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*North Texas*



# **PC NEWS**



*SLG Meeting Site Announced  
See Page 1*

*March, 1999*  
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 3



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

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**Deadline:**

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

**Circulation:**

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 1,650 last month. Member distribution was 1,400; 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 April  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
March 23, 1999

**Meeting Dates:**

March 27 – 4th Saturday  
April 17 – 3rd Saturday  
May 15 – 3rd Saturday  
SIGs To be Announced



President's Message ..... 1  
Jim Hoisington

Volunteerism Quiz ..... 2  
Carla Foster

Ask Verio ..... 3  
Verio Staff

Microsoft Answers Divide & Conquer . . . 5 - 7  
Robert Russell

Variety Store ..... 8 - 10  
Reagan Andrews

**In This Issue...**

*Special Items:*

Volunteer Guide . . . . . 4

SIG Reports . . . . . 11- 16

Officers & People You  
should know . . . . . 17

Submit Newsletter articles to: [reagan.andrews@ntpcug.org](mailto:reagan.andrews@ntpcug.org)  
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.

## SIG MEETING LOCATION

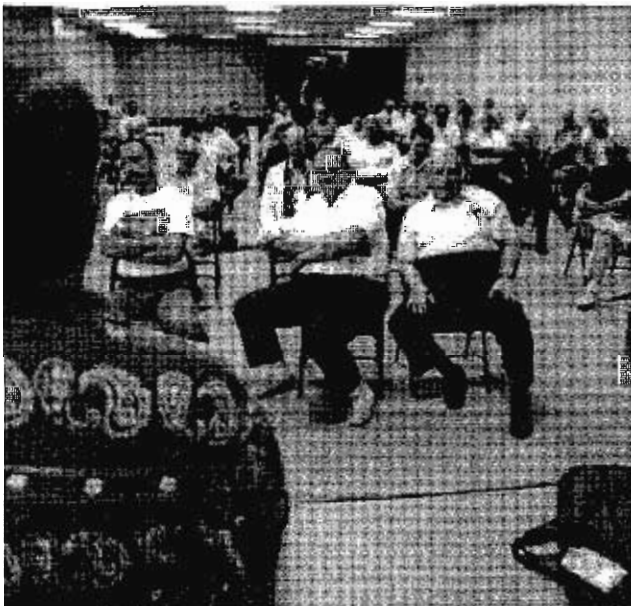
The question I've been getting all month long is, "Where are the SIGs (Special Interest Groups) going to meet?" I finally have an answer. The SIGs are going to meet at Big Town Mall on the same Saturday as the DFW Xchange vendor show. (Big Town Mall is across the parking lot from the Exhibition Hall where the vendor show is located.)

After the business meeting at the February show, about 25 of our members went over to the mall and took a look at the space. It has seven classrooms. The largest classroom will hold up to 200 people. Everyone present thought we could make it work.

I'm currently waiting for a lease from the owners of Big Town Mall. Once the lease is signed, we will have to obtain a *Certificate of Occupancy*. Depending on what changes to the space are required to obtain the CO, will determine how soon we can begin using the space. Check our Web site, for our progress in securing this location.

### Help Center SIG

Dr. Reagan Andrews, Timothy Carmichael, Doug Gorrie, Bob Russell and **Spike Smith** have put together a Help Center SIG that is held in a room at the DFW Xchange vendor



show. The purpose of the Help Center SIG is to answer questions that people have about their computers and to promote the User Groups. It met for the first time at the February show and it helped 18 people with problems.

### NTPCUG BUSINESS MEETING

We'll hold our business meeting at 12:30 at the Vendor Show on March 27th.

*Jim*

## 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.

## VOLUNTEERISM QUIZ

Before you jump in and volunteer for a NTPCUG program, take a few minutes and test your readiness to be a vital part of your professional organization.

Of course, there are many opportunities to participate. You could volunteer to help on a one-time basis. You might like to be involved on a monthly project. You may welcome leading or chairing a project or SIG program.

Answer the following statements and questions, then identify your Volunteer Quotient.

1. Do you feel fulfilled when you know you have contributed to a worthy goal?
2. Do you enjoy experiencing success when you work with a team to achieve a task?
3. Do you have skills and talents that others don't?
4. Would you like others to recognize you for these talents?
5. Would you like to feel important and needed by the group?
6. Do you have a strong sense of organization?
7. Do you follow through with your commitments?
8. Do you prioritize well?

9. Are the lines of communication open with your spouse? And does your spouse support your volunteer efforts?
10. Do your commitments fit your professional and family needs?
11. Can volunteering further your professional goals?
12. Can you give 1-2 hours per week to a volunteer effort? 3-5 hours? 6 or more hours?

### SCORING...

**Volunteer Quotient-SUPERIOR.** If you answered *Yes* to seven or more of these questions, your Volunteer Quotient is above average and you need to contact Claude McClure at (972) 867-0978 and see where your skills and interests can help NTPCUG.

**Volunteer Quotient-GOOD.** If you answered *Yes* to 4-6 of the questions, you probably need to think about your involvement with your professional group, and perhaps help in some manner that takes only a few hours a month.

**Volunteer Quotient-BUILDER** If you answered *Yes* on fewer than 3 statements, you are probably over-committed today, and unable to volunteer until a later time. You need to build your personal skills so you can volunteer and contribute in the future.

*Carla Foster*



# Ask VERIO

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

**Q. How can I redirect the browser to a different page?**

A. It is possible to redirect the browser to a different URL, effectively "forwarding the call" to a different page. To do this, either take advantage of the redirection features offered by your Web server or write a CGI program which outputs the following:

```
Location: http://desiredsite.com/desiredpath/
document.html
```



Note that two line breaks must follow this line.

A few older browsers may have difficulty following such directives. You can combat this problem by outputting a short page HTML to the user after the above information, explaining that the page has moved.

There are also a few browsers which expect to see a URI: header as well as a location: header. If you wish to be agonizingly thorough, output both headers before the double line break.

**Q. I'm thinking about writing my own robot, any thoughts?**

A. Yeah, don't. Programs that automatically traverse the Web can be quite useful, but have the potential to make a serious mess of things. Robots have been written which do a "breadth-first" search of the Web, exploring many sites in a gradual fashion instead of aggressively "rooting out" the pages of one site at a time. Some of these robots now produce excellent indexes of information available on the Web.

But others have written simple depth-first searches which, at the worst, can bring servers to their knees in minutes by recursively downloading information from CGI script-based pages that contain an infinite number of possible links.

Chances are a robot that does what you want may already exist; if doesn't please refer to the document World Wide Web Robots, Wanderers and Spiders (<http://web.nexor.co.uk/mak/doc/robots/robots.html>) and learn about the standards for exclusion of robots from areas in which they are not wanted.

## Who's Verio?

Verio merged with ONRAMP last year. Verio is hosting the NTPCUG Web page and is assisting with transition to our new integrated site.



*Formerly OnRamp, National Knowledge Networks and Signet Partners*

**BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY**

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**1-888-266-7267**

# INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

by Claude McClure



### Early Spring Growth is Promising

The North Texas PC Users Booth was staffed every hour by capable volunteers who not only accepted renewal dues, but pointed out the benefits of membership to new applicants. The most recent benefit was a newly established SIG set up to help users with their computer problems. It was good to be able to direct members to that SIG and see the vigorous re-emerging of new life at our new location. Many computer shoppers were interested in the multimedia library videos, and computer magazine recycle table. The location of the Information Booth makes it very easy for new visitors to find, and greatly adds to the overall atmosphere.

Hundreds of past copies of the *PC News* were handed out to some of the few thousand visitors to the joint meeting of the NTPCUG and Apple Corp. This was due to another spectacular effort from **Jim Hope** (he advised me it wasn't *love or charity*). Jim not only distributed our best possible image maker, but lightened the load of supplies which must be carried to the monthly meeting. Two local computer-ori-

ented magazines were also un-baled and provided to the crowds of computer users by NTPCUG volunteers at the Information Booth. Club members are turning the Big Town meeting event into a place to get computer knowledge and advice.

**Doug Gorrie** gave copies of the new Club Internet BBS instruction sheet to **Bob McNeil** who will make it a part of the New Member Kit. This information reinforces one of the outstanding benefits of Club membership, and Bob has regularly updated the kit as benefits change and improve. You must visit the Web page and use the new BBS so you can see some really great features and keep up with all the new members who will be using it. You will especially like the point and click aspect of this improved information link.

A special thanks to the PC Help Center SIG and the volunteers who manned the clinic and gave a good classroom feel to the whole thing. (Ed. note: See the SIG Reports for more information about the Help Center SIG.) Thanks to the Vendor area and Information Booth Volunteers whose names are listed below.

#### Big Town Liaison

Andy Reese  
Robert Hilliard  
Alex Lilley

#### Vendor Setup/Break-down

Anchor:  
David Slavik  
Kenneth Berg  
Dick Abbott

#### Crew:

Dennis Bringer  
Dan Guyer  
James Guyer  
Mark Guyer  
James Hope (Double)  
Fred Steadman  
Daniel Thomas

#### Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael  
Christopher Carmichael

#### Newsletter Labels

Charlie Fernandez

#### Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:  
Connie Andrews  
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)  
Scheduler:  
Bob Wuller

#### Anchor:

Roger Bopp  
Vernon Cates  
Martin Gluck  
Cinda Lovil (Double)  
David Martin  
Bob McNeil  
Raymond Reyes

#### Booth Crew:

Al Aston  
Deborah Bean

Jim Boyce  
Jo Francis Byrd  
Roger Crenshaw  
Randy Durham  
Tim Foster (Double)  
James Gorak  
Neil Jochelson  
John McNeil (Double)  
Linda Moore  
Thelda Opella  
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)



## 'Divide & Conquer' Achieves Complex Formulas in Excel

For many users, the analytical power of Excel is apparent, but remains difficult to achieve because of the difficulty of developing complex formulas that solve the desired problems. This paper presents a "divide and conquer" strategy that can be used to build quite complex formulas by creating building blocks, then integrating those building blocks to yield the desired formula.

Formulas tend to intimidate many folks because they "are not good at math". In school much time is spent doing Algebra but it is rarely stated these are just mathematical recipes or plans. Your plan may be simple or involved but it is just that, a plan using mathematical symbols. A solution is the application of individual steps sequenced in a logical manner to provide the desired outcome.

Now let's look at the solution process. I look at each piece of a combination formula in sequence. It could take several cells to accumulate all the pieces to achieve the final result. While this computes a correct answer the result is a very "busy" sheet. This does not make for a very attractive presentation. By combining the pieces into one cell, the cell is busy but it makes a nice presentation. Since presentation is everything, we will look at how to develop "busy" cells to do the combined analysis.

### Example: Build a "Search" Formula

If I had a list of account numbers, I might want to find the account owner, address, and telephone number for an invoice form. Let's assume I have Account in column A, First in Column B, Last in Column C, Address in column D, and Phone in column E. I have titles in row 1 and the actual data is in rows 2 through 11. It might look like Figure 1, below.

Account	First	Last	City	Phone
1006	William	Bennett	ARL	212-222-5650
1009	Richard	Cheney	PHIL	212-222-5651
1006	Jefferson	Clinton	DC	212-222-5648
1005	William	Clinton	DC	212-222-5647
1007	Auther	Greenspan	DC	212-222-5649
1001	George	Jones	LA	212-222-5643
1002	Colin	Powell	NY	212-222-5644
1004	Dan	Rather	NY	212-222-5646
1010	Kenneth	Starr	ARL	212-222-5652
1003	Norman	Swartzkoff	MIA	212-222-5645

In my destination region such as cell G2 I type an account number like 1001. In cell H2 type the following formula:

=INDEX(\$A\$2:\$E\$11,6,2)

which returns the contents of B7. This is a valid solution but not very flexible. To make it a bit more useful, I can reference other values to help me find the answer desired. One way is to type the 6 in H15 and change H2 to "=INDEX(\$A\$2:\$E\$11,H15,2)". (See figure 2, below.)

It looks more useful but I am still finding the location manually. If I could compute the row it would take the burden off the user. In this case I am looking for the owner of the account. I type the account in G2 and replace the 6 in H15 with a formula. Looking at my list of functions I see MATCH will find a value in a list and return the item number of that value. The formula for H15 is:

=MATCH(\$G2,\$A\$2:\$A\$11,0)

(See figure 3, below.)

When I type in the account in G2 the owner shows in H2. But I really don't need to use 3 cells for this answer, I could combine the formulas. If I replace

the H15 reference in cell H2 with the formula in H15 then it would be more useful and only require an input from G21. The new formula for H2 becomes:

```
=INDEX($A$2:$E$11,MATCH($G2,$A$2:$A$11,0),2)
```

(as shown in Figure 4, below).

To integrate the formulas, highlight the formula text following the "=" in the formula bar and click Edit, Copy on the menu bar. Then press the Esc key to remove the highlight. Now highlight the cell reference in the target formula and click on Edit, Paste. This replaces the cell reference with the formula, eliminating the need for the reference to the cell where the Match formula was developed.

Account	First	Last	City	Phone
1008	William	Bennett	ARL	212-222-5650
1009	Richard	Cheney	PHIL	212-222-5651
1008	Jefferson	Clinton	DC	212-222-5648
1005	William	Clinton	DC	212-222-5647
1007	Arthur	Greenspan	DC	212-222-5649
1001	George	Jones	LA	212-222-5643
1002	Colin	Powell	NY	212-222-5644
1004	Dan	Rather	NY	212-222-5646
1010	Kenneth	Starr	ARL	212-222-5652
1003	Norman	Swartzkoff	MIA	212-222-5645

Example 1 Figure 4

Note the INDEX is pulling data from column 2. The formulas for I2, J2, K2 are almost identical to H2. The only difference is the offset number at the end.

There are 5 columns in (A:E). If I put a 2 then it means take the data from the second column. To get the results for the third column into I2 the formula changes the 2 at the end to a 3 and becomes (in Figure 5)

```
=INDEX($A$2:$E$11,  
MATCH($G2,$A$2:$A$11,0),3)
```

Authors Note: Number the columns by the definition in the formula. If the list were at another location like \$B\$2:\$F\$11 the second column is C. The column numbering is "relative" to the definition used in the INDEX function not the actual column designation in the Excel.

Example 1 Figure 5

There are other valid combinations. This is just one possible solution.

#### Example: Find data based on 2 searches

Assume a table that lists dress sizes and materials. Develop a formula that will yield the price when you are given a customer size and material selection. The table list might look like this:

Size	Cotton	Synthetic	Blend	Silk	Price
4	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 350.00	
6	\$ 26.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 126.00	\$ 367.00	
8	\$ 27.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 385.00	
10	\$ 28.00	\$ 56.00	\$ 138.00	\$ 404.00	
12	\$ 29.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 424.00	
14	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 445.00	
16	\$ 31.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 158.00	\$ 467.00	
18	\$ 32.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 490.00	
20	\$ 33.00	\$ 69.00	\$ 173.00	\$ 514.00	
22	\$ 34.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 181.00	\$ 539.00	
24	\$ 35.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 565.00	

Example 2 Figure 1

Now let's look at what is required to get a price in cell I5 if I type a size into I3 and a material into I4. First I will just enter a simple formula into I5 and then expand the same as we did in the prior example. So in I5 put this formula:

```
=INDEX(B3:F14,5,4)
```

which yields the contents of cell E7 in my table. Notice it is row 5 and column 4 of the table area not cell D4 of the sheet. Now in cell I3 type 5 and in cell I4 type 4. Change I5 to use these cells in place of the numbers. The formula becomes:

```
=INDEX(B3:F14,I3,I4)
```



Excel screenshot showing a pricing table and a formula in cell I5. The formula is `=INDEX(B3:F14,B4)`. The table has columns for Size, Cotton, Synthetic, Blend, and Silk, with prices listed for sizes 4 through 24.

Size	Cotton	Synthetic	Blend	Silk
4	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 350.00
6	\$ 26.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 126.00	\$ 367.00
8	\$ 27.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 385.00
10	\$ 28.00	\$ 56.00	\$ 138.00	\$ 404.00
12	\$ 29.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 424.00
14	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 445.00
16	\$ 31.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 158.00	\$ 467.00
18	\$ 32.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 490.00
20	\$ 33.00	\$ 69.00	\$ 173.00	\$ 514.00
22	\$ 34.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 181.00	\$ 539.00
24	\$ 35.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 565.00

Example 2 Figure 2

But it is still not using the dress size and material type as input. So let's look at using another function to help us. Type 10 into cell I1. Now let's see if we can use 10 as a dress size and make I3 give us a 5. In the prior example we used MATCH to find data in a table, it should serve us well here also. In cell I3 type this formula:

`=MATCH(I1,B3:B14,0)`

Notice the answer is still 5. Let's try the same for I4 using cell I2 to hold our material name. In cell I2 type the word Blend. In cell I4 type the following formula:

`=MATCH(I2,B3:F3,0)`

Excel screenshot showing the pricing table with formulas in cells I1, I2, I3, and I4. Cell I1 contains '10', I2 contains 'Blend', I3 contains `=MATCH(I1,B3:B14,0)`, and I4 contains `=MATCH(I2,B3:F3,0)`. The result in I4 is 4.

Example 2 Figure 3

Well, we can now use 5 cells to get our answer. But we really only wanted 3. Just as we did in our prior example I can substitute the formula in cell I3 in place of the reference I3. The formula in I3 is `=MATCH(I1,B3:B14,0)` which can be put inside the current formula in cell I5:

`=INDEX(B3:F14,MATCH(I1,B3:B14,0),I4)`

Notice I left the = sign out since I am not starting a new formula just adding to the current formula. Using the same process for cell I4 means I replace I4 with `MATCH(I2,B3:F3,0)`. The result in I5 looks like this:

`=INDEX(B3:F14,MATCH(I1,B3:B14,0),MATCH(I2,B3:F3,0))`

Excel screenshot showing the pricing table with the final formula in cell I5: `=INDEX(B3:F14,MATCH(I1,B3:B14,0),MATCH(I2,B3:F3,0))`. The result in I5 is \$138.00.

Example 2 Figure 4

But I am using I2 and I3 not I4 and I5. Two more simple changes finish the job. Copy I1:I2 and paste to I3:I4 then change the formula in I5 so the reference points to I3 and I4. The final formula is:

`=INDEX(B3:F14,MATCH(I3,B3:B14,0),MATCH(I4,B3:F3,0))`

Excel screenshot showing the pricing table with the final formula in cell I5: `=INDEX(B3:F14,MATCH(I3,B3:B14,0),MATCH(I4,B3:F3,0))`. The result in I5 is \$138.00.

Example 2 Figure 6

For the price of a different dress size change I3. For a different material change I4.

If I use a value of size or material that is not in the table, the answer #N/A will be displayed in the output cell.

Continued on Page 10

## IF YOU AREN'T PARANOID, YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE 'MARKETING' COMMUNITY TO TRACK PC USERS AS THEY CRUISE THE NET AND CREATE FILES

### Windows 98 & Intel's Pentium III raise Privacy Issues

[Editor's note: The following bit of paranoia was written before the lead story in the March 7, 1999 edition of *The Dallas Morning News* was published.]

The flames of my paranoia have been nourished heartily over the month — fanned by Intel and encouraged with copious oxygen via my fertile and suspicious imagination. Sounds like an anguished diary entry, not my normally subdued and conservative column, but leads into some interesting (for me) conjecture based on an innate distrust of "Marketing."

Intel got things going with the infamous new *Pentium III* serial number. Intel's PR staff quickly announced this "feature" could be turned "off" with software after being rapidly assaulted by the "Right to Privacy" folks who were quite disturbed about "identity" implications for Internet users. Sure, I thought to myself, if it can be turned "off" with software, it can be turned back "on" with software just as easily. Turns out to be true.

#### 'Prodigy' Debacle revisited...

Made me remember the equally infamous *Prodigy* debacle when users learned that significant system information was being gathered from their PC's when they logged on.

#### Life was simple with DOS-Only PC operations... EXCEPT FOR 'Prodigy'

For most of us, back in the days of DOS-only operation, this wasn't a major concern. There were alternate, less intrusive providers such as AOL and CompuServe. Was probably a major reason why AOL grew and Prodigy never flourished.

Now is different since we're using Win95, Win98 and WinNT and connecting to the Internet with very powerful browser programs that are intimately acquainted with the PC's hard-

ware through the Registry. We can (and I do) regularly "sweep" all the Cookies (and crumbs) off the system, but how vulnerable are we to "tracking" via Registry entries? Do we really know everything that *Internet Explorer* (IE4) or *Navigator* does in operation? I sure don't and can't even find where half of IE4's files are located.

#### QUESTION WAS ANSWERED IN DALLAS MORNING NEWS MARCH 7, 1999 LEAD STORY

Turns out I was right to feel somewhat paranoid about Windows. Lead article on the front page of *The Dallas Morning News* for March 7, 1999 gave confirmation to my fears.

John Markoff, writing for the *New York Times News Service*, de-



tailed a chilling article on some of the "hidden" features lurking in *Windows 98* that allow 'tracking' users by name and address through Registry entries in Microsoft's new OS.

Microsoft has promised to eliminate the Windows serial number tracking, but still winds up with the proverbial egg-covered faces as a result. (Actually, I'm pretty sure it's either the synthetic or low-cholesterol variety since everyone at MS is so bloody health conscious...)

Until the patch is released — and verified by non-Microsoft sources, *Windows 98* is 'off-limits' on any of my PC's. I've become very touchy about 'Privacy' since becoming a civilian.

## THE VARIETY STORE

When I was in the Air Force Security Service, I grew accustomed to living a "transparent" life. We assumed our telephones were "tapped," our rooms were wired for sound and the girls we dated in Berlin were probably East German or Russian-sponsored agents. It was all part of the "Intelligence Game" and we accepted it.

Curiously, it was a double-sided deal for us since we felt that "our side" was looking at us just as closely as the bad guys to make sure we walked the straight (both meanings) and narrow.

That was then — I don't have to accept it now in the name of "Marketing."

### **A 'BREATHER' AS MS v. DOJ CASE IS RECESSED FOR SIX WEEKS BEFORE REBUTTAL BEGINS**

It's over for a while! The Microsoft v. Everyone case is in recess for six weeks and I'm glad. Maybe MS can get their act together with the breather. Meanwhile, seeing a weakened MS, lots of "old friends" are coming out of the woodwork and suggesting remedies the federal judge might consider to "right the many wrongs" MS has foisted on the community.

That the suggested "remedies" are just slightly self-serving is a gross understatement. Only group not screaming for total

revelation of *Windows xx* source code and placement into the public domain is apparently Novell who would have to shudder at such a concept for *NetWare xx*. They're safe since Novell no longer has such a strangle hold on the networking business. Ten years ago, it might have been a different story, though.

### **INTEL FOLLOWING MS CASE VERY CLOSELY AS THEIR TURN IN DOJ GRINDER APPROACHES**

The MS case has been very, very closely watched by Intel of late. Intel sees the DOJ breathing down their necks and has decided MS chose the wrong strategy in building their defense of the DOJ case. Hell, that's no news — we've all watched Microsoft's efforts take a strong MS position and kick it into range of the closest toilet.

Before the last several weeks/months, I've admired Redmond's skill and savvy in handling an obviously hostile judge in the proceedings. Now, I'm left wondering who is in charge of this wildly-careening bus inexorably headed toward the edge of the cliffs.

### **GOOD NEWS — BAD NEWS FOR INTEL'S DOJ STRUGGLE IN COMING MONTHS AHEAD**

Intel, on the other hand has some very good and very bad news working for them. Seems

that AMD outsold Intel in the CPU game over the last month before the Pentium III was released. It's hard to scream "Monopoly" when a competitor has beaten, although briefly, Intel at its own game. That's the good news. The bad news is that AMD beat Intel at its own game, even though briefly. Worse news is the Intel *Pentium III* serial number debacle that will allow Internet sites to identify PC's with the Intel CPU inside — for whatever purpose.

This followed closely by media reports that the super new CPU's aren't so super after all. Seems the *III's* really don't have that much to offer in terms of performance improvements over the *II's*. Critics are reporting 8% performance gains at equivalent clock speeds for the *III's* which is not really a compelling reason to upgrade for most IT's.

### **IS IT WORTH THE TIME & COST UPGRADING CPU'S INVOLVED AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME?**

It makes the whole concept of upgrading existing equipment rather than buying new PC's a very interesting affair. And, gives MIS folks a rather pronounced headache in considering the process.

Me too.

As I type this, I'm looking over my shoulder at four AT PC cases, see a box of "new" motherboards, and several 300 MHz Cyrix/IBM CPU's in addition to close to 1G of PC 100 SDRAM. Most of my PC's spend 99.9% of their time wait-

ing for a keystroke. Occasionally, they really sweat manipulation of rather large graphics files. It's the latter that encourage me to consider newer hardware, i.e., taking the path chosen by Marsha Drebelbis in adopting dual-Pentium II 450 MHz motherboards running under Windows NT. If I were a game addict, the choice would be easy — go for the AMD K6-2 400 CPU's. But, I'm not into games. Nor do I spend enough time wrestling with graphics to justify the cost of upgrading to the much more costly Intel solution.

### **GUESS I'LL STAY 2 GENERATIONS BEHIND, STICK WITH SOCKET 7 CPU'S AND OLD-STYLE AT CASES**

Reasonable answer for me is to stick with the Cyrix/IBM CPU's and Socket 7 (AT) motherboards. Marsha needs the graphics speed — she does this for a living. Me, I still work for the VA and spend the bulk of my time just listening to veterans tormented by memories of combat. All the CPU/graphics-card/ SDRAM/ disk speed in the world is wasted from that perspective.

### **'FIRST SATURDAY' FOIBLES SEEN AT ROSS AVE. SITE THIS MONTH**

Yes, I still visit 'First Saturday' from time to time. This month I went (before the DMN story) to pick up a copy of *Windows 98* OEM release since all the vendors were sold out when I got time to browse at the February meeting at Big Town. Even saw NTPCUG's Peyton Weaver on my perambulations about the



various outdoor vendor kiosks at the event.

I'm always surprised by some of the vendors there and frequently leave the area with my head still shaking. Saw not one, but two trombones at vendors' tables and second appeared to be in very good shape. Not sure how this fit into an electronics/computer affair, but was no less appropriate than the booth devoted to sales of "Beanie Babies" I also saw at 'First Saturday.'

### **PENTIUM III'S REIGN AT 'FIRST SATURDAY AS PENTIUM II'S DISAPPEAR AND VENDORS CLAIM CELERON'S CAN GO AT 400+ MHZ**

Saw lots of *Pentium III's* and motherboards, but not many 450 MHz *Pentium II's*. Since the price differential is almost \$200 and the *Pentium III* is said to be less than an 8% improvement in

terms of speed (with current software) that was somewhat surprising.

Equally surprising were the numbers of buyers grabbing the *Celeron "a"* CPU's on promise they could be over-clocked to 400+ MHz. This definitely isn't something the new user (or anyone who demands consistency and reliability) should consider.

From listening to the various conversations involved in these purchases, there was as much mis-information as good data being distributed along with the chips. Some of these unwary buyers are in for a big surprise down the road.

*Caveat Emptor* remains the best policy at 'First Saturday.'

*Reagan Andrews*

### **'DIVIDE & CONQUER' CONT. FROM PAGE 7**

As an aid to the user, I would change the color of the input cells to indicate these are the place where we put in the data to get the price for the item from the table. The table could be remote from the input and display cells if desired, perhaps even on a different worksheet. In a real application, data entry could be restricted to the input cells by unlocking those two cells and protecting the worksheet. We hope you find this article helpful in your own application. The function wizard is useful in creating the initial functions, and using this technique can assist you in developing powerful analytical tools.

If you would like us to examine a problem of general interest for you, send e-mail to "Questions@Microsoft.com" and we will try to have an answer in the next NTPCUG newsletter.

*Frank Tubbs & Bob Russell*

# 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

**Access Resources:** While we wait for an announcement about resuming our meetings (it'll be here in the *News*), here's some information that may be useful:

On the Internet, the Access "meeting place" is the *comp.databases.ms-access* newsgroup. It's like an enormous SIG meeting every day for questions and answers. Just like our SIG, there's something for every level of Access user and very knowledgeable participants from all over the world. Some names you might recognize from books, articles, and conferences include Andy Baron, Allen Browne, Ken Getz, and Michael Kaplan, but there are a number of other regulars who donate a great deal of time to providing answers. Visit the newsgroup and you'll soon

learn who they are. If I sound a bit proprietary about the newsgroup, maybe it's because, representing a local BBS, I cast one of the affirmative votes for its founding in 1993 and have been there ever since it was established.

**Strong Suggestion:** Read before you post, and, especially, read the daily post with the subject line "!! New Users Look Here First FAQ and the date" - it tells you about the netiquette, purpose, and topicality of the newsgroup. Particularly don't post or respond to any employment solicitations - you'll hear about it if you do (possibly from Larry, honorary member of the *Post Police*). It also lists some Web sites that are chock-full of Access information. Just in case you don't get to participate in the newsgroup, here's that list:

### 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 DeGicco... (972) 446-0639 h

Tom Browning... (214) 692-9784 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

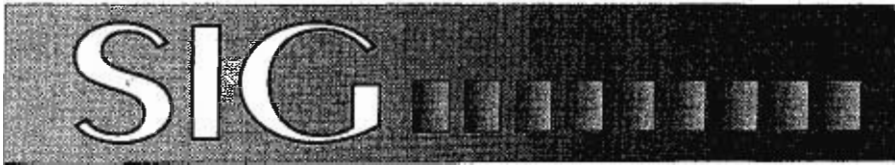
Bill Sephton..... (972) 296-1799 h

..... (972) 387-3500 w

Neil Culver..... (972) 690-6552 h

..... (972) 235-3031 w





### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sites:

[http://home.att.net/~dashish\\_](http://home.att.net/~dashish_)

[http://www.hammerdata.com/Newsgrp\\_](http://www.hammerdata.com/Newsgrp_)

[http://www.channel1.com/users/rogue/Access/FAQ\\_](http://www.channel1.com/users/rogue/Access/FAQ_)

[http://members.forfree.at/~larsm\\_](http://members.forfree.at/~larsm_)

[http://members.xoom.com/dashish\\_](http://members.xoom.com/dashish_)

<http://www.trevor.easynet.co.uk/AccessFAQ/>

### Other Sources:

[http://www.helptalk.com/access\\_](http://www.helptalk.com/access_)

[http://www.dejanews.com/home\\_ps.shtml\\_](http://www.dejanews.com/home_ps.shtml_)

[http://ourworld.com-puseroe.com/homepages/attac-cg/acg-soft.htm\\_](http://ourworld.com-puseroe.com/homepages/attac-cg/acg-soft.htm_)

[http://support.microsoft.com/support/\\_](http://support.microsoft.com/support/_)

<http://members.ricochet.net/~jfoster/>

### One Special Site:

<http://www.wji.com> is a site specializing in Access, and particularly in helping Access people find work and people who need Access help find employees or contractors. Many people who are prominent in the newsgroup have posted resumes and some have also posted examples of their work. A highlight is a "matching service application" to match employer's needs with registered Access people's skills. And, it's free to both employers and the potential employees or contractors.

**Reviews of Selected Sites:** Just as a sample, Larry re-visited a couple of the "other source" sites: *our-*

*world.compuserve.com/homepages/attac-cg*, the Web site of ATTAC Computer Group has freeware files and code, including an article explaining a previously undocumented method to "make class modules in library databases visible to other databases". Steve Arbaugh of ATTAC is a frequent participant in the newsgroup. *members.ricochet.net/~jfoster* is the homepage of Joe Foster, who's answered just about as many questions in the newsgroup as anyone. There are sample databases and example code for a number of common, and some not-so-common, tasks that one might want to accomplish with Access. Drop in at [home.att.net/~dashish](http://home.att.net/~dashish), the "Grandfather of Access FAQ Sites" and you'll find, among many much more impressive entries, an article by Larry on using images in an Access database.

As a bonus, when you enter most any of these sites, you'll find a symbol for the *Access webring* - a webring is a group of sites linked together because of a common interest. You can move to the next site in the ring, skip a site or five, or move backward in the same way. Every site will be different, but all have a strong Access flavor. No, I can't tell you how many sites are in that ring, because it only takes a point-and-click to add another site

**Can't Participate Because You Don't have an ISP?** I can't give you a review, not yet, at least, but the price is right at [www.netzero.com](http://www.netzero.com). All you need is a computer, a relatively fast modem, and a phone line. Their ISP service is free, supported by advertising, and they have a plethora of local access numbers in cities all over the US. If you can't arrange for one of your Web-enabled friends to visit the site, download the software, and

## SIG LEADER LISTING

### Communications

Alan Brosz..... (972) 548-7928 h  
..... (972) 498-1237 w  
[alan.brosz@mta.com](mailto:alan.brosz@mta.com)  
Bil Smith..... (972) 960-8227 h  
..... (214) 220-9388 w  
[bhsmith@onramp.net](mailto:bhsmith@onramp.net)

### Dallas Corel

Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266  
[mdreb@litgraph.com](mailto:mdreb@litgraph.com)  
Susan Biggs..... (214) 340-7794

### DOS/ Operating Systems

Jim Hoisington..... (972) 416-3101 h  
Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h  
[reagana@swbell.net](mailto:reagana@swbell.net)

### Desktop Publishing

Mark Stuert..... (214) 528-5311 h

### Fox Pro

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

### Genealogy - General

Al Sanford..... (972) 278-7888 h  
..... (972) 278-1742 fax  
[asanford@chrysalis.com](mailto:asanford@chrysalis.com)

### Genealogy - Family Tree Maker

### Genealogy - PAF (Acting)

Al Sanford..... (972) 278-7888 h  
[asanford@chrysalis.com](mailto:asanford@chrysalis.com)

### Genealogy - Ultimate Family Tree

Dave Heston..... (972) 539-5202  
[heston@iname.com](mailto:heston@iname.com)

### Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

Jeri Steele..... (972) 306-1596 h  
..... (972) 917-9917 w  
[steele@pioneerinfo.com](mailto:steele@pioneerinfo.com)

### Hardware Solutions

Charles Miller..... (903) 938-4220 h  
[cbaxter@pobox.com](mailto:cbaxter@pobox.com)  
Ralph Beaver..... (817) 624-9530 h  
Gary Johnson..... (972) 938-0344 h

### Internet Beginner

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

### Internet-Advanced



**SIG LEADER LISTING**

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](mailto:webmaster@webdallas.com)  
 Chris Nelson

**Introduction to the PC**

Harold (Spike) Smith  
 ..... (972) 231-0730 h  
[Spike3@home.com](mailto:Spike3@home.com)  
 John Randall  
[jrandall@ahnet.net](mailto:jrandall@ahnet.net)

**Investors**

Dick Richtman ... (972) 437-0322 h  
[richtman@wsu.com](mailto:richtman@wsu.com)

**Java**

Kevin Starrott .... (972) 444-6386 w  
 ..... (817) 577-3845 h  
[wks@fedex.com](mailto:wks@fedex.com)  
 Don Benish ..... (972) 705-9512  
[dbenish@airmail.net](mailto:dbenish@airmail.net)

**Lotus Notes & Domino**

B.J. Shultz .....

**Micrografix (Graphics)**

Neal Berkowitz ... (972) 475-7463 h  
 ..... (972) 475-3124 w  
[nbark@misresource.com](mailto:nbark@misresource.com)  
[misr@cmpu.net](mailto:misr@cmpu.net)  
 Shanna Dyer  
[sdyer@misresource.com](mailto:sdyer@misresource.com)

**MS Word for Windows**

Jan Patton ..... (903) 886-6249 h  
[janpat@unicomp.net](mailto:janpat@unicomp.net)  
 Michelle Wood ... (972) 401-3984 h  
 ..... (972) 732-5172 w  
[mwood@flash.net](mailto:mwood@flash.net)  
 Sherry Covart .... (972) 732-4317 w  
 ..... (972) 335-8358 h  
[shervinc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:shervinc@ix.netcom.com)

**Microsoft FrontPage**

Sam Lugo  
[sam@lugo-consulting.com](mailto:sam@lugo-consulting.com)  
 Pamela Lugo  
[pamela@lugo-consulting.com](mailto:pamela@lugo-consulting.com)

**Microsoft Networking**

Richard Miles ..... (214) 767-7315 w



get you the access number, you can call them at (818) 879-7255. They have been mentioned in *Current Technology* magazine and are in *Computer Currents'* list of Internet Service Providers.

**A Special Invitation:** Come join us at the Access SIG for the continuing tutorial on VBA if you are interested in *any* of the many products, from Microsoft and other vendors, that use Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) as their macro or programming language. Don't expect us to know specifics about the "object model" of other products, but the VBA statements and the way objects, collections, containers, etc. are manipulated are consistent across the products.

At our next meeting **Larry Linson** will resume our *VBA Tutorial*. We'll talk about controlling the flow of execution in your application. Starting from simple one-after-another processing statements, we'll move on to a simple conditional construct: IF THEN . We'll extend that with an ELSE clause, and then consider several ways to repeat operations in a "loop" structure: FOR NEXT, FOR EACH NEXT, DO LOOP, and WHILE WEND. If there's any time left, we might digress to a brief discussion the value of appropriate use of comments in VBA code. Almost all of the VBA we discuss also applies to Access Basic as used in Access 2.0 - ask about differences if you are still using Access 2.0.

**Service Release 2 for Office 97:** visit [www.microsoft.com/office/info/sr2/info.htm](http://www.microsoft.com/office/info/sr2/info.htm)

and information on how to order it on CD (the CD is free and so is the shipping and handling). SR-2 includes a fix for the widely publicized, but not-so-widely-encoun-

tered data corruption problem, and appears to contain the revised Jet 3.5 engine update (though that, too, is still available for download from [support.microsoft.com/download/support/mslfiles/jet35upd.exe](http://support.microsoft.com/download/support/mslfiles/jet35upd.exe)). And a final note on that data corruption problem: **Andy Baron**, Contributing Editor of *Access / Office / VBA Advisor* magazine and MVP on Microsoft's public Access newsgroup has published his own code workaround to avoid the problem on the Web site, [www.advisor.com](http://www.advisor.com). Andy's fix applies to Access 2.0 and 7.0 (95), as well as to 8.0 (97).

We are looking forward to the advent of newsgroups or message conferences on our Web site. There's already free e-mail. Check the February issue for instructions or, if you have an ISP, go to <http://mail.ntpcug.org/emurl>. We bid a fond farewell to the NTPCUG BBS that has served us so well for so long.

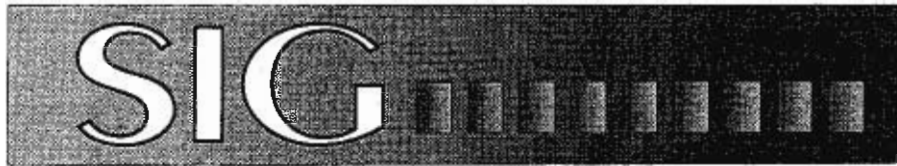
We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting - watch here and in the mail for an announcement of time and place

Larry Linson

**Dallas CORE SIG**

Join us at Brookriver Center  
 March 27

At this writing deadline, the permanent SIG meeting site will not be ready in time for March's meeting. So we will meet in the atrium at Brookriver Center, which is the office building location of Marsha Drebelbis Studio and Litigation Graphics. The coffee will be perking, so join us at our regular Saturday meeting time, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Brookriver Center is located at 8150 Brookriver Drive, Dal-



las, Texas 75247 (Mapsco 33Q). Park on the parking ramp's upper deck and use the building's rear entrance at the guard's desk. Check the Dallas Corel Web page for any last minute updates. We'll be expecting you!

**Trouble Shooting Corel DRAW & PAINT**

Due to popular request, our March 27 SIG meeting will offer an oppor-

**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

tunity to bring your questions about and problems with DRAW and PAINT. With the usual fine support of our own SIG members' expertise, we'll find the answers. Bring examples of your successes to share too. You will find an appreciative audience. Members are eligible for a door prize drawing.

**February in Review**

**Dick Clampitt**, from Red River Paper Company, presented a fascinating Inkjet Printer Paper Product Update for our SIG in February. Warmly greeted with coffee and pastries, our SIG members brought their usual good spirits in sharing information about Corel software. We are pleased with the excellent attendance at this "field trip". Graciously hosted at Clampitt Paper Company's wonderful Training Center, our attendees enthusiastically learned about and took home sample sets of the many paper options now available from Red River Paper. From gorgeous banner-size photo gloss to 2-side matte sheets, from custom labels to card stock, Red River Paper seems to be on the leading edge of paper suppliers. With desktop color printers more capable and more affordable than ever before, it's hard to justify being without. Dick is enamoured with the Epson line of printers and Red River Paper offers them. How-

ever the papers perform well with all printer brands too. Now our graphics created with Corel can look their best. Visit <http://www.redriverpaper.com> for more information. Member **Jay Bartlett** was the lucky top door prize winner. He took home an Epson Photo EX printer!

**SIG LEADER LISTING**

- .....(972) 296-5356 h
- Gil Brand .....(214) 508-8370 w
- .....(214) 341-7182 h

**Microsoft Visual C++/MFC**

- John Cole .....(972) 869-4700 w  
*jcole@airmail.net*
- Wade Emmert .....(214) 740-3164 w  
*emmert@airmail.net*

**Networking**

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

**Programmers**

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

**QuickBooks**

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

**Quicken**

- W. L. Harris .....(972) 281-7616 h
- Phil Faulkner .....(972) 239-0561 h

**Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev**

- Eb Foerster .....(214) 357-7602 h  
*abfoerster@juno.com*

**Visual Basic — Beginning**

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

**Visual Basic — Advanced**

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

**VRGN Internet Gaming**

- Al Alliman

**Windows - Applications**

- Neal Berkowitz .....(972) 475-7463 h
- .....(972) 475-3124 w  
*nberk@misresource.com*  
*misr@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



Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group During the meeting sev-

eral members were clicking their digital cameras, so check Dallas Corel's Web site to see our faces.

*Marsha Drebelbis*

## DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG The Real Burning Question?

Where/when will the DOS/Operating Systems SIG meet again? Read Jim Hoisington's *Prez Sez* this month for the latest news. I've seen, liked the area and think it has a lot of promise. If you were at the last NTPCUG Business Meeting at the Big Town Exhibition Center, you may have joined in the trek to visit the proposed SIG meeting site in the Mall. It was an experience no one will easily forget.

Some real DOS/Operating Systems news this month — see my paranoid ramblings in *Variety Store*, and read the front-page lead article in the Sunday, March 7, 1999, edition of *The Dallas Morning News*. SIG members may consider un-installing *Windows 98* until Microsoft supplies the promised Registry patch. I plan to do so and revert to OSR 2.1 as a result of the revelations in John Markoff's *New York Times News Service* article.

### Backing up — Still Important

In spite of having a multi-gigabyte tape backup system, I was elated when all of my production software became available on CD-ROM's. Reason was simple, I didn't need to devote a GByte, or more, of tape and the time it took to backup the program files and, instead, could focus my attentions to

data files. Also, if I had a disk crash, the important part of restoration would be easier and faster to accomplish. It would also give me the opportunity to only install the program components I actually use, not take the Setup shotgun approach on the basis I might use it/them someday.

### Silly me!

I recently looked at all the patch upgrades to my applications software. Hardly a single package had not had more than one bug-fix/upgrade patch release since it was originally installed.

Partial solution is at least a full monthly backup and new "Emergency diskette." Since I'm still using Seagate's *Backup Express*, this is relatively easy to accomplish for my production PC. It's much more difficult (actually impossible) on my backup/graphics PC or Connie's PC. All three are running some version of *Windows 95* (now) and I've made boot disks for all three systems on the home network in addition to the Seagate diskette for my main system. However, I make sure each diskette contains a copy of *FORMAT.COM*, *FDISK.COM* and *EDIT.COM* as well as CD-ROM, SCSI and other drivers MS doesn't normally include on their diskettes.

Sure saves a lot of screams of anguish in the night/early morning when I need to restore a broken system on one (or more) of the machines.

*Reagan Andrews*

## Help Center SIG

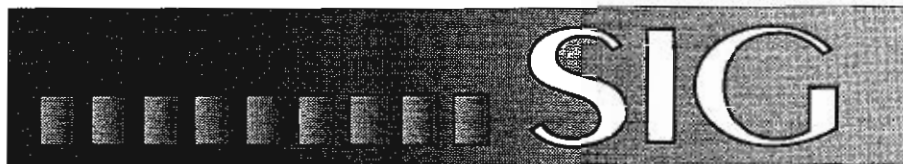
The new Help Center SIG got off to a flying start at the February meeting in the vendor area thanks to the efforts of **Timothy Carmichael**, **Doug Gorrie**, **Bob Russell** and **Spike Smith** who lent their expertise to perplexed users who came by the PC Help Center room. **Marsha Drebelbis** made sure the area location could be easily seen in the crowded vendor hall. She created two large signs to identify the area and produced some distinctive name badges with the logo as well for volunteers.

Doug and Timothy brought PC's to illustrate solutions and assist in explaining operations in *Win95*, *WinNT* and *DOS*. Apple Corps of Dallas' **Andy Reese** (also a member of NTPCUG BOD) agreed to assist in any questions related to the Macintosh that might arise during the day.

Questions fielded by Help Center SIG volunteers ranged from one new user who didn't know how to copy a file on his PC, to an obviously-advanced user experiencing problems with a motherboard-CPU-memory configuration that had stumped him. We also had a number of NTPCUG members "drop by" just to chat and make contact during the day who also pitched in with solutions to hardware, software and Internet questions.

### Purpose of the Help Center SIG

The Help Center SIG is an effort to reach out to users in the Vendor Area who are having problems with their PC's. It is not a structured SIG with defined programs, but is based on the "Help Desk" model and aimed at answering basic PC-related questions — and then pointing the users to the ap-





# SIG

propriate NTPCUG or Apple Corps SIG's where further information and assistance will be available to them. We hope it will generate both goodwill and user interest in joining our respective users groups in the process. We will welcome any NTPCUG or Apple Corps member who would like to volunteer in this effort.

Help Center SIG hours will be 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. unless Help Center volunteers decide to close early in order to attend the business meeting at 12:30.

*Reagan Andrews*

## Microsoft Visual C++/MFC SIG

Good news! It looks like we have found a place for the SIGs to meet. It is also within walking distance from the Vendor area. No predictions on when we'll be able to start meeting there, so we'll have to continue to use the Virtual SIG Meeting on the Web site. <http://web2.air-mail.net/emmert>.

In the meantime, take a look at CryptoPad Step 3. By the time you read this it should be posted on our Web site. In Step 3, we look at creating a custom "Save As..." dialog box. We don't build the dialog from scratch. Instead, we use the common dialog box and override

it at the system level to add a few controls. When looking through the source, be sure to look at the dialog resource. We create a special dialog resource with the controls we want and MFC takes care of pasting these controls onto the standard Save As dialog box.

Next month, we'll get into the heart of the project. We will discuss "serialization," MFC's fancy term for saving files. We'll discover that we can stream the file into an encryption/decryption class when saving/opening files. If you have any questions up to this point, please post them at the Virtual SIG meeting. I may not be able to respond immediately, but I promise to get to it.

*Wade Emmert*

## Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The schedule for any SIG meetings is uncertain at press time. There is a possibility that we will be able to meet on March 27, 1999 at facilities within Big Town Mall. Final approvals have not been obtained and it is unclear that the meeting rooms will be ready in time. Look for last minute announcements on the North Texas PC User Group Web site at [www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org).

In the meantime, I have reviewed several books appropriate for be-

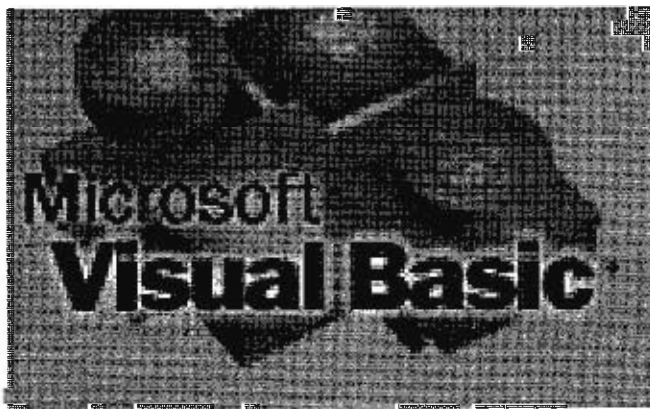
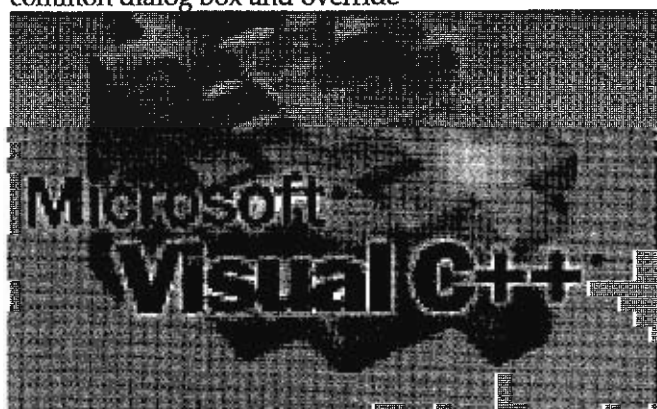
ginners in Visual Basic 6.0 and have decided to go with *Visual Basic 6.0 from the Ground Up* by Gary Cornell. The book is published by Osborne/McGraw-Hill and has an ISBN of 0-07-882508-3. Regular attendees at the Beginning Visual Basic SIG know that I do not systematically go through the text on a regular basis. I do, however, use the sample code within the text as an example when it is appropriate. This edition has picked up all the typographical errors from the previous edition that I knew about.

While we wait for our management team to finalize the details of our meeting site, be sure that you have ordered both Service Pack 1 and Service Pack 2 for Visual Basic 6 from Microsoft. It is very important that you install these Service Packs prior to creating install versions of your Visual Basic 6 programs.

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@ntpcug.org](mailto:Jim.Carter@ntpcug.org) or [Jim\\_Carter@msn.com](mailto:Jim_Carter@msn.com).

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting on Saturday, March 27, 1999 at the Big Town Mall. Check the NTPCUG Web site for details on the SIG meetings.

*Jim Carter*



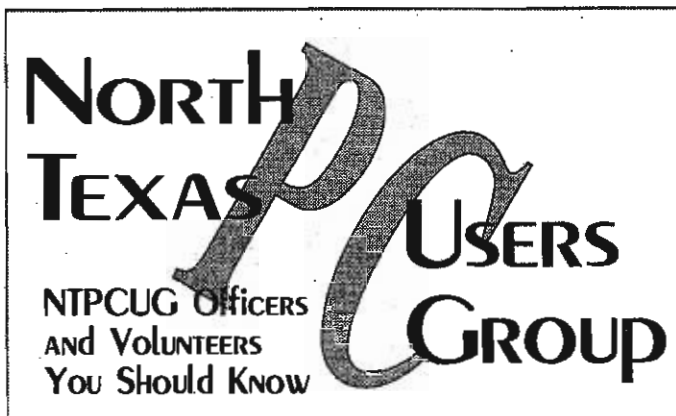
# North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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



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**Marsha Drebelbis** **Timothy Carmichael**  
**Alex Lilley** **Andy Oliver**  
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Password problems?

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

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Address Changes, etc...

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

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



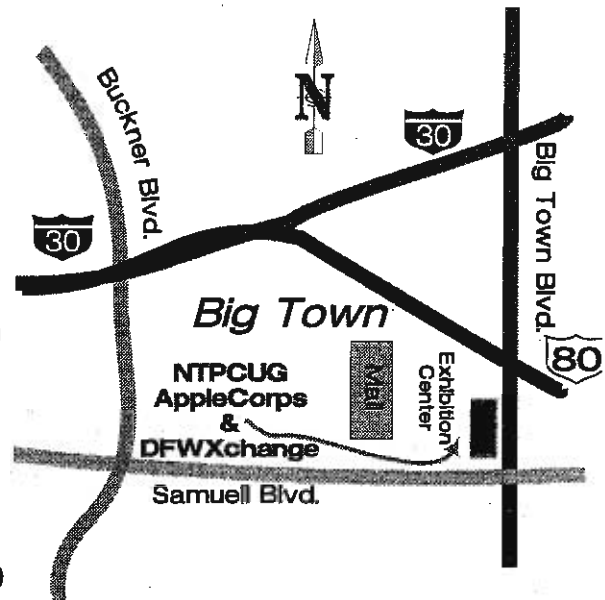
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*Next Meeting:*  
**27 March 1999**