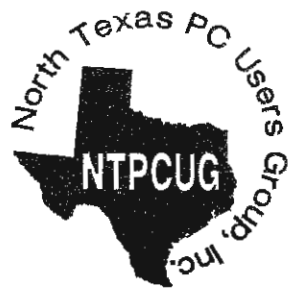


*North Texas*



# **PC NEWS**



*September, 1999*

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 9

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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:**

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Member distribution was 1,700; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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**DEADLINE**  
Copy deadline for October  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
September 19, 1999

**Meeting Dates:**  
September 18 – 3rd Saturday  
October 16 – 3rd Saturday  
November 13 – 2nd Saturday



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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		
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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.*

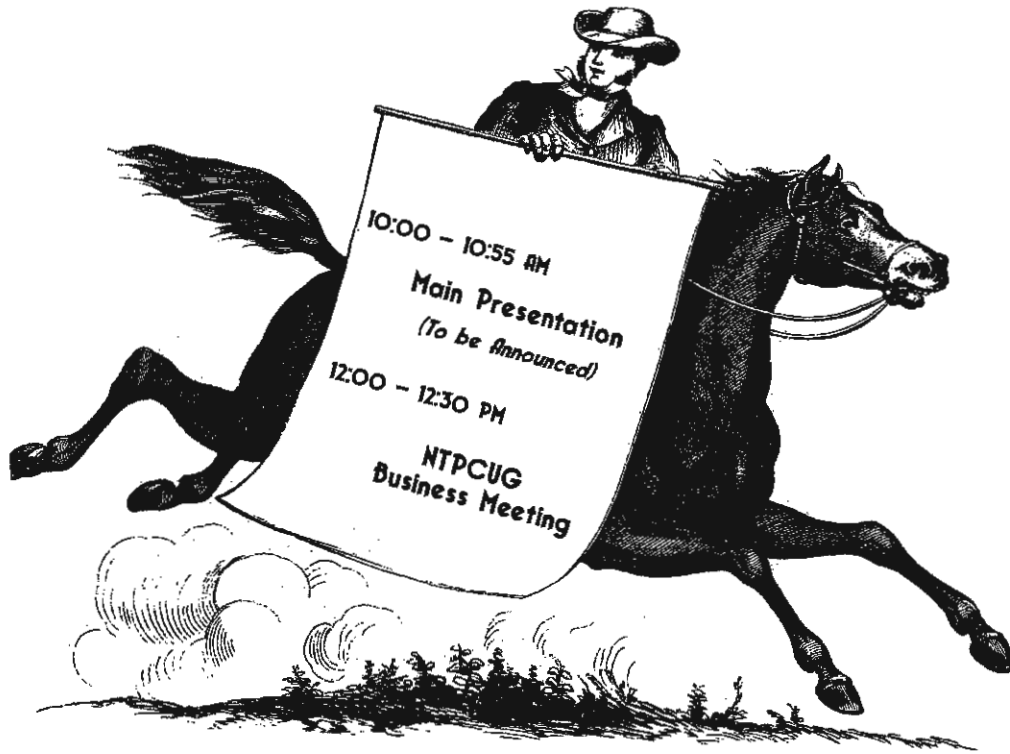
**Deadlines:** All advertising copy must be received by the PC News staff no later than the 10th day of the month prior to the month of publication unless other arrangements are made with the Publisher. NT PC News publication date is 10 days before the monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group.

**Policies & Mechanicals:**

- Commercial ads must be in repro form, in final size, ready for printing.
- Halftone 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*



**SEPTEMBER 18**

**SIGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE**

Time	Room	SIG
8:00	A	Assembler (Meets in October)
	B	MS Networking
	C	-
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Hardware Solutions
	F	Excel/Spreadsheet
	G	-
9:00	A	-
	B	Networking
	C	DOS/Disk Operating Systems
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Quicken
	F	Visual Basic - Beginning
	G	Alpha 5
	H	Dallas Corel
10:00	A	WordPerfect for Windows
	B	Communications
	C	See Main Presentations
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Introduction to the PC
	F	Visual Basic - Advanced

Time	Room	SIG
10:00	-	Ctd.
	G	Word for Windows
11:00	H	Dallas Corel (continued)
	A	Investors
	B	Internet - Beginning
	C	See Main Presentations
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Java
	F	Access
	G	-
12:00	H	Professional MIDI
	A	-
	B	Internet - Advanced
	C	NTPCUG Business Meeting
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Introduction to the PC
	F	ActiveX
	G	-
	H	Games

Time	Room	SIG
1:00	A	Lotus Notes & Domino
	B	FrontPage
	C	-
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Introduction to the PC
	F	-
	G	ACT!

*SIG meetings are listed by time and location for the September 18 meeting. Times and locations may change and members are advised to check the NTPCUG Web site for latest listings.*

*Layout of the new SIG Meeting area and locations of the rooms are found on page 8.*

## AUGUST MEETING

If you came to the August meeting, you know that we had cool air and a sound system. Spike Smith worked with an air conditioning service company to get the cool air. I spent several Sunday afternoons shopping for a sound system. We're finally getting the meeting hall in useable condition.

### SEPTEMBER MAIN PRESENTATION

Last month I mentioned that Borland added us to their rollout of the latest version of Delphi and would be presenting at our September meeting. As of press time, we have not received final confirmation from them and that is why our schedule says "To Be Announced". Check our Web site at [ntpcug.org](http://ntpcug.org) for any updates before the meeting.

### ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors and I are working on a slate of candidates for five director positions and a President position. If you are interested, contact one of the current directors.

### CLEANING SERVICE

We are looking for a cleaning service to clean our meeting hall following the monthly meeting. If you know of a good, reliable service, have someone from the service contact me: Phone: 972/416-3101 or EMAIL: [president@ntpcug.org](mailto:president@ntpcug.org).

### SNACK BAR

I mentioned the snack bar in the Mall in last month's column and it got closed down. The NTPCUG News food critic, Reagan Andrews, took it on himself to find another location and



here's his recommendation. Try the snack bar in the Big Town Bowling Alley. It's just across the parking lot from the meeting hall. And added attraction is that you can watch the bowlers while you eat.

### FARMER'S MARKET

Try the Farmer's Market when you are traveling across the parking lot from the Vendor Show in the Exhibition Hall to the Meeting Hall. We've been bringing a cooler in the car and filling it with fresh melons and fruits.

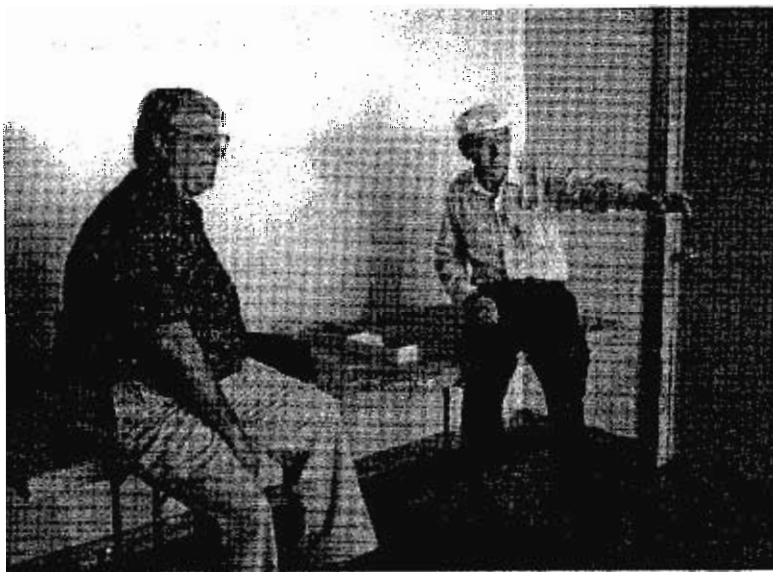
### AN ONGOING MEMBER BENEFIT

Last month I mentioned that attendees at the Corel SIG July meeting saw the Virtual Training Corps (VTC) CD's. Martin Hellar will be at the Access SIG in September. Check out the Access SIG notes for more information on member discounts and how to reach him. Have your member number and expiration date handy.

### MICROSOFT MAY PRESENT WINDOWS 2000 AT OCTOBER MEETING

Timothy Carmichael and I are talking with Microsoft about presenting Windows 2000 at the Meeting Hall in October. If it comes off, it will probably be the largest ever so far in our main meeting room. Hopefully, it will attract some people who haven't visited our new location.

*Jim...*



*Spike Smith, right, and Jim Hoisington, left, rest in the entrance to the new SIG Meeting space at Big Town and confer on the first cool, full day of SIG meetings at the August, 1999 meeting. "Cool" is why both are smiling...*

## Book Review:

### *Programming Microsoft Access 2000*

Written by Rick Dobson,  
Published by Microsoft Press  
ISBN 0-7356-0500-0  
List Price US\$49.99, CDN\$74.99, UKP46.99

Street Price varies. (Online booksellers typically discount at least 20% but charge for shipping.)

*Review by Larry Linson,  
Microsoft Access SIG Leader*

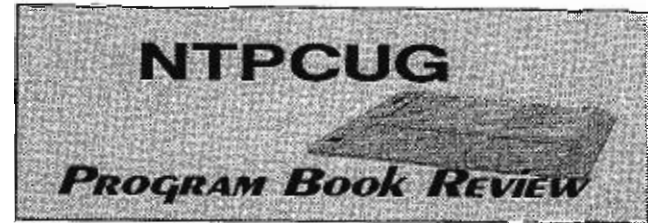
Rick Dobson begins his introduction with "This book is for database developers who want to use Microsoft Access 2000 to build custom applications." He aims for three groups: Access developers who want to learn about the "advances introduced in Access 2000", developers using other databases who want to learn "how to implement the concepts within Access", and for Access power users who want to graduate to developing solutions for others.

He succeeds admirably, with sufficient coverage so each class of reader can emphasize the areas they need most to address. It's not intended to be a book for the Access novice or casual user, nor a reference for the power user who doesn't want to become a developer. It's also not intended to be the kind of heavy-duty, industrial-strength reference for advanced developers as is the perennial standby "Access Developer's Handbook". This is a self-study book and a good one -- a tutorial for becoming a developer, or for bringing yourself up-to-date on the changes in the latest version of Access.

There are fourteen chapters. These start with a basic tutorial on Visual Basic for Applications and Access' two database programming approaches, Data Access Objects (DAO) and ActiveX Data Objects (ADO). They continue with table and query design and implementation, forms and reports, and the three types of class Modules: class, form, and report. From the shared objects of Microsoft Office, Rick moves to integrating Ac-



Just who is General Failure and, why is he reading my Hard Disk anyway?



cess with other Office software. He covers multi-user databases, database replication, the new Access Projects and the Microsoft Data Engine (MSDE), Access for Web development, and the Office 2000 Developer Edition Tools.

There's much good about this book: it is well-written, the topics are appropriately chosen and covered in appropriate depth for the purposes of the book, and Dr. Dobson has a talent for clear explanation that makes the topics easy to understand. It is easy to see why he is a popular speaker at conferences and why he is asked to write so many articles. Included with the book is a CD-ROM with sample databases for each chapter, all the book's source code plus other examples, third-party utilities and trial software, and a complete electronic version of the book, fully-searchable. You can take the CD on the job and refer back to it without lugging the book around. For the audiences targeted, I strongly recommend it.

My complaints were few and minor. It was a little disconcerting to me to see Rick use some conventions more common to Visual Basic developers than to Access developers, that is, the "dot notation" to refer in VBA code to controls on forms and specifying the ".Value" property which is the default property of data-containing controls in Access. Neither is improper, but both are unconventional in writings about Access.

If you are Web-connected and would like to see a sample, you'll find a 30+-page section taken directly from the book, on the new-to-Access 2000 subject of ActiveX Data Objects programming at the Web site <http://www.programmingmsaccess.com>. You'll find more from Rick Dobson also at his company's site <http://www.cabinc.com>. You'll find more about Microsoft Press' other offerings at <http://mspress.microsoft.com>.

*Larry Linson*

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## THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE — INSTALLING Microsoft Office 2000

Now that we have had some experience installing Office 2000, it seems time to pass along some of the lessons learned. The rollout has gone relatively smoothly, with most customers being able to install smoothly and begin enjoying the new features of this newest version of office. More people are learning how to manipulate data on the World Wide Web, and the seamless operation of the new file format is a pleasure to work with in Web applications. There are a few pernicious problems that crop up during some customer's installations, and I've given those some space below so you can eliminate some frustration if you should encounter one of them.

(2351/2355Error) If you receive either of the following error messages when running Office 2000 Setup:

**Internal Error 2351**

**Internal Error 2355**

please perform the following steps, in order:

**IMPORTANT:** If you receive this error and still have Office 2000 Setup, cancel Setup immediately by

# Answers Microsoft®

*pressing CTRL+ALT+DEL and using End Task! If you keep running Setup after receiving either of these error messages, your system may be damaged and unable to properly restart.*

*If your machine is in an unbootable state, call Microsoft Windows Support line.*

You may want to check to see if any firmware updates are available for their CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drives. (Firmware is similar to a computer's

Continued on Page 6

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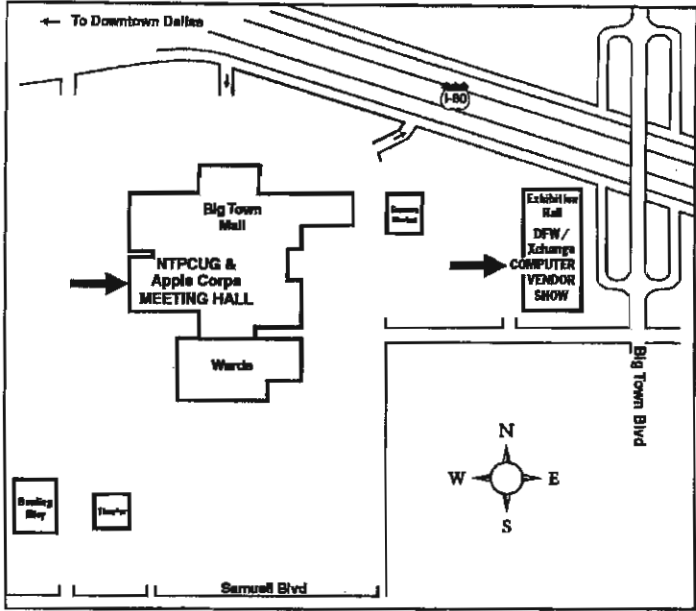


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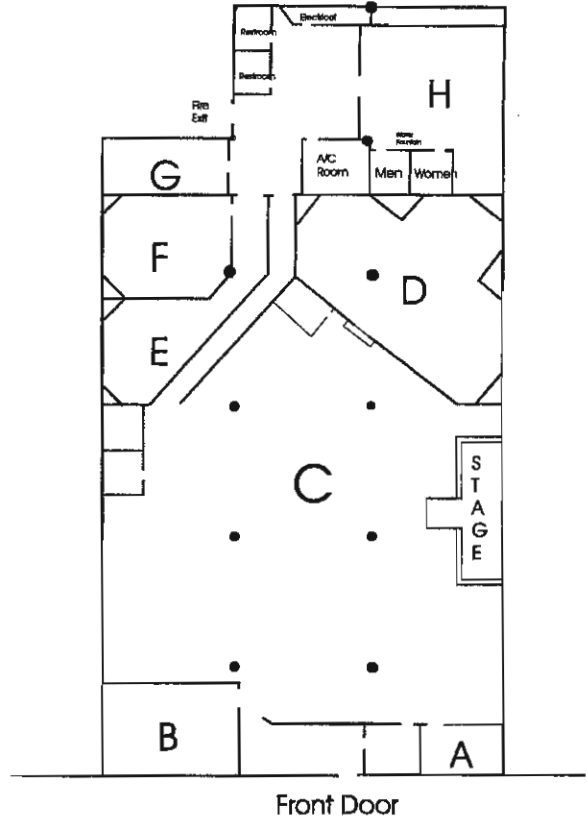
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# Site Map



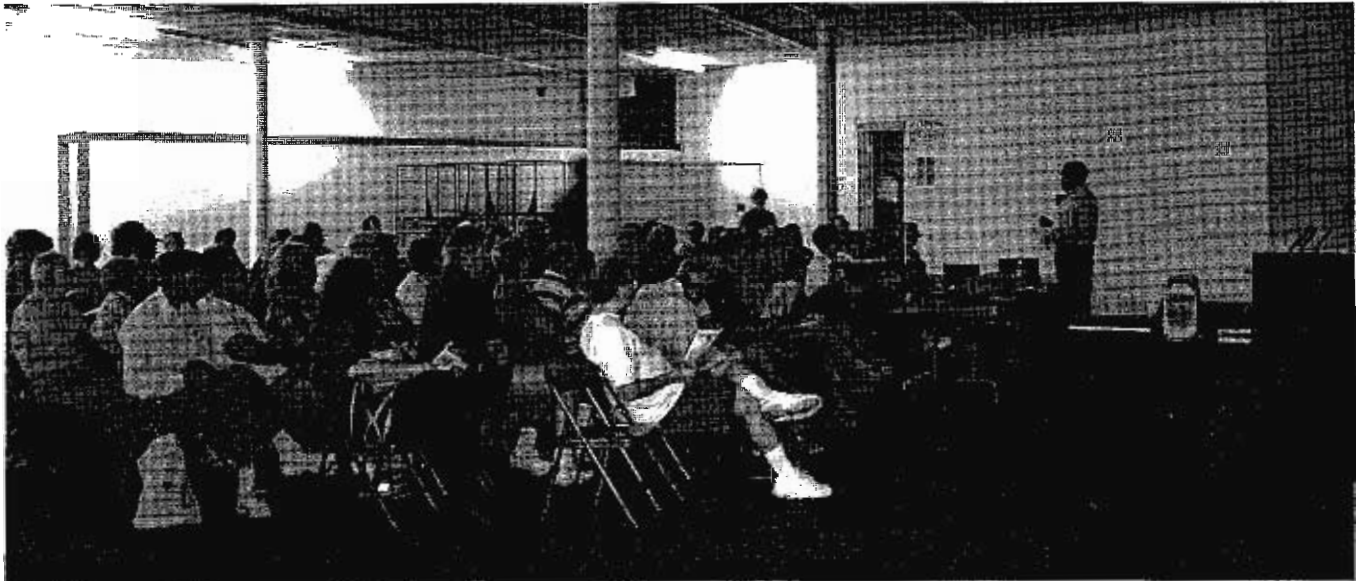
# Big Town Mall User Group Meeting Room



## 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..

## PARKING LOT



## The Voice of Experience... Ctd. from Page 4

BIOS.) Customers with DVS, Hyundai, or Samsung DVD-ROM drives may be able to obtain the latest firmware at <http://www.dvs.co.kr/support/supp.html>.

If your computer boots properly into Windows, try the following steps before you escalate the call:

Set the CD-ROM to "No Cache / No Read-Ahead". Then, using the Device Manager (right-click My Computer > Properties > Device Manager > CD-ROM > Properties > Settings), turn *off* the DMA setting for your CD-ROM drive and restart the computer.

Once you have restarted the computer, try installing Internet Explorer 5.0 by running IE5SETUP.EXE in the IE5\EN folder.

Once Internet Explorer 5.0 is installed, try running Office 2000 Setup again. If you receive Error 2351, cancel Office 2000 Setup *immediately!*

If Office 2000 will still not install, copy the contents of the Office 2000 CD-ROM to a hard drive, restart the computer in Safe Mode, and try running Office 2000 Setup again. If you receive Error 2351, cancel Office 2000 Setup *immediately!*

*You may be able to copy the contents at the DOS prompt by using the Windows 98 Startup Disk and the XCOPY command shown in the "Technical Information You Should Know" section below.*

If you have NT4 on your computer, you should install Service Pack 5 before attempting to reinstall Office 2000.

If you have anti-virus software installed and are having trouble, uninstall it. Once you have removed your anti-virus software, try running Office 2000 Setup again.

*(DellInspironError)* If you receive error messages such as **Installer Terminated Prematurely** or **Error 1905** when installing Office 2000 on a *Dell Inspiron* laptop, check to make sure that DMA is *disabled* on your CD-ROM drive, restart the computer, and try installing Office 2000 again.

If Office 2000 will still not install correctly, you may need to call Dell Technical Support. Some models of the Inspiron laptop contain CD-ROM drives and/or cables that are in need of replace-



ment; Dell Technical Support can assist you in getting their computer updated.

Also, please make sure that you have the latest BIOS from Dell's Web site (<http://www.dell.com/>).

*(CDROMReadError)* We have **CONFIRMED** that the following CD-ROM drives cannot read CD1, CD3, CD4, or CD5 (Developer CD) included in Office 2000; only CD2 is readable:

HP SureStore CDWriter 6020

Phillips CDD 2600 E/N CD Recorder

We are working on a method to address this problem. Possible workarounds include:

If you are on a network, see if you can share the Office 2000 CD using another computer's CD-ROM drive, and then run Office 2000 Setup using that drive.

If you have another CD-ROM drive, or a DVD-ROM drive, try running Setup using that drive.

*(CDKeyError)* If you have an invalid or missing CD Key, or if you receive the following error messages documented in **Q231664** (OFFICE database) when installing CD2:

**Setup failed to locate a valid qualifying product on your machine. Please select the drive where a qualifying product can be found.**

**Error 1608. Could not find any previously installed compliant products on the machine for installing this product.**

Call the Support number to get a validation key when you see this error.

**Other Issues**



*(AcademicRegistration)* If you are having trouble registering your Academic edition of Microsoft Office 2000, here's some information that you can use.:

Normal Academic packages can be installed and registered on two different machines; for example, a desktop and a laptop. If you attempt to install and register Office 2000 on a third machine, you will not be permitted to.

When you register your Academic edition of Office 2000, you should receive a *confirmation code*. Write this code down, and keep it for future use! The confirmation code can be reused on the same machine if you are forced to reinstall Office 2000 at any time.

1. Start Outlook 2000.
2. Press F1. In the Help window, select the Contents tab.
3. Click the plus sign (+) next to the following items, in order:



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Technical Support

About the Microsoft Privacy Policy

About the Office Registration Wizard and your privacy

This help topic contains the telephone number for Academic customers to call when they need help registering their copy of Academic edition. You can also check article Q236288 (OFFICE database) for the number.

You can get additional information about the registration process at <http://www.microsoft.com/education/products/orw/>.

Continued on next page...

### STATUS OF NTPCUG Newsgroups

Newsgroups are generally identical to the conference areas previously used on our old Bulletin Board System. They are ideal for exchanging questions and answers throughout the month between meetings, and the necessary software is already included as part of your Internet Explorer and Netscape software. Other Newsgroup software, such as Forté Free Agent, is also available from other vendors in both shareware and commercial formats.

Details on setting up and using our Newsgroups were included in the June 1999 newsletter. Enrollment in the Newsgroup section was intended to be handled by an automated process, but that is not yet in place. So until the automated process is working, we will enroll you manually. Just send an e-mail to [postmaster@ntpcug.org](mailto:postmaster@ntpcug.org) and request to

## NTPCUG Newsgroups... Ctd.

be added to newsgroups. Include your name, NTPCUG member number and expiration date, the password you wish to use, and the Account Name/ID you want to log on by.

If you have an NTPCUG e-mail account, please use the ID and password associated with it, as this will ease the overall administration of your account.

We will create an account for you on the user group's NT server, and reply back to you when done. From there, just follow the instructions in the June newsletter. If you do not have that newsletter, please request a copy of the article from *postmaster@ntpcug.org*.

We will also send updates to the "members" mailing list – see instructions for joining that list in the April issue.

Don't forget, both e-mail and User Group newsgroups are a free benefit of NTPCUG membership !!

Doug Gorrie

## 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.



*(IPFInsertingPictureFromFile)* If you receives an **Invalid Page Fault** when you click Insert > Picture > From File, try the following steps:

1. On the Start menu, click Run. Type "regedit" and click OK.
2. Go to the key HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\9.0\Common\Open Find. Export this key to a separate REG file (just insurance), and then delete the key from the registry. Careful with editing the registry. Make sure you have a good windows 98 Startup disk available.
3. Exit Registry Editor. Then, reinstall Office 2000.

*(Remove and reinstall office 2000)* May be necessary if the Office applications won't start.

1. Uninstall Microsoft Office 2000 from the Add/Remove icon in the Control Panel.
2. Run Offcln9.exe from CD1.
3. Reinstall Microsoft Office 2000.

*(HelpWon'tStart)* If you are unable to use Help in any of the Office 2000 programs, or if no results are returned when you search help, there may be a problem with your Help system. Here are a few things you can try:

If you are using the Office Shortcut Bar (OSB), turn OFF the AutoHide feature of the OSB. We have seen at least one case where AutoHide prevented Help from appearing.

Also, turn OFF the AutoHide feature of the Start menu/taskbar.

Clear the "Use Office Assistant" check box in the Office Assistant options dialog box.

Switch to the Standard VGA video driver, or restart the computer in Safe Mode.

Check the file size and either the version or the modified date of the following files:

C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM\HHCTRL.OCX  
size 520,528 bytes  
version 4.73.8412

C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\1033\MSOHELP.CHM  
size 17,256 bytes  
modified date 12/3/98

If either of these files is incorrect, exit all Office programs, rename *both* files, and then run Internet Explorer Setup and perform a Repair. You may also need to Repair using Microsoft Office 2000 Setup.

Try the following:

Start > Run > "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\1033\Msohelp.exe" /regserver > OK

This will re-register the Microsoft Office Help program.

In the Registry, go to HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\HTML Help and view the list of registered CHM (the help files have a CHM extension) files. If the CHM file you are trying to use is not registered, this can cause a problem. In this case, use Office 2000 Setup to remove the program(s) in which Help is not working, and then reinstall the program(s).

If your help window does not appear, you may be able to correct the problem by deleting the following key from the registry:

HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\9.0\Common\HelpViewer

Delete this folder, or all of the values stored within. Exit and restart your Office 2000 programs, and see if Help appears correctly.

#### Handy Technical Info for Installing Office 2000

*(IE5WindowsInstaller)* Please remember that Internet Explorer 5.0 does *not* use Windows Installer technology. You cannot correct Windows Installer problems by installing or removing Internet Explorer 5.0.

*(ScanregRegsvr32)* If you are receiving registry-related error messages when installing Office 2000 or using any of the programs included in Office 2000, take note of the following:



If you have Windows 98, you can use Scanreg to scan the registry for errors and correct any detected problems.

To run Scanreg and look for errors in the registry while in Windows, Start > Run > "scanreg" > OK.

To run Scanreg and correct errors in the registry, restart your computer, hold down the CTRL key, and boot to the Command Prompt. Type "scanreg /fix" and press ENTER.

To optimize your registry using Scanreg, type "scanreg /opt" and press ENTER.

To re-register a specific file in the registry while in Windows, Start > Run > "regsvr32 <filename>" OK. *This can be useful if you receive Error 1904 or any other error message that mentions a specific file.*

*(DualBootSituation)* If you have a dual-boot system (for example, Windows 98 and Windows NT), and want to run Office 2000 in *both* operating systems, you must install Office 2000 *twice*, once under each OS. If you want to customize Office settings in one OS and migrate the settings to the other OS, use the Office Profile Wizard to do this.

#### Things Not To Forget

Please remember to disable ALL anti-virus programs and all other non-essential programs when you are installing Office 2000!

You should *not* use the Eraser97 utility on a computer where any Office 2000 components are installed. Doing so will remove your Of-

Continued on next page...

Office 97 files, but it will also *break* your Office 2000 applications.

Make sure you don't have any other programs running when you run Office 2000 Setup, especially anti-virus programs!

Office 2000 Setup creates a log file every time you install Office 2000 on your computer. These log files are stored in the C:\WINDOWS\TEMP folder, and they can be invaluable if you have trouble with an installation.

In order to query the KB, sometimes you have to have the exact message, or you won't be able to find what you're looking for.

### Content Watch

Some of the solid information sites that are maintained are:

There is a *lot* of new content available on the Office Update web site at <http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/>.

Highlights for Office 2000 are available on the Support web site at <http://support.microsoft.com/support/default.asp?PR=ofw2k&FR=0&SD=SO&>.

Don't forget to check out the Microsoft Office 2000 Resource Kit (ORK2000) at <http://www.microsoft.com/office/ork/>.

Also, remember that all Microsoft Y2K information may be found online at <http://www.microsoft.com/y2k/>.

You can download Eraser97 from the following URL:

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q176/8/23.asp>

You can download RegClean 4.1 from the following URL:

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q147/7/69.asp>

If you have specific questions, send them to us at [questions@microsoft.com](mailto:questions@microsoft.com), and we will try to address them in this column.

*Bob Russell*  
Member Number 105

## BEWARE THE 'Sandbox' Bug!

*From Gil Brand*

To all NTPCUG members:

There is a new, potentially very dangerous security "bug" that has been discovered in Microsoft's Internet Explorer 4 & 5. This bug allows a malicious web site to run a Java applet that could do anything it chooses to your system. I recommend installation of the patch if you run Internet Explorer 4 or 5.

Note that there have been NO reports of such web sites, but the likelihood increases now that the bug has been publicly announced.

READ the installation instructions (on the MS download web page) carefully. There is a manual step AFTER the installation process reboots your machine.

Also, We need some volunteer help to do this type of research and 'spread the word'. Preferably someone who is experienced with security issues and/or does this as part of their day job. Email me at [gil.brand@ntpcug.org](mailto:gil.brand@ntpcug.org) if available.

Please read the following alert from

Microsoft:

*Gill Brand...*

### Microsoft Security Bulletin (MS99-031)

Patch Available for "Virtual Machine Sandbox" Vulnerability

Originally Posted: August 25, 1999

#### Summary

Microsoft has released a patch that eliminates a security vulnerability in the Microsoft(r) virtual machine (Microsoft VM). The vulnerability could allow a Java applet to take virtually any action on the computer of a web site visitor.

Frequently asked questions regarding this vulnerability can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/security/bulletins/MS99-031faq.asp>

Continued on next page...



**BEWARE THE 'Sandbox' Bug! ...Ctd. FROM PAGE 10****The Issue**

The Microsoft VM is a virtual machine for the Win32(r) operating environment. It runs atop Microsoft Windows(r) 95, 98 or Windows NT(r). It ships as part of each operating system, and also as part of Microsoft Internet Explorer. [Ed. Note: The VM is designed to run Java applets in a "Virtual Sandbox" and not allow access to other areas on the user's PC.]

The version of the Microsoft VM that ships with Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 and Internet Explorer 5.0 contains a security vulnerability that could allow a Java applet to operate outside the bounds set by the sandbox and take any desired action on the user's computer. If such an applet were hosted on a web site, it could act against the computer of any user who visited the site.

**Affected Software Versions**

Microsoft VM, all builds in the 2000 and 3000 series

NOTE: The affected versions shipped primarily as part of Internet Explorer 4.0 and 5. The FAQ provides instructions for determining the specific build on your machine.

**Patch Availability**

[http://www.microsoft.com/java/vm/dl\\_vm32.htm](http://www.microsoft.com/java/vm/dl_vm32.htm)

**More Information**

Please see the following references for more information related to this issue.

- Microsoft Security Bulletin MS99-031: Frequently Asked Questions, <http://www.microsoft.com/security/bulletins/MS99-031faq.asp>.

- Microsoft Knowledge Base (KB) article Q240346, Malicious Java Applet may be able to Read, Write, or Delete Files on the Computer of a Web Site Visitor, <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q240/3/46.asp>.

- Microsoft Security Advisor web site, <http://www.microsoft.com/security/default.asp>.

**Obtaining Support on this Issue**

This is a fully supported patch. Information on contacting Microsoft Technical Support is available at <http://support.microsoft.com/support/contact/default.asp>.

**Acknowledgments**

Microsoft acknowledges Xerox PARC for bringing this issue to our attention.

**Revisions**

- August 25, 1999: Bulletin Created.

[Ed. Note: Acquiring the patch to "cure" the sandbox vulnerability is simple, but may be time-consuming if the user has a "slow" dial-up connection. Go to [http://www.microsoft.com/java/vm/dl\\_vm32.htm](http://www.microsoft.com/java/vm/dl_vm32.htm) and follow the download instructions. This file is very large, 6.3 megabytes in size!

The instructions at the download site may not be as complete as those on the FAQ, since, as Gill states, you will need to do one more step after installing the patch for Win 9x and NT, and this involves getting to a command prompt.

Easiest way is to use the Windows "Start" + "Run" and then type "COMMAND" on the box command line, then pressing "Enter" on the keyboard.. You will see a DOS box with the usual blinking prompt. Type the following:

```
clspack -auto
```

(There's a single space between "clspack" and "-auto," and it's important.)

Each time I have booted my PC since entering the IE patch, I've gotten a message asking which file-type I wish to use to open Microsoft OFFICE.ACS. I have no idea what this means and everything appears to be functional so far, but it is still somewhat troublesome. I'm sending MS an E-mail describing this situation and asking for further clarification/instructions.]

Reagan

# INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

### Photo Op

The Monthly meeting of the NTPCUG at Big Town is obviously a computer-purposed thing. We want to know more about our computers. We want to talk to other computer users. We also want to enjoy the convenience of being able to purchase software and hardware at very competitive prices at the DFW Xchange Vendor Showcase. We want to be able to recall the events as pleasant experiences. We want a memento of the moment. It is good to be able to relive the day's activity through Newsletter articles in the weeks between meetings.

The SIG Reports columns in the North Texas PC News are crammed full of reminders of the previous meeting, news of the upcoming meeting, and are written by the most dedicated volunteers in the known universe. Photographs in previous issues of the newsletter have immortal-

ized some. A quick scan of recent photo's turned up the following: Tom Browning, Spike Smith, Pat Hykkonen, Marsha Drebelbis, Jim Carter, Reagan Andrews, Alan Brosz, Don Benish, and Charles Miller to name a few. SIG Leaders who were not caught on film recently, but who faithfully send in their SIG notes include Larry Linson, Frank Cavallito, Eb Foerster, Sam and Pamela Lugo, Doug Gorrie, Chris Carmichael, Timothy Carmichael, Dick Richtman and Kathryn (Kathy) Kirby, Neal Berkowitz, Gil Brand, Phil Faulkner, Michele Wood and Cindy Adams.

You never know when the camera will capture you. You may be doing your volunteering bit like Richard Blair, or just having a darn good time watching the proceedings. Hundreds of members (volunteers included) have been captured in silver emulsion or magnetic media for past or future publications. You may already be close to fame and recognition in this month's issue. The news correspondent

or photojournalist is drawn to groups or rooms full of members enjoying a SIG presentation or a question / answer session. If instant fame is not your lot, then you will at least spend an hour discussing the new technology in a learning atmosphere. There is no experience as much fun as reading an article and suddenly noticing your own picture on the page. I will be scanning to find your picture in future copies of the North Texas PC News.

Many volunteers spend several hours every month doing such duties as: publishing this newsletter, leading a SIG, managing the Web page, arranging furniture, printing handout bulletins, assigning class room spaces, and scheduling times for those classes. Every volunteer is important to the overall quality of the monthly meeting of the User Group. Come to the next meeting and tell someone how much you appreciate their volunteering. The names of

some of those volunteers are listed below or elsewhere in this newsletter.

#### Big Town Liaison

Andy Reese  
Robert Hilliard  
Alex Lilley

#### Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchor:  
David Slavik  
Dick Abbott  
James Hope  
Crew:  
Kenneth Berg  
Dennis Brininger  
Lester Foley  
Larry Matzek  
James Webb

#### Main Presentation

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  
Cinda Lovil  
David Martin  
Bob McNeil (Double)  
Raymond Reyes  
Ken Santer  
Fred Toulmin

Booth Crew:

Jo Francis Byrd  
Randy Durham  
Eteta Eta  
Tim Foster (Double)  
Joe Hopkins  
Neil Jochelson  
John McNeil (Double)  
Martin Moomaw  
Linda Moore  
Oscar Tyler  
Thomas Ward  
Don Wolfe

### VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. **Via the Internet:** Send me an E-mail at [CMcC1248@aol.com](mailto:CMcC1248@aol.com) and make the subject matter your area of interest.

2. **Meeting day:** Sign up at the Information Booth to work that area in a coming month.

3. **By phone:**

#### Auditorium Presentations

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

#### Information Booth and General Information

Claude McClure. . . . . (972) 867-0978 (h)

# Selected SIG REPORTS . . .

## News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent 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

Coming in September: NTPCUG Member, **Martin Hellar**, is also a reseller of interactive CDs from the **Virtual Training Company**. He will demonstrate for the SIG the VTC training CD on Access 97. The Access 2000 version, he says, is "in the works" but the availability date has not been announced – in the parlance of the computer trade, that's "Real Soon Now". Martin always offers a substantial discount (15%) to NTPCUG members, and he's offering an even deeper discount (20%) to attendees at our September meeting. If you want more information in the meanwhile, Martin tells us that Virtual Training Company has a Web site, <http://www.vtco.com>. Martin's small-town newspaper, the *Sedan (Kansas) Times Star*, has a section on the CDs, at their Web site,

<http://www.sedantimesstar.com>. You can reach Martin at [martinh7@gower.net](mailto:martinh7@gower.net). VTC will be providing a CD for our usual drawing for "Valuable Prizes". For a change the prize will be more than demo code and freeware that Larry has accumulated on a diskette.

**Coming in October:** SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will discuss three approaches to handling images and photos in Access databases and considerations in deciding which to use in a particular set of circumstances. (1) Storing images as OLE Objects and using bound OLE Controls to display can be easy to implement but significantly increases storage needed and requires that each computer have an OLE automation-enabled application installed to display the image. (2) Displaying images stored separately

### FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

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

#### New SIGs:

- **Games SIG** [Contact Chris Carmichael @ (214) 331-6303 h or [chris.carmichael@ntpcug.org](mailto:chris.carmichael@ntpcug.org)]
- **Professional MIDI SIG** [Contact Timothy Carmichael @ (972) 566-4626 w or [timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org](mailto:timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org)]

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

- **Visual Basic - Advanced needs a new SIG Leader** Contact Jim Carter @ (972) 235-5968 h]
- Help Center** [Contact Reagan Andrews @ 214-828-0699h or [reagan.andrews@ntpcug.org](mailto:reagan.andrews@ntpcug.org)]
- **Excel/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.

### SIG LEADER LISTINGS

#### SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley (972) 517-7430 h

#### Access

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 Tom Browning ... (214) 692-9784 h  
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 Neel Cotten ..... (214) 904-0011  
 Jack Atkinson .... (817) 481-6623 h  
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 ..... (972) 716-3281 w  
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#### Communications

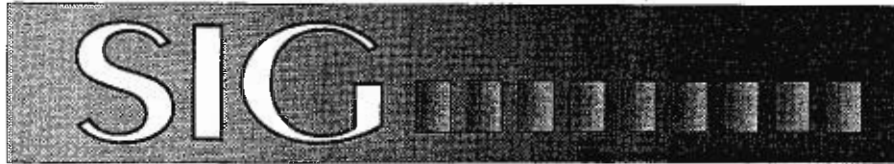
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 Susan Biggs ..... (214) 340-7794

#### DOS/Operating Systems

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in disk files is simple and eliminates the need for the automation server, but raises issues of redundant storage in multi-user environments and exposes the image files to "outside influences" (accidental deletion, for example). (3) Storing the images in the database, but as "Binary Large Objects (BLOBs)" rather than as OLE objects can reduce storage needs and eliminate the requirement for each user to have an automation server installed, but increases processing time. Live demonstrations will augment the discussion and, as usual, expect a giveaway of valuable prizes.

**In August:** Dan Ogden, attorney, Leader of the ActiveX Application Developers SIG, presented an overview of the *Microsoft Office 2000* release and began his presentation of *Access 2000* (with demonstrations of features as he discussed them). He continued this two-hour joint session at 12:00 in the ActiveX Application Developers SIG. Dan has a most impressive demonstration – he tells me it is nearly 200 PowerPoint slides and, amazingly, is almost entirely emphasizing only new or enhanced features. That means, to me, that this is a most impressive release of Microsoft Office, although there is controversy and concern in the Access development community over certain features and functions, and few people have expressed enthusiasm for the new HTML Help engine. Dan plans to complete the Access 2000 presentation and discuss other Office software in the September meeting of the ActiveX Application Developers SIG – see that article for more information.

**Microsoft®**  
**Access**

Our August giveaway was a copy of the QUE Publishing book *Using Microsoft Publisher 97 – The Fast and Easy Way to Learn*, by Ed Willett, and there was also a copy for everyone of an "official Access SIG bookmark" printed in full color with the Access SIG logo. If you didn't get yours in August, there are a few bookmarks left over – ask Larry for one in September.

**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*). We are still seeking volunteers: volunteers to speak to the SIG, volunteers to help with administrative duties, and volunteers to contact SIG members to remind them of meetings. We earnestly solicit your participation – with enough help, the workload will be light for all of us. Come join us in September and we'll try to both inform and entertain you.

Larry Linson

## ActiveX Application Developers

**Office 2000 in August:** SIG Leader Dan Ogden spoke at a two-hour joint session of this SIG and the Microsoft Access SIG, presenting an overview of the *Microsoft Office 2000* release and beginning his presentation of *Access 2000* (with demonstrations of features as he discussed them). Dan's presentation is very impressive – nearly 200 PowerPoint slides and, amazingly, is almost entirely emphasizes only new or enhanced features. That indicates, also, a most impressive release of Microsoft Office, although there is controversy and concern in the Access development community over certain fea-

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 Sherry Covert

**WordPerfect / Windows**

Cindy Adams ..... (817) 481-1300 wM  
 ..... Fx: 817-481-1303  
 cadams11@flash.net  
 Diane Bentley

tures and functions, and few people have expressed enthusiasm for the new HTML Help engine.

**and September:** Dan will complete the Access 2000 presentation and discuss other Office software in the September meeting of the *ActiveX Application Developers SIG*. Although Access 2000, with its database and Web development enhancements, has stolen a lion's share of the press coverage, there are enhancements to every software component of *Microsoft Office 2000*. One of the newsworthy ones is that Microsoft has "frozen" the file formats for Word and Excel, so that a Word document or an Excel spreadsheet created in Word 2000 or Excel 2000 can be read and used in Word 97 or Excel 97 — they say they will continue this in the future, but warn that you may lose some features of the new release when using the files with the older releases.

**Likely topics for October:** Our topic for October hasn't been decided, but we've talked about doing something on one of the following: (1) More on Office 2000 (seems it is an inexhaustible subject), (2) Reviews of a book pertinent to the interests of the SIG, or two or three, as time permits, by Dan or Larry or both, (3) More on ActiveX Data Objects and OLEDB, Microsoft's chosen successor for both Data Access Objects (DAO) programming and Open Database Connection (ODBC), (4) A tutorial on *Microsoft Front Page 2000* or detail review of a sample chapter or two of one of the Microsoft Press self-study books on Front Page, or (5) a topic on which we might receive "sudden and unexpected inspiration" in the meanwhile. Expect more information at the September meeting; it should be decided by then.

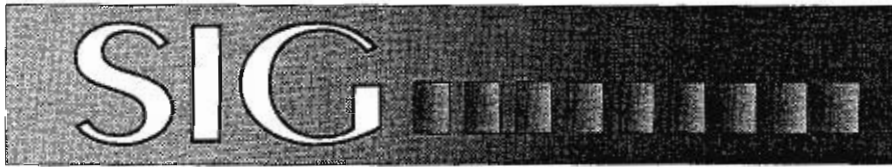


The ActiveX Application Developers SIG addresses issues of developing applications under the Component Object Model (COM) using ActiveX Controls and other ActiveX components. Just because so many of our attendees work in Microsoft Office and other software using it, we have considerable emphasis on Office and VBA issues. But, don't forget, ActiveX components and VBA are not at all limited to Microsoft products — there's a long list of products now using VBA as their programming (that used to be called "macro") language. *Visio* was the first to do so. A surprising addition to that list was Corel's Word Perfect. We still ask and answer a few questions about Open Database Connection (ODBC) technology, too, but the questions now are concentrating on ActiveX Data Objects (ADO) because it is new and because Microsoft is touting it as the replacement for all previous data access methods. 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 as in Internet applications. That's one of the attractive features: one type of control, usable in many environments. Many of the topics we cover are of interest to developers using other tools, working in other environments — for example, some such subjects we have covered in

### NOTICE TO SIG LEADERS

We would like to be sure the information we list for you in the SIG Leader listing is current. Please take a minute to review your listing/s and let us know if there are any corrections or additions that need to be made.

Please send changes to:  
[newsletter@ntpcug.org](mailto:newsletter@ntpcug.org).



the past were "Pos and Cons of Different Types of Contract," "Documenting System Specifications," and "Structured Analysis and System Specification."

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

*Larry Linson*

### Assembler

Because of out of town travel requirements, I will not be at the September SIG meetings (given our recent attendance history this may not be a major problem), and we will resume the SIG meetings in October with the presentation on Fast Software Encryption originally scheduled for July.

Please note - the handouts for most prior presentations, as well as additional material, such as complete source code, executables, etc, is available by e-mail. Simply message me at [fcava1@subell.net](mailto:fcava1@subell.net) (that is the number 1 in the e-mail address), letting me know which prior presentation(s) you are interested in.

Join us in October. As usual, suggestions for presentation topics are welcome.

*Frank Cavallito*

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Beam is Coming!

The August meeting for the Communications SIG was a huge success to say the least. We had ample A/C has opposed to heat (ha-ha-ha) and conducted a Q/A session

that was "rip roaring". We discussed 56k modem issues, DSL access from SBC and GTE, the new cable modem service, MS DUN 1.3, and the Beam. The Beam, a part of CS Wireless Incorporated, was particularly interesting as our Comm SIG group is attempting to connect the Beam service to the NTPCUG. The service would be provided "free of charge" based upon the NTPCUG advertising the Beam in our WEB page and monthly newsletter. Lots of details still need to be worked out (like scheduling a site visit for signal strength!) but we are confident the Beam will come through for us. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting opportunity.

Our September meeting is still open for suggestions. Right now we are trying to get the Beam to do a presentation to our group. Alternately we will talk about 56k line problems and how to diagnose. The line conditions are important when you operate with 56k modems but sometimes one cannot obtain the V.90 connection speeds advertised. We will try to discuss line impairments and how they effect V.90 transmission. Also why connections occur but immediately drop afterwards.

So if you are interested in communications and have a desire to be-

come involved with the NTPCUG, please join us at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Communications SIG. You will become "connected real quick"!

*Alan Brosz & Birl Smith*

### Dallas COREL

September 1999

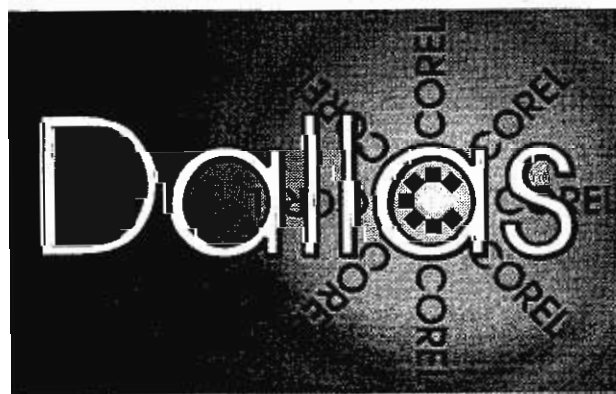
Corel and Entrepreneurial Tools

Wes and Judy Loper, longtime CorelDRAW and PHOTO-PAINT users, from Art Design & Sign, will share how they use Corel graphic software in their business at our September 18 meeting. We are pleased to have these talented artists in a return engagement at our SIG. For their sign company, their fine art work and their Web page, they use Corel in many ways to produce business forms. Learn the secrets of how they creatively solve and simplify business problems by multiple use of their artwork for various publication media. Join us in September for an intriguing and valuable session.

August in Review

Trace Calverly brought fabulous high-resolution examples of files output at BWC Imaging Labs to share with us at our August 21 Dallas Corel meeting. We had an excellent turnout for our 2-hour session in Room H. Since the photographic world is going digital, we enjoyed seeing results of and hearing about

the latest technology output available to us. Well known in photographic and graphic design circles for decades, BWC Photo Lab has been a Dallas institution on Maple Street. Now they've expanded to include a "BWC North" location



*Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group*

in Richardson. Since BWC is "Corel-file friendly", we were pleased to learn production tips and get creative ideas for successful digital imaging output. BWC serves a broad range of markets, including museums, corporate trade shows, POP, presentation posters, photo restorers and consumers. If you need to make super high-resolution archival prints, photo CDs, back-lit displays or up to 4- by 8-foot posters, BWC Imaging Labs could be the service bureau for you. All of Dallas Corel's attendees received BWC catalogs and discount coupon books for future purchases at BWC, and several members were lucky winners of great door prizes. For more info, call Trace at (972) 231-0002 or visit <http://www.bwc.net>.

**Service Pack**

**Service Pack 1 for CorelDRAW 9 and CorelPHOTO-PAINT 9 is now available. If you already own the initial release (version 9.337), you should update it with the FREE Service Pack 1 (version 9.397). Either download it from <http://www.corel.com/support/ftp/site/pub/coreldraw/draw9sui>**

**IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS**

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

- ❖ Technical Support Representatives..... 888-267-3548
- ❖ 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



*te/Draw9 service pack 1.htm* or order it on CD by calling Corel Customer Service 1-800-772-6735. The service pack is a 12.5 MB file and will take some time to download. If you choose to order the CD through Corel Customer Service, the usual shipping and handling costs of \$9.95 will apply.

**Courses**

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

David Huss's Scanning Seminar in Austin will be scheduled in September or October, exact date to be announced. Contact Jane Leaverton, Continuing Education, Austin Community College, 5930 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, Texas 78752, phone (512) 223-7868 or e-mail her at [accjane@austin.cc.tx.us](mailto:accjane@austin.cc.tx.us) for details.

**Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG**

- ❖ Aug/98 – Presentations 8
- ❖ Sep/98 – Ventura 8
- ❖ Oct/98 – Fine Tuning Your Web Page
- ❖ Nov/98 – Trademark Law for the New Millenium
- ❖ Dec/98 – PHOTO-

**PAINT 8 Effects**

- ❖ Feb/99 – Paper for Successful Inkjet Printer Output
- ❖ Mar/99 – DRAW & PAINT Q & A
- ❖ Apr/99 – Scanning For Success
- ❖ Jun/99 – Member Showcase
- ❖ Jul/99 – Virtual Corel Training on CD
- ❖ Aug/99 – Corel Large-Output at Service Bureaus

*Marsha Drebelbis*

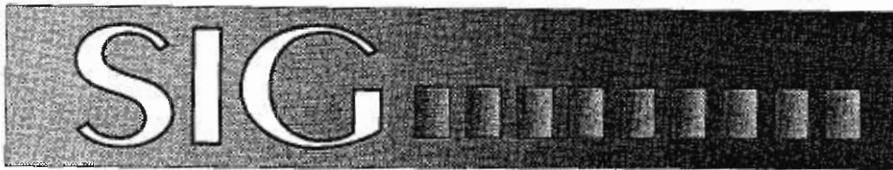
**DOS/Operating Systems**

The DOS/Operating Systems SIG for September will focus on that most joyous of all (next to configuring a PC with "Plug 'n Pray hardware and software) PC tasks — backing up. There are lots of ways to back up, including using the Microsoft-supplied utility in Windows 9x or the DOS version for those still running it. My personal preference is still the Seagate/Veritas Backup Exec, now in version 3.0 for Win 9x.

There are other programs probably as good, but I have and like this package for a number of reasons including the ability to write to almost any media you can imagine and an Emergency Restore operation that really works. But, that's not the point of this note although doing full backups is a very good idea, especially before making any major system changes.

Point here is less than full backups made necessary by incremental





program updates, i.e., program patches like the recent, 6.3 megabyte IE 4&5 "sandbox" patch. It's easy to lose track of all the patches a user can download from various Internet sites, many of which require previous patches before they can be installed.

My solution used to be 3.5" floppies for each vendor. This started getting out of hand since I have a propensity to avoid labeling each floppy, thinking I'll get around to it "later."

ZIP® disks provided a much better solution. I simply created a directory for each vendor and copy the update files immediately after downloading from the Web or FTP site. So far I haven't begun to fill a 100M disk as I also remove those update files that have become obsolete. Even when it is filled, a second ZIP disk will be much easier to keep track of than the 20 or so 3.5" floppies.

I use ZIP because it is available in an internal SCSI form. Actually, any of the removable, high-capacity media should do a fine job in this application.

*Reagan Andrews*

### EXCEL/SPREADSHEET

In September, Michael Bodner, assistant SIG Leader will present examples of the drop-down list box for looking up values for cells. This was a request a couple of months back. We also have a few leftover items from last month's topic of Pivot Tables. As usual we will take questions from the group at the beginning of the meeting.



Upcoming topics at future meetings:

- ❖ Using Lookup functions
- ❖ Creation of dynamic range references using the OFFSET function
- ❖ Using and creating Web queries

At the August meeting we demonstrated Pivot Tables using the Northwind.mdb file as an external data source. Once we established the source query using Microsoft Query we were able to summarize data in the orders and related tables. Within 15-20 minutes we had summarized the data in about a dozen different ways. If you have not tried Pivot Tables, give them a trial. The Pivot Table is by far the most powerful tool available in any Microsoft Product.

See you in September.

*Eb Foerster*  
*eb.foerster@ntpcug.org*

### FRONTPAGE SIG

For all users of Microsoft FrontPage, both programmers and non-programmers, to share their knowledge of the product with regards to web publishing, web application development, and web management for both the Internet and company intranets. Some months we have covered basic topics and other months we have covered some more advanced topics. If you would like to be put on the mailing list so that we can send you an email outlining what we plan to cover, send us an E-mail to: *Pamela@lugo-consulting.com*.

At the FrontPage SIG August meeting:

We demonstrated how to use forms and active server pages to

call up web pages. We had a special demonstration of a very cool ASP editor that was written by one of our SIG members, David Weir. The program is called ASPExpress and you can get it at <http://www.aspexpress.com>

Check out our news page at [www.lugo-consulting.com](http://www.lugo-consulting.com) for more information on the meeting. We also included the pages we developed on our "Active Server Pages"



link to see how its done. Check it out.

At the September SIG meeting:

We ran out of time while David was demonstrating a DSN less connection to a database. We will pick up where we left off, allowing David to demonstrate the additional features of ASPExpress. Our October meeting should continue with the demonstration of FrontPage 2000.

*Sam & Pamela Lugo*

### GAMES

SIG Leader: Chris Carmichael, *chris.carmichael@ntpcug.org*, H 214-331-6303

SIG Asst. Leader: Timothy Carmichael, *timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org*, W 972-566-4626

This newly-formed SIG will focus on computer games and how to play them, whether role-playing games (RPG), action games, or educational games. We will review current and upcoming games, discuss strategies for specific games, and share opinions and learning experiences. Bring games to swap with others, and bring PC game magazines to add to the library. If you want to learn more about

what games you and your parents would like to buy, come join us. In August we will be gathering suggestions for which vendors to invite to the November main meeting, when we will have our annual PC/Apple Games Show.

*Chris Carmichael*

## GENEALOGY - THE MASTER GENEALOGIST

We meet off-site on a different day than on our User Group meeting day. Check the Web page for the TMG Users Group meeting time, date and location at [www.pioneerinfo.com/tmg/](http://www.pioneerinfo.com/tmg/).

*Jeri Steele*

## HELP CENTER

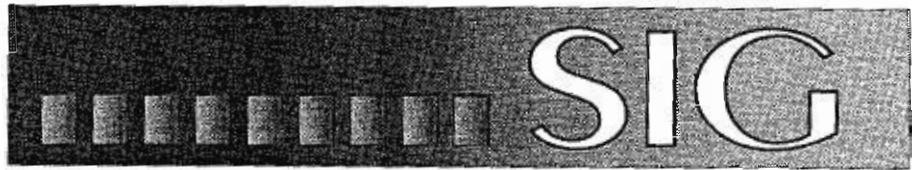
The Help Center was back in operation at the August Meeting with help for users and handouts describing the NTPCUG and Apple Corps SIGs and their schedules along with maps of the SIG area.

### 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

The Help Center is an effort to reach out to users in the Vendor Area who are having problems with their PC's and to let them know about the users groups across the way. 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-



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

*Reagan Andrews*

## INTERNET - BEGINNING

The Internet continues to be a fascinating medium for communicating information. Within our User Group, we provide free Internet e-mail as a basic member benefit, and have been doing so for years.

Just recently, after moving from our old Bulletin Board System (BBS) to our new Windows NT server, we began providing "newsgroups" to our members as a means to communicate throughout the month. Newsgroups are conference areas where you can leave questions and information intended for the membership at large. Messages left in newsgroups can be viewed by other members at their option, and at whatever time they prefer. If a question is being asked, another member will hopefully know that answer.

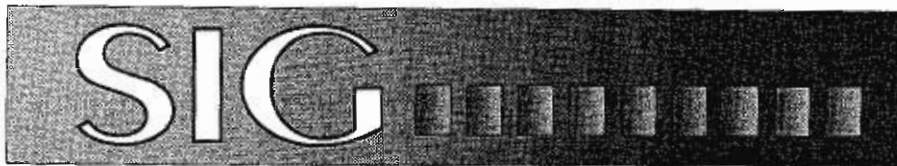
Newsgroups do not require that the involved parties be online simultaneously. Messages posted to a newsgroup remain there until removed by an administrator, or until "canceled", so can be read anytime. Replies to an initial message are associated together as a "thread", meaning that the original message and any subsequent re-

plies are grouped together to make reading them easier.

There are both public and private newsgroups. The publicly available newsgroups on the Internet are referred to as Usenet newsgroups, and number well over 20,000. Many contain very useful information. Others are associated with topics that the average person would never begin to consider "normal". Just looking at the list of newsgroups is an experience in itself. You "subscribe" to the ones you want to review, and ignore the others.

Our User Group newsgroups are private, intended for members only. For that reason, registration is needed to confirm your membership, at which time your name will be added to our "Newsgroup" server. To register, send an e-mail to [postmaster@ntpcug.org](mailto:postmaster@ntpcug.org), and advise of your name, member number, and membership expiration date. Include the ID you want to logon with, and your desired password. You will receive a reply when you are set up. If you already have an NTPCUG e-mail account, we suggest using the same logon name and password for newsgroups, just to make it easier to remember.

Once registered, you will need to configure a newsgroup reader so it knows where to find our newsgroups. Newsgroup software is built in to Internet Explorer and Netscape. There are other such products available as shareware or for purchase, such as Free Agent from Forte' ([www.forteinc.com](http://www.forteinc.com)). Instructions for setting up the Internet Explorer version were provided in the June 1999 newsletter, or can be e-mailed to you after you request registration.



At the **September meeting**, we plan to demonstrate how to set up a browser to retrieve newsgroups. Bring your questions and we'll see if we have the answers.

In August, we discussed **SPAM**, the Junk Mail of the Internet. Whether a "newbie" or a professional Web surfer, we are all impacted by it. SPAM takes up space on your hard drive, increases the length of your downloads, and generally wastes your time as you decide whether these items are worth reading (they usually are not). We talked about what constitutes SPAM, how to reduce the likelihood of being added to SPAM mailing lists, and what you can do to "get even" when it arrives. The questions rolled over to the Advanced Internet SIG as well.

See you September 18<sup>th</sup> !!

*Doug Gorrie, and Tom O'Keefe*

**INTERNET - 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.

At our June meeting 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.

In July we discussed Data Security on the Internet. Stay tuned and we

will cover all of the other issues mentioned above.

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

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PC**

Hooray for some climate control. In case you were one of those missing from our August meeting and had not too fond memories of the overly warm July meeting, our comfort control system performed well during this 100<sup>o</sup> F. day . We expect it (as well as our fine seminar and discussion leaders) to perform well again for all of you at our September meeting

Our SIG meeting discussed modems, muldems and how to tell

their difference in that one is a modulator/demodulator and the other is a multiplexer/demultiplexer. I suspect last month's entry masked this difference due to "spell check" by the editing staff disallowing some more current terminology. Spreadsheets were uncovered. Lots of suggestions were made for avoiding the pitfalls emanating from marketing hype and psycho-babble while selecting new and upgrading hardware.

Be sure to plan for your earning of the Intro to the PC certificate. It is yours for following the rules of Intro class attendance.

This month's three one-hour sessions will *uncover* the following:

**PC Printers** - their initial and relative costs, quality of output, and which type is best for you. Laser jet, ink jet, ribbon type, and old standby dot matrix with hammer and pins - each of these have a par-

**Introduction to the PC Class Schedule**

Class #	Date	Time	Subject
10	Sept. 18	10:00 A.M.	PC Printers
11		Noon	Networks and Such
12		1:00 P.M.	Neat & Necessary Software
13	Oct. 16	10:00 A.M.	Multimedia Software & Hardware
14		Noon	Virus Protection & Utilities
15		1:00 P.M.	PCs Into The 21st Century
	Nov. 13	10:00 AM	"Review"
		Noon	Bring in all your
		1:00 P.M.	"Intro" questions
1	Dec. 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
4	Jan.	10:00 AM	Microsoft Windows
5		Noon	PC Graphics
6		1:00 P.M.	Word Processing

ticular use where they stand out above the others.

**Networks and Such** - an introduction to the need for networks, do you have one, and do you need one? Networking is not like making hundreds of telephone contacts and handshakes; with the telecommunications system, it is how can all these hardware and software devices interconnect and interact; to allow us better man-machine interface and person to person communication. We will identify basic dial-up and wired networks.

**Neat and Necessary Software** - is an overview of necessary items like editors, back up programs, and neat stuff will include the likes of screen grabbers, HTML short cuts, image converters, and just plain useful stuff. Some fine programs such as Adobe's Acrobat Reader will come free for the asking.

Bring your friends and your relative questions. Enjoy. We also need your help as a presenter and for small details like attendance records, handouts, and big details like taking over an hour or two every month.

*Harold (Spike) Smith*

## INVESTORS

In September we will have a Y2K check list to review. This list has some hints and tips and a few articles to keep us thinking about the "New Millennium." Also there will be some technical analysis discussion. We are looking for some other people to speak on charting programs or other topics of interest to investors. Come and join us.

We welcome anyone interested in learning and sharing ideas.

*Dick Richtman and Kathryn  
(Kathy) Kirby*



## JAVA

Bruce Campbell gave an excellent presentation on the ins and outs of getting Java certification. He covered the process of getting certified and what to expect. He also presented the group with a series of sample questions and showed how tricky they can be. We discussed the benefits of getting certified. If you really want to learn Java, getting certified will make sure you don't overlook anything. To study for the test is to learn things about Java you would probably never learn any other way.

Next month, I will try to have a presentation demonstrating Java on a Linux box. I plan to bring my Linux computer on which I recently loaded Java. Hopefully, it will be a demonstration of how well and truly Java is cross-platform and what the differences might still be. If you have Java apps or applets that you would like to see how they run on a Linux box, send me an e-mail at [dbenish@airmail.net](mailto:dbenish@airmail.net) and we will work out the best way to do this. I will probably not have time to get them running if you just bring them to the meeting.

For November we have scheduled a presentation by NuMega Tools of their suite of software tools that allows debugging and error detection in Visual Studio but using non-MS jvms. This meeting will be in conjunction with Advanced VB which is the hour previous to ours, so it may be worthwhile to attend



both presentations. I may try to move our meeting to the same room so we can be contiguous.

I still need ideas for October's meeting. Some one suggested a group project. Maybe we can put our heads together and think up some application we can do together.

*Don Benish*

## MICROGRAFX

The Micrografx SIG will be undergoing some significant changes over the next few months. While things are still in a bit of flux, we do have the following bits of information.

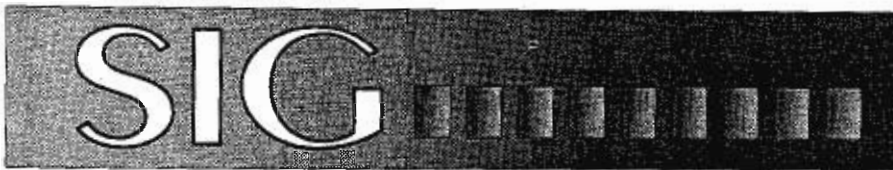
1. Micrografx is pulling back support of Picture Publisher. We don't know yet if this is permanent or a temporary action but it puts the SIG into an awkward state since most of our time has been spent on Picture Publisher.

2. Micrografx has moved to Allen. We will probably be able to keep using their site for our SIG but we also have the option of moving to Big Town.

Several suggestions have been made including broadening our focus to include more of the Micrografx line including Designer and ABC. The pro of this is that we can continue getting support from Micrografx. The con is that this means that we won't have much new stuff on image editing and enhancing. We have also had the suggestion to once again broaden our focus to more of the graphics programs including (horrors!) Photoshop.

As you can see, the possibilities do not really restrict us but give us more areas for growing. Any suggestions from anyone?

For the time being, we are planning to keep on meeting at the new



Micrografx building the SECOND Saturday of the month until further notice (which might be as little as a single day, sorry). The best way to handle this is to give me your e-mail for communications and announcements. That is the only way you will receive short notice. A second source of information would be to check the SIG listings at [ntpcug.org](http://ntpcug.org), but that is not updated daily. We live in interesting times!

Neal Berkowitz  
nberk@misresource.com

## MS NETWORKING

Next Meeting: September 18, 1999, 8 AM

In August, Doug Curran of Microsoft gave a presentation and demo of MS Proxy Server. See the SIG area on our Web site ([www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org)) for a copy of the presentation. Also, look for the Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS) presentation. Doug presented this topic and demo on Wednesday, 8/25, at the MS Technical Mixer at the Westin Park Central Hotel.

In September, SIG member Rodney Loos will give a presentation on using Win98 Internet Connection Sharing (ICS) with a cable modem.

Here are the suggestions for the next few meetings. We are still looking for volunteers to assist with future presentations.

### Upcoming Schedule:

- ❖ October - NT Resource Kit
- ❖ November - NT Monitoring
- ❖ December - Y2K Check List

- ❖ January - Open for suggestions (email [gil.brand@ntpcug.org](mailto:gil.brand@ntpcug.org)): NT Security, Win2K, etc.

### Previous meetings:

July 1999: No formal presentation this month; only Q&A. We also discussed the need for volunteers to assist with developing future presentations and some NT technical tasks that need to be addressed on the User Group NT server. If you have some experience maintaining an NT server and would like to help, send email to [gil.brand@ntpcug.org](mailto:gil.brand@ntpcug.org).

May 1999: Several die-hards stopped by even though there was no official SIG meeting in May. Suggested topics for future meetings were: Windows 2000; High speed Internet connections: DSL, cable, satellite; NT security; NT Resource Kit tools; SMS; MTS; NT performance monitoring.

### January-April 1999: No meetings

#### 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 95/98.

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.

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.

Gil Brand

## PROFESSIONAL MIDI

SIG Leader: Timothy Carmichael, [timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org](mailto:timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org), W 972-566-4626

SIG Asst. Leader: Chris Carmichael, [chris.carmichael@ntpcug.org](mailto:chris.carmichael@ntpcug.org), H 214-331-6303

MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) has been around since before the IBM PC software started supporting it, and is used by many musicians to control and synchronize multi-instrument performances. The home PC can use MIDI, connected to electronic keyboards and other instruments, to teach students how to play keyboards as well as compose and produce music. We will discuss MIDI features, interfaces, controllers, instruments and software from amateur to professional levels. Come share your experiences and learn more about MIDI.

Timothy Carmichael



## Quicken

We're getting acquainted with our new "BIG TOWN DIGS"- and it seems to be working out just fine.

Our SIG meets in room E @ 9am and offers an opportunity for the newest participants to get launched as well a venue for the more experienced aficionados to stay on the cutting edge. Frequently, questions are presented for group discussion with alternative solutions offered.

At the August session, we had a lively discussion on the several approaches to handling the monthly VISA - transferring the charges to

the various categories and confirming the legitimacy of the individual debits. Occasionally, we are even confronted

with a problem that no one can solve. But, it's rarely due to lack of effort.

Here is a sample of an unsolved "Quicken Challenge". Employee A has a choice in his Qualified Pre-Tax Retirement Plan. Accept \$550/ month for life or alternatively accept \$511./mo with a guaranteed period of 15 years -or life- whichever is longer. Interest rate is assumed to be 6-3/4%. A elects the guaranteed option and wants to show the annuity portion as an asset on his financial statement for family estate purposes.

Using Quicken features, how should A set up the annuity asset account which should be amortized over the 180 guaranteed months?



Solution clue: Treating the pension annuity as a "loan receivable" fails to recognize the 100% (taxable) income nature of the pension payment whereas with a loan receivable only the interest portion is income - the principal being return of capital.

If you think you have an answer, please join our SIG class next month, E-mail to Philfaulkner@prodigy.net or call me at 972/239-0561.

*Phil Faulkner*

### Visual Basic - BEGINNING

The September meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG (now scheduled for September 18, 1999) will feature a continuation of the localization topic begun in the July SIG meeting. Specifically, we will be talking about how to handle multiple languages and currencies so that your application will work properly in Paris, France as well as Paris, Texas!

Last month we held the "For Beginners Only" session and it was well attended. I hope we got a few more converts to Visual Basic. We will repeat this session next February.

The Beginning Visual Basic SIG was formed within the North Texas PC User Group in May of 1993 to serve the needs of those members that were just beginning in Visual Basic. We often have members attend our SIG meetings that have not purchased Visual Basic yet. They want to find out what it is about before they take the plunge. Our purpose is to provide a forum where Beginning Visual Basic programmers can ask

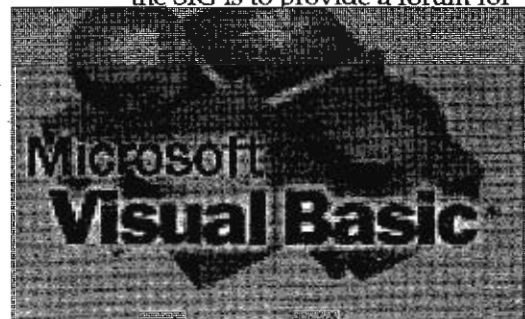
questions without feeling intimidated. Our goal is to help them learn enough to participate in the Advanced Visual Basic SIG. A number of advanced Visual Basic programmers attend the Beginning Visual Basic SIG for the specific purpose of helping the beginners with their programming problems

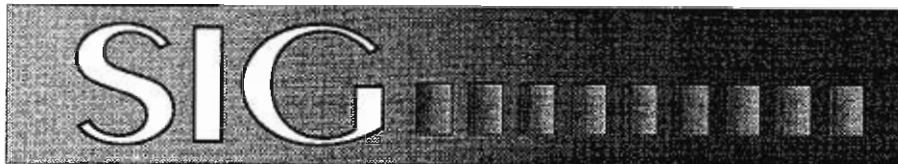
Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 18, 1999 at the Big Town. It seems pretty certain we will be meeting in Room F for the foreseeable future. Check the NTPCUG Web site for any changes in meeting time or place. I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

*Jim Carter*

### Visual Basic - Advanced

The Advanced Visual Basic SIG was formed in the North Texas PC User Group (NTPCUG) in the summer of 1992 and has made the transition from the Infomart to Big Town with the NTPCUG. The SIG membership contains a mixture of new, intermediate and highly skilled Visual Basic programmers who meet monthly to exchange ideas on Visual Basic programming. The meeting generally includes introductions, question and answer session, and a presentation on a particular subject of interest to the group. The main purpose of the SIG is to provide a forum for





Visual Basic programmers to exchange views and share experiences

The September 18, 1999 meeting of the Advanced Visual Basic is scheduled to be a presentation from **Clint Carter of CodeAvionics Software Corp.** on his company's software. CodeAvionics markets "Visual Basic IDE Power Tools" as a collection of Add-On components designed to expedite your development efforts within the Visual Basic IDE (Integrated Development Environment). I expect that Clint will have some "goodies" for door prizes, so don't forget to bring your membership card/latest newsletter.

Future meetings will include a presentation by **Thomas Lewis** on his latest book on Visual Basic and COM+. Thomas will be glad to autograph your copy of his book. As most of you know, Thomas was the leader of the Advanced Visual Basic SIG until recently. In November, the presentation will be on Nu-Mega Tools by **Todd Fessler** of Compuware Corporation. There should definitely be door prizes at these meetings, so bring your proof of NTPCUG membership!

Last month, I presented a discussion of two list boxes linked by code to manipulate items in a list between the two list boxes. A very interactive session followed.

Tom and I are actively seeking presenters for the Advanced Visual Basic SIG meetings. If you have some experiences with Visual Basic that you would like to share with the SIG members, please contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements. Give me a call at (972) 235-5968 or you may e-mail me at [Jim\\_Carter@msn.com](mailto:Jim_Carter@msn.com).

Bring your questions on Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 18, 1999 at the Big Town meeting rooms. Check the NTPCUG Web site for directions to Big Town and this newsletter for location of the meeting rooms. I look forward to meeting you there.

*Jim Carter*

**Word for Windows**

Meeting time: 10:00-10:55 in Room G

Whether your documents consist of a few lines of text or they are complex productions with graphics and tables, you're sure to learn

some tips and skills in the Microsoft Word SIG.

Although we're an informal group, we usually present a planned program with handouts. We're always happy to cover any questions and topics you want covered, as well as share your knowledge and good ideas. Word often provides several methods of achieving the same end result, and we'll all discover different ways of doing things in Word from each other.

We want this SIG to help you solve your Word problems and discover how to do things you didn't know you wanted to do.

*Michele Wood  
(mwood@flash.net) & Sherry Covert*

**North Texas PC**

*Membership*

**Users Group, Inc**

*Application*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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.

# 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**  
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### NTPCUG Officers

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DFW Xchange	<b>Information</b> <a href="http://www.dfwxchange.com">www.dfwxchange.com</a>	(214) 746-3365

### Members Emeritus

**John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)**  
**Phil Chamberlain** **Jim Hoisington**  
**David McGehee** **Stuart Yarus**  
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Password problems?

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### NTPCUG Web Addresses

Home Page: [ntpcug.org](http://ntpcug.org)

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- To e-mail officers and directors: [bod@ntpcug.org](mailto:bod@ntpcug.org)

To e-mail the *PC News* and submit articles:  
[newsletter@ntpcug.org](mailto:newsletter@ntpcug.org)

To e-mail all members who have joined the Members mailing list: [members@ntpcug.org](mailto:members@ntpcug.org)

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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..)



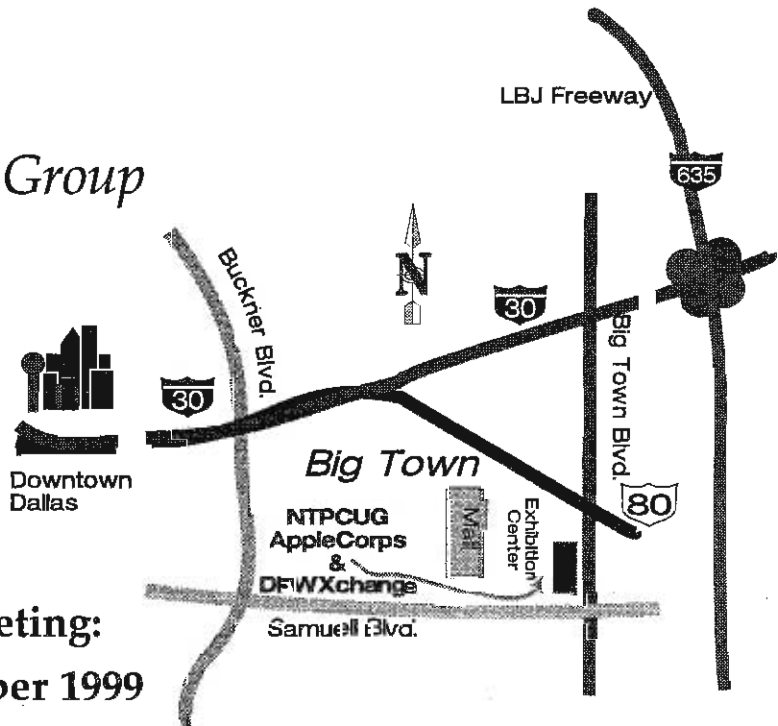
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## North Texas PC Users Group



Next Meeting:  
18 September 1999