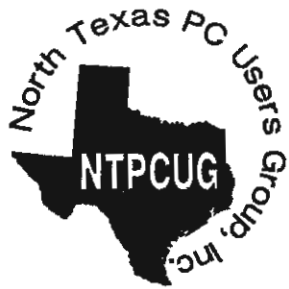


Price \$3.00

*North Texas*



# **PC NEWS**



**Yes! The SIGS are meeting again at BigTown**

*July, 1999*

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 7

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**DEADLINE**  
Copy deadline for August  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
July 25, 1999

**Meeting Dates:**

July 17 – 3rd Saturday  
August 21 – 3rd Saturday  
September 25 – 4th Saturday

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Alex Lilley & Marsha Drebelbis

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James Bodard

MS Answers – Virus Protection ..... 5-6, 9-10  
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Reagan Andrews

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Submit Newsletter articles to: [newsletter@ntpcug.org](mailto:newsletter@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.

# PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . . *TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL*

**JUNE 19**

## **NTPCUG MAIN PROGRAM IN ROOM C AT THE USER GROUP MEETING HALL AT BIG TOWN MALL**

### **10:00 - 10:55 AM "New SIG Formation Forum"**

Come join in on the initial formation meeting for the Games SIG and the Professional MIDI SIG. Those interested in attending these SIGs or in forming other new SIGs should attend. This will be an open forum for members to voice their opinions and meet others with similar interests.

### **11:00 - 11:55 AM "BIRD WATCHING and other Magnificent CD-ROMs"**

**Analytical Software Inc. (<http://home1.gte.net/usaparks>)**  
*Mark Haley, President*

Now the charming beauty of birds is available on your PC. This software includes spectacular full-screen photographs, narrated videos/slides, interactive maps, and hundreds of species including hawks and other birds of prey, elegant herons, waterbirds and mesmerizing songbirds. Unique features: backyard birding for pennies a day, software to identify and keep track of birds you've seen and incredible birding sites. This guide makes birding easy, affordable and fun. Also, Space, National Parks & Travel CD-ROMs (For Windows 98, 95 and 3.1) will be sold at the meeting for \$10/CD.

There will be a drawing for free products. \*

### **12:00 - 12:30 PM NTPCUG Business Meeting**

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

# SIGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

Time	Room	SIG	Time	Room	SIG	Time	Room	SIG
8:00	A	Assembler	10:00 - Ctd.	E	Introduction to the PC	1:00	A	Lotus Domino
	B	MS Networking		F	Visual Basic - Advanced		B	FrontPage
	C	-		G	MS Word		C	Advanced Programmers
	D	AppleCorps		H	Corel (continued)		D	-
	E	Hardware	11:00	A	Investors		E	Introduction to the PC
	F	Excel		B	Internet - Beginning		F	Microsoft Visual C++/MFC
	G	-		C	NTPCUG Main Program		G	ACT!
9:00	A	-		D	AppleCorps		SIG meetings are listed by time and location for the July 17 meeting. Times and locations may change and members are advised to check the NTPCUG Web site for latest listings.	
	B	Networking		E	Java			
	C	DOS/Disk Operating Systems		F	Access			
	D	AppleCorps		G	-			
	E	Quicken	12:00	A	-		Layout of the new SIG Meeting area and locations of the rooms are found on page 3.	
	F	Visual Basic - Beginning		B	Internet - Advanced			
	G	Alpha 5		C	NTPCUG Business Meeting			
	H	Corel		D	-			
10:00	A	WordPerfect for Windows		E	Introduction to the PC			
	B	Communications		F	ActiveX			
	C	NTPCUG Main Program		G	-			
	D	AppleCorps						

## SIGs ARE HAPPENING!

We enjoyed a full day of SIG meetings on June 19<sup>th</sup> at our new meeting location. Members seemed to enjoy the intimate meeting area which allowed much easier access to a number of SIGs throughout the meeting than had been possible at our old meeting site.

There are still some procedures to be ironed out, but on the whole, things went very well. This is especially true for an initial run-through in a new area for the various SIGs involved.

This month, we had four 21" monitors on carts for A/V (Audio Visual). By next month, we will be adding several donated LCD plates and overhead projectors. Check it out!

### SIG LEADERS

**Spike Smith**, who has handled getting our new meeting location up to code, tells me that the air conditioning works best if you leave your meeting room door closed. The air then flows through a series of louvers and eventually returns to the chiller.

### NAME THE LOCATION

We need a name for our meeting place. We've been using *meeting hall* and *meeting site*. If you can

## 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



think of a better name, drop me an e-mail. (What do you think about *nerd nest*?)

### Food

**Chris Carmichael** sold sodas and snacks in the entrance to our meeting hall at the June meeting. If you need more than that, there is a snack bar in the Mall. Go out the front door of meeting site, turn left and left again at the corner. The snack bar is across the mall as you enter through the side doors.

### WHERE IS IT?

Some people at the vendor show had trouble finding the SIG meetings. It is on the opposite side (west side) of the mall from the vendor show. Maps are available at the NTPCUG desk in the vendor show.

### ELECTIONS

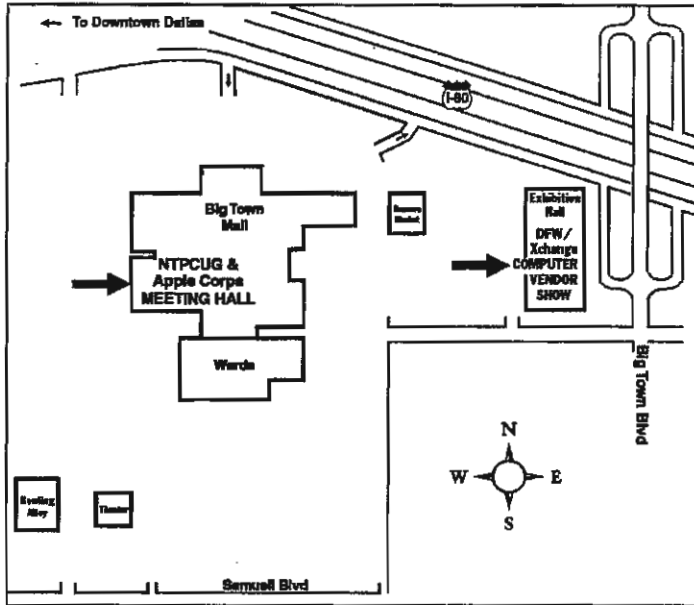
We've got a problem. Nobody wanted to run for the post of President-Elect in the last elections. That means that we have no President for the year 2000. I figured that most of the reluctance was because the user group had an uncertain future with no place to hold meetings. That's not the case anymore.

You might wonder why I don't continue on as President into next year. I can't because someone put a requirement into the bylaws that the President's term is one year in length and the President cannot succeed himself.

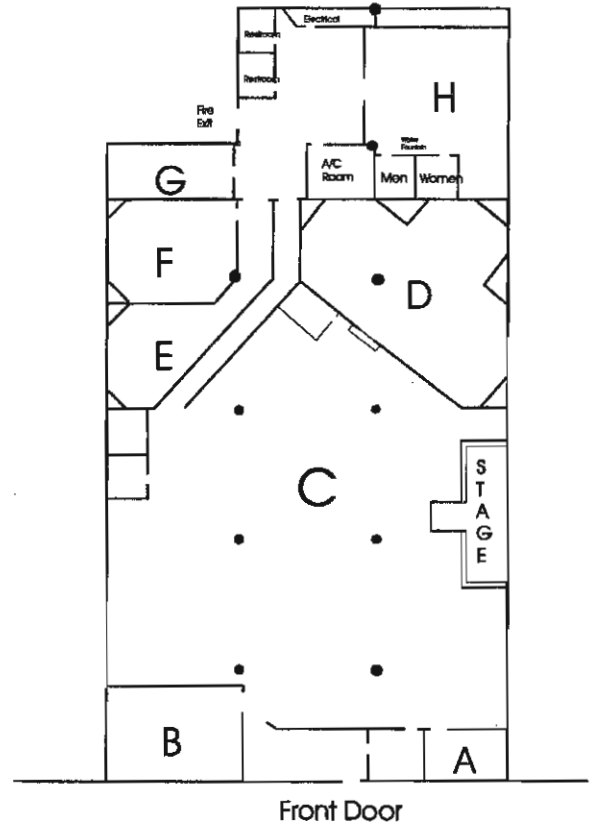
I'll be discussing elections with the Board of Directors in the coming months. We'll come up with a plan to hold elections in time the have a President for next year.

*Jim...*

### Site Map



### Big Town Mall User Group Meeting Room



### PARKING LOT

#### NTPCUG SIGs ARE back...

June saw the resumption of NTPCUG SIGs at the Big Town site. Members appeared to find themselves at home in the new area and gave the impression of a willingness to make any necessary adjustments to accommodate operation in the space. *The PC News* will continue to run maps of the Big Town Mall and Exhibition Center locations until NTPCUG members have familiarized themselves with the new space..



## Help! I'm falling in love with a keyboard! AGAIN!

After a long dry spell, I've found a really good PC keyboard — from IBM no less. Is it a "premium-priced" keyboard? Yes, but not at the "premium" IBM charged for the original IBM-PC keyboard which I also liked a lot. Was the closest thing I'd found to the IBM *Selectric* keyboard on my last electric typewriter at the (then) VA Hospital in the late 1970's. There was something about the feel of the *Selectric* keyboard that made me feel at home using it.

Our first PC, also from IBM, had a keyboard with similar qualities. I was very sorry when I had to give it up in order to have all 12 Function keys instead of the original PC's eight Function keys. Only keyboard I found since that barely came close to the feel of the original PC keyboard was made by Fujitsu. It was noisier than the IBM keyboard, approached the definitive stroke feel, but had one significant drawback in that it tended to self-destruct if dropped. I went through three of the Fujitsu's, with each "killed" in the same manner, before I gave up.

Since then I've tried one of the premium, programmable keyboards that had a "mushy" feel instead of the crisp IBM feel, and a number of AST and DEC keyboards purchased in the DFW/Xchange

## GOOGLE — GREAT SEARCH ENGINE...

by James Bodard

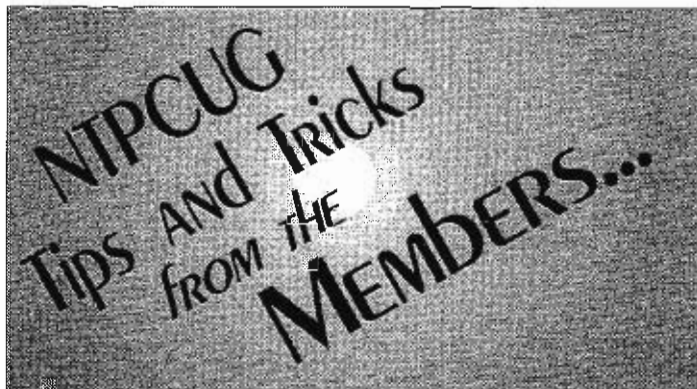
We've all experienced the problem:

The automated search engines (like *Alta Vista*) return 54,321 items "in no particular order" (many of which are porn sites). But the human-indexed search services (like Yahoo) often can't find what you want because they're only able to index a small fraction of the entire Web (since they're human). So you're left with the uneasy (but probably accurate) sense that what you want is out there somewhere ... but you're no closer to finding it.

The truly amazing new solution:

A couple of extremely bright guys at Stanford University solved the Web Search Engine Problem once and for all, creating the last search system you will ever need: <http://google.com/>.

Continued on Page 5.



vendor area with almost OK feel but a trifle smaller than I found comfortable. I still use one of the DEC's at my office at the VAMC Dallas (hospital) which was purchased for \$6 and has a feature I've grown to use almost constantly — the two keys with the Windows symbol that allow me to swap back and forth between DOS and Windows applications. (No, EDLIN isn't one of them.)

Example: I write my longer progress notes and reports in *MS Word 6.0* (DOS) and use *Procomm 2.1+* (DOS) as my terminal emulation program to interface with the VAMC computer(s). I use *Word 97* for longer documents that will eventually be printed for distribution. I've customized the DOS Word dictionaries over the years with many military terms and acronyms, Vietnamese town and city names, etc. Also, the ASCII Save feature in the "older" Word seems to work well with the current progress note entry package as opposed to Word 97's sometimes "flakey" interpretation of ASCII.

Recently, I was in Fred Williams' favorite computer store (CompUSA) and browsed the keyboards on display. Discovered two very solid IBM *Preferred* keyboards, one black and one the usual IBM ivory color. Both had excellent feel, were quiet and were very heavy for PC keyboards now.

Connie agreed on the superlative feel of the IBM units and decided she would also like one. Considering replacement cost of the original IBM-PC keyboard was more than \$200, these were a bargain at less than \$40 each.

Reagan Andrews

## VIRUS PROTECTION

Due to a recent and unfortunate incident I thought that a small write-up on macro virus prevention might be in order.

### Install and Update Anti-Virus Software

For a long-term solution to macro viruses, install anti-virus software that is specifically designed to detect macro viruses. They come in different price ranges and for differing requirements. You need to contact and discuss your needs with a vendor specializing in anti-virus software.

The following is a list of suppliers of anti-virus software. It is probably not complete; however it is as complete as I could find. The following suppliers' products detect and remove viruses, including Macro Viruses.

#### Aladdin Knowledge Systems

- ❖ eSafe Protect for Windows 95/98/NT
- ❖ eSafe Protect Enterprise

**Answers**  
**Microsoft®**

- ❖ eSafe Protect Gateway

#### Alwil Software

- ❖ AVAST! for MS-DOS
- ❖ AVAST! for Windows 3.1x
- ❖ AVAST! for Windows 95/98
- ❖ AVAST! for Windows NT
- ❖ AVAST! for Microsoft Exchange Server

Continued on next page...



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Networks and Signet Partners*

#### BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY

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Virtual Domain, Server Collocation

#### CONSULTING

Firewall Security, Network Design

#### DIAL-UP ACCESS

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

www.veriotexas.net, info@veriotexas.net

**1-888-266-7267**

### Google... Ctd.

What's their secret? They use Linux-based Web robots to explore and index the entire Web. But then they determine the QUALITY of each resulting link based upon the QUALITY of the OTHER sites that link INTO that site. So, THE ONLY WAY a site can be highly rated, under Google, is if other highly rated sites have links pointing into it! It's brilliant.

This simple concept works SO WELL that every single person I've told about Google has switched permanently to using Google as their Web search engine of choice. It really is that good!

And of course it's free! ... so give it a shot for yourself!

JBB

[The above e-mail was sent by member James Boardard to the Members mailing list ([members@ntpcug.org](mailto:members@ntpcug.org)) on Saturday, June 26, 1999. Instructions for subscribing to the Members mailing list are in the February and April issues of the *North Texas PC News*. Contact Doug Gorrie at [doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org](mailto:doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org) if you have any problems signing up.]

**Command Software, Inc.**

- ❖ Command AntiVirus for DOS
- ❖ Command AntiVirus for Windows
- ❖ Command AntiVirus for Windows 95
- ❖ Command AntiVirus for Windows NT

**Computer Associates International, Inc.**

- ❖ Inoculan Client for Windows 95 (Cheyenne AntiVirus for Windows 95)
- ❖ Inoculan/InoculanIT for Windows NT
- ❖ Inoculan/InoculanIT Clients for Windows 95
- ❖ Inoculan/InoculanIT for Windows 3.x/DOS
- ❖ Inoculan AntiVirus for Windows 95 (Desktop)
- ❖ Inoculan Client for Macintosh

**Data Fellows, Inc.**

- ❖ F-PROT Professional for Windows
- ❖ F-Secure Anti-Virus for DOS
- ❖ F-Secure Anti-Virus for Windows 3.1x
- ❖ F-Secure Anti-Virus for Windows 95 and 98
- ❖ F-Secure Anti-Virus for Windows NT Workstation

## 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.

- ❖ F-Secure Anti-Virus for Windows NT Server

**Grisoft Inc.**

- ❖ AVG Anti-Virus for Windows 95
- ❖ AVG Anti-Virus for Windows 98
- ❖ AVG Anti-Virus for Windows NT

**IKARUS Software**

- ❖ virus utilities DOS
- ❖ virus utilities Windows 3.x
- ❖ virus utilities Windows 95, Windows NT
- ❖ virus utilities Windows NT-Admin

**iRiS Software**

- ❖ iRiS AntiVirus
- ❖ iRiS CAT for Windows CE
- ❖ iRiS Macro Defender
- ❖ iRiS AntiVirus LITE

**Kaspersky Lab**

- ❖ AVP for DOS
- ❖ AVP for Windows 3.x
- ❖ AVP for Windows 95/98/NT
- ❖ AVP for Windows NT Server
- ❖ AVP Inspector

**Network Associates, Inc.**

- ❖ McAfee VirusScan
- ❖ Dr. Solomon's Virex for the Macintosh
- ❖ Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus for Workstations
- ❖ NetShield for Windows NT
- ❖ GroupShield Exchange
- ❖ Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus for Server

**Norman Data Defense Systems**

- ❖ Norman Virus Control for Windows 95/98
- ❖ Norman Virus Control for Windows NT
- ❖ Norman Virus Control for Windows NT Server
- ❖ Norman Virus Control for MS-DOS
- ❖ Norman Virus Control for Microsoft Exchange

**NovaStor Corporation**

- ❖ ThunderBYTE Anti-Virus

**Panda Software**

- ❖ Panda Antivirus Platinum for Windows 95/98
- ❖ Panda Antivirus Platinum for Windows 3.1x
- ❖ Panda Antivirus Platinum for Windows NT
- ❖ Panda Antivirus Platinum for MS-DOS
- ❖ Global Virus Insurance 24H-365D Small Business Edition

Continued on page 9





## A SUMMER WITHOUT HEAT? MAYBE, BUT A SUMMER WITHOUT MICROSOFT V. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE? NO WAY AS TRIAL BEGINS WINDING DOWN...

The never-ending story *Microsoft v. Department of Justice* seems like it's all I ever do any more in this column. It's not that this isn't important to all of us in the PC community — we'll have to live with the results of this trial for years — but, I've lost some respect for Microsoft (and all the parties on the other, DOJ, side as well) that I find myself wishing it would conclude and just "fade away." It won't.

If anything, it will grow since it is so important to directions American business will travel for decades according to Steve Lohr's excellent article in the June 25th issue of *The New York Times*. It's worth a trip to your local library if you haven't seen it.

So far, the "smart money" is betting that Microsoft will take a substantial hit in the suit. If Microsoft thinks they can win, they will appeal any decision they see as "negative" to Microsoft interests. That's a given. I wouldn't expect any less.

### THAT COULD ALSO TAKE US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY TO RESOLVE.

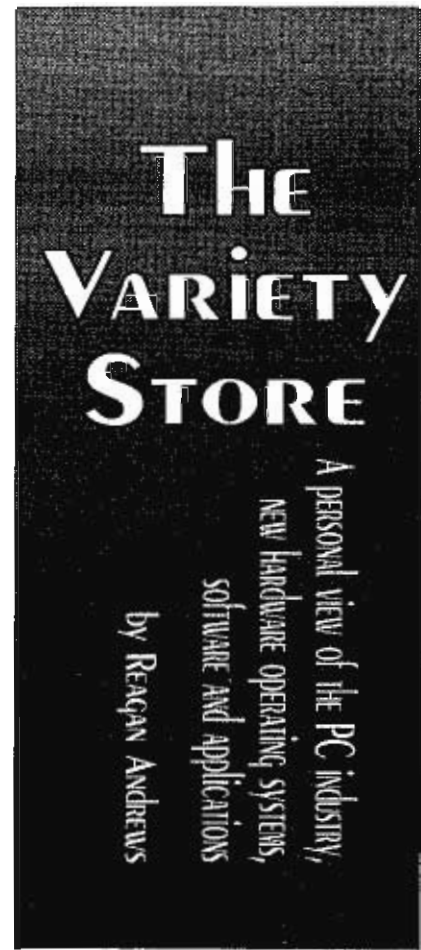
However, Microsoft has handled this debacle so poorly that I wonder if they can recover any balance or grace in time to make

a difference. I'm beginning to doubt their ability to actually pursue this goal. This is especially true given their shoddy handling of the case so far. That they have done this so poorly has been the real surprise coming out of the trial.

So far it's been a magnificent comedy of unfortunate and unbelievable errors. Microsoft has the money to hire the absolute best legal talent in the world. However, it would appear that Microsoft didn't do a good job of supervising their consultants. Or, didn't listen to what their very expensive consultants were trying to tell them. (That's where I'd bet my money.)

### APPEARANCES DECEIVING...

Appearances can be deceiving, especially from the outside. Microsoft may have been dealt a "Joker" in the case — Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson — who allowed the DOJ to expand the case far beyond its original allegations. Judge Jackson will have the final say since he, not a jury, will render the decision determining the outcome at this stage. He has not given the impression that he is even remotely "friendly" to Microsoft or Microsoft's witnesses and the famed "level playing field" seems a bit tilted.



Why does Microsoft appear to be trying the wrong case? Judge Jackson's October decision to allow expansion by DOJ certainly could have unbalanced Microsoft's preparations for the trial, but I would have expected a more robust recovery by this late in the game. I would also have expected much better witness preparation than has been revealed. Such lack of recovery is very worrisome.

Readers on the outside, as I am, have to remember that this is a legal proceeding, not a PR popularity contest/war being waged in the media. If it were, DOJ would win hands down.

# THE VARIETY STORE

## Why?

That's easy. It's really hard to like Microsoft as an *entity*. We may like their products (they still make the best mice available in my opinion) and we may like some of the people we know who work for Microsoft, but the entity itself comes across as cold, distant and arrogant. I don't mean to imply that everyone who works for Microsoft fits this description.

Let me explain. There are actually several Microsofts. Most of us in the User Group community have contact primarily with Microsoft's marketing people who are paid to be warm, friendly and outgoing. There are also Microsoft employees like the NTPCUG's **Bob Russell** who selflessly gives freely of his time in NTPCUG volunteer roles, or former Word SIG Leader **Bev Kurtin** who spent countless hours doing the SIG and offering help in general to Word users.

The "inner circle" at Microsoft is different though. And, this is the core that has earned Microsoft's reputation for arrogance. Arrogance and/or stupidity. Microsoft is second in arrogance only to the Novell of old (not now) who earned a terrible reputation for both insulting and ignoring their customers. Microsoft's inner cir-

cle is a very "young" organization composed primarily of very young, truly brilliant, sometimes socially-inept people who try to believe in their own programming invulnerability while denying possibility of any inadequacy or fallibility. That's a deadly combination when an organization has to interact with the "real world" made up of "average" people.

Is this everyone at Microsoft in Redmond, WA? Of course not. I've met some very personable, warm Microsoft folks with genuine interpersonal skills. This was very true of the DOS 5 & 6 betas and the Windows 95 alpha and beta testing. (I still miss Brad Silverberg — and so does Microsoft.)

However, Microsoft as an *entity* simply doesn't know how to do this with grace. And, it starts at the top — Bill Gates, who experiences significant difficulty in social settings and communicating with the "lesser" intellectual mortals. Unfortunately, Bill has been raised to near-dietary status, sets the "style" for Microsoft's inner circles and is seen by many of the young programmers as the model for the rest of the Microsoft clan. (For a good summer read, try *microserfs*, Douglas Coupland's searing novel that's a thinly-disguised description of life at

the Microsoft, Redmond, WA, campus.)

There's a darker side to all this as well. (With apologies to *Star Wars*.) Within the heart of any organization composed of human beings, there are the seeds of its own self-destruction waiting for opportunity to erupt and end the cycle of success. I see this in individuals, small groups and large organizations as well. Often it's the leaders who sew these seeds and reap the bitter fruit of dissolution.

Ray Noorda, when he was still running Novell, is a good example. He allowed his personal dislike of Bill Gates and Microsoft to "cloud" his judgment and nearly destroy Novell with his purchases of DRI's DR DOS and the WordPerfect corporation — neither of which Novell knew how to market. Failure to communicate a vision, or goal, or to understand the needs of the majority often fuels such destruction. Novell barely survived.

I remember Bill Gates' first speech to the North Texas PC Users Group in 1988. One of his comments (humorous then) strikes home now concerning the early days of Microsoft and fact that Microsoft's "first 14 customers went out of business." Is he still haunted by this memory? And, is this dictating a lot of Microsoft's current behavior?

Again, I feel a need to remind readers that public perceptions can be quite misleading. Media have portrayed Mi-

crosoft as personifying incarnate evil (i.e., a huge monopoly forcing its will on the poor, defenseless and weak opposition.) That was a superb PR job. Reality is that the plaintiffs in the suit are equally tough, hardened players in one of the roughest games in business and certainly don't fit the innocent victim roles ascribed to them.

Will Microsoft survive? Yes. Will it be the same Microsoft? No. No organization can go through this sort of ordeal without change as a result. Real question is will the environment recover from the effects of massive deforestation caused by the millions of documents produced in Discovery?

In the end, we may all lose — that is, if the government gets heavily involved in dictating what can and can't be "features" of an operating system instead of letting the marketplace make those decisions.



We could find ourselves back in an absence of any real standards similar to that still experienced in the UNIX community where each vendor has its own flavor and no compatibility with other vendors.

Most of us just want an OS and applications that work as intended (most of the time), are stable and don't leave us in the position of having to repeat work already done. We're willing to "save often" and heed the warning signals of impending OS failure (do you know them?) each day at work, but would prefer stable software that doesn't require such care.

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

So what's next in the ponderous struggle between the Ti-

tans? According to the WSJ, the following:

☛ **August 10, 1999.** Proposed findings of fact are due: responses and revisions permitted on September 10, 1999

Closing arguments. Judge Jackson likely will rule on findings of fact before year's end. After this, pressure on either side to settle rises sharply.

☛ **September 21.** Proposed conclusions of law are due from each side 30 days after Judge Jackson's ruling on the facts.

☛ **Next year** Final ruling expected, unless case is settled before. After that, either side may appeal.

*Reagan Andrews*

**MICROSOFT ANSWERS**

Continued from page 6

- ☛ Global Virus Insurance  
24H-365D Intelligent Network Security

**RG Software**

- ☛ Vi-Spy for Windows 3.x and Windows 95

**Sophos**

- ☛ Sophos Anti-Virus for Windows 95/98

- ☛ Sophos Anti-Virus for Windows NT

- ☛ Sophos Anti-Virus for Macintosh

- ☛ Sophos Anti-Virus for MS-DOS

**Symantec**

- ☛ Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95/98/NT Workstation

- ☛ Norton AntiVirus for Windows NT Server

- ☛ Norton AntiVirus for Microsoft Exchange

- ☛ Norton AntiVirus for Macintosh

- ☛ Norton AntiVirus for Windows 3.x/DOS

- ☛ Norton AntiVirus for Firewalls





☛ Norton AntiVirus 1.0 for Internet Email Gateways

☛ Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh

☛ Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh Administrator

### TREND Micro Incorporated

☛ InterScan VirusWall

☛ InterScan VirusWall Windows NT Server

☛ InterScan WebProtect

☛ OfficeScan

☛ ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange

☛ ScanMail for Microsoft Mail

☛ ScanMail for Microsoft Outlook

☛ ServerProtect for Windows NT Server

☛ PC-cillin for Windows 95 and Windows 98

After you install an anti-virus software program, you must

keep it updated to ensure that new macro viruses are detected and removed. For more information about updating your anti-virus software program, please contact your anti-virus software vendor.

The third-party products discussed here are manufactured by vendors independent of Microsoft; we make no warranty, implied or otherwise, regarding these products' performance or reliability.

### Use Your Applications Built-In Security for Macros

Microsoft Office 2000's applications have security levels built in.

#### High:

You can run only macros that have been digitally signed and that you confirm are from a trusted source. Before trusting a source, you should confirm that the source is responsible and uses a virus scanner be-

fore signing macros. Unsigned macros are automatically disabled, and Word opens the document without any warning.

#### Medium:

The application displays a warning whenever it encounters a macro from a source that is not on your list of trusted sources. You can choose whether to enable or disable the macros when you open the document. If the document might contain a virus, you should choose to disable macros.

#### Low:

If you are sure that all the documents and add-ins you open are safe, you can select this option - it turns off macro virus protection in Word. At this security level, macros are always enabled when you open documents.

Vigilance is an increasing necessity to everyone. There is a proliferation of new macro-virus, seemingly one appearing every day.

### More Information

If you want more information, the bulk of this article's content was obtained on our Knowledge Base at the Microsoft Web site at [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com). Query on Macro and Virus, also on security, Leroux and Melissa.

If you have a question about Microsoft Office applications you would like to see addressed here, e-mail your question to [questions@microsoft.com](mailto:questions@microsoft.com).

*Bob Russell & Dan Gholston*

**Microsoft®**  
Answers

# Selected SIG Reports . . .

## News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to Connie Andrews, Special Interest Group Editor, at [newsletter@ntpcug.org](mailto:newsletter@ntpcug.org) before the PC News monthly deadline listed on the inside front cover .)

### Access SIG

In July: Larry Linson will continue his Visual Basic for Applications tutorial by completing "Reading and Writing Files with Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)." We finished the details on reading and writing text files, but will now take a look at binary file access. The specific code that we'll examine is from a Microsoft Knowledge Base article on using OLE fields as Binary Large Objects (BLOBs). You can store any kind of information of any practical length in an OLE field with this technique. Larry uses it to store pictures in databases without having to pay the price of the "bloat" due to the bit-map thumbnails that Access creates for images stored as OLE objects.

**Another Cross-Product Presentation:** Reading and writing files, like the Control Structures, is the same in all software using VBA and in Visual Basic. Particularly if you're a beginner to VBA or VB programming, or, if you feel in need of a brief "refresher" in file I/O, we invite you to join us for this presentation.

**The June 19 Meeting:** Though not everyone managed to last all the way through it, we started Larry Linson's presentation on "Reading and Writing Files with Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)" with around 35 in attendance. That is GREAT news after the long hiatus and in view of the distance that some must travel to the new facility. I was encouraged by a "more lively" (for which read, I saw more purchases) crowd at the Vendor Show, as well.

### FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

#### Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- **PC Help Center** [Contact Reagan Andrews @ 214-828-0699h or [reagan.andrews@ntpcug.org](mailto:reagan.andrews@ntpcug.org)]
- **MS Word for Windows** [Contact Jan Patton @ (903) 886-6249h or [janpat@unicomp.net](mailto: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 !

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**Tom Browning** discussed the results to date of the Attendee Information Sheet survey he began at our May meeting. We appreciate all who have indicated a willingness to assist with various functions necessary for a successful SIG. He passed out and retrieved a few more of those sheets this time. We're going to try to make collecting and updating that information an ongoing feature of the Access SIG.

The valuable prizes in our drawing in June were copies of the presentation and sample code on diskette and a rather antiquated copy of a "do it yourself Java" CD (seriously, with the rapid progress on all fronts on the Internet, a two year old CD is mostly of historical interest I included it as a "gag gift" but if it turns out to be a decent introduction to Java, well, so much the better). We'll have "valuable prizes" again in July.

We are still pursuing a *Plan B* - what we need to be prepared to do to continue our meetings just in case the current vendor show and meeting place are not continued - but we are encouraged by **Jim Hoisington's** evaluation of the current situation at the June Business Meeting.

**Misc. & Etc.:** Look for the Members Area on our Web site, <http://www.ntpcug.org>. Join the Members e-mail list (instructions are in the February and April issues of the *North Texas PC News*). Volunteer to speak to the SIG. Volunteer to help with administrative duties. Volunteer to contact SIG members and remind them of meetings. We earnestly solicit your

**Microsoft®  
Access**

participation - with enough help, the workload will be light for all of us. Come join us on July 17<sup>th</sup> to see if we're really as enthusiastic as we believe we are.

*Larry Linson*

## ActiveX Application Developers SIG

**In July:** Plans are not firm yet, but we'll have a presentation on a development topic that we hope you'll find interesting.

**In June:** Thanks to **Dan Ogden** for his review of the Spring Comdex which he attended in Chicago, and his comparison of that with the "Big One" in Las Vegas, Fall Comdex, and for his presentation of a truly Rapid Application Development (RAD) application that he did for his wife in support of her teaching work in Japan not too long ago. It was a great application done with minimal code in just a few hours.

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 environ-

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ments - 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 July, 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*

**COMMUNICATIONS SIG**

**Charged Up Copper Loops — DSL is Here!**

Our June meeting was a great success. We had in attendance at least 20 people who wanted to know more about our Communications SIG. Lots of good questions and input from the audience. It was great to see the enthusiasm and excitement from our members as well as first time attendees. Just like old times as one member said to me afterwards! The room was quite adequate and a "little cool" based upon our A/C working quite well. No doubt this kept you awake as topics like V.90 speed debugging, satellite data services, and EMAIL fax were discussed. Our future meetings will be a combination of Q/A sessions as well as topics that we want to learn more about. Thanks for participating and the great input!

In July we will have a presentation on Digital Subscriber Loop or DSL. This new access technology is starting to appear in the greater Dallas-Ft. Worth area. It promises to provide high-speed access for the end-user over the standard copper loops that one uses for telephone and dial-up data/mo-

dem services. DSL provides T1 and sub-T1 speeds to your home or business for access to the Internet or to your corporate LAN. A variety of DSL types exist, depending upon your application. DSL can even support a voice channel so it is entirely possible to have 1-telco line supporting both voice and data..Simultaneously! To learn more about this technology, including its service availability, distance limitations and sensitivities to the copper, and yes"monthly costs" come to the Communications SIG meeting at Big Town on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in Room B. You won't believe the "comm" experience!

*Alan Brosz & Birl Smith*

**Dallas CORE SIG**

July

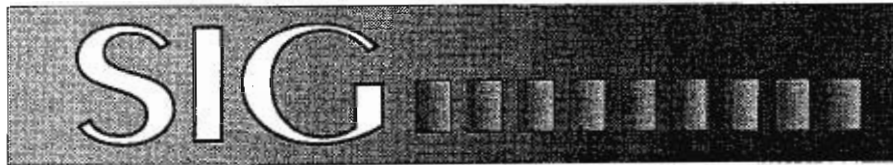
Dallas Corel's new assignment in July to the larger "Room H" and a return to our traditional 2-hour format, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., will welcome all to join into the activities. At this writing date, our program topic has yet to be confirmed, but you can bet it will be interesting and worth your time. Check our Dallas Corel Web page for updates. See you July 17!

June in Review

It was standing room only at Dallas Corel SIG's Annual Member Showcase in June. SIG members



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generously shared examples of their best artwork created in Corel and stimulated interesting questions and answers. **Bob Wright**, freelance designer for an offset printing company, brought excellent printed samples of his work. **Bob Campbell**, of Campbell Automotive, showed an intriguing Celtic cross cut attractively from wood with his CAD-CAM equipment. **Tom Lynn**, who works for Ericsson, shared his work examples and answered questions. **Marilyn Gravatt**, skilled DRAW artist and Ventura publisher, shared her digitally offset printed brochure and encouraged the rest of us to realize cost savings with digital offset printing too. **Richard Blair** brought artful hats and other specialty advertising items produced to promote his son's Houston company. **Martin Heller** made everyone's mouth water with his huge custom designer chocolates. **Jo Eubank** is new to CorelDRAW and

brought her first design. **Adrian Dixon's** printed samples were superb. Thanks to all who contributed and made this session a worthwhile time together.

The NTPCUG Main Program presenter was **Wesley R. Pack**, from Corel Corporation. No, he wasn't Canadian but the company is. He whetted our appetites by demonstrating, with overhead projection in the main hall, many exciting new features we can look forward to in the newest software version. CorelDRAW 9 just reached retail store shelves. The enthusiastic audience grabbed for DRAW T-shirts he threw to the crowd and watched their ticket numbers in hopes of winning one of the free Corel software products given away. Others took advantage of the special product pricing that day. How fortunate we are in Dallas that NTPCUG receives regular and prompt support from Corel.

**Courses**

**David Huss**, esteemed artist and author of Corel's Official Guides to PHOTO-PAINT, will teach a one-day course on Corel PHOTO-PAINT at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas Saturday, July 24. The cost is \$99.00. His Scanning course will be Monday, July 26. The cost is \$125.00. For those requiring different dates, additional dates in the Fall will be announced. E-mail your requests to [accjane@austin.cc.tx.us](mailto:accjane@austin.cc.tx.us).

Sign up for CorelWORLD '99 in Orlando, FL (October 3-8, 1999) by phoning toll free 888-DRAW NOW or visiting [www.altman.com](http://www.altman.com) for late-breaking news. The ever popular **Rick Altman** and his team of experts have been hosting educational symposiums for users of Corel's graphics and publishing ap-

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K1Z 8R7

- ◆ Technical Support Representatives ..... 800-818-1848
- ◆ G1 Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products) ..... 800-772-6735
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- ◆ IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network) ..... 613-728-1990
- ◆ 24 Hour Automated Fax System ..... 613-728-0826 Ext.3080
- ◆ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays
- ◆ To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

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Diane Bentley



plications since 1989. From our own Dallas area, **Jim Hart** will again provide Tech Help and conduct one of the sessions!

### Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ Jul/98 - Digital Cameras
- ❖ Aug/98 - Presentations 8
- ❖ Sep/98 - Ventura 8
- ❖ Oct/98 - Fine Tuning Your Web Page
- ❖ Nov/98 - Trademark Law for the New Millennium
- ❖ Dec/98 - PAINT 8 Effects
- ❖ Feb/99 - Paper for Successful Inkjet Printer Output
- ❖ Mar/99 - DRAW & PAINT Q & A
- ❖ Apr/99 - Scanning For Success
- ❖ May/99 - Member Showcase  
*Marsha Drebelbis*

### DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

The DOS/Operating Systems SIG will meet again July 17 in the new SIG meeting hall. We looked at home and SOHO LANs last month and discussed some of the problems members had experienced installing new NICs (Network Interface Cards) in Win95 & Win98 when Windows "forgot" how to find the necessary drivers on its own installation CD. A question toward the end of the meeting about anti-virus software (along with a flood of new and malicious virii) prompted topic of this month's SIG note.

#### Virii - Virii - Virii!

Virii (or viruses) are a nasty fact of life for users these days. Hardly a




week goes by without some warning about a new and deadly affliction sweeping E-mail or the WWW download sites.

Only *sure* preventive measure is to never share disks, files or downloads with anyone. That means no E-mail, no WWW or FTP downloads, etc. In this "connected" era, that's pretty well impossible to achieve — and would virtually disable all the "features" in our applications software and operating systems. I don't think any of us are willing to go this far to assure "safe computing."

Answer is, of course, good anti-virus software protection and establishing good anti-virus computing practices/habits. The first is covered in this month's *Ask Microsoft* column submitted by *Bob Russell* and *Dan Gholston*, which lists many vendors of good anti-virus protection programs.

Two top packages, locally, are probably Symantec's *Norton AntiVirus* (NAV) and Network Associates' *McAfee ViruScan*. Both are quite good and the virus definition files for each are very regularly updated and available from their respective WWW sites or FTP servers, a very important feature in such software.

How often should users update their virus definition files? This is the most important aspect of anti-virus defense and it cannot be over-emphasized! I have developed a habit of checking the NAV site weekly for possible updates and more often than not will find a small patch if not a completely new definition file.

Because of some negative interactions that led to systems crashes, I've switched from McAfee to NAV 5. That doesn't mean McAfee caused the crashes, it interacted with the current system configuration and everything "froze" until the McAfee component was removed. As our systems and operations have become increasingly complex, users should be prepared for similar episodes with any anti-virus software. I was just too lazy to troubleshoot and re-configure the system to eliminate the freeze-ups.

So far, NAV (the original anti-virus programs supplied with MS DOS 5 & 6) hasn't produced similar results. It did, however, identify an old DOS version of *Solitaire* written by Mouse Systems as a virus several years ago and created impetus to change to McAfee. Hmm Does that mean an old game was more important than virus protection?

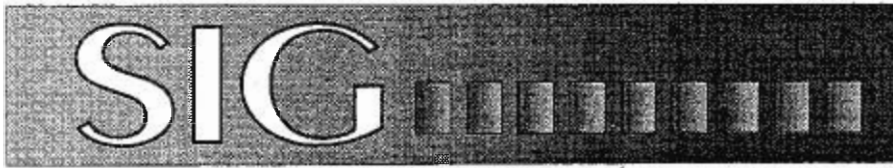
Come to the DOS/Operating Systems SIG July 17th and share your anti-virus (or virus infection) experiences.

*Reagan Andrews*

### INTERNET SIG - Advanced

The Advanced Internet SIG meets at 12:00 Noon on meeting days. Everyone is invited to attend. We discuss advanced Internet topics ranging from how the Internet works, to advanced use of the available tools.

Our June meeting was an open question and answer forum. After an absence in Austin, Pat Hykkonen returned to be grilled by the attendees and to be poked fun at by Tom O'Keefe and Doug Gorrie. We answered questions on e-mail security, compared ISDN



and ADSL, discussed traceroute, ping and other Internet discovery tools and generally had a good time.

We had several suggestions for future topics: MP3 and streaming audio, IP version 6, Next Generation Internet, Search Engines: Advanced Topics (how to get added, how to perform advanced searches), Data Security (SSL, PGP, digital certificates and so forth), and finally a request for demonstrations of video and audio conferencing technologies. Stay tuned and we will cover all of these issues.

Suggestions for other topics, as always, are warmly welcomed.

For our July meeting we will discuss Data Security on the Internet.

If you have questions about PGP, digital signatures, SSL and site certificates, be sure to attend! We look forward to seeing you there.

*Pat Hykkonen, Tom O'Keefe  
& Doug Gorrie*

### INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

It was great having our Intro SIG back into operation with members and guests on June 19<sup>th</sup>. As before, each class may stand alone or is best appreciated when taken in sequence. Since we have time for just three classes per meeting day, our new schedule consists of fifteen classes overall. We are looking forward to having several of you earning your certificates for participating in each of the classes.

#### Introduction to the PC Class Schedule

Class #	Date	Time	Subject
4	July 17	10:00 AM	MS Windows
5		Noon	PC Graphics
6		1:00 P.M.	Word Processing
7	August 21	10:00 A.M.	Spreadsheets and Databases
8		Noon	Modems / Telecommunications
9		1:00 P.M.	PC Hardware
10	September 25	10:00 A.M.	PC Printers
11		Noon	Networks and Such
12		1:00 P.M.	Neat & Necessary Software
13	October 16	10:00 A.M.	Multimedia Software & Hardware
14		Noon	Virus Protection & Utilities
15		1:00 P.M.	PCs Into The 21st Century
1	December 18	10:00 A.M.	Introduction to the PC
2		Noon	A Lot About Files and Directories
3		1:00 P.M.	(DOS) Disk Operating Systems

After completing our fifteen presentations, you will not have learned to become programmers or experienced technicians, but you will feel much more comfortable and informed while working with computers and perhaps establish different directions and goals for yourselves.

The subjects to be covered July on 17<sup>th</sup> are:

**Windows.** An overview of how this operating system relates to using the PC (personal computer); its uses and basic operation. The Windows operating system is not just a way to add graphic menus to the screen but the really good parts are behind the scenes where applications and data are better integrated for efficiency and reasonable software cost.

**Graphics.** Graphics are important for supporting the GUI (graphical user interface), adding clarity to reports and data, and the ability to add color, charm, and attention-getting interest to the Internet. Graphics is not only fun and games and computer-aided design but also a tool for communicating between friends and family using photographs and sketches.

**Word Processing.** Although most persons in attendance will not become professional clerk/typists, the innovative structures within today's document generators provide easier means to present data as well as letters and reports. The spelling and grammar correcting features and the "electronic" eraser are only a small part of the many benefits that have evolved into everyday applications. We'll discuss text manipulating, formatting, and adding graphics as well.

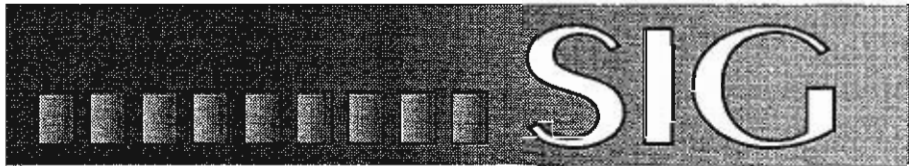
We can always use some assistants and presenters. How about you?

Please enjoy and bring your friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

*Harold (Spike) Smith*

## JAVA SIG

We held our first meeting in the new facility as scheduled. There was a good crowd with many from our previous group still in attendance. The meeting was on Java Server Pages (JSP). It flowed fairly well for a first time in a new site. After figuring out how to get my laptop hooked up to the big monitor, and the font adjusted so people could see what I was trying to show them, I presented a JSP app that I had created. I was going to compare it to an earlier ASP that I created to do the same function, but the meeting evolved into a tutorial of what a servlet was. I did manage to show the sample JSP page and point out the JSP specific code and methodology of the page and how much easier it is to develop a JSP when you start from an HTML page that can be generated by a developer. A zip of the JSP pages presented and the corresponding Java code generated can be accessed on the code examples



page at our new SIG Web page address of <http://web2.air-mail.net/dbenish/sig/javasig.html>.

Next month I will show the differences between the ASP page and the JSP page, and then run a rewritten servlet that performs the same function. We will also discuss future topics. One attendee suggested that we may come up with a group project to give members a goal to program for. We can also discuss that possibility.



*Don Benish*

## MS Networking SIG

The MS Networking SIG is scheduled to meet at 8:00 a.m. in Room B.

### Upcoming Schedule

July / August: Open for suggestions (email: [gbrand@homemail.com](mailto:gbrand@homemail.com))

### Purpose of the SIG

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

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

We help members understand how these products interoperate with other third party and legacy products.

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

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.

*Richard Miles & Gil Brand*

## PC Help Center SIG

The PC Help Center SIG didn't at the June Meeting. Our usual room was filled by two giant industrial fans (leaky roof?) and wasn't setup with the usual tables and chairs. That situation will be corrected in July and we'll be back in full operation.

### We still need volunteers.

Since most of us (and you) will "cruise" the vendor area at some time during the meeting, why not volunteer for 30 minutes during the morning? Most of the questions received from perplexed users are usually simple and straightforward — and those that aren't can be pointed in the direction of NTPCUG experts at one or more of the SIGs at the new SIG meeting area.

### Purpose of the Help SIG

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DATES

Listed below are the copy deadline dates for the remaining 1999 issues of the *North Texas PC News*. Please mark your calendars so you will have plenty of time to submit your articles and SIG notes to the address listed below.

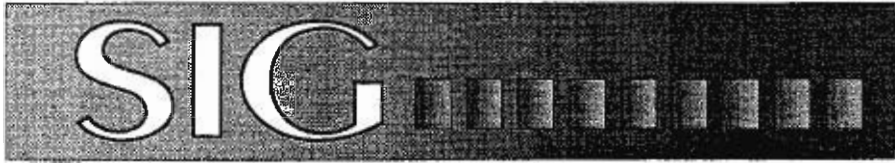
Issue	Copy Deadline
Aug.	July 25
Sept.	Aug. 29
Oct.	Sept. 19
Nov.	Oct. 17
Dec.	Nov. 21

*NOTE: There are only 3 weeks between the September and October issue.*

If you need to extend any deadline by a few days, contact us at the address listed below.

Reagan & Connie Andrews

[newsletter@ntpcug.org](mailto:newsletter@ntpcug.org)



The Help 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 appropriate 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 SIG's hours are 8:30 a.m. until Noon.

*Reagan Andrews*

## PROGRAMMERS SIG - Advanced

All the (remaining) CPU vendors are gearing up for the next round of "super" chips with most destined to hit the market late this year or early next year. CPU speeds exceeding 700 MHz are promised with FSB speeds in the 200 MHz (AMD K7) range. Not to be left out, IBM is expected to produce the *Power PC* chip at equivalent or higher speeds.

Couple this with the rising popularity of LINUX (being endorsed by just about everybody except Microsoft) and a possible, LINUX-countering return of NT (Windows 2000) to the *Power PC* platform, and things look to become very interesting for systems and applications programmers. AMD had already discovered timing-loop problems in Win95 (fixed) and we may expect some unanticipated behav-

iors (crashes) in other software as these new chips come into wide use — and "old" programming practices are revealed.

*Reagan Andrews*

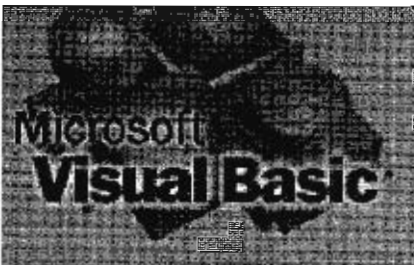
## Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The Beginning Visual Basic SIG actually met last month (6-19-99) in our new facilities at Big Town Shopping Mall. We discussed the incompatibilities between VB5 and VB6 and the need for implementation of Service Packs on Visual Basic 6 prior to distribution of any applications built with Visual Basic 6.

We demonstrated some of the new features of Visual Basic 6.0 on a computer and software provided by **Tom Browning**. Thanks a million, Tom. Tom has volunteered to assist with the Advanced Visual Basic SIG while we search for a replacement for the departed **Thomas Lewis**.

The new schedule has the Beginning Visual Basic SIG meeting in Room F at 9:00 AM followed by the Advanced Visual Basic SIG meeting in the same room at 10:00 AM. That schedule should hold for a while now. Any last minute announcements will be published on the North Texas PC User Group's Web site at [www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org).

August's meeting will be the semi-annual "For Beginners Only" session where we introduce Visual Ba-



sic to those with no (or very little) experience with Visual Basic. This presentation is updated and given each August and February to help beginning programmers get started in Visual Basic.

The major topics of the presentation will include a brief history of Visual Basic, descriptions of resources available for beginners in Visual Basic, an introduction to the Windows environment, discussion of Visual Basic 6.0, and demonstration of the new integrated development environment (IDE) made a part of Visual Basic 6.0. Everyone is welcome to attend, of course. If you have a friend, relative, neighbor, etc., who would like to see what Visual Basic is about, this meeting would be an ideal one for them to attend. This would be a great opportunity for you to introduce the NTPCUG to a potential new member

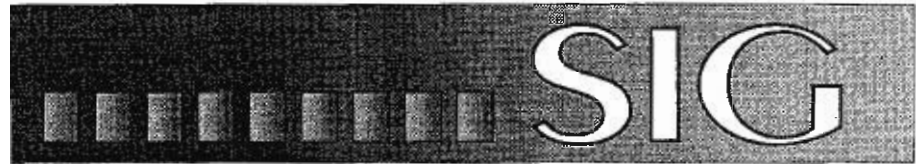
There are a few Microsoft Knowledge Base articles that you may want to check into before or as you upgrade to Visual Basic 6.0.

The article in Q194295 is entitled "How to Tell That Visual Studio 6.0 Service Packs Are Installed" and includes specific instructions on how to tell whether Visual Basic 6.0 has been upgraded with Service Pack 1, Service Pack 2, or Service Pack 3. It is important to note that the Service Packs are issued on a single CD for all Visual Studio 6.0 components. If all you have is Visual Basic 6.0, you still use the Visual Studio 6.0 Service Pack CD to upgrade your Visual Basic 6.0. It is also important to note that Service Pack 3 will apply the corrections from Service Packs 1 and 2 as well as Service Pack 3. Service Pack 2 will apply the corrections from Service Pack 1 as well as Service Pack 2.

Another article from the Microsoft Knowledge Base that is related is the article Q194022 entitled "Visual Studio Service Packs, What, Where, and Why" and includes

more information on the contents of the Visual Studio 6.0 service packs and where to obtain them. This information is also available from the Visual Studio 6.0 Service Pack Web Site at: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/sp/default.asp>.

There are known compatibility issues between Visual Basic version 5.0 and 6.0. Article Q217017 summarizes the compatibility issues between these two versions of Visual Basic. The article explains some of the techniques for fixing these incompatibilities and references



other Knowledge Base articles for additional compatibility issues.

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

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).

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at the Big Town Mall. Check the NTPCUG Web site for details on the SIG meetings ([www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org))

*Jim Carter*

# North Texas PC Users Group, Inc

## Membership Application



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

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last): \_\_\_\_\_ (First): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Check preferred.) Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check one from each column below*

Payment:	Membership	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.

# INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

### Double Your Pleasure

The SIG meeting area at Suite 934 was officially open, and a large number of our regular members are finding it to be perfect for our needs. From the few trips I made between there and the Exhibition Center it was easy to see that many of our membership were happy to break the fast of the last few meetings, when they were able to enjoy limited SIG groups or none at all.

If this is the beginning of a rebuild phase in our club history, then it is a great place to start. Volunteers can make it happen. Volunteers can spread the word by telling co-workers and previous members of the great facilities for sharing knowledge about computing.

Some of the happenings of last meeting included hearing the rumor that Chris Carmichael may start up a Game SIG. He may tell us how to peek under the top cards in Freespace or avoid those land mines.

The jogging trail between the MALL and the Exhibition Building was tested by our own Jim Hope who made two round trips at the last meeting. One circuit was made pulling a luggage carrier loaded with club newsletters. Spike Smith conducts the Introduction to the PC sessions, and I can't think of a more relevant SIG for the multitude of new users who want to know how to get the genie out of the box.

NTPCUG volunteers like the ones mentioned make the possible out of the impossible. They can

help you and me realize the dream of understanding our computing machine

Wherever you are as you visit the next Club meeting, look around for one of the many volunteers, and thank them for their unselfish spirit in giving to support the free exchange of ideas and information related to personal computers. The officers of the

NTPCUG and the volunteers want you to enjoy your computing experience. You can join them and volunteer an hour of your Saturday morning, and with two locations at Big Town you have two places to help the club, and double your fun.

The names of some of those volunteers are listed at right.

**Big Town Liaison**  
Andy Reese  
Robert Hilliard  
Alex Lilley

**Vendor Setup/  
Breakdown**  
Anchors:  
David Slavik  
Dick Abbott  
James Hope  
Crew:  
Kenneth Berg  
Dennis Brininger  
Dan Guyer  
James Guyer  
Mark Guyer  
Fred Steadman  
Daniel Thomas  
James Webb

**Auditorium Presentations**  
Timothy Carmichael  
Christopher Carmichael

**Newsletter Labels**  
Charlie Fernandez

**Information/Registration Booth**  
Statistician:  
Connie Andrews

Ralph Beaver (Assistant)  
Scheduler:  
Bob Wuller  
Anchors:  
Roger Bopp  
Vernon Cates  
Cinda Lovil  
David Martin  
Bob McNeil (Double)  
Raymond Reyes  
Ken Sauter  
Fred Toulmin  
Booth Crew:  
Al Aston  
Deborah Bean  
Ralph Beaver  
Randy Durham  
Eteta Eta  
Tim Foster (Double)  
Martin R. Gluck  
Herbert Gross  
Joe Hopkins  
Neil Jochelson  
John McNeil (Double)  
Linda Moore  
Martin Moomaw  
Thelda Opella  
Oscar Tyler  
Thomas Ward  
Don Wolfe

### 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)

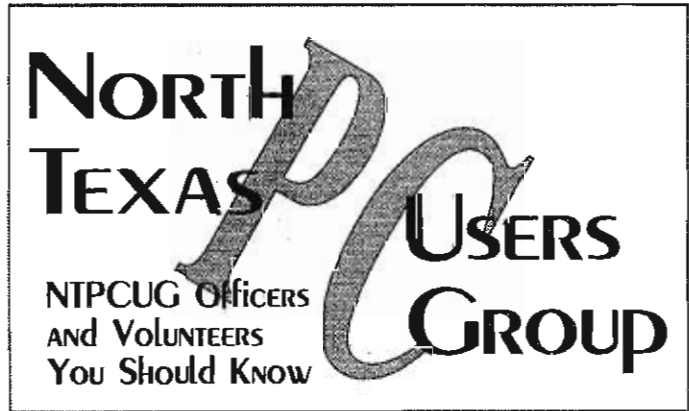
# North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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.



## North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

**Jim Hoisington** *Chairman*  
**Marsha Drebelbis** **Timothy Carmichael**  
**Alex Lilley** **Andy Oliver**  
**Andy Reese**

Password problems?

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

### NTPCUG Officers

President	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
President-Elect	(Open)	
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

**DFW Xchange**      **Information**      (214) 746-3365  
[www.dfwxchange.com](http://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**

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..)



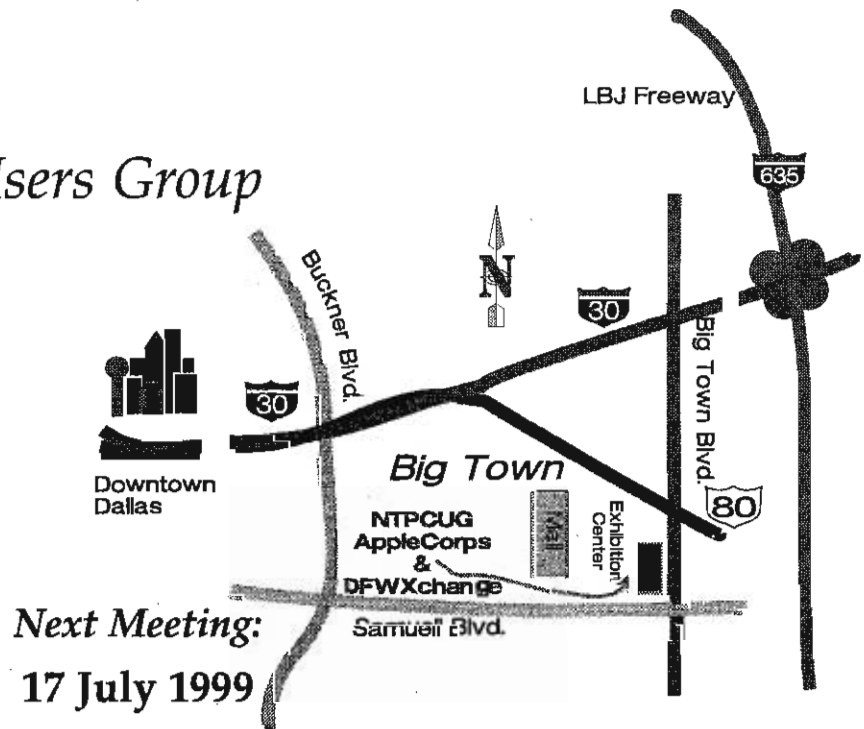
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Address Correction Requested

18.7

## North Texas PC Users Group



**Next Meeting:**  
**17 July 1999**