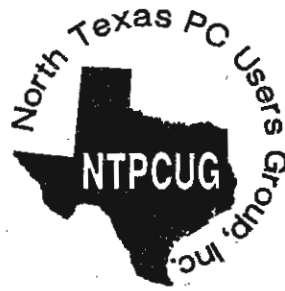


Price \$3.00

North Texas



PC NEWS



**Important News
About
January Meeting!
Details on Page 2**

December, 1998

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 12

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

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

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

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:

..... (972) 387-2751
 (972) 387-2752
 METRO (972) 263-9036

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

Password problems?

Call Doug at..... (214) 464-4568

Address Changes, etc...

Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

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

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

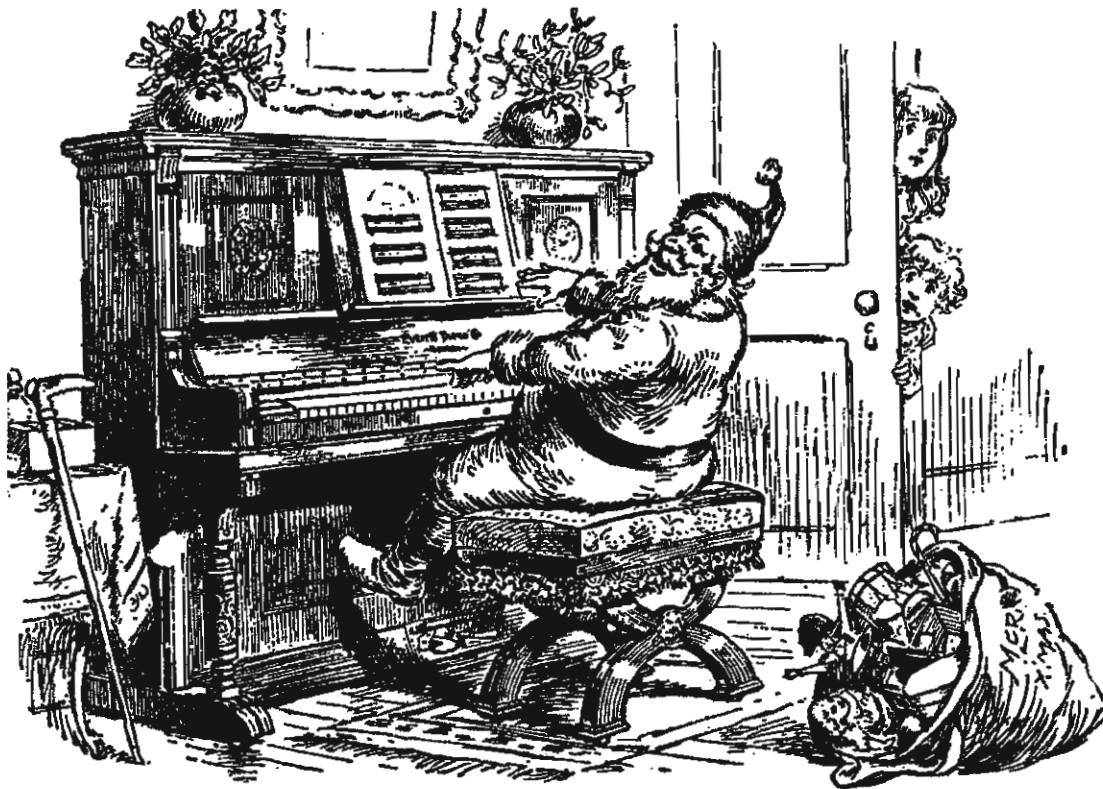
NTPCUG Officers

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

Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)
Phil Chamberlain **Jim Hoisington**
David McGehee **Stuart Yarus**
Tom Prickett **Connie Andrews**
Kathryn Loafman **Reagan Andrews**
Fred Williams **Timothy Carmichael**
Andy Oliver **Mark Gruner**

**Programs to be Announced – Please Check the Handouts
And Overheads In the Vendor Area**



DECEMBER 19

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.

TIME FOR CHANGE... 1999 ELECTIONS

Wow! Another year has come and gone, and what a year it's been. I want to thank all of the Board of Directors, the officers, the SIG leaders, and all the other volunteers who make the Saturday meetings run smoothly. Also, I want to thank the people who volunteer during the month to keep this User Group going. These behind-the-scenes workers are invaluable.

Elections are coming in January. We (the BOD) often hear that there's no reason to vote because it's always the same candidates running for office. I want to encourage anyone who is interested and qualified to step forward and run for one of the five available Board positions or the President-Elect spot. We need new blood. We need enthusiasm. We need to stop the steady decline in membership.

This year certainly has been different. This year has been filled with more open conversations with our membership than I have ever experienced in my years with the NTPCUG, which is a good thing. The Group has added services including membership in Sam's Club, and we should find



out soon about membership in the Texans Credit Union for our members.

Skyline Negotiations Difficult

Now is a time of change. Negotiations to meet at Skyline High School have been very difficult and subject to change over the last number of months. The Skyline location for User Group meetings was desirable as being about a mile away from the vendor area on the same day. As of the newsletter deadline date, though, securing a lease with Skyline has not worked out.

I am still very optimistic that we will find a meeting place for January and beyond for the User Group meetings - just maybe not close to the vendor area or on the same date. Our ultimate goal is to bring the User Group meetings and the vendor area sales back under the same roof. That may take some doing, or it may not be do-able, but we are still trying.

Look for a Postcard...

Look for a postcard mailing about a meeting place for the User Group in the future.

Goodbye Fred

Back to elections. Fred Williams, BBS Sysop and Board member, has declined another year on the Board, as his job is keeping him "down on the farm." This is true, Fred has been working with chickens in East Texas, and they (the chickens) like him enough that he may relocate. Fred, thank you for the terrific job you have done. Thank you for keeping us on our toes, and for putting up with our backwards ways. Drop by a meeting.

CONSIDER RUNNING - Ask Jim

One of the duties of the President-Elect, Jim Hoisington, is to find candidates for the following year. This includes accepting nominations at the Business Meetings (11:00 a.m. on User Group Sat-

urday), and we even accept nominations via e-mail. The person nominated must be a member in good standing (dues paid), and must be willing to serve. The deadline for the nominations to get into the newsletter will be after the meeting on Saturday, December 19th. The December meeting will be our last meeting at the Infomart.

I have asked **Jim Hoisington**, this year's President-Elect and next year's President, to not only fill the vacant Board position left by Fred's departure, but to also find another candidate for next year's President-Elect. I feel that we need someone new with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm. My real job, over the past year, has kept me from attending more meetings than I have ever missed in previous terms. I will help in every way that I can to make the NTPCUG stronger, to boost membership, and to continue the goals set forth in the By-laws. Jim has a new job in mind for me, but that will depend on next year's BOD.

Your goal as members will be to vote, make your voices heard, contact the leaders of the Group and let them know what you think about the User Group. Plus, you must volunteer some of your time to make this group a success. It does not happen if every member does not take it upon herself or himself to ask the question, "How can I help?"

The new millenium is fast approaching. This group will survive, but it will succeed and prosper only with your help.

As we enter the holiday season, may happiness, sharing, giving, and caring be in you heart and spread to your friends, your family, and strangers that you meet. Take care of everyone and the favors will be returned tenfold.

Have a joyous December.

Andy

Andy Oliver
PREZ SEZ . . .

Ctd.



NEW NTPCUG WinNT (BBS) SERVER IN FINAL TESTING !!

In our November newsletter, we optimistically said that "By the time you receive this [November] newsletter, we expect to have the server in place at Verio (our ISP) and connected to the Internet." As it turns out, that was a true projection. Unfortunately, following installation and preliminary testing at Verio, the hard disk promptly glitched and would not boot !! Murphy's Law at work !!

On Tuesday, November 24th, we completed our re-installation, and are now completing testing with a select group of suckers – uh, I mean "volunteers", and things are looking good.

Our old BBS continues to handle all incoming e-mail addressed to members at "ntpcug.org". But through creative Internet addressing, we have also been able to successfully send and receive Internet e-mail using test accounts on the new Windows NT server. Our testers have been connecting to their existing Internet Service Providers (ISP) as usual, but are telling their "client" mail software to pass e-mail through the NT server. So far, they

Continued on next page

NEW NT SERVER... Ctd.

can send mail to any point on the Internet, and receive e-mail in return, using our new server.

As noted last month, any members with existing e-mail 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" Internet mail to the new server (probably mid-December), there will be no need for them to advise anyone of a different e-mail account - it will be the same as before. Users will in most cases merely use readily available e-mail software to begin utilizing the new mail system. Detailed instructions will be available at the December meeting, on the old BBS, on the Web site, and in the January newsletter.

Also, since the November newsletter went to press, we have installed Microsoft's NNTP (Network News Transport Protocol) to use as our new BBS conferencing tool. A more common term for NNTP is Usenet, or Usenet Newsgroups, which are conference areas that exist throughout the Internet for the sharing of information. Don't be concerned about what NNTP means -- it is already incorporated in Internet Explorer and Netscape browsers, so should be easy to use. We are setting up a conference (newsgroup) for each SIG, just as we did on the old BBS, plus some extras. Setup instructions will be provided in the same manner as e-mail.

For members that already have an Internet Service Provider (ISP), we foresee you continuing to access the Internet's regular Usenet newsgroups through your ISP. But in addition, NTPCUG's newsgroups (conferences) will also be available 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 your NTPCUG e-mail while connected to your ISP, eliminating multiple calls. In other words, you will be able to process NTPCUG e-mail and your ISP e-mail without having to dial separate numbers.

For members without an ISP, NTPCUG will provide you dial-up access to your NTPCUG e-mail account, the NTPCUG Web page, and our conferencing areas. Remote Access Service (RAS) in Win95/98/NT will provide your connectivity.

In a few isolated cases where 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 !!

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 serv-

er's operation and access.

Regarding training, the first sessions will occur at the Beginning Internet SIG meeting in December. See the SIG notes for that SIG for more details.

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

Thanks.

Doug Gorrie (dgorrie@onramp.net)

Richard Miles

Gil Brand

Bob Webber

Don Bennish

And others



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.

What things should I consider when looking for a provider to host my Web site?

When looking for an ISP to host your Web site, you should ask the following questions:

- 1) What is the access speed for the server farm?

Since speed is key to having a responsive Web site the rule here is the faster, the better. Look for providers with at least a T3 (45Mbps) Internet connection.



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

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DIAL-UP ACCESS

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

www.veriotexas.net, info@veriotexas.net

1-888-266-7267



Preferably this link is then made to a high speed network backbone.

- 2) Is the server information backed up regularly?

Since information on the Web server can be expected to change regularly it should be backed up daily. At a minimum this backup should be done to tape, although some providers may also use other methods like mirrored servers where the same information literally resides on two separate machines or disk drives.

- 3) Is the server covered under a 24x7 policy?

Your Web site should be in operation 24 hours per day, 365 days a week. In order to ensure that it achieves this goal your provider should provide this support.

- 4) How much Internet experience does the provider have?

Don't take this for granted. Any number of providers are little more than two guys with a PC in a garage. Check them out before you entrust them with your Web site.

- 5) Does the provider supply monthly traffic reports?

You put your site up so that people would come to it so it's only fair that you be able to see how many. Monthly traffic reports are an essential requirement from any Web hosting vendor.

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.

MUSINGS FROM COMDEX

This was my first visit to Fall COMDEX, the big computer show in Las Vegas, since 1997. A lot has changed.

THERE ARE A LOT LESS VENDORS

When I last visited, there were about 40 miles of aisles in eight locations. It took my late wife and I the better part of four days to walk all the aisles. This year, the show is in only two locations and I walked it in about 12 hours. And, that may be a good thing. This year the vendors are more *substantial*. By that I mean that they will probably be around next year.

Gone are all the motherboard vendors and video card vendors that appeared to be a small family-run company with some relatives here in the U.S. and the rest of the family in the Far East. Motherboards and video cards have gotten too complex for a small company to replicate a design without sophisticated manufacturing equipment.

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.



Also gone are the *mega-booths*. There used to be lots of booths that were very large. This year I would guess that there were less than 10. By being more efficient with floor space, more vendors were located in each of the show rooms.

THE VENDORS REPRESENT A LOT MORE COUNTRIES

There were pavilions not only for Taiwan and Singapore, but also for The Peoples Republic of China, Thailand, Austria, England, France, Sweden, Norway, India, Arab Republic of Egypt, Pakistan, and Australia.

In addition to more international exhibitors, there were a lot more international attendees. My hotel was the headquarters for a contingent of attendees from the Former Soviet Union (FSU).

HOT BOOTHS AND GIVEAWAYS

Every show has some booths that are always crowded. The Microsoft booth was crowded as usual, which was, in part, caused because it straddled a major access point to the show.

Also, the Linux pavilion, BE (an operating system created by refugees from Apple Computing), and Cyrix (a really good presentation with neat giveaway toys). The Creative Labs booth was also very popular.

Giveaways, the trinkets to attract you to a booth in order to get you to listen to a sales spiel, were not nearly as nice as the last time I attended. Hot giveaways were the Cyrix toys and the Iomega clickers. (Iomega markets a product called the Clic drive.)

ATTENDANCE

The attendance was really disappointing. The COMDEX folks started the week claiming 250,000 in attendance and dropped to 220,000 by the end

Continued on next page

of the week. "I think COMDEX counts everyone who registers, not everyone who attends. My guess is that there were about 150,000, or less, in actual attendance.

Who CAME TO COMDEX?

COMDEX badges are now coded to show which group the wearer belongs to. The following is the result of an unscientific poll that I conducted based on the badges that I observed coming toward me in the aisles on Monday and Tuesday.

Fifty percent of the badges were exhibitors, channel partners, industry insiders, etc. These people were walking the floor to find out what their suppliers, competitors, partners were announcing and were going to announce.

Another one-third of the attendees that I saw were from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, or The Peoples Republic of China. After watching them work the booths, I would have to say that they were getting *design ideas* for future products, not for buying products.

The remaining 16 and one-third percent were divided amongst OEM/Integrators, Developers, Corporate Buyers and *show only* badges. All but *show only* badges are the groups that the show was designed to attract. People who buy hardware and build computers and people who buy computers and resell them.

The *show only* badges were about 5 percent of the people I saw and they represented a significant number of retired people. Las Vegas has a large retirement community and some of the people must have registered for free passes. A few of the other *show only* badge holders looked like legitimate buyers. The rest looked like APUCG members who were there for all the free meals.

ANOMALIES

A long line of Japanese waiting to get into *Safii's Kosher Delicatessen*.

A line, two blocks long, waiting to hear Bill Gates talk about the future of computing.

A line of any length waiting for Larry Ellison to talk about the future of computing.

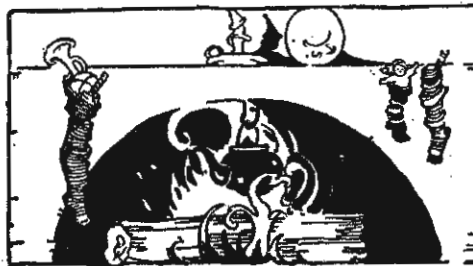
Young Japanese men calling other Japanese men on their cell phones and, *surprise, surprise*, finding out that the people they called were

also at COMDEX. (I'd like ten percent of those long distance charges from Las Vegas to Japan and back to Las Vegas.)

The back of almost every cab in Las Vegas with an ad for Syquest, a company that went bankrupt about three weeks before the show.

Females of any hair color wearing anything other than a black dress or suit with black hose.

An aerial battle between the Sanyo blimp; the Fujicolor blimp, the Frobes Digital Tool balloon, the Corel balloon, and various banner-towing airplanes.



A member of the Former Soviet Union (FSU) group bringing multiple boxes of handouts back to his room every night. (I wonder if the airline made him rent a cargo container for all that paper.)

SUMMARY

This is a show that has lost its audience, its reason for being, but not its venue. The outrageous prices for the rooms, the food and transportation have relegated Fall COMDEX to history. Most of the large companies did not participate this year. That's a sign that this is **not** the place to be and be seen.

Where is the new place to see new technology? Stay tuned.

Jim



MICROSOFT ANSWERS

Did you ever want to see how much you really pay on a loan? Did you know lenders use amortization tables to analyze cash flow and loan costs? Can you analyze a loan from beginning to end? Can you show your loan cash flow? Did you know there is a spreadsheet included with Microsoft Excel to help you do just that?

Microsoft Solution Provider®, Village Software(tm), developed a template named LOAN.XLT® that automates much of the amortization table construction process. Microsoft® has included this template in the last two versions of Microsoft Excel. In Excel 95 the template was installed by default as one of the Spreadsheet Solutions. In Excel 97 it is an optional item in the ValuPack on the CD.. If you have not installed LOAN.XLT it can be copied to your hard drive from the ValuPack on the Microsoft Office 97 CD or from the list on the Microsoft Web site at:

<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/downloadCatalog/dldExcel.htm>

<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/downloadCatalog/dldExcel.htm>

LOAN.XLT is formally known as the Loan Manager. It produces an amortization table and a summary chart as visual aids to see the cash flow. You can even add the fine print of loan terms if a professional style printout is desired. There is one quirk to getting a good output. The default table size is about four years. To expand the length to see a longer period requires the default setting be changed. This length could be automated but the programmer chose to make this a manual setting in the personal information. We'll address customizing the loan period in just a minute.

Let's use Loan Manager to analyze an \$18,000 five year car note at 9.9% interest from The Big Bank. Open Excel® and click "File" then "New" from the menu. Click the "Spreadsheet Solutions" tab and double click on LOAN.XLT®.

If macro virus checking is activated a warning message is dis-

played. Click "Enable Macros" to continue. In Excel 97® another warning may appear about editing Visual Basic, just click "OK". We can now start entering loan information.

Let's ignore the heading information for now and go straight to the loan data. Type the lender name beside the indicated cell header, the amount (18000), the date, the interest rate (9.9), the term in years (5), and the number of payments per year (12). As soon as we enter the last item, an alert comes up saying it will recalculate and write over anything currently in the sheet. Click "OK", and also accept the warning that 60 payments are too many for the default settings.

If we look at the table it shows 48 periods, not 60 as needed. To fix the problem, Click the "Customize" button at the top of "Loan Data". A new sheet is revealed. Most of the information is cosmetic. The only operational item is in the middle area. Change the periods from 48 to 60. Answer "Yes" when asked to reset the information. After making any other changes you desire, return to "Loan Data". Notice the warning is now gone. You can now add any "fine print" to the loan data and the table is complete.

Click on sheet tab "Loan Amortization Table®" to view the results. A chart is also generated on "Summary Graph®". Feel free to add an optional payment amount if you want to see what larger payments do to the cost of the loan.

The example we have shown here does not allow for balloon payments or unscheduled payments, but you can edit the loan amortization table to take those into account allowing those entries.

If you would like us to provide more articles like this one, send e-mail to:

Mail to: Questions@Microsoft.com and we will try to have an answer in the next NTPCUG newsletter.

Thanks,

*Frank Tubbs and Bob Russell
Support Engineers
Microsoft Technical Support*



MULTIMEDIA VIDEO INVENTORY AND DISPOSITION

PC and Applications Program Training Tapes & CD's

Title	LOCATION	DATE	Title	LOCATION	DATE
Access 2.0 Intermediate	*	11/13/98	POWER SCANNING 1 TAPE 2 *		11/13/98
Access 2.0 Advanced	*	11/13/98	POWER SCANNING 2 TAPE 3*		11/13/98
Excell 4.0 advanced	*	11/13/98	POWER PROJECT: BROCHURE TAPE 4	*	11/13/98
Excell 4.0 Macros	*	11/13/98	NUTS & BOLTS TAPE 5	*	11/13/98
Lotus 2.2-3.0 Introduction	*	11/13/98	POWER GRAPHICS TAPE 6 *		11/13/98
Lotus 2.2-3.0 for Windows Introduction	*	11/13/98	POWER HELPERS TAPE 7 *		11/13/98
Lotus 2.2-3.0 Level II	*	11/13/98	IMPORT / EXPORT TAPE 8 *		11/13/98
Lotus 2.2-3.0 Level III	*	11/13/98	3D ANIMATION TAPE 9 *		11/13/98
Ventura Introduction	*	11/13/98	WEB DESIGN TAPE 10 *		11/13/98
Word Perfect 5.1 Introduction	*	11/13/98	Windows 3.1 Getting Started	*	11/13/98
Word Perfect 5.1 Level II	*	11/13/98	Windows 3.1 Advanced	*	11/13/98
Word Perfect 5.1 Level III	*	11/13/98	Windows 3.1 Adanvced	*	11/13/98
Word Perfect for Windows Introduction	*	11/13/98	Word for Windows Introduction *		8/12/98
MSTV Microsoft Windows 95 Show #1, #2 & #5	*	11/13/98	Lantastic Installation	*	11/13/98
Office 95 tour	*	11/13/98			
Getting Started on the Internet*		11/13/98			
MSTV Dev Days Visual InterDev (Greg Leake)	*	11/13/98			
MSTV MS Office 97 as an Enterprise	*	11/13/98			
MS Studios Dev Days Building Multitier Fox Pro	*	11/13/98			
""Bridge the Client/Server W/ Visual Basic	*	11/13/98			
"" Advanced Client Server With C++	*	11/13/98			
"" Integrate the Enterprise (Norm Judah)	*	11/13/98			
"" Intro to Visual J++ Version 1.1 *		11/13/98			
""Instant Demo Building Intranet Apps	*	11/13/98			
POWER TOOLSTAPE 1	*	11/13/98			

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

PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO COMPLAINTS OVER MOVE & VENDOR AREA CHARGE

The following letter was a response to an individual who was unhappy about NTPCUG leaving Infomart and charging \$3.00 to enter the Vendor Area. It is printed here to assist members in responding to similar questions and complaints.

November 22, 1998

First let me say that the move out of the Infomart was not the choice of the User Groups. Infomart made it impossible for us to stay there.

The \$3.00 charge does not affect members of the NTPCUG or the Apple Corps of Dallas. We would prefer that everyone was a member of our Groups, and that way no one would be charged \$3.00.

The Boards of Directors of both Groups voted to charge admission to the vendor area because we are incurring relocation costs, including advertising, leaving the location where we have held meetings for the past 12 years. The User Group meetings and vendor shows do not happen at no cost. The rent has to be paid, audio visual expenses are incurred each month, insurance costs, police officers, receptionist, printing, and publicity are just some of the expenses involved in putting on these shows.

The decision to charge admission to the vendor area was undertaken after serious consideration of our alternatives to raising capital to support the User Group efforts. Your concerns are noted and will be passed on to the Boards of Directors.

*Andy Oliver
President*

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.



MICROSOFT STUDIOS		
Dev Days Advanced JAVA	*	11/13/98
""Microsoft Technet	*	11/13/98
""Microsoft Windows 95	*	11/13/98
"Microsoft Front Page 97 w/bonus	*	11/13/98
""SGML Author for WORD	*	11/13/98
""Dev Days MS Office 97 as an Enterprise Client	*	11/13/98
""Win 95 Traincast 4 1 of 2	*	11/13/98
""Win 95 Traincast 4 2 of 2	*	11/13/98
MSTV Inside Microsoft Office Front Page/ Internet	*	11/13/98
"Inside Microsoft Office 97 Solutions in Business	*	11/13/98
"Inside Microsoft Office Intro Microsoft OUTLOOK	*	11/13/98
"Microsoft Windows 95 Traincast Office Solutions	*	11/13/98
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Microsoft Studio Suite #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 & #6	*	11/13/98
Microsoft Studio Suite #6 (4 copies)	*	11/13/98
"Microsoft Windows NT	*	11/13/98

AOL/NETSCAPE/SUN PLAY THE INTEL/IBM LEGAL GAME BETTER THAN EITHER INTEL OR IBM AS TRIAD 'SNOOKERS' DOJ, JUDGE INTO BEATING-UP ON MICROSOFT IN SUIT

AMD 'Super-speedy 300+ MHz CPUs' Crash Windows 95

This one's a 'Quicky' and I'm giggling so hard it's almost impossible to type this in. Seems that the triad composed of America On Line (AOL), NetScape and SUN have played the lawsuit game better than the Intel and IBM legal groups of old by "snoookering" the Department of Justice (DOJ) into doing their 'dirty work' for them in the antitrust case against Microsoft. Both Intel and IBM have been noted in the past for taking competing companies/technologies into the courtroom as a delaying tactic aimed at either eliminating competition via the legal fees involved in defending against the industry giants' suits, or allowing them to develop their own competing technologies.

MS, DOJ 'STRAIGHTMEN' In Rapidly Unfolding LEGAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Microsoft and DOJ have the unhappy roles in this as 'straight men' caught up in a joke without knowing the humor involved. It's going to be really interesting to see how events in the next several weeks evolve. And how the judge handles recent revelations in dealing with the suit before him. If this were politicians in an election year, might even call this a 'Litmus Test.'

My question: If NetScape has been so beaten by Microsoft's 'predatory business practices,' how did they get to be worth \$4+ billion in a merger? After less than five years in business? And, for doing exactly what they screamed at Microsoft about?

Meanwhile, Microsoft has doomed entire forests to oblivion in responding to DOJ requests for documents, documents and even more documents during the process. Also,

Microsoft has been absorbed with the DOJ suit, perhaps to the detriment (the 'real' AOL/NetScape/SUN goal) of vigorous pursuit of Net-related business opportunities.

AOL/NETSCAPE/SUN DEAL ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER Should Make CASE 'MOOT'

Merger of AOL and NetScape with side agreement for NetScape to license server technology should make the DOJ antitrust case 'moot,' i.e., a non-tryable case as a result of events. It's similar to dropping a criminal charge against a person who has died — there's no reason to continue. It probably won't. Observers quoted in media speculate this is really a clash of personalities at this stage with DOJ attorneys, MS attorneys and Judge engaged at a personal level that might make disengagement impossible at this point.

If the case continues, it might provide a real 'Litmus Test' of the judge's role in events. (I can't resist since seeing this us-

THE VARIETY STORE

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

by REAGAN ANDREWS

age applied to politicians endlessly over the past ten years. A 'Litmus Test, for all of you who have forgotten/never seen high school Chemistry teachers give demonstrations of this procedure, is application of either a basic or acidic solution to paper which has been coated with a lichen-based, purple coloring matter which turns blue in basic solutions and red in acidic solutions.)

The judge's comments so far in the case indicate a significant

THE VARIETY STORE

dislike for MS and Bill Gates, particularly in regard to Mr. Gates' deposition tapes. Other rulings by this judge in the case have been reversed on appeal in terms of allowable evidence, subpoenas, etc. He has several rulings concerning the latter that MS has currently appealed and that are yet to be decided by higher courts.

DOJ SUIT AS DRAMA UNVEILS JUDGE'S HIDDEN PREJUDICES AGAINST MS AND BILL GATES

I've had contact of one sort or another with Bill Gates, Microsoft CEO, for the last 10 years or so. I do appreciate his strengths — absolute intellectual focus and unbelievable skill in manipulating people and events in directions he desires — as well as his personal foibles and idiosyncrasies. I have less than fond memories of his first presentation to the NTPCUG in 1988 while I was NTPCUG President. The talk was preceded by a dinner for Mr. Gates and other MS officials, which literally scared me silly.

We had 1,400 people waiting to hear him speak and he began rocking to-and-fro in his chair during the meal in a manner I frequently saw exhibited by persons with severe schizophrenic disorders in a state mental hospital where I had served as an intern. All I could see in my

imagination was our featured speaker going into a profound decompensation and having to cancel the talk.

Bill Gates still rocks, but hasn't decompensated yet. I've also decided he isn't schizophrenic or demented.

DEPOSITION USUALLY STRESSFUL, BUT NOT PUBLIC, AND USUALLY NOT EDITED FOR 'SOUND BITES'

Bill Gates was able to tolerate a deposition that extended for many hours and which was shown to the court in mini 'sound bites' carefully edited to show him at his worst. That the judge in the case would allow such blatant distortion was/is almost impossible to believe, given the knowledge that this had been so skillfully accomplished by DOJ (or commercial) video editors.

DOJ model has also been followed by both local and national media who have searched their photo files for the least-appealing photographs of Bill Gates on file. It's almost become a 'Fad' to show the MS



CEO in the most arrogant, unappealing poses editors are able to find. As a former journalist, I find this quite embarrassing and questionable in terms of journalistic ethics.

That the judge in the case would allow the deposition 'sound bites' to be displayed at the DOJ attorneys' pleasure without reminding the court of the editing involved appears quite prejudicial to an outsider. I'm sure some of our members of the legal profession would be more than glad to reassure me that I'm mistaken on this count, maybe.

AMD'S SUPER CHIPS' CRASH WIN95, & WIN98 ON 100 MHz SOCKET 7 BUS

Gamers have adopted AMD's very high-speed x86 chips with advent of the 100 MHz bus on socket 7 main boards after introduction of the 350 MHz CPU's this year. Named the K6-2 chips, the inexpensive (compared to Intel's prices on the Pentium II chips) AMD CPU's have been changing the 3D games scenery.

AMD announced 366, 380 and 400 MHz CPU's recently. Unfortunately, these 350 and 350+ MHz chips also can 'crash' Win95 in the process. Win98 and WinNT appear to be immune to the AMD timing problem. Media sources indicate that a 'fix' is available from Microsoft to deal with the problem involving a software timing loop in Win95.

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 December, Jack Atkinson will be our guest speaker. Jack will present a simple utility function that illustrates a coded example of text or string data manipulation. The utility takes two arguments - one "tells" the function "what to do", the other argument provides the text string on which the operation is to take place. A modified text string is returned. If you have ever had to import text data from another system and the source data formatting is different from the destination or perhaps you need to manipulate text already stored in a database then this routine can form the basis for your own utility function!

More specifically, say you have several hundred names and addresses to import; the source name field

contains first name, middle initial, last name, etc. all "jammed" together in one field (example: Billy Jo Bob Smith, Jr.). Its easy to do the import ... 'til you realize that you really need to store the name field "components" in separate fields in an Access database. The utility presented will help solve your problem ... and it can be used to handle separating out other elements too such as city, state, zip, etc.

This continues the series on aspects of VBA programming in Microsoft Access started a few meetings ago by Larry Linson with tips on naming conventions, differences between private and public data elements and code, functions vs. sub-routines, and demonstrations of a couple of "code" routines.

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 garylana@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).

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

ACT I

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 Tom Lukers (972) 423-4308 h

Alpha 4 / 5

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Assembly Language SIG

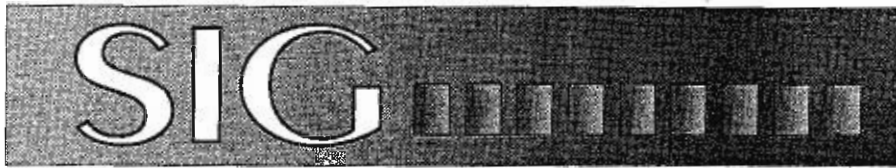
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Many thanks to **Chandi Mohanty**, who ably continued the series in November, when he presented Access' Collections and Containers and How to Use Them. Chandi explained how to use the Access Object Model, which is implemented with Collections, Containers, Objects, Properties, and Methods. Being able to use these objects is often very useful for Access users and necessary for Access developers. We've already had request(s) for Chandi's demonstration code.

Service Release 2: Service Release 2 for Office 97 (including Access 97) is again available. If you have already ordered it, you've probably gotten your shipping notice and may, by now, have the CD in hand. If you haven't, 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).

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: Larry will resume the VBA tutorial code in January. (Ed. note: The date and location of the meeting will be announced by mail.). As of this writing, I have not heard if our meeting time will be the same – come early to make sure you don't miss the Access SIG. You might find some other SIGs that would be useful to you if you arrive early.

Volunteer to Speak to the SIG: We'd be delighted for you to present almost any Access or Access-related topic, for any level of Access user, novice through professional developer. See Larry at the meeting, call him at the number in the SIG Leaders sidebar, or drop him e-mail at larry.linson@ntpcug.org.

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](mailto:comp.databases.ms-access@newsgroup.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the December meeting at the Infomart. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Application Developers SIG

Jack Atkinson has volunteered to do "back-to-back" presentations (Access SIG and here) in December. Here's what Jack had to say about his ActiveX presentation:

At work we developed a standardized project plan template -

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stored in Microsoft Project - as the vehicle for expressing all project plans. This ensures that all projects "look alike" with respect to the key development tasks, milestones, and deliverables. A new project starts by obtaining the standard template and saving it with the new project (file) name. Next, additional task items may be added, dates put in, resources assigned, etc.

Since all this is pretty much just a regular use of Project ... what's the big difference? OK - here it is. The base plan that you initially receive has stored in it "references" to remote documents, spreadsheets, and scanned documents that define terms, express work flow and deliverables, and help guide you through the overall plan process. To "see" one of these items you simply highlight the task line and press a specified key sequence ... next thing you might see is Word with the document (read-only) in the foreground. Pick another task line and you may see Excel bring up (for example) a model spreadsheet with some data and calculations already filled in. At any time you can bring your project plan to the foreground ... or go see one or more documents or spreadsheets!

None of these "references" are embedded within the Plan ('cause maintenance would be a nightmare since some documents are not static) and none of them are "linked" ('cause network folk seem to have the knack of moving things from one server to another, changing directory structures, etc.). Though we still have a lot of development work to do in order to achieve the design objectives we do have a workable system today. All this was done with just a little bit of VBA code! Come and see how.

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. 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.

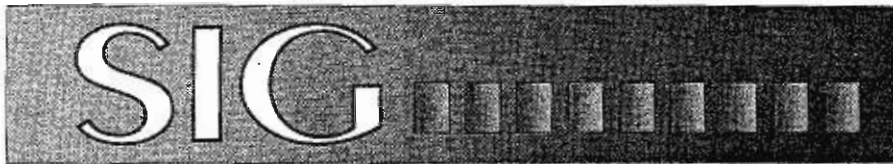
Come join us in December, if you're interested in computer application development, whether it's with ActiveX or COM Components or not. We'll do the best we can to make it an interesting and productive hour.

Larry Linson

Alpha Five / Alpha Four SIG

Alpha Five version 4 was released in November, and the November meeting showed some of the enhanced features, such as dynamically filtered lokups. There was also a giveaway of some copies of the new A5Doc utility.

For the people that are just starting with Alpha Five, and because there is a new release out, the December



meeting will be an introduction to Alpha Five. This will be an overview of "where things are" in the user interface, along with basic form and report design, using genies to automate much of the process.

In future meetings we will build an application step by step. There will be sessions dedicated to table design/field rules, form design, report building, saved operations, menus/toolbars, action (or visual) scripting, and xbasic coding. Let me know if there are particular topics you would like to see covered, or if you have a topic you would like to present.

As always, there will be time for questions on either Alpha Four or Alpha Five.

Bill Parker

ASSEMBLER SIG

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

Our December meeting will consist of a review of the past ASM SIG presentations:

- ❖ Nov 98 "32 Bit DLLs for VB in Assembler".
- ❖ Oct 98 "Win32 GUI Programming in Assembler".
- ❖ Sep 98 Book Review - "Windows Assembly Language and Systems Programming" by Barry Kauler.
- ❖ Aug 98 "CPU Identification and Speed Determination".
- ❖ Jul 98 Discussion of INTEL CPUINFO material.
- ❖ Jun 98 "Circular Shift (and other instructions missing in C)".

Our January 1999 meeting will feature a presentation on the use of Assembler in Cryptography. Cryptography represents one of the remaining areas where the use of Assembler is mandated. Most new block ciphers are written to be very efficient on modern processors.

For example, a recent paper outlining a submission of an algorithm to replace DES indicates that different coding was required for the Pentium II vs. Pentium chips to achieve optimal speed on both processors (this paper also lists cycle counts to encrypt each 16-byte block). In addition to the use of Assembler in the encryption and decryption arena, we are beginning to see papers outlining "side channel" Cryptanalysis attacks. These side channel attacks have been able to break keys by observing CPU timing differences in various decryption rounds when a 0 is found in a key. There is a lot of material in the field of Cryptography of interest to Assembler programmers - we hope to see you next year, in our new digs.

Frank Cavallito and Glynn Brooks

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

The Beam is Here!

Last month the Communications SIG hosted "The Beam" - a wireless services provider for applications dealing with voice, data, video, and image. The service was described by Dave Matthews from NetTalkLive (yes the real Dave Matthews!) and uses a master antenna at some centralized point (the POP as it is called) and a small profile antenna at the subscriber end. The Beam is fast because it operates as a microwave signal in the 2GHz frequency spectrum and de-

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to the Comm SIG meeting on December 19th where we will send out the old and bring in the new. Hope to see you there!

Birl Smith and Alan Brosz

Dallas COREL SIG

Tips, Tricks and Effects in PHOTO-PAINT 8

In December **Maria Whitworth**, from Benchmark Display Systems, will demonstrate cool effects she uses and describe efficiency tips in PHOTO-PAINT 8. Benchmark is an advertising agency specializing in advertising placement for backlit display boxes for their clients. Maria designs the display artwork. She uses the DRAW 8 suite as a business production tool, and her enthusiasm for it is contagious. Join us in December to see her examples and pick up some good pointers too.

November in Review

Peter Vogel, an Intellectual Properties attorney with the law firm of Gardere & Wynne in Dallas, presented a fascinating session on copyright law. Among his many noteworthy credentials, Peter was

appointed Chair of the Judicial Committee on Information Technology by the Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Although the current copyright law, which protects artwork, has been in effect since 1978, a new rider is soon to be attached that will also protect the works of computer-created work. Called the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, it allows for the implementation of two important treaties that strengthen international copyright protections in cyberspace. The treaties, negotiated under the authority of the World Intellectual Property Organization, would secure copyright protections online and strengthen copyright laws in other countries. It applies to artwork published in print or on the Internet, as well as computer programs. You may learn more about it at <http://www.cic.org/action/index.htm>. Peter helpfully described many aspects of how the law protects our work and the steps we artists should take to do that. He is cu-

livers incredibly fast download speeds to the user. The uplink uses the standard dial-up connection but new FCC regulations will permit an up channel from the local antenna. In short the Beam is making waves as it is starting to compete with other markets that are delivering high-speed services to residences and offices. Thanks, Dave, for a great presentation, including your plug for NetTalkLive aired on Saturday nights at 11pm.

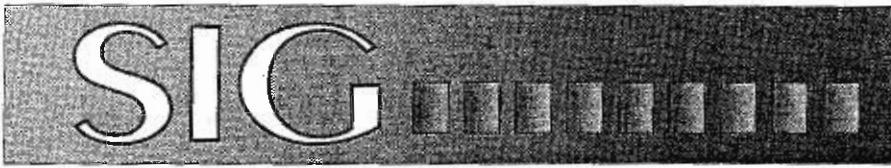
In December we will have our last meeting for the Communications SIG at the Infomart. We have no topic or presenter scheduled so we plan to have an old fashioned Q/A. How about sharing with us your memories of past Comm SIG meetings? Remember Pro Comm and the discussions with bits and bytes? How about DOS and the BBS? If you have some memories or some ideas for next year come



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



rious and optimistic about the watermark ID offered by Digimarc Corporation in PHOTO-PAINT 8 and encourages us to use it. You can learn more at <http://www.digimarc.com> about a free Creator ID for your graphic work and Digimarc's additional software products. Marsha Drebels presented a custom designed certificate of appreciation to Peter for presenting this extraordinary and helpful body of information to our members. What a treat that such a uniquely qualified and in-demand speaker on this topic made time on his busy schedule to brighten our November meeting.

Marsha Drebels

DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

Are we having fun now, or what? USB (Universal Serial Bus) is arriving quickly and we'll have to stay on our toes to keep up. That may mean a need to upgrade our Oper-



ating Systems (OS's) to take advantage of the newer technology.

My first brush with USB came with purchase of a new H-P scanner, which was "either-or" and equipped with connectors for both SCSI and USB. H-P even gave me a neat new USB cable with the scanner. Unfortunately, H-P didn't include a daisy-chain connector as well — neither for the SCSI nor the USB connection.

USB is sort of like a 10BaseT network. USB utilizes "hubs" to connect multiple devices, but unlike the common network hub, can also provide electrical power to the devices attached to it.

I didn't want to hang the scanner on USB since SCSI allows multiple devices on just one IRQ. I am looking forward to monitors, modems, audio cards, printers, mice and other IRQ-voracious devices though. Some caveats here for the unwary, which leads into this note's purpose.

Users who want USB capabilities on "older" PC's will need to look at some necessary upgrading. First is the main board (new name for the motherboard) which has to have USB sockets built in and has to be equipped with a BIOS chip that can handle USB operation. Most main boards sold in the last two years have the USB socket(s), but most BIOS sets will need upgrading. If the user knows the main board vendor, these BIOS upgrades (FLASH) can be found on their Web sites most of the time. They are usually small (by Net standards) and accompanied by written instructions to guide the user through the process.

Second, and most important, the OS has to recognize the USB ports

and be able to use them efficiently. That means Win 3.11 is pretty much out of the running. Windows 98 and the later OEM versions of Windows 95 (OSR 2.1 and OSR 2.5) do know about USB and how to work with these devices. The earliest Windows 95 OEM version (2.0) doesn't. If you need the IRQ-friendly USB capability, you'll have to consider the upgrade.

As for OS/2, BE, Linux, etc., availability of USB connectivity is an unknown (to me at least) and the best information can be obtained from advanced users or from the OS vendors.

Reagan Andrews

INTERNET SIG - BEGINNING

Unless there are significant, unanticipated problems, we hope to have our new NT server operational and available to the membership prior to the December meeting. This is the server that will replace our old BBS, allowing members free and unlimited e-mail, plus access to our Web page and private conferences (newsgroups). See our more detailed article elsewhere in this newsletter.

With that objective in mind, at the December meeting we plan to cover most aspects of how to use the new NT server during the Beginning Internet SIG. Then, starting in January, we will host training sessions each month in varying



rooms until everyone has had an opportunity to learn how to use the new server.

Our presentation will discuss such things as how to configure and use Internet Explorer and Netscape for accessing User Group e-mail and newsgroups, how to send/receive Internet e-mail, how to read and post messages in the conferences



(newsgroups), and how to configure Windows 95/98/NT Dial-Up Networking.

Don't forget – these services are a free benefit of NTPCUG membership !!

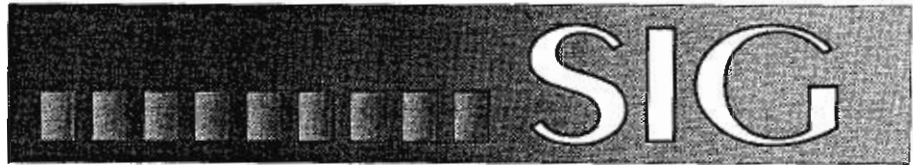
See you December 19th !!

Doug Gorrie, and Tom O'Keefe

INTERNET SIG - ADVANCED

OK – here it is – the OFFICIAL plea for assistance in the Advanced Internet SIG. Both Tom O'Keefe and I are swamped, and WE NEED HELP !!

While we continue to try to find topics of interest for our Advanced Internet attendees, there comes a point where all SIG Leaders reach burn-out. I believe Tom and I are fast approaching that point. Believe it or not, anyone with medium knowledge of the Internet, its protocols, Web development, or other related topics can be an effective contributor. Even without this knowledge, you can probably find presenters that can speak on the wonders of the Internet.



I will confess that I am only a beginner when it comes to the Internet. But I can help facilitate presentations, and can assist volunteers in getting their presentations and their presenters in front of the group. ONGOING SUPPORT IS NEEDED - will you help??

You do NOT have to be a professional speaker. Our members look for information, not polish. If you will agree to become a co-leader, I honestly guarantee that you will enjoy yourself, and will benefit considerably. Please give it some thought, and join us December 19th

I (Doug) am always available to discuss what co-leading entails. Call me at (214) 464-4568 (work) or (972) 618-8002 (home).

*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>)

November Meeting Recap

Chris Nelson began a 2-part discussion on choosing a Hosting Service (or, Presence Provider) to host your web site. Several services were profiled, and are listed in the latest edition of *SiteBuilder*.

December Meeting

In December, Chris will continue his overview on remotely hosting your site, by showing some of the common Pearl scripts used by various local Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Many of our members want to use these scripts to pro-

vide the back-end to a form in their web sites. Such scripts are usually used to take the date 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.

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 new location by January. [Ed. Note: Look for a postcard mailing about a meeting place for the User Group in the future.]





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 "mouse-overs", 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 Programming SIG, Don is the creator of the <http://www.megaconverter.com> 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 Development SIG now maintains a mailing list, open to all. We send out regular updates of meeting topics, programming tips, and other useful stuff. To join, just Click here.

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

Mark Camp and Chris Nelson

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

The following is the tentative schedule for SIG classes that will be offered as an Introduction to the PC during the next listed months. Classes can be taken in any order suitable to the individual student's schedule. Printed notes are provided during classes.

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

April, 1999*

- ❖ 9:00 Class 9
PC Hardware
- ❖ 10:00 Class 10
PC Printers
- ❖ Noon Class 11
Quicken/Money
- ❖ 1:00 Class 12
Networks and Such

* 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

Kevin gave a presentation from Cloudscape on their total Java database solution. The intent of this product is to have a complete database API that can be moved from machine to machine without having to worry about the ODBC capa-



bilities of the machine or the needed drivers. Any machine with a compliant JDK or JRE can load and run the database and use it from any application. In addition to SQL-92 compliancy, Cloudscape can handle Java objects as well.

Cloudscape is a 100% pure Java



SQL database management system that can be embedded in applications that are deployed over the Internet to the mobile workforce, customers and partners. Cloudscape can also be used in server-side applications. Visit their site at <http://www.cloudscape.com> The slides presented at our meeting will be posted on our Web site along with the white paper.

Next month's meeting will be discussion of Java Swing classes that will be included in JDK1.2 and allow better control of the Java GUI.

Don Benish

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 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

MICROSOFT Visual C++/MFC SIG

Last month we continued our "Back to the Basics" program with a discussion of message handling in dialog based apps.

This month we will continue our discussion by looking at Single Document Interface (SDI) applications. To show some "real" code, we will begin a real-world project - CryptoPad. CryptoPad will be a full-featured word processor with the ability to encrypt and decrypt



SIG

documents to keep your sensitive information private. The CryptoPad project will span approximately five meetings and help us explore important topics such as file handling, user interface design, printing & print previewing, and the art of subclassing.

This month we will review the design specs of the project and create the skeleton code with AppWizard. We'll look at the files it creates and discuss the Document/View architecture. Time permitting, we'll start creating menu and toolbar functionality.

The CryptoPad project should provide us with a great opportunity to explore the essential functionality provided by MFC. Please join us on our journey.

Wade Emmert

Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The December 19, 1998 meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will feature a discussion of the features of Visual Basic 6. One of our members will attempt to bring a laptop with Visual Basic 6.0 loaded and we will try to run some demos. Bring your questions on both Visual Basic 5.0 and Visual Basic 6.0 to this meeting.

The November meeting covered the sample program `Dialer.vbp` which featured the use of the `MSComm` control. While we couldn't demonstrate the program, we examined

the code in the sample program.

The January 1999 meeting is scheduled to cover a few of the new controls and features of Visual Basic 6.0.

If you have some experiences with Visual Basic that you would like to share with the SIG members, please contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements. Give me a call at (972) 235-5968 or you may e-mail me at Jim_Carter@msn.com.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, December 19, 1998 at the Infomart. Check the projection screens in the vendor area on the first floor for the correct room assignments.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG - ADVANCED COM+: The Next Generation

COM+ is the next evolution of the Component Object Model. COM+

will integrate Microsoft Transaction Server and Microsoft Message Queue with new services and functionality. The next Visual Studio upgrade (version 7 or VS 2000?) will provide support for creating components that take advantage of COM+. Microsoft has ensured developers that components that have been written with COM will work just fine within the new COM+ environment without the need for any code changes.

Only recently has Microsoft been pushing the feature set behind COM+ and at the time of this writing it was not very complete according to the press releases and PowerPoint slides which made you think that COM+ could wash dishes, save the environment, and help the poor and needy.

COM+ will have an interface using the COM+ Explorer that will reside within the Microsoft Management Console. It will look quite similar to Microsoft Transaction Server Explorer. You will still have the spinning black balls with the green X's! It will be within the COM+ Explorer that you will be able to manage, maintain, and secure COM+ components.

Now let's take a look at some of the features that are going to be a part of COM+.

Attributes

Attributes are properties of a component that can predetermine the behavior of a component before compilation or even after compilation. Attributes are not the same as properties. Attributes allow you to place code to set Attributes in your component project or you will be able to set them through a property window. Setting an Attribute within code will look something like:

Attributes:

```
Datasource = "orders; 'sa', ""
Queue = "orders"
Transaction = "requires new"
```



Looking at the sample code, this component would have an attribute which would hold the connection string for the component. We would be able to specify a queue such as that found within MSMQ to place orders in and we could also require a new transaction for the component we create when deciding its transactional state.

Component attributes can be changed at any time determined by the security level of the component. For example, a developer may decide that the component should send orders to the "order" queue, but later on the environment has changed and now it should be placing them in the "day_order" queue. An administrator or the developer can change the Attribute without having to replace the code and recompile.

Attributes have been marketed towards the C++ crowd. But you will find that Attributes will work much like the MTSTransactionMode for Visual Basic classes. You can set the MTSTransactionMode property within your class module, but that setting could be easily overridden by a user with the proper security rights within the COM+ Explorer.

Component Queuing

Component Queuing is an interesting feature. Component Queuing allows you to create components whose behavior is the same whether the component is used in a connected or disconnected environment.

The easiest way to explain is with an example. Let's say that you have an order processing component and you are a salesperson out on the road. While you are out on the road, you are placing orders within your order entry application on your laptop. Now, once you are back in the office, the component will then update the database with the new orders that you have created.



With Component Queuing, your component stores orders within a self-managed queue similar to Microsoft Message Queue. So when an order has been placed on the laptop in a disconnected environment, it stores the orders until it is notified that the user is in a connected state and to update orders to the headquarters' orders database.

Although I have seen this demonstrated at Microsoft events, I have yet to see the code to handle this kind of operation. But I like the idea of making my life easier to create distributed applications.

Dynamic Load Balancing

Dynamic Load Balancing is a term for being able to dynamically add resources to support user loads upon a process or machine. An example would be to have a component running on one machine with



10 users. No big deal, right? What happens when the same component now has to handle 100 users at the same time. Now the user is getting frustrated because it is taking a long time for the component to finish its processing. What if another machine with the same component was now added to the network to handle the load? Now each component could have 50 users connected to each of them. That is load balancing.

The dynamic part comes in where the second component does not fire up unless needed. If there is only one connection opened in the early morning, is there a need to have the second component loaded? With dynamic load balancing, the second component does not initialize until necessary.

With the COM+ Explorer, an administrator will be able to decide how to distribute loads between components on different machines by simply adding a new server much like we did in the last chapter.

Event Services

COM+ plus will have robust Event Services. COM+ events will fall into two categories: publishing and subscription services.

Publishing services will allow events created within your COM+ event to be published so that other components and applications can subscribe to the events in which they can be notified by a certain event. For example, you may have a component in charge of checking on servers on your network. When it finds a problem, an event is fired and published so that other components may respond to it.

SIG

Public Function On_FindDownServer ()

```
On_FindDownServer = Server.Down("MATVICHUK", 597, "No network connection")
```

End Function

Subscription services will allow you to subscribe to multiple events from within one or more COM+ components. For example, you may have an e-mail component that subscribes to the published COM+ event above. When the event is published, since the e-mail component subscribed to the event, it can act accordingly by sending an e-mail or page the system administrator.

In-Memory Database

In the Component Queuing example, you might have thought how does it know what is in stock? How does it handle daily updated figures and quotes? The answer is In-Memory Databases. In-Memory database are databases that are incredibly fast and small enough to be persisted on a hard disk when necessary. So now you can take the database with you on the road. Also, because the database resides within memory, performance is very fast.

I am keen to see how this works. I would hate to see what happens when the power goes out on the laptop because I forgot to turn it off and my database is loaded into memory after creating 30 orders. There are a lot of logistical issues involved which I am sure the smart people at Microsoft will have figured out by the time this feature is available.

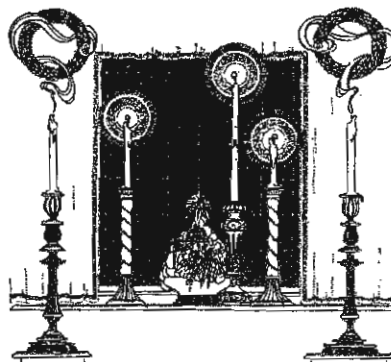
Security Roles

The new security built around COM+ will be an extension of how security works within Microsoft Transaction Server. We discussed in the previous chapter how users or groups of users can be placed within a Role. Then components could be assigned security privileges by role. We could have a Marketing role which includes marketing users and groups who can be a part of that role who could only use components which allow that role.

COM+ security will take advantage of the new Windows NT Active Directory. Now you will be able to administrate component security and use the Active Directory to create roles for your COM+ components.

All of these new COM+ features may or may not be a part of COM+ when it ships with Windows NT (or recently renamed Windows 2000). But Microsoft has said that COM+ will be an integral part of the next release and the next release of Visual Studio which should follow 60 days after the release of Windows 2000.

Keep an eye on new information that comes from Microsoft on COM+ since it more than likely will make it easier to develop



COM-based components and administer them.

Our Meeting

This month's meeting we will have a speaker who will show a beta VFP Productivity tool and will be making it available for all those that attend. We will also begin our coverage of Microsoft Transaction Server. Hope to see you there.

Thomas Lewis
aliensite@msn.com

WORDPERFECT/WINDOWS SIG

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are ready for Christmas holiday. In preparation for that, we are going to pick up where we never went in October - Graphics. We discussed graphics to an extent last month with Web Pages. This month we are going to get more in depth about using the projects to create your Christmas cards, the TextArt feature (especially the 3D stuff), drawing in place, and how to edit existing graphics.

If time permits, we will do a quick review of features discussed earlier in the year. Hope to see you there!

Cindy Adams

A Bundle of Tips and Tricks for the Month

1. Ctrl+S - Saves your document as you continue to work in it
2. Ctrl+K - Toggles between UPPER-CASE and lowercase.
3. Ctrl+F6 - Toggles among open documents
4. If a window is off the screen and you can't get to the Title Bar to drag it back, press Alt+spacebar, type m, use your arrow keys to move it where you want it, then Enter.

5. When selecting a new font, first increase the size to 24 or 36, then click back into the list of fonts, and use the arrow keys instead of the mouse to quickly look through the list. Then, remember, to change the size back to the one you want.

6. The Esc key will cancel dialog boxes.

7. To mark your place in a document: Ctrl+Shift+Q

8. To return to that mark: Ctrl+Q

9. If you like shortcut methods, try right-clicking at different locations of the WordPerfect screen or within a document. The QuickMenu provides you with a list of most functions available at that particular location.

10. Ctrl+N in WP8 and WP6 (Ctrl+Shift+N is WP7) opens a new blank document screen ... the same as the New Blank Document button on the Toolbar.

11. Ctrl+Shift+Delete ... deletes from the insertion point/cursor to the end of the page

12. Ctrl+Shift+End+Delete ... deletes from the insertion point/cursor to the end of the document

13. Document names can be up to 255 characters and may contain letters, numbers or both, and spaces. If you omit the period and extension, WordPerfect will automatically assign .WPD. You cannot use these characters in a filename: \/:*?|. Filenames are not case sen-



sitive.

14. To customize any of the Bars, right-click over the one you want to customize, then select Edit.

15. Quickly access dialog boxes to edit codes by double-clicking on the code in Reveal Codes.

16. The Power Bar in WP6 and WP7 is called the Property Bar in WP8. The Status Bar in WP6 and WP7 is called the Application Bar in WP8.

More to come next year...

Diane Bentley

HOW TO GET YOUR SIG NOTES IN THE NTPCUG NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

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

reagana@swbell.net

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

by Claude McClure



We all go to Comdex

The annual ritual known as **Comdex** is celebrated by 250,000 attendees and many of our home club members. [Ed. Note: See **Jim Hoisington's** "Musings from Comdex" article describing this year's event on Pages 6 - 7.] The biggest computer trade show of the year attracts them because much of what we will be using, buying, and selling will debut there. Our club members think it is important for business and personal decision-making to get a close-up view of the new technology.

We've all participated vicariously in the fun and excitement of Comdex through the stories told by our returning club members and highlighted by **Andy Oliver's** demonstration of his event-famous tee shirt tossing skills.

You may want to review Comdex 98 on your own, and to do that you can visit www.comdex.com. I think '96 and '97 are still somewhat represented, but with any luck, you will see the names and booth numbers of most of the current exhibitors and more. You will also see some JPEG and GIF graphics as well, so crank up your graphics viewer and see what our emissaries are reporting at the upcoming user group meeting.

Thanks to the SIG leaders and volunteers who help during the monthly meeting. Many other volunteers' names are listed on this page. The NTPCUG is made up of a great group of volunteers who have made the NTPCUG meetings at the Infomart possible. The experience would not be the same without them. Take a moment to reward them as well as the club officers with a "thank you" for the many hours they give for our benefit.

Infomart Liaison

Andy Reese
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Break-down

Anchors:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Dick Abbott

Crew:
Willard Anderson
Dennis Brininger
Lester Foley
Mark Guyer

James Hope
Orien Love
Rod Rodilico
Fred Steadman
Robert Whiteside
Peyton Weaver

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Newsletter Labels

Charlie Fernandez

Information/Registration Booth

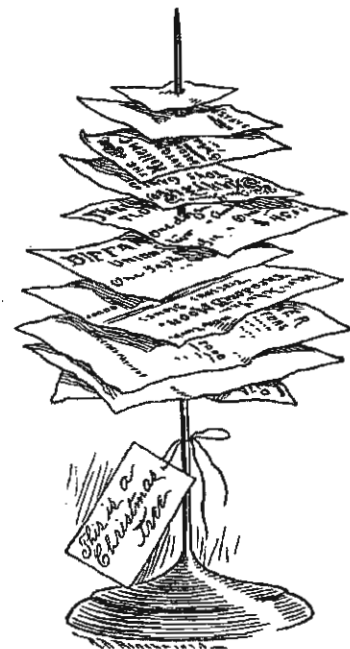
Statistician:
Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:
Bob Wuller

Anchors:
Roger Bopp
Glynn Brooks
Vernon Cates
Albert Champon
Cinda Lovil (Doub)
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams

Booth Crew:
Al Aston
Deborah Bean
Jim Boyce
Randy Durham
Eteta E. Eta
Tim Foster (Double
James Gorak
Herbert Gross
Neil Jochelson
Steve Martinson

John McNeil
Martin Moomaw
Carl Oehmann
Raymond Reyes
Ken Sauter
Oscar Tyler
Matt Williams



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

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

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael (972) 661-4626 (w)

Information Booth and General Information

Claude McClure (972) 867-0978 (h)

NTPCUG User - To - User Program

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

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

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

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access				Excel			
	Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700		Warrington Williams.....	(214)348-6869	M-F 1800-2100 S&S 0900-2100
Assembly Language				Hardware Help			
	Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200		Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200		Ralph Beaver.....	(817)413-0293	M-F 0800-1700
BASIC						(817)624-9530	SS 1800-2300
Beginner Problems				Internet - General			
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
Brother's Keeper					David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200	Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)			
C++ (the language)					Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900				S-S 1000-2200
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100	JavaScript			
CA Clipper					Don Benish.....	(972)705-9512	M-F 1900-2200
	Richard Mitchell.....	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100				S-S 0900-2100
			SS 0900-2300	LANs — Novell			
CorelDraw					Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200	— Lantastic			
			S-S 1300-2200		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Batch Files				Managing Your Money			
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
Borland C++				Modems			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100	MathCAD			
Borland Turbo C					Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	John Keohane	(972)690-8092	7 1900-2100	Norton Utilities			
CompuServe					John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	OS/2			
DOS					Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200	PC Tools/Win			
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
DR DOS				Paradox			
	Ralph Beaver	(817)413-0293	M-F 0800-1700		Fred Williams.....	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
		(817)624-9530	SS 1800-2300				

NTPCUG User - To - User Program

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
PKzip/PKUNzip	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200	Virus & Anti-Virus	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
ProComm/ProComm+	Bill Green	(817) 731-1308		Visual Basic -	Jim Carter	(972)235-5968	7 1700-2130
ProComm/ProComm+ (Ctd.)...	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400		L.J. Johnson	(972)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200		Gene Hamelman.....	(972)495-6342	7 1700-2130
Publisher (Microsoft)	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200	Windows for Workgroups	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Pat Cote.....	(972)831-8055	M-F 0800-1700		Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	.....	(972)496-3894	7 1000-2200		Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Quicken	Jim Hall.....	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100	Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51	Richard Miles	(972)296-5356	M-F 1900-2200
Quickbooks	Jim Thompson.....	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800		.....	.....	SS 10:00-16:00
					.....	(214)767-7315	M-F 1500-1700
SPFPC	Doug Gorrie.....	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700	Word for Windows	Bob Russell.....	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	.....	(972) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900	XENIX	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
UNIX	Doug Scott.....	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200	XTREE	John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200

LEGEND:

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

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

North Texas PC

Membership



NTPCUG

Users Group, Inc

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: (____) _____ - _____

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Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below

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

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

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

Areas Needing Helpers:

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



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

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DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for January
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, December 23rd**

Meeting Dates:

**December 19 – 3rd Saturday
January & February
To be Announced**

President's Message 2-3
Andy Oliver

New NTPCUG NT (BBS) Server 3-4
Doug Gorrie, Richard Miles, Gil Brand,
Bob Webber & Don Bennish

Musings from COMDEX 6-7
Jim Hoisington

Microsoft Answers 8
Frank Tubbs & Robert Russell

Multimedia Video Inventory 9-10
Claude McClure

President Responds to Complaints 10
Andy Oliver

Variety Store 11-12
Reagan Andrews

In This Issue...

Special Items:

Agenda, Meetings
& Times 1

SIG Reports 13 - 25

Volunteer Guide 26

User-to-User (Help)
. 27 - 28

Membership
Application 28

Officers & People You
should know 25

Submit Newsletter articles to: reagana@swbell.net

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North Texas PC News

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Ad Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
2-Page Spread	\$400.	\$325.		
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Qtr Page (3 1/4 x 4 1/2)	100.	80.	65.	55
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Business Card (Members)	35.	25.	20.	20

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- Commercial ads must be in repro form, in final size, ready for printing.
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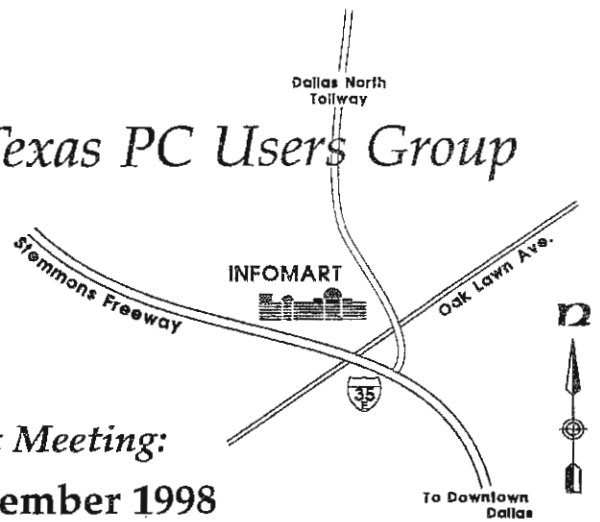
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19 December 1998