Susan Biggs for saving the day and all who joined in.

Tips & Tricks

ACDSee 32, is definitely worth downloading free for 30 days from *www.tucows.com* or *strouds*. You will probably decide to keep it. It's the fastest and easiest-to-use image viewer available for Windows 95 and Windows NT! ACDSee is two tools in one. A full-featured image viewer quickly displays your images in high quality. The image browser lets you efficiently find

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IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

❖To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

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and organize your images. Check
it out.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ Nov/97 - Customizing CorelDRAW 7

- ❖ Dec/97 - CorelDRAW 8 Launch by Corel Corp.

- ❖ Jan/98 - Roundtable Discussion

- ❖ Feb/98 - Inkjet Desktop Printing Papers by Red River Paper Co.

- ❖ Mar/98 - DRAW 8 Tips & Tricks

- ❖ Apr/98 - Web Page Design Tips & Trends

- ❖ May/98 - Member Showcase

- ❖ Jun/98 - Graphics Computer Trends Discussion

- ❖ Jul/98 - Digital Cameras

- ❖ Aug/98 – Presentations 8

- ❖ Sep/98 – Ventura 8
        Marsha Drebelbis

DOS/Operating Systems SIG

Help! I'm drowning in a con-
stantly shifting, frequently conflict-
ing morass of acronyms. Problem
is intensified by propensity of "sci-
entific" fields to create acronyms
without regard to identical combi-
nations of capitol letters assembled
by a neighboring group of indi-
viduals working in a different do-
main. Only a few (mostly military
in origin, and frequently obscene)
seem stable and "safe" from scien-
tific/commercial pilferage. Yes,
I'm thinking of SNAFU, FUBAR
and WARBI.

That's sort of a fancy way of say-
ing I won't be at the DOS/Operat-
ing Systems SIG Meeting this
month. **Jim Hoisington** will be
there and will conduct the meeting
as usual in a highly planned, care-
fully structured exposition of the
innermost secrets of our favorite
operating system(s). I, on the other
hand, will be flying back from San
Antonio and Kelley AFB. That's
where the 6912th Radio Squadron
Mobile, my outfit in Berlin from
1959-1962, will be hosting a reun-
ion in conjunction with the 50th An-
niversary of the Air Intelligence
Agency/ Air Force Intelligence
Command/ Electronic Security
Command/ USAF Security Serv-
ice. It's the same organization; just
four different names over time

BloatWare revisited

Last month in *Variety Store*, I went
off on BloatWare and its creators.
Bev Kurtin, former leader of the

MS Word SIG, justifiably took me
to task over my ranting. We were
both correct, but for different rea-
sons. It leads to this month's Tip.

Mainly, it is a question of trade-offs
during the installation process (at
least with MS products) where the
user chooses between time and con-
trol. MS almost always gives the
user several installation choices,
usually "Typical," "Minimal"
(mostly running from the
CD/ROM) and "Custom." Choos-
ing the last, "Custom," allows the
user to exert most control over the
installation, but may double or tri-
ple the installation time. Selection
of "Typical" turns your computer
over to MS in terms of installation
and configuration. That's where
the Office Bar and a bunch of fonts
came from.

(Getting rid of the Office Bar on
startup is actually easy. After the
user logs on, but before the desk-
top "appears," hold down the
[Ctrl] + [Alt] keys to disable por-
tions of the Startup sequence. You
can also disable the Office Bar via
the Task Manager menu reached
by pressing [Ctrl] + [Alt] + [Del],
then selecting it.)

You have much more control in
"Custom" but finding where to
eliminate features/fonts you don't
want can be tricky at best. Also,
you can elect not to install any
fonts — which is another trap that
will lead to pesky error messages
and poor screen representations
since Office tends to prefer a differ-
ent set than the Win95 standards.

I don't suggest the new
user try the "Custom" in-
stallation option unless
willing to spend a lot of
time in trouble-shooting
as a result. Other vendors
have similar options in

their installation programs, and none of them are at all intuitive to anyone not familiar with their particular nomenclature and menu idiosyncrasies. Even "experts" with these products have experienced difficulties in this and other areas with new releases, including HELP and documentation errors that can make matters much worse for the user.

Best of all would be a menu screen that allows ALL installation options to be selected from a list of desired or undesired features, switches, etc., with an example of what each does and why the user may want or may not want it. I'm still waiting

Reagan Andrews

Emerging Technologies SIG

Building an Internet Firewall for Home for less than $50

With the increasing frequency of "up all the time" Internet connections, security and privacy become bigger concerns. **Dr. Walter Johnston** will present an example, home-built Internet Firewall made up of a 486PC, 16M RAM, a floppy disk drive, and 2 Ethernet cards. Target cost of the system will be $50 based on the purchase of all components. Other security options will also be discussed.

Dr Johnston will also present a quick update on the "Bargain Basement Supercomputer" effort.

Walter Johnston

Internet SIG - Beginning

It's finally here (again) !! Our periodic 4-5 hour "Introduction to the Internet" session at the **October 17th** meeting will help you, your

family and your friends/associates come to grips with that nebulous entity, "The Internet". This session is designed for the rank beginner, who just heard the word "Internet" yesterday.

We'll begin at our regular 10 AM time, probably in our usual room. This course will give those new to the Internet the chance to ask the basic questions that they may have felt uncomfortable asking in the general meetings. Or, you (or a friend) may be expecting to receive a new PC for Christmas, and want to "surf the net" but don't know where to begin. We can fix that. Look for more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you October 17th !!

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

Internet - WEB Developers SIG

(Downloaded and printed with permission from *http://www.webdallas.com/groups/web-development.html*)

September Meeting Recap

Once again, we skipped the planned presentation, in order to yak about Cold Flame and other free scripting tools for the Linux platform. 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 dispel 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.

October Meeting

During our October meeting, we will finally get a chance to finish the Frames tutorial we began in July. 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.

November and December Meetings

In November and December, 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.

December Meeting

The December meeting will be the last to be held in the Infomart building. Although the vendors will move to their new location at

the Big Town Exhibition Hall in January, the North Texas PC Users Group organization has not yet chosen a 1999 location for the Web Developers and other SIGs which make up the NTPCUG membership. Hopefully, we'll know the new location by January.

JavaScript during the January Meeting

In January, 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.

Our Mailing List

The Web Developers SIG now maintains a mailing list, open to all. We send out regular updates of meeting topics, programming tips, and other useful stuff. To join, just Click here.

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

Mark Camp and 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.

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, 1999*

- ❖ 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

February, 1999*

- ❖ 9:00　Class 5
  PC Graphics
- ❖ 10:00　Class 6
  Word Processing
- ❖ Noon　Class 7
  Spreadsheets and Databases
- ❖ 1:00　Class 8
  Modems/Telecommunications

* 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

Last month the Java Group discussed Servlets. **Dan Somerfield** and **Jess Garms** from InterStar Networks presented the material. They discussed the advantages and disadvantages of Servlets over CGI.

Some of the applications explained that would use Servlets were form handling with JDBC and interaction with application servers. They explained the Servlet life cycle from initialization to disposing of the Servlet. They explained the javax.servlet and javax.servlet.http classes and the helper classes that were contained in them to help in the development of Servlets.

Dan then created a "HelloWorld" servlet to show how simple Servlet creation was accomplished. As a group we discussed the threading considerations of Servlets. Dan explained the doGet and doPost methods. It was discussed later in the meeting which one to use in certain situations especially if you want to keep data from being shown to the user when submitting data.

Dan showed us Sun's Servlet Runner to allow the developer a mechanism to test the Servlets without having a WebServer. Dan then created a session with a Servlet to show how data can be stored in a session or globally in the Servlet. Dan and Jess explained how people are developing beans to wrap the Servlets functionality and that there are not any RAD development tools for Servlets debugging at this time. In their company they have been very pleased with Servlets and found them to be very stable. You can check our website for the
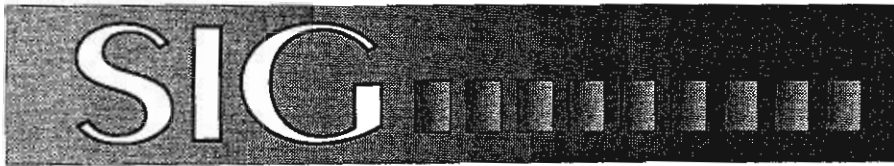
presentation and also check out InterStar NetWorks at *www.isnetworks.net*. Next Month we will discuss the Java Card API and demonstrate the JavaRing.

Kevin Starrett

MS WORD FOR WINDOWS SIG

Those of you who have been coming to the Word SIG for the last two months have noticed the welcome addition of **Michele Wood** and **Sherry Covert**. These ladies are tech trainers from State Farm Insurance. Wow, are we lucky to have found them! They spend their days training State Farm insurance agents and their office staff on the latest software. If you have not been to a meeting lately, you need to give us a try!

I am still around to do my part but now the Word SIG has a team of three, rather than one and those attending the SIG are the winners. It is worth a visit just to pick up a copy of our handouts which contain tips, hints, and entire lessons on creating callouts, dropped capital letters, borders, templates, clip art, and writing text sideways in the most recent issues.

Highlights for the October meeting will feature designing a table. It will include both the use of the Table AutoFormat command and designing your own custom table. Word has really made this task easy and almost fun. In fact, they have added a new feature in '97 that allows you to actually draw a table. In addition, we will answer

your questions and try to solve your problems in using Word.

If you have questions throughout the month you can e-mail Sherry at *shervine@ix.netcom.com*; Michele at *mwood@flash.net*; Jan at *janpat@unicomp.net*; or all three of us for help. Provide us with your e-mail address and we will provide you with a meeting reminder. Come join us at the October Word SIG meeting to see what new tips and tricks you can learn to make using MS Word '97 easier for you to use!

Jan Patton, Co-SIG Leader

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC SIG

During the September meeting, we realized how diverse our members are in terms of their knowledge and experience in MFC. So, beginning in October, we'll be getting "Back to the Basics." Throughout this series, we will look at all the major aspects of MFC, including the basic class structure, the Document-View architecture, message handling, and anything else you want to learn about. We'll also show you how to use the App Wizard to generate skeleton applications. If you've ever felt lost in our meetings, now is your chance to catch up.

For our more advanced members, we'll also get down and dirty and tell you how MFC works under the covers.

John Cole will start this series with a simple dialog based app. and show us how MFC glues it all together. Please join us if you can.

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.html

☆The race to break the 64 bit key.

☆The RSA Data Security Secret-Key Challenge

Contact Information:

☆Web Site: *http://www.dfwos2.org*

☆E-Mail: dfw.os2@usa.net

☆SIG Leader: Rob Couch
(*rob.couch@usa.net*)

☆Assistant SIG Leaders: Gerald Meazell & Mike Persell

Rob Couch
rob.couch@usa.net

Pro SIG

This month's topic of discussion was Programming Style. Various code fragments were projected on the screen for criticism by the group. The most notable was a COBOL program written by **Fred Williams** who can write Fortran in any language.

Join us next month when **Stuart Yarus** demonstrates how to write a macro economic simulation of market for avocados in one APL statement.

Jim Hoisington

WordPerfect/Windows SIG

Hello again everyone. Make sure that this month you grab a friend — especially the friend that is always asking about graphics and the ones interested in jazzing up your documents. We are talking Graphics this month.

With the release of WordPerfect 8, Corel made outstanding improvements with Graphical features that already existed — they just improved on them. Features like TextArt have taken on a whole new dimension — a 3D dimension to be exact.

With technology today as advanced as it is, when you get back from that wonderful vacation, most photo developing businesses now offer to create a floppy disk with your images on it as well. It is now easier than ever to bring your own personal touch into any document, letterhead or slideshow you want to create.

At the October meeting we will create a logo, pull in photographs into a document, use watermarks, and much, much more. It is going to be a fun-filled hour and it will move quickly so be ready at straight up 10:00 and hold on to your hats! We're going to have FUN with Corel WordPerfect this month.

Cindy Adams

Tip of the Month — WordPerfect Macros

WordPerfect provides you with approximately 28 macros. Before creating a macro, look through the list to see if it's already been created! Remember that any Macro, whether one of these or one you've created can be added to your Toolbar and Keyboard.

This list will identify *some* of those macros in WP8. Those also included in WP7 are marked as [7] or [6]. Your macro listing may be different than these, as WordPerfect often includes different macros with different interim releases.

Adrs2mrg[7, 6]Inserts (at the cursor/insertion point position) merge data records from the online address book.
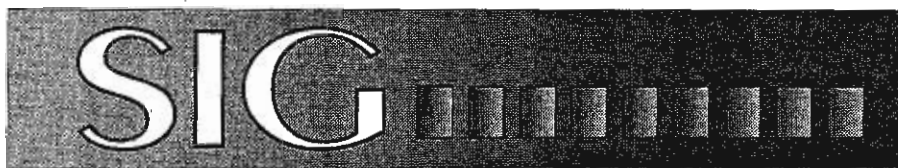
Checkbox [7] Inserts check boxes in documents. These boxes can be clicked on and off.

Closeall [7, 6] Closes all open documents at once, giving you a chance to save them.

Cvtdocs8   Converts multiple documents from another document type to WordPerfect 8.

Expndall[7,6] Expands all abbreviations in the current document.

![SIG banner]

Filestmp [7,6] Places the filename and path of the current document in a header or footer.

Fontdn [7,6] Decreases the font size of the selected text by 2 points.

Fontup [7,6] Increases the font size of the selected text by 2 points.

Endfoot [7,6] Converts endnotes to footnotes in the document or in selected text

Footend [7,6] Converts footnotes to endnotes in the document or in selected text

Pleading [7,6] Creates lines and numbers for pleading documents.

Prompts [7,6] Lets you add prompts to new or existing templates.

Reverse [7,6] Creates white text on black background (or uses other color combinations) in selected text or table cells.

Saveall [7,6] Saves all open documents

Savetoa   Saves the current document and makes a copy of it on the diskette in drive A.

Tconvert   Converts Corel WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows templates that used the _Autofil.wcm macro.

Watermrk [7,6] Creates a text or graphic watermark from a variety of predefined phrases and logos

Wp_org   Creates an organization chart in Corel WordPerfect.

Wp_pr   Sends a Corel WordPerfect outline to Corel Presentations.

Diane Bentley

Special Alert:
Microsoft Office 97 Service Release 2 Now Available

Forwarded by Andy Oliver

The Microsoft Office team is pleased to announce that the Microsoft Office 97 Service Release 2 (SR-2) is now available for download from our Web site or as a free CD order.** For complete information on how to get SR-2, please go to: *http://www.microsoft.com/office/info/sr2/info.htm*

This software update is the best way to keep your copy of Office 97 current with fixes developed since Microsoft Office 97 Service Release 1 (SR-1). The convenience of SR-2 is that it collects a variety of Office 97 fixes in one simple download. SR-2 includes the Microsoft Excel Recalculation Patch, as well as the fix for the recent Microsoft Access ComboBox Record-Editing issue.

See the Microsoft Office Update Web page above for links to more information about SR-2. Microsoft recommends that in organizations in which software distribution is handled by a central Information Technology (IT) department, individual users should consult an IT administrator before installing SR-2. Also please note that SR-2 requires that SR-1 be installed on a user's computer

prior to SR-2 installation. If you are not already running SR-1 on your computer, please download it from: *http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/Articles/sr1howtoget.htm*

SR-2 works with all Office 97 suites (Professional Edition, Standard Edition, Small Business Edition and Developer Edition) and the Office 97 applications (Microsoft Access 97, Microsoft Excel 97, Microsoft Outlook 97, Microsoft PowerPoint 97, and Microsoft Word 97). SR-2 only updates the Office 97 applications that you have installed. Thank you for using a Microsoft Office 97 product.

The Microsoft Office Team

**Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of SR-2 CD orders. For the SR-2 download, Internet Service Provider connect-time charges may apply.
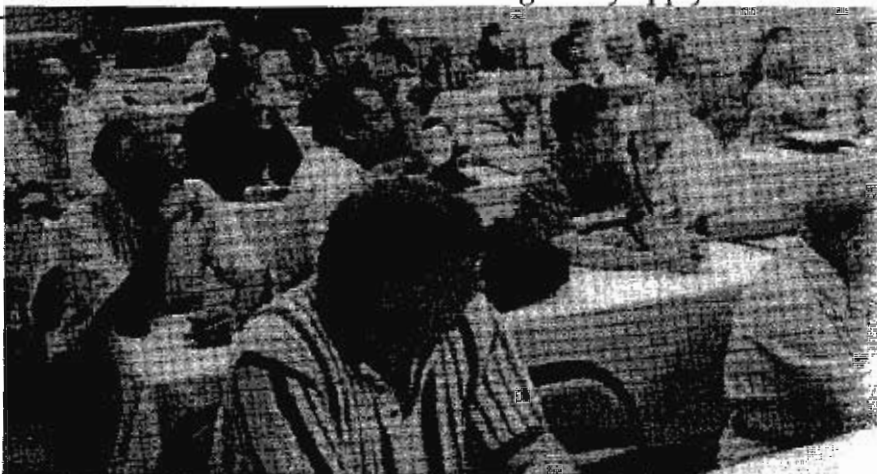
NTPCUG USER – TO – USER PROGRAM

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
Access		
Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700
Assembly Language		
Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200
Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
BASIC		
Beginner Problems		
Shirley Hudgens	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000
Brother's Keeper		
Neil Sunderland	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200
C++ (the language)		
Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
Howard Harkness	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100
CA Clipper		
Richard Mitchell	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100
....		SS 0900-2300
CorelDraw		
Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200
....		S-S 1300-2200
Batch Files		
Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Borland C++		
Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
Howard Harkness	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100
Borland Turbo C		
John Keohane	(972)690-8092	7 1900-2100
CompuServe		
Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
DOS		
Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
DR DOS		
Ralph Beaver	(817)413-0293	M-F 0800-1700
....	(817)624-9530	SS 1800-2300

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Excel		
Warrington Williams	(214)348-6869	M-F 1800-2100
....		S&S 0900-2100
Hardware Help		
Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
Ralph Beaver	(817)413-0293	M-F 0800-1700
....	(817)624-9530	SS 1800-2300
Internet - General		
Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)		
Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
....		S-S 1000-2200
JavaScript		
Don Benish	(972)705-9512	M-F 1900-2200
....		S-S 0900-2100
LANs — Novell		
Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
— Lantastic		
Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Managing Your Money		
Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
Modems		
Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
MathCAD		
Bob Adams	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
Norton Utilities		
John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
OS/2		
Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
PC Tools/Win		
Glynn Brooks	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
Paradox		
Fred Williams	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100

NTPCUG USER — TO — USER PROGRAM

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
PKzip/PKUNzip		
Erik Leaseburg ....(817)265-7550(m) 7		2000-2200
ProComm/ProComm+		
Bill Green......................(817) 731-1308		
ProComm/ProComm+ (Ctd.) ...		
Joseph Beasley ....(972)225-8752	7	0800-2400
Joseph Beasley ....(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Publisher (Microsoft)		
Bob Russell ....(972)422-4269	7	1900-2200
Pat Cote........................(972)831-8055	M-F	0800-1700
......................................(972)496-3894	7	1000-2200
Quicken		
Jim Hall..........................(214)348-7848	7	1000-2100
Quickbooks		
Jim Thompson ....(214)953-0051	M-F	0800-1800
SPFPC		
Doug Gorrie ....(214) 464-4568	M-F	0800-1700
......................................(972) 618-8002	S-S	1000-1900
UNIX		
Doug Scott.....................(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200

SUBJECT HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Virus & Anti-Virus		
Charles Miller................(903)938-4220(*) 7		1900-2400
Visual Basic -		
Jim Carter ....(972)235-5968	7	1700-2130
L.J. Johnson ....(972)495-9067	7	1700-2130
Gene Hamelman............(972)495-6342	7	1700-2130
Windows for Workgroups		
Joseph Beasley ....(972)225-8752	7	0800-2400
Joseph Beasley ....(214)410-3818	7	0900-2200
Bob Russell...................(972)422-4269	7	1900-2200
Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51		
Richard Miles ....(972)296-5356	M-F	1900-2200
....	SS	10:00-16:00
......................................(214)767-7315	M-F	1500-1700
Word for Windows		
Bob Russell...................(972)422-4269	7	1900-2200
XENIX		
Doug Scott....................(817)261-4653	7	1830-2200
XTREE		
John Dyer ....(972)790-3311	M-Sa	0800-2200

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

The subject areas below do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Doug Gorrie at (214)464-4568 M-F 0800-1700 or Sa & Su 1000-1900 at (972)618-8002. Doug will send you a form on which you can list your qualifications and sign.

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc
Membership Application

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

Member # _____

Name (Last): _____ (First): _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

                        __ Work: (_____) _____ - _____ Ext. _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below

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

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

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

Areas Needing Helpers:
CAD
dBase
Delphi
Forte Agent & Free Agent
Fox Pro
Harvard Graphics
LapLink
Microsoft C
Microsoft C++
Microsoft Visual C++
Microsoft Word
Pagemaker
Roots
Sound Blaster
TopView
TurboTax
Corel Ventura
WordPerfect/ Windows
XTREE

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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.

NTPCUG Officers and Volunteers You Should Know
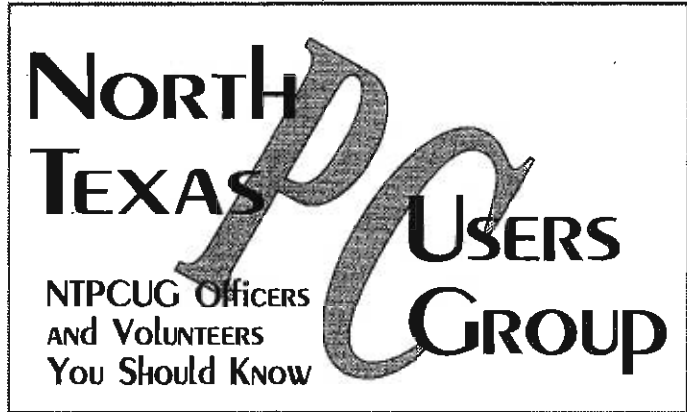
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(972) 462-1896 h
		(972) 960-4215 w
President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 566-4626 w
Treasurer	Eb Foerster	(214) 357-7602 h
Secretary	Wade Emmert	(214) 740-3164 w
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(972) 492-1315
DFW Xchange	Information *www.dfwxchange.com*	(214) 746-3365

Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)

Phil Chamberlain	Jim Hoisington
David McGehee	Stuart Yarus
Tom Prickett	Connie Andrews
Kathryn Loafman	Reagan Andrews
Fred Williams	Timothy Carmichael
Andy Oliver	Mark Gruner

NTPCUG 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
(**N**o 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..)

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

Address Correction Requested

17.10

North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:

17 October 1998

Dallas North
Tollway

Stemmons Freeway

INFOMART

Oak Lawn Ave.

35

To Downtown
Dallas