Price $3.00

North Texas PC NEWS

November, 1998

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 11

North Texas PC NEWS

Published monthly by members of North Texas Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Members each receive a free subscription; for others, price of the NEWS is $3 per copy. Members are requested to notify the Membership Director in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to: Editor, North Texas PC NEWS, 6402 Vanderbilt, Dallas, TX, 75214-3453
Send address changes to: Membership Director, NTPCUG, P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449.

Managing Editor Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699

Assistant Editors Alan Lintel (214) 220-7829

Doug McCoy (972) 496-0366

Linda Moore (214) 342-8833

John Gourd (972) 783-9629

Newsletter Exchange Lewis Graber

Advertising Director Connie Andrews, (Acting) - (214) 828-0699
Mail all advertising material and ad payments to
North Texas PC NEWS
c/o 3100 Lincoln Plaza
500 North Akard
Dallas, TX 75201-3320

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or its members. Copyright © 1998 by North Texas PC NEWS. (Articles without specific copyright notices may be reproduced unchanged by other not-for-profit User Groups if credit is given to the author and the publication.)

Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas *PC NEWS* circulation was 1,850 last month.

Member distribution was 1,500; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft *Word for Windows 97*. This issue of North Texas *PC NEWS* was composed using *Corel Ventura 8.0, Corel Draw 8.0, Arts & Letters Express 6.01, Adobe Photoshop 4.01, Micrografx Picture Publisher 8, Microsoft Publisher 98* and HP Scanjet 6200Cse. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Times, Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, and Lithos.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for December *North Texas PC NEWS*: Wednesday, November 25th

Meeting Dates:

November 14 – 2nd Saturday
December 19 – 3rd Saturday
January 16 – 3rd Saturday

NT PCUG
NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, INC

President's Message 2-3
Andy Oliver

Tiger Distributing Replies 4
Donald E. Harper, President

Ask Verio 5-6
Steve Flaig, VerioTexas

Update on WinNT BBS Server 6-8

The Perfect Gift 6
Doug Gorrie

Microsoft Answers 7-8
Robert Russell

Variety Store 9-12
Reagan Andrews

In This Issue...

Special Items:

Agenda, Meetings & Times 1

SIG Reports . . . 13 - 21

Volunteer Guide 22

User-to-User (Help) . . . . . 23 - 24

Membership Application 24

Officers & People You should know 25

Submit Newsletter articles to: ***reagana@swbell.net***
Visit the North Texas PC Users Group web page:
http://www.ntpcug.org

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

Ad Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
2-Page Spread	$400	$325		
Full Page (7 x 9)	225	195	$165	$150
Half Page (7 x 4 1/2)	150	125	110	100
Qtr Page (3 1/4 x 4 1/2)	100	80	65	55
Business Card (2 x 3 1/4)	65	50	40	35
Business Card (Members)	35	25	20	20

Reduced rates for multiple insertions of same ad. Require prior commitment in writing and payment in advance (3 months minimum). Copy and mechanical changes requested between insertions will be billed accordingly.

Deadlines: All advertising copy must be received by the *PC News* staff no later than the 10th day of the month prior to the month of publication unless other arrangements are made with the Publisher. *NT PC News* publication date is 10 days before the monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group.

Policies & Mechanicals:

- Commercial ads must be in repro form, in final size, ready for printing.
- Halftones must be furnished as final size, screened prints or negatives.
- Halftone screens cannot exceed 100 LPI maximum.
- No ads on front cover. Bleed pages and color must be discussed with Publisher before submission.
- Related ads only; suitability is at discretion of the Publisher and the North Texas PC Users Group Board of Directors.

Payment: Payment in advance of publication.
Make checks payable to: North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . . Timothy Carmichael

NOVEMBER 14

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM ***"PLANETS & STARS: A Guide to the Universe"***

Analytical Software Inc.

Mark R. Haley, Developer

This new multimedia CD-ROM includes narrated slide shows, interactive star maps, photographs and videos on over 80 constellations (including the 12 signs of the Zodiac), and the US space program. This is being released as interest in space is increasing due to the return of Senator John Glenn into space and the beginning of construction of the Space Station in late 1998. This and other popular CD-ROMS ("America's National Parks and Forests" and "The World's Great Cities, Parks and Wildlife") will be available for $10 each, half of the list price. There will also be a drawing for free products. *

10:00 AM - 11:55 AM ***"To Be Announced"***

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM ***North Texas PC Users Group Business Meeting — Room 1061***

---

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

SIGs NTPCUG Special Interest Group Meeting Schedule

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

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
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.

Bring Your Membership Card or Your Current Newsletter

There will be a $3.00 admission charge to go into the Vendor Area beginning in November, unless you are a member of the NTPCUG or Apple Corps groups. We are working out the details, and there will be some unhappy people, but the object is to increase our Group's membership, and to help pay for advertising the relocation of the meetings beginning in January 1999.

If you have a little time to give back to the Group, ask **Claude McClure** at the NTPCUG Information Desk if you can volunteer for an hour. Or better yet, call Claude before the meeting and volunteer. His number is in the back of this newsletter.

We Are Excited About the Move

Hopefully, by the time that this is being read, we will have a contract with Skyline High School as a meeting place for the User Groups. Skyline has an excellent facility with classrooms and a large auditorium.

Skyline is approximately 1 mile from Big Town Mall, site of the Vendor Area. I have included maps to each location in the newsletter. [Ed. Note: map can be found on next page.]

NTPCUG TRAINING VIDEOS

Check out the new NTPCUG Multimedia Rental LIBRARY

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

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

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

The confirmed 1999 meeting dates are:

- January 16
- February 27
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15

If there is a March Vendor show, it will be on March 27. 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.

The new vendor location is larger, parking is free, and there will be a food service vendor on the premises. A map is included in the newsletter.

Microsoft eXtreme 3

The Microsoft eXtreme 3 event will be held on the same Saturday as our November 14 meeting. The event will take place at the UA Cinema at Prestonwood and Belt Line at noon.

SAM'S Club Membership

North Texas PC Users Group members are eligible for a membership in Sam's Club. To apply, go to any North Texas Sam's Club Membership Desk and show your NTPCUG membership card. The membership entitles you to make purchases at Sam's Clubs with a 5% upcharge fee added to your total. It is a great deal and a tremendous membership benefit.

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.

Help Needed

Several good ideas have been brought up at the Business Meeting (held at 11:00 a.m. on each User Group Saturday meeting day). The first one is to expand the membership database to start collecting e-mail addresses. In doing so, we have the foundation for a list server, which is a way to get the word out to our members about meetings, voting, and special membership offers.

Andy Oliver
Prez Sez . . . Ctd.

The next idea, from **Mark Camp**, NTPCUG SIG Leader, was to offer a DOM disk, or a disk from the stock of a shareware vendor, to each person paying $3.00 to get into the vendor area. This would help educate them on what the User Group does, and make them feel that they are getting something for their $3.00.

Our Web server is almost ready for prime time. The latest estimate is that by the time you read this, it will be in place. The next task is for our Web development groups to start working on plans to add to our site so that it is the premiere User Group site on the Web.

No-Show SIG Leaders

Our SIG leaders are volunteers. When a SIG leader starts a new SIG, we encourage him or her to find an Assistant. The Assistant helps with the programs and is available if the SIG leader is ill, on vacation, or gets called away to their real job. If a SIG Leader does not show, let **Alex Lilley**, SIG Coordinator, know. Alex will follow up with the leader and, if circumstances warrant, help the SIG Leader find an assistant or an alternate. If there is a chronic problem of leadership for a SIG and no one steps forward to lead it, then Alex will notify the Board of Directors that the SIG is being cancelled.

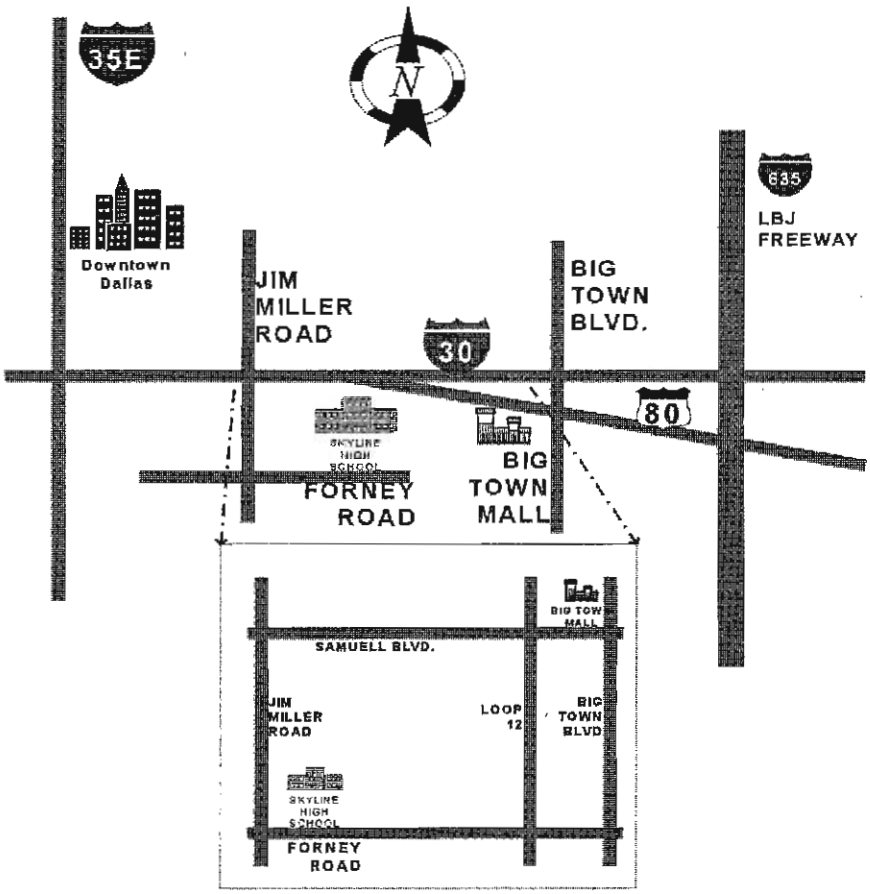


Photo Op

At the October meeting, Doug Bedell, Staff Writer for the *The Dallas Morning News*, along with a photographer, were interviewing User Group officers and taking photos of the Vendor Area, hopefully for publication in an upcoming edition of the "Personal Technology" section found in each Tuesday's *The Dallas Morning News*.

Andy Oliver

Tiger Distributing Responds To October Letter

[Ed. Note: The following is a reprint of a letter from Tiger distributed at the October 17, 1998, NTPCUG Meeting.]

October 15, 1998

Reagan Andrews, Managing Editor
North Texas PC News
6402 Vanderbilt
Dallas, Texas 752143453

Re: Article in the North Texas PC News

Dear Mr. Andrews,

Tiger Distributing has been in the business of selling computer components including computer systems and software since February, 1996. Tiger Distributing is proud of its reputation for excellence, quality service, and competitive prices. Tiger Distributing is also proud of its involvement with groups such as the North Texas PC User's Group.

Tiger Distributing was shocked to read a letter written by Francis Bright that recently appeared in the North Texas PC News. Prior to the letter being published, no one from the North Texas PC News contacted Tiger to ascertain the truth of the allegations or to give Tiger an opportunity to reply to the statements contained in the letter. Tiger was frankly disappointed that such a letter would be printed in this newsletter.

Evidently, Mr. Bright was attempting to mount a motherboard to a case. During that installation, Mr. Bright was shorting out the motherboard because he was incorrectly installing the motherboard without removing a metal mounting post that was in place from his previous board. He left that unnecessary part in place directly under the ram area of the motherboard. There was no screw hole to put a motherboard screw in. This caused the ram to show incorrect size due to the short he caused. If Mr. Bright had been aware that there was no way for his memory to count up to 4MB then he might have realized that he was causing the error.

Even though Mr. Bright chose not to use the technical services of Tiger, we replaced the parts on several occasions. Finally, Scott Faulkner, the head technician at Tiger, asked Mr. Bright to bring in his parts just as they were. During the professional installation of the motherboard, the error was discovered and corrected. Tiger's charge for the professional installation was $49.00 for a one hour bench and diagnostic fee. Mr. Bright could have had the same professional installation initially for the same price. Tiger Distributing only sells new components.

Finally, Tiger was especially disturbed about Mr. Bright's statements about the financial condition of Tiger. Mr. Harper is the sole financial backer of Tiger, therefore, Tiger has not lost any financial backer. Tiger does not have cash flow problems nor does it have financial problems. In fact, Tiger has just signed anew lease and is expanding into a new 12,700 square foot facility to better serve its customers. This expansion is in addition to retaining its present retail location. Tiger Distributing continues to grow by its ability to market products at competitive prices and the excellent technical staff available if needed.

Tiger Distributing regrets any concern that Mr. Bright's letter has caused our numerous customers who subscribe to or receive the North Texas PC News. If any of your members ever have any questions regarding our products or service, please direct them to our company for the resolution of such problems.

Sincerely

Donald F. Harper
President
Tiger Distributing

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the opinions of the North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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.*

Why should my business use the Internet?

Are your staff frequently tied up with questions about your organization, products, and services? By making this information available electronically, they won't need to spend as much time answering questions or sending out this frequently requested information. You will also save on postage and long distance phone calls. This is only one sample of some immediate tangible benefits. The growth of the online Internet community shows no signs of slowing down. In fact with the addition of Internet capabilities to the original "commercial" online services such as CompuServe and America Online, the Internet has now reached an unprecedented number of households as well as corporations, educational institutions, and government agencies. Most businesses will find it a competitive necessity to be in tune with and up-to-speed on the Internet, its services, and applications.

Many clients and business contacts now expect to communicate electronically. In an increasing number of markets, including banking, investment, real estate, car dealerships, and computer software and hardware, companies must be represented on the World Wide Web (a multimedia Internet application) to be competitive. Many customers expect to find product information, technical updates, newsletters, and, other corporate information online.

As an internal business tool, inter-corporate communications (even between branches in several cities or states) is facilitated. Your staff will have immediate access to competitor's public information and can monitor customers' reactions and comments about your company. The Internet can also be an immense time and money saver for companies who need to exchange large blocks of data/information between corporate offices or with clients.

More companies are selling products and services over the Internet because they can take advantage of the millions of individuals, as well as other businesses, who use the Internet for personal use. There is a continual increase of the use of voice and video capabilities for conferencing and customer interactions, and even for delivery of medi-

Who's Verio?

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

VERIO
TEXAS

Formerly OnRamp, National Knowledge Networks and Signet Partners

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

WEB SITE HOSTING & MANAGEMENT
Virtual Domain, Server Collocation

CONSULTING
Firewall Security, Network Design

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

www.veriotexas.net, info@veriotexas.net
1-888-266-7267

Ask Verio... Ctd.

cal services, concerts, art exhibits, lobbying activities, and many other novel applications not yet conceived. Can your business afford not to connect to the Internet? If you delay today and find it a competitive necessity tomorrow, how much farther behind will you be in implementing and integrating this technology?

How pervasive is the Internet, really? And who uses it?

Several demographic surveys of both Internet and WWW users have been conducted, all with slightly different results. Getting a precise picture of Internet demographics and statistics is difficult, if not impossible.

However, some general trends emerge and some generalizations can be made based on some real numbers. As of July 1996, there were nearly 13 million hosts on the Internet, up from nearly 7 million in August 1995--a doubling rate of approximately every 12-15 months. The greatest percentage (more than 26%) of the host computers were located in commercial organizations.

As of June 1996,the World Wide Web (one of many applications available on the Internet) had approximately 230,000 hosts--over double the number from January 1996. And, as of April 1996, the average age of WWW users was 33; over half were college educated; over half were male; the estimated average income was $59,000; and 29% reported being employed in professional or management positions.

The Perfect Gift!

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

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

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

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

Update on the New NTPCUG WinNT (BBS) Server ??

In the September newsletter, we provided an update on the status of the upcoming WinNT4.0 Server, which will replace our aging BBS.

How do we stand now? We feel that we are almost ready. By the time you receive this newsletter, we expect to have the server in place at Verio (our ISP) and connected to the Internet. Testing by our conversion volunteers should have begun, including at least some of the members that plan to use Internet e-mail via our server.

SLmail, an e-mail product of Seattle Lab, will handle our Internet e-mail. Those members with existing accounts on the old BBS *that have identified themselves to us as Internet e-mail users* will have an account pre-populated on the new server, using their current name and password information. When we officially "cut" mail to the new server, no setup will be required on their part.

As of this writing (late October), a newsgroup "NNTP" server is still being selected, but that, too,

Continued on page 8.

Microsoft and North Texas PC Users Group have teamed up to bring you Microsoft eXtreme.

Saturday, November 14, 1998

Be one of the first to

eXperience

Microsoft®

Office 2000!

Plus, learn how to create and manage your own Web sites with FrontPage® 2000

Free LIVE event. Free Office 2000 beta.*

Presented by

Microsoft eXtreme

eXperience what's new from Microsoft

DATE: Saturday, Nov. 14, 1998
PLACE: UA Plaza 8
Dallas, TX
TIME: 12:00 P.M.
EVENT CODE: 20306

This LIVE show (on location in Las Vegas) will be broadcast to 29 theatres across the United States. Microsoft product managers will demonstrate the following all-new products:

12:00–1:00 Central Time	Preview of Microsoft Office 2000 including demos of: ■ Microsoft Word 2000 ■ Microsoft Excel 2000 ■ Microsoft Outlook™ 2000 ■ Microsoft PowerPoint® 2000 ■ Microsoft Access 2000 ■ Microsoft PhotoDraw™ 2000
1:00–1:45	Comprehensive session on Microsoft FrontPage 2000, the leading Web site creation and management product.
1:45–2:00	Hot new games! ■ Microsoft Combat Flight Simulator ■ Microsoft Motocross Madness

Register now to attend!

For registration and complete information, visit **www.microsoft.com/extreme/** and be among the first to eXperience Office 2000 and FrontPage 2000.

Or call (800) 575-1243 to register.

Register early. Seats are limited. Tell your friends!

**Beta software (upon release) provided for all registered attendees at each location.*

Microsoft®

© 1998 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
Microsoft, FrontPage, Outlook, PhotoDraw and PowerPoint are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

Microsoft Answers

By Robert Russell

Microsoft Technical Support (MTS) is located in Las Colinas in Irving, and we are dispatched via our network from Redmond, Washington. Our objective is to assist you in using the computer systems that depend on our software products. In the complex world of computer systems, no one can know all the innate details of each product, so we try to have it organized and supported so that you can easily get to the information you need to accomplish your business purpose.

The major service that MTS attempts to provide is the cheerful, accurate troubleshooting that Microsoft (r) has been renowned for. In doing this, we use a logical approach to try and isolate the cause of the problem. This amounts to testing your system to determine where the problem is, and which component of the system is causing the symptoms you see. We have a large database of articles that have been written to incorporate what we have learned from our experience in supporting customers. We refer to this as the Knowledge Base(r), or KB. While we are assisting you on the phone or via the Web, we may query that database to determine if a solution has been found previously, and a procedure written that will lead to resolution of your problem. Its contents are also largely available on the Web at *www.microsoft.com/support*, where you can query in any of several different ways to get to a selection of articles that will help you find the solution to your problem, and eliminate the need for you to call. We are constantly updating this database to provide new information and procedures for correcting customers' problems.

A recent case I worked on was interesting and illustrative. The customer was trying to import data from his accounting system into the Small Business Financial Manager, which is a business analysis tool based on Microsoft Excel. He had been on the phone to Intuit(tm), the developers of Quickbooks(r), for numerous sessions, and they advised him that it was a Microsoft problem since Microsoft writes the filter and provides it as a free download from the Web site. This customer had Quickbooks (r) version 5.0 and version 6.0, but neither could provide a file that could be imported into SBFM(r), even though he could import and explore the sample files successfully. Of course, this pointed immediately to there being something wrong with the file he was trying to import. I

WinNT BBS Progress... Ctd.

should be in place as you read this. The NNTP server will host our current conferences, plus a selection of newsgroups from the Internet's Usenet.

For members that already have an Internet Service Provider (ISP), we foresee you continuing to access regular Usenet newsgroups through your ISP, and accessing NTPCUG newsgroups (conferences) by using a Sign-On from our Web page. A process is being completed now that will ease the task of identifying members for that access. Our thanks to **Don Benish** for coordinating that effort.

Regarding e-mail, we anticipate that members with an ISP will continue to send/receive e-mail through their ISP mail account. However, if you also have an NTPCUG mail account, you will be able to process e-mail there via your same ISP. In other words, you will be able to process NTPCUG e-mail and your ISP e-mail without having to dial a separate number.

For members without an ISP, NTPCUG will provide you dial-up access to an e-mail account, the NTPCUG Web page, conferences and some Usenet newsgroups. Remote Access Service (RAS) will provide connectivity, although alternate, more user friendly methods will continue to be pursued.

In a few isolated cases were DOS is still the OS of choice, we feel we can meet your needs as well, although there may be some operational limitations. To date, I have been notified of only two users still running DOS. Our thanks to member Lewis Graber for identifying a method for including DOS users.

All Internet mail users on the old BBS will be informed in advance of when the cut to the new e-mail system will occur. We do not plan to leave anyone "out in the cold" when we cut – you will receive assistance (even if we have to send **Reagan** to your house to help out !!)

In addition, the old BBS will remain operational for an indeterminate period after the cut is complete to aid members in problem resolution. Also, we will have presentations at each meeting for several months after the cut over to demonstrate the new server's operation and access.

For current information, watch our Web page or monitor the current BBS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS NTPCUG & Special Events

Microsoft Answers... Ctd.

mentioned to him that there were several things that could be happening to the data in the file that would cause the import process to fail. All the links in the system chain were operating properly with the sample, but would not import when he tried his file with any of the versions he had available. I sent him the KB article about resolving problems with SBFM (Q176533) and requested that he send me the file via e-mail so I could try it on my system, but he was unable to send it. I suggested he send it via our exchange site, or copy it to a floppy disk and send it to me so I could try it.

He never sent me the file for whatever reason, but kept trying different things to get the data imported. When we finally resolved the problem, it turned out that he was modifying some fields in the invoice, and SBFM could not recognize those fields passed to it from the intermediate application. When he entered his data and used the invoice that was provided by Quickbooks, his data was imported into SBFM(tm) with no problem. It had not occurred to me that the invoice could be modified in that application, and it had not occurred to him that there would be any problem with modifying the invoice.

How to correct that problem? I added a comment to the article in the KB, noting that the file could not be imported if the fields in the application had been modified. **Jim Hoisington**'s series "On Complexity" comes to mind when I think about things like this -- all software developers make thousands of design decisions when they are building the software. Many of those decisions may be in conflict with other developers' decisions. By observing the conventions, using common development tools, and doing extensive testing, developers manage to make their applications work for the majority of users, and we all benefit from that.

Sometimes it takes a little help from the support team at MTS to find out how to remove the rock from the shoe of progress, and the support team most always learns something from the customer who has a recalcitrant problem. And as a result, help desks everywhere can benefit from that experience through the KB.

Thanks,

Doug Gorrie (dgorrie@onramp.net)
Richard Miles

Symantec to Acquire Quarterdeck Office Systems — Two of the oldest names in PC accessory software Under one roof as Microsoft finally goes to trial

Memory issues abound and Intel 'gentles' lawyers

Just because I'm really tired of starting with Microsoft v. Everybody, I moved the Symantec acquisition of Quarterdeck Office Systems to the top. Both firms, in one form or another, have been around since the early days of PC's and PC/MS-DOS and have contributed significantly to the shape of the PC and OS as we know it now.

'Bare Bones' PC-DOS 1.1 naked in terms of 'accessories'

DOS was a lot smaller in 1983. PC-DOS 1.1 fit on one (1) 360K floppy and about the only 'accessories' included were *EDLIN* and *COMM.BAS*, a rudimentary communications program written in *Gee-Whiz Basic* which really worked. In order to make the early PC workable, users need accessories and tools IBM/Microsoft didn't provide. Peter Norton, Datastorm Technologies and Quarterdeck filled that void over the years with useful disk management tools (I still use *Norton Commander 4.0)*, communications software (I still use *Procomm 2.01* for DOS) and Quarterdeck's line of memory managers that took DOS 'above' the 640K limit.

Now, Symantec, who consumed Peter Norton Computing years ago, has announced plans to acquire Quarterdeck Office Systems, who consumed Datastorm several years back, but still published Procomm for Windows, for approximately $65 million. Is that confusing enough? I still miss Peter Norton at Comdex — he was witty, unassuming and a great speaker concerning the future of the PC and PC operating systems.

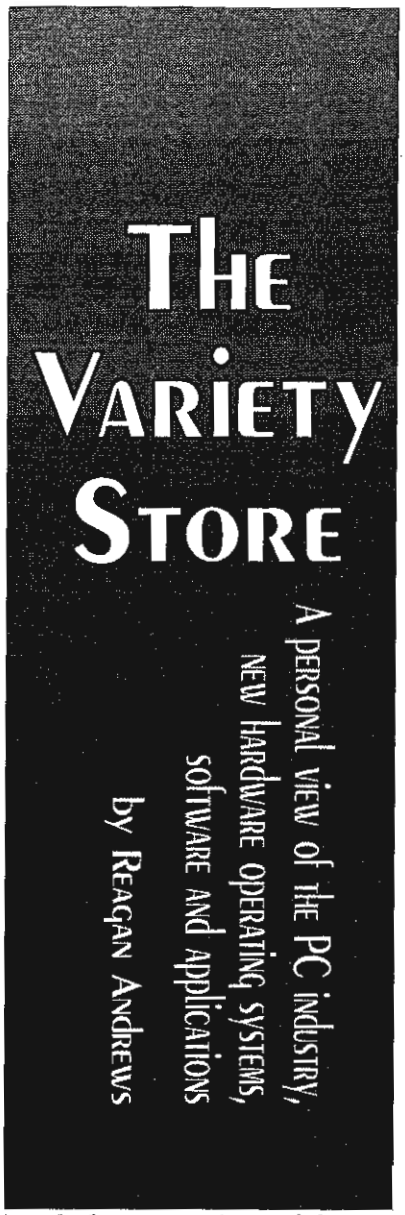
Uninstaller 'CleenSweep' Center of acquisition?

Media souces point to Symantec's legal problems with 'uninstallers' as one source for the acquisition since Quarterdeck's technology, *CleanSweep*, is not only prize-winning, but free of legal claims against it. Quarterdeck programmers are said to be another enticement to the deal and are described as extremely talented in various media.

Even though I've railed at the 'folks at 150 Pico Blvd.' in the DOS SIG during past meetings, I hate to see Quarterdeck disappear.

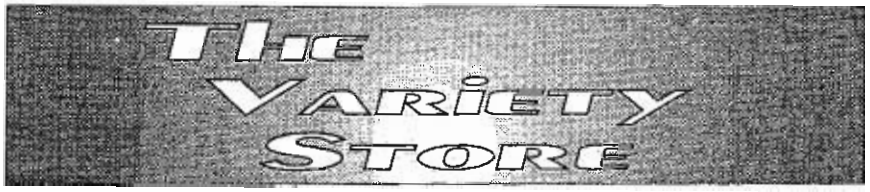
Are we having fun yet? Microsoft and DOJ finally Get to trial and Media hoopla

The great show has begun to almost universal sighs of relief among the non-PC media who had worried pre-trial maneuvering would stretch out to infinity. What's funny is the rampant speculation concerning possible/probable punishment Microsoft may/will receive at the end — with testimony only barely begun at time of this writing.



And, that may be Microsoft's biggest problem, the public's common assumption that they are "guilty" going into the trial. Reasoning seems to be Gates has $65 Billion, so he and Microsoft must be all the bad things the DOJ has described.

Let's see, if we listen to DOJ, Microsoft is the Arrogant & Evil Force from the Northwest, and Microsoft's accusers/detrac-



tors/haters (yes, Ray Noorda may testify) as sterling examples of saintly innocents who have been cowed, bullied and inhumanly victimized by the Redmond, WA, Goliath. Sure.

Databases at the last minute DOJ procures Microsoft's SQL database to mine clues

Last-minute developments in the case were attention-getting, but not surprizing , as DOJ asked for, and received Microsoft's sales and customers/suppliers SQL database. MS claimed this was an incredibly complex database that couldn't be easily understood. Media critics agreed with this assessment, but also noted that what Microsoft has to fear most will be any templates or search filters included that may bolster the DOJ's case.

Bill Gates must have a nightmare that some underling has, in fact, done a search in the past to see if Microsoft has offered lower prices for the Windows OS to vendors who promised to include IE and not Netscape Navigator — which Microsoft vehemently denies.

Media itself a problem

My problem: Many of the media /reporters/actors/representatives were barely out of diapers or in kindergarten when Microsoft was born, have no conception of the PC industry's leading actors and history. Their view of Microsoft is somewhat simplistic and often biased by ignorance of the industry and has tinges of comparisons with AT&T and General Motors as a 'giant' who is malevolent and does harm to its users..

As a result, this concept is understandable even if hilariously inaccurate. It's sort of like going to the aquarium and admiring the sharks and barracuda for their grace and agility without also observing their very sharp teeth.

States add to confusion With claims of 'Cheaper' OS if Not Microsoft monopoly

Now that the states (20) have piled on with some extremely ridiculous claims, the show promises to be even more entertaining. One I like best of all is that Microsoft has taken advantage of their operating system (OS) monopoly to force users to pay "twice as much for Windows 95 as they would otherwise." Yes, Microsoft makes a lot of money on Windows 95/98, but they also invested a lot of money in developing Windows. Only person who agrees with this, apparently, is Ray Noorda who gives DR DOS away on the Caldera Web site to users with enough patience to download it. Wasn't the case when he still ran Novell — nothing was "free."

What Does PC History Say About OS Prices?

I do remember the birth of the PC. There were four OS contenders, each incompatible with the others, hundreds of equally incompatible software packages and almost-compatible hardware packages that had to be "tested" with *Lotus 1-2-3* and MS *Flight Simulator* before they could be purchased and used. Software?

Operating systems ranged from $30 (PC-DOS 1.1), CP/M-86 ($195) to the UC P-systems at $695. (Guess why PC/MS DOS became the 'standard.')Word processing packages ranged from $200 to $800 for commercial programs that were barely out of the typewriter level of operation. Almost everything, spreadsheets, databases and other applications software seemed to be priced in the $400 - $500 range.

And Now

Let's look at some contemporary OS costs. I hit a number of Web sites looking for current OS pricing from both publishers and retail outlets. I'll start with **Microsoft** and quote CompUSA Web site prices:

- NT Workstation 4.0.... $249.95
- Windows 98 (Full)..... $179.95
- Windows 98 (Upgrade) $89.90
- Windows 3.11 Workstation (Full) $134.95
- " " Addon (Client) for DOS $47.95

❦ DOS 6.22 (Upgrade).....$54.95

IBM from CompUSA

❦ OS/2 Warp 3.0 (Full)..$180.95

❦ OS/2 Warp 4.0 (Full)..$219.95

❦ OS/2 Warp 4.0 (Upgrade) $159.95

❦ PC-DOS 7 (Full).....$81.95

❦ PC-DOS 7 (Upgrade)....$44.95

Santa Cruz Operation (SCO) from CompUSA

❦ SCO UNIX V4.2 .....$649.95

Hewlett-Packard from CompUSA

❦ HP UX (2 user upgrade) $1,034.95

Anything with the label 'Server' seemed to start at about $800 and rapidly escalate into the stratosphere from there. Therefore, they were not included. Both the SCO and H-P UNIX versions were included to demonstrate what all the excitement abou LINUX (from Redhat at $49.95) is all about. Also, I tried to get a price on SUN's Solaris OS for a single workstation. Think it's about $650, but could be mistaken since the SUN Web site search resulted in lots and lots of **404** error messages — I'd thought SUN was supposed to be 'King of the Web' so to speak. Hope SUN CEO Scott McNealy has a chance to see this.

I tried, where possible, to cite pricing for equivalent OS packages. Frankly, there are so many variations of OS/2 Warp,

both server and non-server, I wouldn't be that surprised if I'm in error and want to apologize from the start if that's so.

Pricing doesn't seem Predatory looking at Microsoft's Competitors

Looking at the prices above, I don't see predatory pricing. Of course, the judge in the Microsoft v. Everybody (and their brothers-in-law) may see this differently. When I look at it, I see hundreds of programmers working on Windows 98 and Windows NT code, all of whom are on salary — or contract to Microsoft.

When I participated in the Win 95 Alpha and Beta trials, I wasn't on contract. But, the MS people who took my 'bug' complaints and other communications from CompuServe and the Internet were. This was/is a huge project with millions of lines of code, all of which was coded and recoded countless times in the 'bug' removal process.

The process continues even as MS goes to trial. Win 98 is a work in progress, as was Win 95 for several years, and continues to consume countless programmer man-hours and other MS resources. We may never know the extent of Microsoft's expendatures in bringing this product to market. Yes, Microsoft has made and will make a lot of money from Windows. That's not the issue for me. I benefit from all those efforts and appreciate the time MS has taken to assure a quality product on my desktop.

I'm also always looking at alternatives, as most Win users do from time to time, but still recognize the value received from MS.

CompUSA apparently Reads/Listens: Searches Lessened and reasonable

Based a lot of the pricing info above on search of the CompUSA Web site October 25. Think it's only fair to add that the odious, gender-based 'searches' at the door at the North Central Expressway store seem to have eased-up since that column was published here. Hope it continues for some time.

I enjoy CompUSA in this location and have enjoyed not driving to Addison for parts, software, etc., immensly. This has been enhanced by somewhat friendlier return policies than earlier practices that have made shopping at CompUSA more pleasurable.

Exampe: I purchased a new Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 6200Cse from CompUSA for a project I was immersed in earlier this year. Because of its performance on scanning 35mm transparencies, I felt it was

faulty. Took it back to CompUSA (beyond their normal return period) and they exchanged it without question. Turned out this is most likely a design/ engineering/ software problem as the second scanner performed just as poorly at this task as the first.

Still, I appreciate CompUSA's prompt action and courtesy.

Memory issues abound – and confuse PC/CPU Future prospects for users

Ah, here's the rub. DRAM prices fall while some experts predict a memory shortage in 2 - 3 years as result of so much production capacity going offline over the past year. Since TI dropped out of the DRAM business, again, and Hitachi and others have closed down plants and production lines, I was under the impression there was a massive glut in the memory market that wasn't going to go away anytime soon.

And, memory is going to go through some massive changes in the next year or so. Blame Intel and other CPU vendors who are goosing CPU speeds beyong 500MHz for the changes as DRAM speeds provide a 'choke' on perceived throughput from PC's.

Memory speed has been/is the major 'choke' on performance since the PC/AT. L2 caches have eased the problem somewhat, but haven't eliminated the slowdowns users see when processing large graphics files and 3-D games. Intel has endorsed the RDRAM, Rambus, alternative as they forecast CPU speeds at 500MHz and above as one technique to speed data processing. AMD has also joined the RDRAM camp as AMD processors reach into the 500MHz and beyond horizons.

Legal issues seem to rule in the high speed DRAM battle for the future. Although RDRAM technology has been endorsed by Intel and AMD, other DRAM vendors have alternative architectures in the offing. Seems as soon as one of the newer DRAM architectures is proposed, another vendor presses suit for patent infringement or pushes other litigation. Problem is that all these legal issues tend to cloud the future of high-speed DRAM technology to the degree that users may be left in the, slow, cold older technologies as a result for years until the legal issues are resolved.

As it is, 450MHz may be 'tops' in term of CPU speeds until the DRAM mess is straightened out at the dust settles. Best bet is that we may see another significant increase in RAM costs until then if we want higher speeds/performance from our machines. We may be spoiled as a result of the current DRAM glut and will find ourselves unpleasantly surprized by the dawn's early light.

Intel's attorneys 'muzzled?' Media describes kinder, gentler approach from Intel

Back in the "good old days" of CPU development, i.e., the 1980's, Intel attorneys had the reputation of being the "junkyard dogs" of the legal arena and were a force to be feared and respected for non-Intel x86 CPU vendors. Both AMD and Cyrix experienced the tenacity of Intel's legal division and suits that stretched into years and $ millions to fight.

I hadn't thought about this — or even considered it for the last year or so until I saw a brief story in *Electronic News* describing the shift in strategy written by Robert Ristelhueber. The story outlined the significant differences everybody was seeing in the Intel legal arm. He was, of course, right in that Intel has been amazingly quiet on the legal front in spite of several new chip announcements in the x86 arena by non-Intel concerns.

Granted, Intel is looking over their shoulder at DOJ. It's no secret that the federal menace has been carefully considering action against Intel since their acquisition of Chips & Technologies as well as other moves on the part of the x86 giant. Doesn't seem the same though. I used to enjoy describing the Intel legal department as 'rapacious hoards, slavering over the prospect of ravening pillage' of some poor, unsuspecting chip vendor. I'll miss the 'old' Intel for sure.

Reagan Andrews

Selected SIG Reports . . .

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Access SIG

In November, regular SIG attendee **Chandi Mohanty** will discuss Access' "Collections and Containers and How to Use Them." He'll explain how to access the members of the Collections and of the Document Collections of Containers from VBA (or Access Basic) code and how to examine and set properties of the Objects therein. Learning how to use Access Object Model, which is implemented with Collections, Containers, Objects, Properties, and Methods is a primary step in moving from "power user who does some VBA" to "Access developer" status. Don't miss Chandi's tutorial on this subject - you'll find it's not nearly as difficult as it may seem at first glance.

Many thanks to **Deborah Bean** and **Neal Berkowitz** for an interesting discussion, "Bring Your Thorniest Access Problems." They collected several problems for their forthcoming book (early in 1999, we understand) and together we arrived at solutions or workarounds for most of them. We're looking forward to reading Deborah and Neal's book.

Service Release 2: Service Release 2 for Office 97 (including Access 97) was briefly available. It was then discovered that some users had problems installing it, and Microsoft withdrew it for revision. Visit *http://www.microsoft.com/office/info/sr2/info.htm* for the latest information on the status of SR2 and information on how to order it on CD (not only is the CD free, but apparently so is the postage and shipping).

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).

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator
Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h
Legend: h = Home #, w = Work # M = Metro #

ACT !
Jim Thompson ... (817) 261-6159 h
... (972) 487-8499 w
Deborah Bean ... (972) 475-7463 h
... (972) 475-3124 w
dbean@misresource.com

Access
Larry Linson ... (817) 481-2350 hM
larrylinson@ntpcug.org
Jack Atkinson ... (817) 481-6623 h
Dianna DeCicco ... (972) 446-0689 h
Tom Lukers ... (972) 423-4308 h

Alpha 4 / 5
Bill Parker ... (214) 369-5889 h
wparker@mymail.net
Ron Jackson ... (972) 276-3661 h

ActiveX Developers
Larry Linson ... (817) 481-2350 h
larrylinson@ntpcug.org
Dan Ogden ... (972) 417-1916 w
dogden@gte.net
Linda Moore ... (214) 342-8833

Assembly Language SIG
Frank Cavallito ... (972) 423-9221 h
fcaval@swbell.net
Glynn Brooks ... (972) 578-8737 h
... (972) 716-3281 w
gbrooks@dmans.com

Business Applications/DAC
Putt Shaw ... (972) 235-2559 h
puttshaw@wans.net
Bruce Schubert ... (972) 394-5328 h
... (972) 233-8353 w

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

SIG

You can still download the revised Jet database engine update, which seems to fix the recently discovered data corruption bug (for Access 97 only), 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.

Visit *Access / Office / VBA Advisor* magazine's Web site, *www.advisor.com*, for a detailed discussion of the Access data corruption bug by Andy Baron, Contributing Editor and MVP on Microsoft's public Access newsgroup. Andy includes his own code workaround which you can apply to Access 2.0, 7.0 (95), and 8.0 (97) applications to avoid the problem.

Coming Soon: Perennial favorite **Jack Atkinson** will speak in December. Larry will resume his introductory tutorial on VBA code in the not-too-distant future, wherever we end up meeting in the New Year.

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 November meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers SIG

At the time of this writing, our program for November was not yet decided, but rest assured we will have a presentation on a subject of interest to ActiveX application developers.

In October, **Larry Linson** concluded our discussion of "Classic" *Structured Analysis and System Specification*, as published by Tom DeMarco of Yourdon, Inc. and taught by the Yourdon trainers, in the late 1970s. We briefly reviewed data flow diagrams and structured English definitions of processes, and then covered the final element, data dictionaries. We also discussed some approaches to automating your own 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.

SIG LEADER LISTING

Communications
Alan Brosz.....(972) 548-7928 h
.....(972) 498-1237 w
alan.brosz@mci.com
Birl Smith.....(972) 960-8227 h
.....(214) 220-9388 w
bhsmith@onramp.net

Dallas Corel
Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266
mdreb@litigraph.com
Susan Biggs.....(214) 340-7794

DOS/ Operating Systems
Jim Hoisington.....(972) 416-3101 h
Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h
reagana@swbell.net

Desktop Publishing
Mark Stuertz.....(214) 528-5311 h

Emerging Computer Technologies
Walter Johnston..(972) 612-0604 h
walterj@omega.uta.edu
Lynn Peterson
peterson@cse.uta.edu

Fox Pro
Kevin White.....(972) 383-5211 w

Genealogy - General
Al Sanford.....(972) 278-7888 h
.....(972) 278-1742 fax
asanford@chrysalis.com

Genealogy - *Family Tree Maker*

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

Genealogy - Ultimate Family Tree
Dave Heston.....(972) 539-5202
heston@iName.com

Genealogy - *The Master Genealogist*
Jeri Steele.....(972) 306-1596 h
.....(972) 917-9917 w
steele@pioneerinfo.com

Hardware Solutions
Charles Miller.....(903) 938-4220 h
cbaxter@pobox.com
Ralph Beaver.....(817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson.....(972) 938-0344 h

SIG LEADER LISTING

Internet–Beginner
Tom O'Keefe..... (972) 247-8812 h
Doug Gorrie..... (972) 618-8002 h
... (214) 464-4568 w
Erik Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM

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

Internet–Advanced Ctd.
Doug Gorrie..... (972) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-4568 w
Erik Leaseburg ... (817) 265-7550 hM

Internet–WEB Developers
Mark Camp ..... (972) 404-4456
webmaster@webdallas.com
Chris Nelson

Introduction to the PC
Harold (Spike) Smith
..... (972) 231-0730 h
Spike3@home.com
John Randall
jrandall@airnet.net

Investors
Dick Richtman .... (972) 437-0322 h
rrichtman@wsu.com

Java
Kevin Starrett..... (972) 444-6366 w
..... (817) 577-3845 h
wks@fedex.com
Don Benish..... (972) 705-9512
dbenish@airmail.net

Lotus *Notes & Domino*
B.J. Shultz .....

Micrografx (Graphics)
Neal Berkowitz.... (972) 475-7463 h
..... (972) 475-3124 w
nberk@misresource.com
misr@cmpu.net
Shanna Dyer
sdyer@misresource.com

MS *Word for Windows*
Jan Patton..... (903) 886-6249 h
janpat@unicomp.net
Michelle Wood.... (972) 401-3984 h
..... (972) 732-5172 w
mwood@flash.net
Sherry Covert ..... (972) 732-4317 w
..... (972) 335-8358 h
sherving@ix.netcom.com

SIG

Many of the topics we cover are of interest to developers using other tools, working in other environments - for example, some such subjects we covered were on "Pros and Cons of Different Types of Contract," "Documenting System Specifications," and "Structured Analysis and System Specification."

Come join us in November, if you're interested in computer application development, whether it's with ActiveX or COM Components or not. We'll do the best we can to make it an interesting and productive hour.

Larry Linson

Assembler SIG

On the assumption that the rainy weather reduced the attendance for our October meeting (not to mention the competition from the Microsoft Preview of Office 2000 in the Auditorium), the planned presentation on WIN32 GUI Programming will be saved for (another) rainy day.

Our November meeting will feature a presentation on doing 32-bit DLLs in Assembler.

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

Frank Cavallito and Glynn Brooks

DALLAS COREL SIG

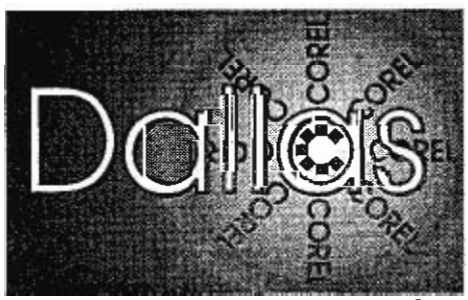
Copyright Your Graphics

November's program will help graphic designers protect rights to their images in print and on the Internet. We will discuss the new copyright bill which recently passed the House and Senate and is waiting for Presidential signature. Also we will look at the watermark feature in PHOTO-PAINT 8 and learn about additional software available from Digimarc to further protect your images. Get a head start by visiting *www.digimarc.com.* Get the law on your side at our next SIG meeting.

October in Review

Pamela Lugo, from Lugo Consulting Group in Irving, Texas, presented our October program on "Fine-tuning our Web Sites." She enjoys designing Web sites using Corel and other products. She prepared many example files to demonstrate for us how she creates custom menus and graphics and then integrates them into a site with various Web publishing software. Unfortunately her laptop computer malfunctioned that morning, so instead she lead an interesting discussion about recent developments in designing for the Web. **Bob Smith**, from the Internet SIG, joined our group and enriched the session, too. The Internet is still a relatively new communications medium, and its quick evolution challenges us designers to keep up. Thanks, Pam, for your tips on how to keep our sites fresh for the search engines, too.

Tutorials



Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

SIG

Creating buttons with a 3D look for your Web site is popular to say the least. Mike Bresciani walks you through several small PHOTO-PAINT projects showing you how easy it is to create them. Visit *http://www.unleash.com/mikeb/button1*. Here's another one that adds a "rolled" edge to the buttons. And if you don't do Web graphics, that doesn't mean you can't use these effects in your work. Visit *http://www.unleash.com/mikeb/button2*.

Corel 8 Continues Popularity

According to **Jim Hart**, who just returned from the Corel World Conference in San Diego, the CorelDRAW 9 beta will be released to testers next spring, so the final retail release is unlikely to hit the shelves for about another year from now. Lots of users are relieved to hear that, since we still have a way to go in mastering so many of the fabulous new features of version 8.

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

Oct/98 – Fine Tuning Your Web Page

Marsha Drebelbis

DOS/Operating Systems SIG

Understand I messed a stellar DOS SIG Meeting in October. Heard that **Jim Hoisington** really got down to the "nitty-gritty" of LANs, packets and TCP/IP during the session.

November should be a lot of fun since I'd like to look at the issue of stability, i.e., being able to work without frequent dire messages from Win95 followed by a need to

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

SIG LEADER LISTING

Microsoft *FrontPage*
Sam Lugo
sam@lugo-consulting.com
Pamela Lugo
pamela@lugo-consulting.com

Microsoft Networking
Bruce Wynn.....(972) 335-2507 h
.....(972) 756-7832 w
Richard Miles.....(214) 767-7315 w
.....(972) 296-5356 h
Gil Brand.....(214) 508-6370 w
.....(214) 341-7182 h

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC
John Cole.....(972) 669-4700 w
jcole@airmail.net
Wade Emmert.....(214) 740-3164 w
emmert@airmail.net

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

OS/2 SIG
Rob Couch
rob.couch@usa.net
Gerald Meazell

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

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

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

Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev
Eb Foerster.....(214) 357-7602 h
ebfoerster@juno.com

SQL Server
Ada Finigan.....
Steven DeSalvo..(972) 716-2684
John Penaska.....(972) 431-3979
Erin Welker.....(972) 462-6033

UNIX
Doug Scott.....(817) 261-4653 hM
.....(817) 978-0367 wM

Visual Basic — Beginning
Jim Carter.....(972) 235-5968 h
Thomas Lewis.....(972) 994-6387
Jim Hart

SIG LEADER LISTING

Visual Basic — Advanced
Thomas Lewis.....(972) 994-6387
Jim Carter.....(972) 235-5968 h

VRGN Internet Gaming
Al Alman

***Windows* - Applications**
Neal Berkowitz....(972) 475-7463 h
.....(972) 475-3124 w
nberk@misresource.com
mist@cmpu.net
Deborah Bean....(972) 475-7463 h
.....(972) 475-3124 w
dbean@misresource.com

***WordPerfect* / Windows**
Cindy Adams.....(817) 481-1300 wM
Diane Bentley

reboot, and which OS (Operating System) platforms seem most capable in this area.

I have a suspicion platform choice may vary with tasks/operations being performed.

Maybe it's time to look at LINUX after all. Lot of attention being showered on the FreeWare from Finland that's beginning to make some inroads into the IT back rooms, much to the dismay of Microsoft and others, by several industry biggies and the media. The price definitely is right and the system is reported to be stable with a big "S" as well after successful installation.

Question is, is it ready for the average desktop? Probably not. Especially not as the PC skill level of the "average" buyer continues its steady decline as PC prices plummet. These people actually need a pre-installed OS with the minimal necessary maintenance — at least for their first few months (if not years) until comfortable with the hardware and software.

Most of the folks who attend this SIG could probably install LINUX without much more difficulty than a good Win95 installation from scratch. However, I wouldn't advise the "average" new user to attempt that either. It isn't that Win95/98 is easier to install well, it's because it comes already installed and configured on new PC's sold to beginners and there are a lot of good third-party books and manuals to help new users available.

Question came up (again) for me as I was preparing for my squadron reunion. I was attempting to scan, correct and otherwise manipulate some large graphics files (of course, late at night) and found myself having to reboot more often than I would ordinarily tolerate. I also ran into some "creeping" bad sectors on a relatively-new hard disk that may have resulted from the failure to handle 100+ MB files gracefully in my system. Since disk prices have dropped so low, this may have been serendipity and unrelated to the crashes — or may have been a cause of them.

About half of my "older" legacy software would run gracefully in WinNT. None of it would run in LINUX without purchasing the UNIX versions (if available at a cost I could afford) and a lot of "adjustment" later. Some of it would run in OS/2 if re-installed for that OS. Major problem in any of the alternatives above can be spelled in one word, drivers. Drivers for my modems, printers, scanners, external drives (ZIP and SparQ) sound cards, etc., etc., etc.

Lastly, I'd like a simple, "set and forget" experience. I don't want to spend hours scouring various vendors' Web sites looking for the new drivers that cure the old drivers' "bugs" (and frequently bring forth a new set of their own "undocumented features") every month/week/day.

Reagan Andrews

DOS Operating Systems SIG

Internet SIG - Beginning

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

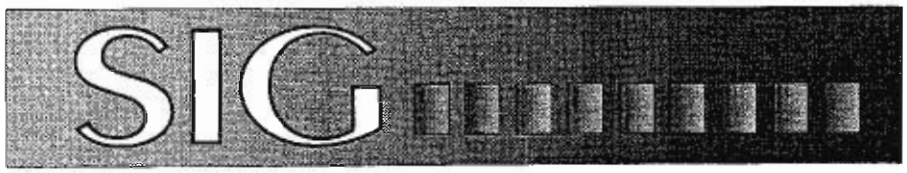
The ongoing purpose of the Beginning Internet SIG is to improve your understanding of the Internet. This includes such things as how to choose and connect to an Internet Service Provider (ISP), what software options are available, what hardware is needed, and how to decipher all those confusing acronyms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

See you November 14th!!

Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe & Kiff Barnes

Internet SIG- Advanced

The Advanced Internet SIG addresses topics and issues of interest to experienced Internet users, who are looking for more in-depth content. Sessions address such topics as IP addressing, Domain Name Services, Internet phone and teleconferencing capabili-



ties and tools, basic Web page development, Web server options and features, network and data security, search engines, and more.

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

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

We encourage you to join with us November 14th.

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

Internet - Web Developers SIG

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

October Meeting Recap

The Advanced Internet SIG leaders were nice enough to allow us to spill our meeting over into their time. We were therefore able to finish our discussion on "HTML Frames." This is because we spent most of our hour talking about LINUX (again!), and what it may or may not hold for Internet server possibilities in the next year or two.

The Frames tutorial will remain available in the *SiteBuilder* column, both as an online tutorial, and as a Word 97 downloadable document. You can download the file 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 backend to a form in their Web sites. Such scripts are usually used to take the data entered into a form, and turn it into an 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 frontend 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 Development and other SIGs which make up the NTPCUG membership. Hopefully, we'll know the newmeeting site then.

JavaScript in January and February

Our topic for January and February will be Javascript. Javascript is a scripting language that is primarily used on the client (browser) side, to create a variety of effects and functions. Popular examples include "rollovers", or "mouseovers", where moving your mouse over an image or link causes a new image to be loaded, generally creating an "on" and "off" effect. Javascript can also be used to launch additional browser windows, fill in forms, run browser based calculators, and much more. With such capabilities, Javascript has become a vital tool for any site developer or webmaster.

During January and February, our meetings will feature a guest presenter, **Don Benish**. In addition to being the leader of the Java SIG, Don is the creator of the *http://www.megaconverter.com* Web site, a phenomenal educational Web site built upon Javascripted calculators, measurement converters and much more. In addition to speaking about Javascript, Don will provide a variety of Javascripts you can modify for your own uses.

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 4050 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.

November 14, 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

December 19, 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

January, 1999* - No Classes

February, 1999*

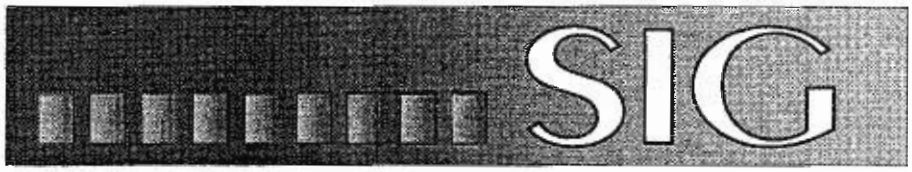
- 9:00 Class 1
  Introduction to the PC
- 10:00 Class 2
  A Lot About Files & Directories
- Noon Class 3
  (DOS) Disk Operating Systems
- 1:00 Class 4
  MS Windows

March, 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

Inn October, month **Kevin** gave a presentation on the JavaCard API and the Java Ring (an actual ring for your finger, about the size of a large Super Bowl ring). This API was developed to allow users to program Smart Card and Smart Ring information systems.

He described the basic system topology and that the system consists of essentially two processors, one on the card or ring, and one on the host reader mechanism, which talk back and forth via an RMI-like process. It is possible to place almost any kind of information or method on the card/ring up to the limits of available memory. Sliding the card into a reader or pressing the ring into a different type of reader activates the connection and begins the processing, which can vary depending on the type of host.

The API is based on a slimmed down version of the JDK and includes existing classes and new ones for connection initiation and transfer. He explained how the ring mechanism is more structurally rigid and more rugged than the card systems currently used. These kinds of systems have a wide range of possible uses from identification to transaction processing. These systems are not terribly expensive even now and should come down in price as newer uses and types and quantities become available.

Kevin showed us the Java Ring he got at a developer's conference and the reader provided by his company. He showed us that information could be retrieved from the ring and sent to the ring.

Take a look at this URL for more info on the Javacard API.

http://www.javasoft.com/products/javacard/index.html

Next month's meeting will be presented by CloudScape on their forthcoming Java database system, which will allow users to create and maintain databases on any platform..

Don Benish
http://web2.airmail.net/dbenish
http://www.megaconverter.com

MICROSOFT NETWORKING SIG

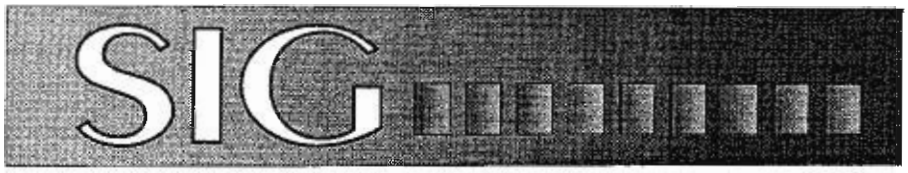
Purpose of the SIG

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

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

The strength of an effective users group is the opportunity to share common experiences and learn from others. We try to end each meeting with an

Java Programming SIG



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

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

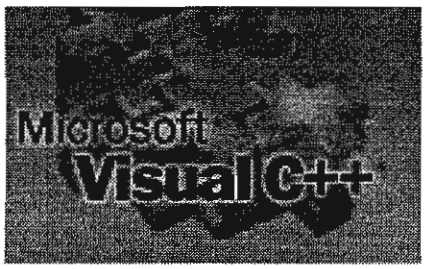
Bruce Wynn, Richard Miles & Gil Brand

Visual C++/MFC SIG

In our October meeting, we started our "Back to the Basics" series with a presentation by **John Cole** introducing us to dialog-based apps. In November, we will progress to Single Document Interface (SDI) applications and create a simple notepad application. In the process, we'll concentrate on message handling and how to override default implementations of the base class functions. For the advanced developer, we will take a look inside the macros that perform the message-handling "magic."

Please join us.

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: Gerald Meazell

☆Mike Persell

Rob Couch
rob.couch@usa.net

Pro SIG

As the holiday season approaches, more and more programmers are working overtime to get their projects completed by year's end. Most professional programmers are planning to spend the entire year of 1999 building an isolated place in the mountains powered by a surplus personal nuclear power plant from the former Soviet Union. The good news about these surplus power plants is that they are not computer-controlled. The bad news is that the manual controls don't work either.

Join us next time for survivalist training for the Y2K-impaired.

Jim Hoisington

WordPerfect/Windows SIG

Hold on to your hats. This month we get with it hot and heavy with what you have asked for the most. THE WEB and WordPerfect 8.0! We will review QuickLinks, talk about Hypertext and Hypertext links, the fact that you do not have to know HTML as long as you have WP! We will also show you how tables are a key ingredient to Web pages for stability of "where" your text appears. And don't forget using our own .wpg graphics! Yes, they can be .wpg's and still work on the Web! So come and learn how!

We could talk about this subject for two or three sessions, and we very well may next year. **Diane** and I are going to be putting together our class topic planner for next year soon and the Web will be a priority for us, I am sure. If you can, come and visit this month and bring your friends. This will be an exciting and informative meeting. See ya there!

Cindy Adams

Tip of the Month -- Path and Filename

If you work with beaucoup documents, finding them can be a chore when you need to edit them. If you place the filename or pathname in the document at either the end or in a footer, you'll know where it's located. And, best of all, if you copy the document to use as a basis for a new document, or if you move it to a new location, the path and filename change automatically.

All versions include a feature which will place the filename or pathname, whichever one you choose, into a footer or at any location within the document: Insert, Other, Filename -or- Path and Filename.

Additionally, all versions include a Macro which will also place it in a footer: Filestmp.

Diane Bentley

SIG

HOW TO GET YOUR SIG NOTES IN THE NTPCUG NEWSLETTER

We want your SIG notes. It's important that NTPCUG members know what your SIG has done and will be doing at your meetings and presentations. But, you must get them to the *PC News* before they can be printed in the newsletter. The best way is via the NTPCUG BBS or *as an attachment* to an E-mail message to the *PC News* publisher: ***reagana@swbell.net***

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

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

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

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

reagana@swbell.net

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Volunteers in Action

by Claude McClure

Gravity and Other Laws

It is reassuring to read in the daily news that Microsoft's chairman Bill Gates sees no change in their business tactics or strategy. While maintaining the same focus on product design may be alarming to some, our own **Larry Linson** should find it a better choice than learning and teaching a new database. Larry has no trouble pointing out the fine points of Access to his SIG members. His eyes sparkle with enthusiasm as he jumps from one technique to another and uses terms like cloning and importing. Larry will ask how you are using the application and suggest upgrading to the professional version.

Larry can also hold his own among ActiveX developers; talking non stop and at the same time scanning a large empty box for one more CD or T-shirt to pass out to a room full of group members. Some things never change, and he carries this same enthusiasm into the many articles he submits to the North Texas PC Newsletter. He has written enough columns for our newsletter to fill a book. You will never find him too busy to give a little advice or help in using one of his favorite Microsoft programs, and as the words flow out, it is easy to detect a strong undercurrent of humor.

Larry was one of our booth managers at the recent Developers Days Show, and distributed NTPCUG literature while speaking to many attendees about joining the User Group. Thanks to Larry Linson for contributing so much to our meetings, 'though he will tell you he gets as much from the monthly association as he invests. That may be another law of life for us to consider.

Thanks to SIG leaders and other knowledgeable members without whom the NTPCUG would not be the same. Take a moment to thank them as well as the club officers and other volunteers who help during the monthly meeting. Thanks to the producers of this month's Newsletter for reminding us of the high points of the last meeting. Many other volunteers' names who make the NTPCUG meeting possible, are listed on this page. The NTPCUG is made up of a great group of volunteers.

Infomart Liaison
Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/ Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Dick Abbott
Crew:
Willard Anderson
Dennis Brininger
Jim Delaney
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 (Assis tant) Scheduler:
Bob Wuller
Anchors:
Roger Bopp
Glynn Brooks
Vernon Cates
Albert Champon
Cinda Lovil (Double)
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams
Booth Crew:
Al Aston
Deborah Bean
Randy Durham
Eteta E. Eta
Tim Foster
James Gorak
Herbert Gross
Neil Jochelson
Steve Martinson
John McNeil
Martin Moomaw
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)

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

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 wisb to bave your address ineluded 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

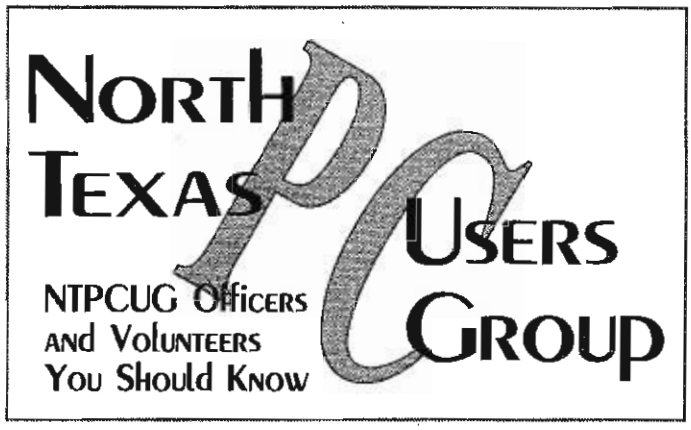
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG 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	**Timotby 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
(No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit)

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:
..... (972) 387-2751
..... (972) 387-2752
..... METRO (972) 263-9036

SYSOP: ..... Fred Williams
Assistant Sysop: ..... Tom Prickett
Assistant Sysop: ..... Doug Gorrie
Information Mgt: ..... Lewis Graber
User Relations: ..... Adam Peterson

Password problems?
Call Doug at..... (214) 464-4568

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

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

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

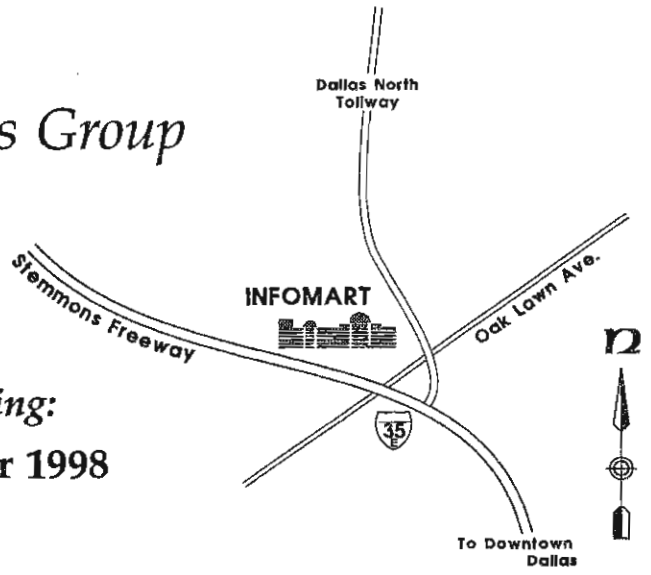
North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 703449
Dallas, Texas 75370-3449

Address Correction Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Arlington, TX
Permit No. 823

17.11

North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:

14 November 1998