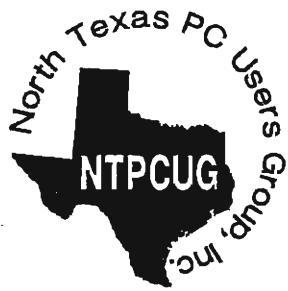


*North Texas*



Price \$3.00

# **PC NEWS**

# **NTPCUG OFFICER ELECTIONS**

**PAGES 4-5**

*January, 2000*  
VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 1

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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.

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**DEADLINE**

Copy deadline for February  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
February 1, 2000

**Meeting Dates:**

January 15 – 3rd Saturday  
February 26 – 4th Saturday  
March 18 – 3rd 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**

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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

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**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*

**NTPCUG JANUARY 15, 2000 MEETING SCHEDULE**

11:00 AM – 11:55 AM

**Main Presentation**

*To be Announced*

12:00 PM – 12:55 PM

**NTPCUG Business Meeting**

***Annual Elections for President and Board of Directors***

**Candidates are:**

***Timothy Carmichael – NTPCUG President***

**Board of Directors Nominees:**

***Gil Brand***

***Marsha Drebelbis***

***Vincent Gaines***

***Bill Parker***

***Michele Wood***

**There will be a drawing for free software as well.\***

---

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

**JANUARY 15**

# SIGs SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

Time	Room	SIG
8:00	A	-
	B	Microsoft Networking
	C	-
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Hardware Solutions
	F	Excel/Spreadsheets
	G	-
9:00	H	-
	A	WordPerfect for Windows
	B	Word for Windows
	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 (continued)
	B	Communications
	C	Main Presentation - Hard Drive Technical Training
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Introduction to the PC

Time	Room	SIG
10:00 - Ctd.	F	Visual Basic - Advanced
	G	-
	H	Dallas Corel (continued)
	-	-
11:00	A	Investors
	B	Internet - Beginning
	C	Main Presentation - Quicken 2000
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Java
	F	Access
	G	ACT!
	H	Games
12:00	A	AppleCorps/ClarisWorks
	B	Internet - Advanced
	C	-
	D	AppleCorps/FileMaker
	E	Introduction to the PC
	F	ActiveX
	G	AppleCorps/Beginners
	H	Professional MIDI & Audio

Time	Room	SIG
12:30	C	NTPCUG Business Meeting
1:00	A	Lotus Notes & Domino
	B	FrontPage
	C	Main Presentation - Partition Magic, Open Linux and More
	D	-
	E	Introduction to the PC
	F	-
	G	AppleCorps/Beginners
	H	-

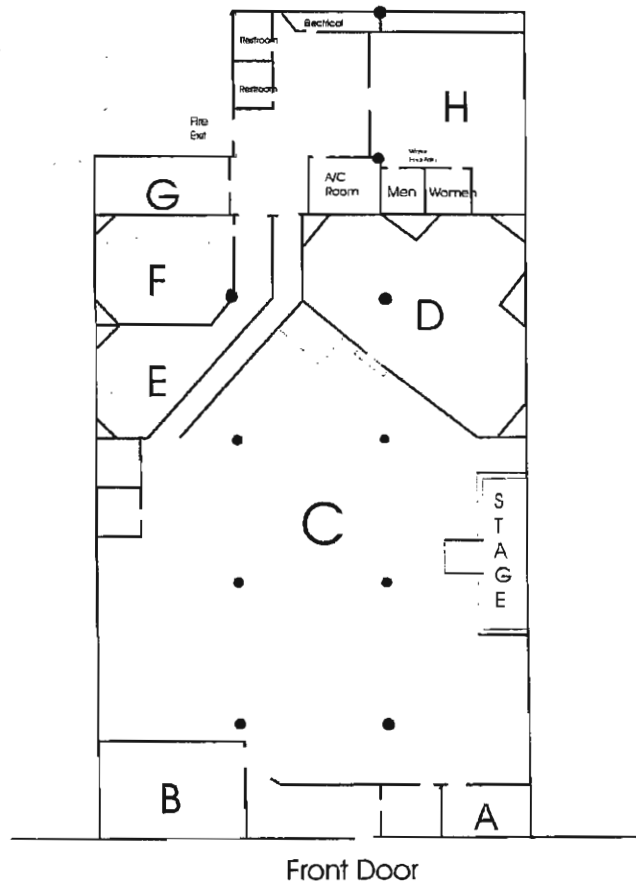
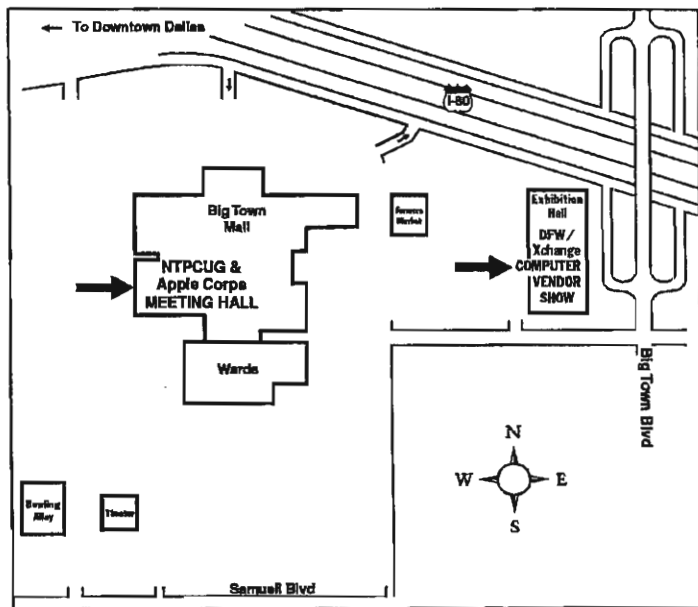
SIG meetings are listed by time and location for the December 18 meeting. Times and locations may change and members are advised to check the NTPCUG Web site for latest listings.

Layout of the new SIG Meeting area and locations of the rooms are found below.

## THE NTPCUG Big Town Mall MEETING SITE

The NTPCUG SIG Meeting area is shown at right. SIG Rooms are designated by letters "A" - "H" The Big Town Mall Site Map is shown below.

### Site Map



# VOTE

Elsewhere in this newsletter is the ballot for the election of the officers and the President. Please vote.

I know there are no choices unless you write in a candidate. When we looked at changing the by-laws, we left the number of directors at five. That makes it hard for us to get a full slate of candidates but it gives our members a broad representation. These people are going to have to make some hard choices in the New Year. So, give them your vote and also answer the question about the newsletter at the bottom of the ballot.

## Vendor Show

We, the officers of DFW Xchange, Apple and NTPCUG, decided that we would not put on a vendor show at Big Town Exhibit Hall this year. We saw no prospect of making money for the user groups.

**Peyton Weaver**, a member of our group, is looking at the possibility of putting on a smaller version of the show. As I write this, Peyton is still exploring the economics of the show. So, there may



or may not be a vendor area at the January meeting.

## MEETING DATES

Since the user groups are no longer tied to the vendor show, we will standardize our meeting date on the third Saturday of the month. **Except, we will be meeting the fourth Saturday in February (February 26<sup>th</sup>)** because we had already scheduled Palm Computing for the fourth Saturday in February.

## NEWSLETTER

The cost of producing the *North Texas PC News* is a major drain on the finances of our User Group each month. Our User Group could realize a sizeable reduction in monthly expenses (printing, binding and bulk mailing) if our members downloaded the newsletter from our Web site.

We would still need to print a small number of newsletters each month for our advertisers, newsletter exchanges, etc., so the newsletter deadline would remain the same. **The deadline for the February issue is January 30.**

The ballot elsewhere in this newsletter asks for your opinion on either raising the dues or publishing the newsletter electronically for our members. The newsletter would not be immediately available to non-members. **Reagan** has suggested that it not be made available to the public for at least three or more months back from the current issue. Please note on your ballot what you think.

## Bylaw Changes

The changes to our bylaws passed unanimously. Thanks to everyone who voted or took time to fill out a proxy. These changes will make it easier for the Board of Directors to make decisions without having to all be in the same room.

Continued on page 6



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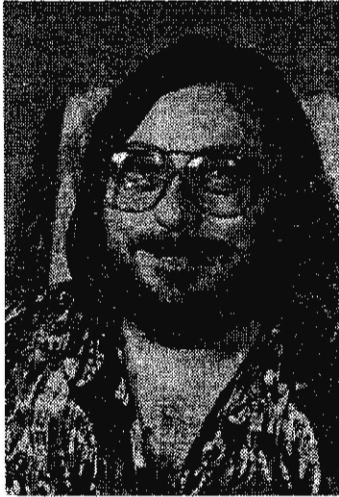
# NTPCUG President-Elect & Board of Director Elections

The North Texas PC Users Group will hold elections for five members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors (BOD) in January. Timothy Carmichael is candidate for NTPCUG President. There is no candidate for President -Elect who is a member of the BOD and serves in that role for one year, then becomes President the following year. The five other Members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors serve one-year terms. A special election for President-Elect will be held later this year.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

# NTPCUG

## & Candidates for Board of Directors



**Timothy Carmichael**

Timothy currently serves as Program Chairman of the NTPCUG and has done so since 1989 when he took over the job of arranging and scheduling vendor presentations for NTPCUG. Timothy is a past member of the Board of Directors and is a Member Emeritus.

As the Program Chairman, he is responsible for arranging the Auditorium vendor presentations at our Saturday meetings and Timothy continues to do an excellent job for us. In his real job, he is an electrical and biomedical engineer doing research, applying computer hardware and software for medical measurement and diagnostic systems.

**Gil Brand**

Gil Brand is a leader of the MS Networking SIG and has been very active in the effort to get the NTPCUG Mail Server online. He has worked with the NTPCUG Board of Directors for the last two years in the online effort and has been a steady consult-



ant in the interface between the NTPCUG Web site and the MS NT servers collaboration. In addition, Gil was one of the volunteers pictured working to get the NTPCUG Meeting Site in shape for the SIG meetings.

**Marsha Drebelbis**

Marsha Drebelbis is currently a Board member and SIG Leader of the Corel SIG, author of the *Corel Corner* column, and came to the NTPCUG in March, 1995, when the Corel group merged with us. She currently operates two design houses, Marsha Drebelbis Studios, a graphics design firm, and Litigation Graphics which serves the legal market with design of demonstrative graphics in Dallas. Marsha earned Bachelors degrees in Art Education and Fine Arts from the University of Kansas, and serves in a Pro Bono capacity with the Dallas Theater Center and Old East Dallas Renaissance Coalition.



**Vincent Gaines**

Vincent has been an active member since 1988. He has been involved in the spreadsheet SIG since it was called the Lotus 123 class. He has served as a volunteer for the DOM club, led sessions for the spreadsheet SIG and served as the old DBASE SIG before it was eclipsed by the MS



Access product. He helps with the physical chores at our new International World Headquarters (the Nerds Nest) in Mesquite, TX and was a key player in getting our new LAN installed. He is the Financial Services Project Manager at the City of Irving. On the home front he is a single father of one very computer literate teenager, has 3 computers, 3 cats, 1 dog, and a lab rat. His personal motto is... Make a Difference Today!

**Bill Parker**

Bill Parker began attending NTPCUG meetings in 1990, and has been a SIG leader of the *Alpha Five* SIG since 1993. He is a computer consultant and most recently helped a company donate two LCD projectors to the NTPCUG.

Bill got a degree in Mathematics from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, before discovering the realities of the

job market That led to a career in the computer Industry.

**Michele Wood**

Michele Wood has been a member of the NTPCUG for nearly three years and is co-leader of the Microsoft Word SIG. She attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City and has a background in graphic design. She is currently a training specialist at State Farm Insurance regional office in north Dallas, developing and teaching classes in Windows NT, Microsoft Office, using & searching the Internet, and several insurance software programs. Michele's two children live in Austin where they are working and attending the University of Texas.



**North Texas PC Users Group  
Official 2000 Election Ballot**

*(Detach and use original ballot*

*— Copies are not acceptable.)*

President: Timothy Carmichael

\_\_\_\_\_

Board of Directors

Gil Brand

Marsha Drebelbis

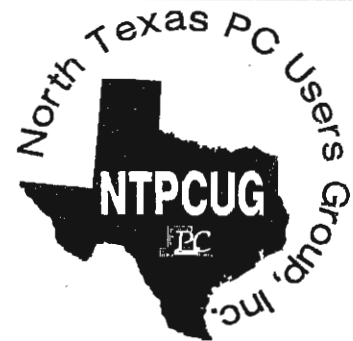
Vincent Gaines

Bill Parker

Michele Wood

Raise the NTPCUG Dues— Or

Make the Newsletter only available as a download from the Web site for NTPCUG members only



Mall Ballot to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449, or bring to the January 15 Meeting. All ballots must be received by the secretary no later than January 15, 2000.

## Web LITERACY

This article is extracted from a Microsoft Web site, and is intended to provide the information that will encourage those who hesitate to publish to the Web. Web sites are fast becoming the medium of choice for many. I have talked with many seniors who found a new lease in life from their Web publishing activities after retirement. Some of them had started businesses, others just worked on it as a means of self-expression - but all enjoy the satisfaction that comes from expressing their creativity, and the confirmation that others enjoy seeing their work.

### An Introduction To Working on the Web With Office 2000

PREZ SEZ... Ctd.

#### Web Site

By the time you read this, our Web site, [www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org), should have undergone still another improvement. At least, that was the report from the Web Content Committee at the last Board of Directors meeting.

Check it out.

Jim ...



Learning how to work effectively on the Web - whether it's the Internet, or a corporate intranet - is fast becoming necessary for business success. Office 2000 offers many tools to help you publish documents to the Web, edit and update them, and share Web-based information with customers or co-workers. Office 2000 can also make it easier for you to hold meetings and broadcast presentations over the Internet. This month, the Office Update Focus highlights many of these new tools and offers ways to incorporate the Web into your everyday work.

#### Creating Documents That Live on the Web

Office 2000 offers many ways to put your documents on the Web. You can create them in their native format, for example in Word, and then publish them to the Web in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). The formatting you add to your Word document translates automatically into HTML.



Join the crowd of NTPCUG Members rushing to make sure their votes are counted at the January 15, 2000 Business Meeting at the Big Town SIG Meeting Site!



Read more about round-trip editing capabilities in "Use Office 2000 to Edit Documents Posted to the Web" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/Roundtripping.htm>).

If you are concerned about how different formatting abilities in Office 2000 appear in different browsers, or you'd like to manipulate formatting for various browsers, read the "Microsoft Office 2000 Browser Compatibility White Paper" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/downloadDetails/o2kbcwp.htm>).

### Creating and Managing a Web Site

Web sites can be anything from one simple page to a very complex site that contains numerous pages and links. FrontPage 2000 has many tools to help you keep track of your site. "Fixing Broken Hyperlinks in FrontPage 2000-Based Webs" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/FPfixlnk.htm>) will show you how FrontPage makes sure your links go somewhere. Use FrontPage reports to track when pages need updating, when site navigation needs some work, or when pages are orphaned.

Publisher easily allows you to create great-looking smaller Web sites that are consistent with your printed publications. Publisher offers the tools to help you design and publish Web pages easily. Read "Your Publisher 2000 Web Site: An Overview" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/articles/PubWOvr.htm>) to learn how to build a Web site using Publisher.

### E-mail and the Web

When you want to create a more formal e-mail document, use the HTML paragraph styles to make it easy. By using paragraph styles you can define how the text looks, in addition to defining formatting elements such as numbered lists and bullets without having to apply these styles individually to each word. The paragraph styles apply to an entire paragraph. For more information

Answers  
**Microsoft®**

read, "Apply HTML Styles to an Outlook 2000 Message" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/olapplyHTMLStyles.htm>).

You can also now send a Web page in e-mail and ensure that all the supporting files are bundled together when you download the Web Archive tool from Office Update. "E-mail a Web Page as a Single E-mail Attachment with Office 2000" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/wWebArchive.htm>) explains how the Web Archive tool works.

### Publishing Charts and Spreadsheets to the Web

This month, learn more about how the new Web Components work in "Publish a Chart and Worksheet to a Web Page with Office 2000" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/owcexample.htm>). With the Web Components, you can create a worksheet and chart in Excel, for example, and then publish them to the Web as interactive data. With the help of this focus article, you can download the accompanying spreadsheet and chart and practice publishing them yourself, or delete the practice data and enter your own to work with.

### Meeting and Collaborating on the Web

You can now meet online and collaborate on documents during the meeting with Microsoft NetMeeting and Office 2000. If you need to work on a

document with someone who works in another location, there's no need to get on a plane. You can schedule an online meeting with your co-worker and arrange for the document you want to collaborate on to be available during the meeting. To learn how



# Microsoft® Answers

online meetings with NetMeeting work, read "Schedule and Meet Online in Office 2000 with NetMeeting" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/netmeeting.htm>).

Another way to discuss documents online is to use the new Discussions and Web Folders features. First, your system administrator needs to set up the Microsoft Office Server Extensions and a Web server designated as a Discussions server, and then you can publish documents to a folder you set up on the server. Inform colleagues that they can add comments by using the Discussions toolbar. Read how to use Discussions and Web Folders in "Discussions - A New Way to Collaborate Online with Office 2000" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/wWebDiscussions.htm>) and "Web Folders:

A New Way to Share Information in Office 2000" (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/focus/articles/wWebPublish.htm>).

If you have a topic of issue you would like to have us deal with, send us e-mail to [questions@microsoft.com](mailto:questions@microsoft.com). We may be able to provide some answers you have been looking for.

Bob Russell  
NTPCUG member and  
Microsoft Office and Consumer Support

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## DESIGNING RELATIONAL DATABASE SYSTEMS

by Rebecca M. Riordan

Published by Microsoft Press

ISBN 0-7356-0634-X

List Price US\$39.99, CDN\$61.99, UKP37.49

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

*Reviewed by: Larry Linson, NTPCUG Microsoft Access SIG Leader*

When I first saw the title, I knew this book would be about designing relational databases and it is, but look carefully – databases are only part of database systems. So it's more than that, too. It's also about designing the applications that use those relational databases, making them usable, and communicating that design to various audiences. I strongly recommend it. Even if you have both the academic and practical background, I think you'll find it a worthwhile review; if you don't have both, there's a great deal to learn.

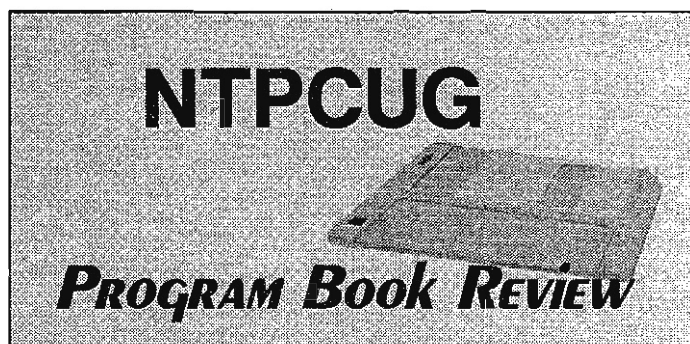
**Part One, Relational Database Theory**, consists of five chapters. These five chapters introduce the definition of the relational model, define three levels of normal form (and discuss additional normalization), and discuss different types of relationships, data integrity, and the relational algebra.

The six chapters of **Part Two, Designing Relational Database Systems**, defines the design process and leads us through the steps from gathering information, organizing it, creating the design, and communicating the design to appropriate audiences.

**Part Three, Designing the User Interface**, is a seven-chapter finale that leads us through the principles and practices of creating an interface that is usable, as opposed to just creating some kind of user interface or creating an interface that's easy for the developers but difficult for the users.

The **Foreword** indicates that this book is to "build a bridge between academic database theory and creating databases in the real world". Not only does it accomplish that purpose, it helps us understand how we can apply the academic theory to make our real-world products better. There's a **Companion CD** with Forms and Document Templates (in Microsoft Word format) that we can use in our own design process, a compendium of papers and articles from the Microsoft Developer Network, Microsoft TechNet, and the Microsoft Knowledge Base, and a sample Access database that "models" the design process as described in the book. The database is functional as provided (use Access 97 or Access 2000) and the book suggests several extensions that we might find useful to implement.

Ms. Riordan writes well, has chosen the right topics, and has covered them at the right depth. It's a sad fact that some of the details of designing relational databases and the applications that use them can be dry, and dry is boring. Rebecca Riordan makes even the dry parts of the subject matter lively and interesting – none of the topics is boring.



The only errors I spotted were inconsequential. They were in a table in Chapter 4, comparing and describing the similarities and differences between Access and SQL Server data types. One was likely a transposition error in creating the tabular format and another didn't take into account the increased database maximum of Access 2000 (the Jet Database Engine 4.0).

There's more about the book at Rebecca's page at <http://www.cyrio.com/RDBBook.htm>. You'll find more about Microsoft Press' other offerings at <http://mspress.microsoft.com>.

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## DO YOU HEAR THE FAT LADY SINGING? MICROSOFT V. EVERYBODY SUIT MAY BE IN END STAGES – DOJ, STATES ATTORNEYS GENERAL ENTER MEDIATION WITH REDMOND, WA, SOFTWARE GIANT IN DECEMBER MOVES

*1-GHz CPU's 'just around the corner...'*

Did the Fat Lady Sing in December? That's a question we're all pondering following Judge Jackson's decision that Microsoft was in fact abusing the monopoly status of the Windows operating system.

Decision and following appointment of a mediator to attempt a settlement between Microsoft, the DOJ and various states' attorneys general certainly didn't provide any substantive answers for the general public. Maybe that should have been "general publics" rather than the singular use. Let me explain. I see several "publics" involved here, and several questions concerning the impact of Microsoft on the country. More on that later.

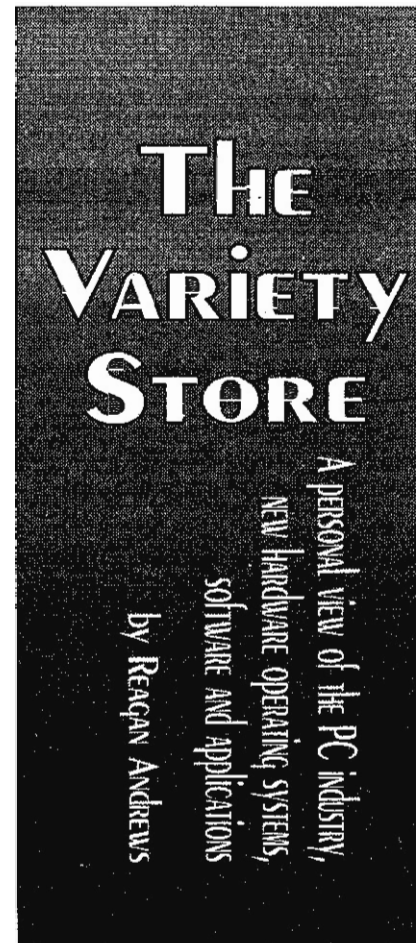
So, what are the possible outcomes here? Judge Jackson's decision to appoint a mediator looks like a possible solution—except for the inclusion of the various state attorneys general in the pot. I really don't like this aspect because I feel their agendas may cloud the possibility of any realistic settlement. DOJ probably likes the situation since it makes the DOJ look like they are representing a much larger constituent group than just the much smaller special interest

group composed of SUN, Oracle, Netscape/AOL and Caldera to name the main players.

### **Lots of Possible Outcomes...**

Possible outcomes appear to be (1) Microsoft remains intact, but with federal oversight/ supervision, (2) Microsoft becomes several smaller concerns such as an operating system company, an applications company and possibly a languages and services company, (3) Microsoft decides on "none of the above" and takes the case to appeal. An alternative would be a decision to take the company "offshore."

I have read many columnists' opinions on the first two possibilities, but haven't seen the last raised in any serious manner. From a PC user point of view, the first appears to be the most onerous since it would virtually assure that any attempt at innovation would be long-delayed and stymied by one or more federal interventions up and down the line. Anyone who feels this would be "good" for the end user probably hasn't experienced the delays and sheer difficulty obtaining any kind of decision at the federal bureaucratic level. Enough said.



"Ambivalent" best describes my feelings about splitting Microsoft into a number of smaller companies. I can see advantages to such a breakup for Microsoft in terms of continued growth, profits, etc. However, I don't see any advantage to the PC user community from this possibility.

### **Still think MS will appeal GIVEN JACKSON'S EARLIER DECISIONS IN CASE**

I think that (3) is the most likely outcome given the behavior of the DOJ and various states attorneys. DOJ is posturing for all it is worth, including hiring an investment

## THE VARIETY STORE

banker to ask for advice on how to break up Microsoft.

And the states' attorneys? I see them as the "wild cards" and a danger to all involved. The question is are they really representing the citizens of their states? For an answer to that one, look at the recent settlement with tobacco companies. While everyone was using the interests of health and children as their excuses, that's not where the settlement money is going. From the outside it just looks like a grab for somebody else's \$\$\$, and not for "health and children."

### Different Publics ... Many Points of View

I mentioned "different publics" earlier and would like to expand on this aspect of the Microsoft v. Everyone case.

There really are several "publics" and not just one, unified body with homogeneous interests and opinions on the matter.

First of these are the avowed Microsoft haters. Included here are two different camps—the less successful competitors who blame Gates and Microsoft for their own lack of success/ riches/ grandeur, etc. Add to this a surprisingly large group who hate Microsoft and Gates for their success and "obscene wealth" without regard for the benefits that PC users have accrued as a result of Microsoft's efforts.

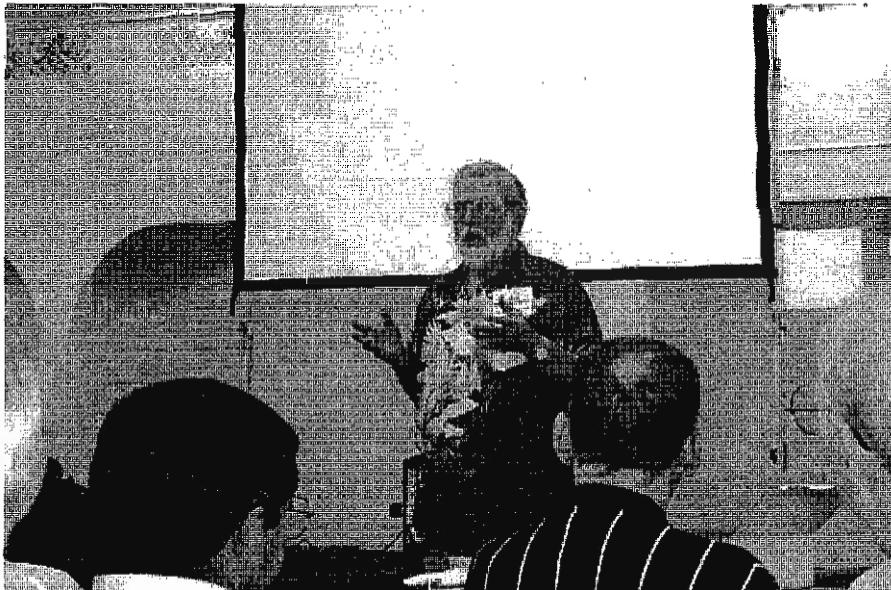
Perhaps the largest group is composed of fairly recent members of the PC community who have no conception of the real history of the PC and operating systems. These folks are primarily concerned

with usability of their PC's whether for surfing the Web, business or entertainment in general, and who are somewhat confused about the issues involved. Most of all, this group really doesn't care much about the suit and its somewhat abstract issues.

Lastly, are the people who have followed the PC industry since the 1970's and have seen the benefits all of us have received as a result of the influence Microsoft and Windows have exerted in the direction of standardization for a highly diversified and somewhat chaotic industry. This viewpoint was very nicely summed up in the Christmas issue of *The Dallas Morning News* "Kings of Commerce" article in the Business Section published on Saturday, December 25, 1999.

### BILL GATES (1955- ) Wealth creator

Bill Gates' Microsoft Corp. brought order to chaos to hasten the digital information age. The company's Windows operating system made it vastly easier for hardware and software companies to create mutually compatible products. Sure, Microsoft has famously bullied rivals, seldom invents new ideas and extracts licensing fees from virtually every sector of the economy. This has made Mr. Gates and thousands of others very wealthy. It also has enriched the world."



### Just how important was this contribution?

Let me take you back to 1982. Users had a lot of "choices" facing them when they decided to adopt the PC for home and small business use. First was the disk operating system or DOS (generic) and several were available depending on platform chosen:

Apple owners had a choice between Apple DOS and CP/M (with a special card); IBM-PC owners had choices between PC-DOS (Microsoft), CP/M 2.2 from Digital Research Incorporated (DRI) with an add-on board, CP/M 86 from DRI that ran on the standard PC, the "P" systems linked to specific programming languages such as Fortran and Pascal, and applications-specific DOS incorporated in add-on boards.

At the time, it was suggested that DOS choice should be based on the applications software the user wanted to run. If the user wanted *Visicalc* or Lotus 1-2-3, then PC-DOS was the DOS choice. Word processors and databases clouded the issue substantially and included offerings from IBM, WordStar and others in the PC-DOS arena and much more powerful products in the CP/M-86 camp.

### APPLICATIONS EXPENSIVE DUE TO "SMALL MARKET"

Applications software, why we bought the PC in the first place, was aimed at a highly fragmented market and quite expensive as a result. Average



price of any really useful and powerful word processor nudged \$400 to the user. Reason for such high (1983) prices was the number of PC and DOS platforms available which kept most of the products from reaching production volumes that would encourage competition and lower unit prices.

### Ahhh—THE CPU RACE HEATS UP AGAIN AS VENDORS SUGGEST 1GHZ "JUST AROUND CORNER"

Guess who's coming to dinner—with 1 GHz CPU's in hand? Just about everybody it seems as Intel, AMD, IBM and Compaq (Alpha) announce CPU's at the 1 GHz level of operation in desktop PC's.

2000 should be a banner year for CPU vendors with a few surprises for the users as well. Both Intel (*Pentium III's*) and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD & Athlon CPU's) are speculating that they will have 1GHz units out in the 2000 time frame. The surprise announcements came from Compaq and IBM who respectively announced Alpha CPU's and *Power PC* CPU's operating at the 1 GHz level as well.

IBM wasn't that much of a surprise since they had announced moving to sub-0.18 micron traces and copper technology earlier this year (1999)

for the *Power PC* CPU technology. Real surprise was the Compaq/Samsung announcement of a "room temperature" 1-GHz Alpha CPU introduction during the 2000 time frame. Came on the heels of a Compaq decision to increase investment in Alpha technology by an estimated \$500 million which should give the Compaq Alpha CPU technology (acquired from purchase of Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC)) a significant boost at the desktop level.

The Alpha technology has appeared to languish in the recent months with lots of media speculation that Compaq would abandon the superior (really) CPU technology in favor of Intel or AMD. Not so, it seems, and this may give Linux an added boost in the absence of continued Windows NT (?2000?) support from Microsoft.

Both the IBM *Power PC* and Compaq/Samsung Alpha CPU's are Linux candidates for success at the upper-level workstation/desktop level of the game. Wonder if Microsoft may reconsider porting Win2000 to the platforms?

*Reagan Andrews*

# 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 .)

## Microsoft Access

Coming in January: SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will discuss and demonstrate several methods for finding a record in an Access form. We'll start with Access' own built-in *Find Record* and *Filter* operations, and then talk about ways you can implement your own methods. Access' *Find Record* is limited to finding the value in a single control, and many would rather do something other than *Filter*, especially if the Access database is client to a server database on the network. We'll consider using the *Recordset-Clone* to locate a record in the Form's recordset, automatic synchronization with a *Form* embedded in a *Subform Control*, replacing the form's *RecordSource* with another that selects a single record or

limited subset, and making our own *Find* dialog that can use more than one field.

In December: Thanks to **Gil Brand** for coming by and making certain that we could attach to our network that gives us a high-speed Internet connection via *The Beam*. **Larry** then conducted a brief guided tour of some Web resources useful to Access users and developers, including his favorite, the *comp.databases.ms-access* newsgroup and his own little Web site, described below under the heading "Available on the Web".

Coming in the future, but deferred for now: SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will discuss *ActiveX Data Objects (ADO)* starting with the basics.

## 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 & Audio SIG** [Contact Alan Lummus @ (972) 733-4141 w&h or [alummus@airmail.net](mailto:alummus@airmail.net) or [timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org](mailto:timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org)]

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

- **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.

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).

## SIG LEADER LISTINGS

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# SIG

ADO is Microsoft's data access method of choice for the future – in time, replacing DAO, RDO, ODBC Direct, the ODBC API, and others in the alphabet soup of methods available in recent years. Already, Access 2000 and Visual Basic 6 have the ability to use ADO as the underlying, behind-the-scenes data source for bound forms and data-bound-controls, as well as the ability to use it in VBA code much as we've previously used Data Access Objects (DAO). DAO was usable only with the Jet database engine, but ADO can be used with any data source that has an OLE DB Provider.

Available on the Web: In October, SIG Leader Larry Linson discussed and demonstrated three approaches to handling images and photos in Access databases and considerations in deciding which to use in a particular set of circumstances. Documentation of that discussion, an example database showing each of the three methods, and a few public domain photos to use for samples can be found at <http://home-stead.deja.com/user.accdevel>. You must have script execution enabled in your browser to view the site and download the material.

Access 97 Service Release Update: Service Release 2B for Access 97 has been corrected and posted again at <http://support.microsoft.com>. It appears to include nothing more than SR2 except a couple of minor Y2K fixes. If that is the case, you'll be better off to get those Y2K patches (which are available separately) – just loading the patches will not overwrite and require reinstallation of the other patches you

**Microsoft®**  
**Access**

may have applied since SR2. There are a few other post-SR2 patches that you might want, also – they are not included in SR2B.

Access 2.0 Y2K News: Microsoft has also re-released the Y2K patch for Access 2.0, implementing a form of date windowing. Get it from the Microsoft Web site, <http://support.microsoft.com>, and see if it does what you want. Larry tried it and it seems to work exactly the same as date windowing in Access 97. You'll still have to change your own formats to show and input masks to accept four-digit years, but the windowing can be a big help.

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, 1999 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 January and we'll try to both inform and entertain you.

Larry Linson

## ActiveX Application DEVELOPERS

In January: Our plans are for Dan Ogden, Larry Linson, or both, in turn, to use our high-speed Internet connection via *The Beam* to conduct a tour of sites useful as resources for developers in general and ActiveX developers in particular. We'll give some URLs (Universal Resource Locators), visit the

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**Visual Basic — Beginning**

Jim Carter ..... (972) 235-5968 h  
 jim.carter@ntpcug.org

**Visual Basic — Advanced**

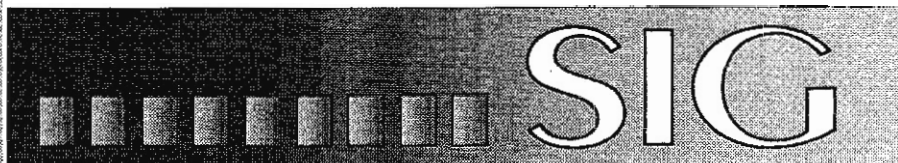
Stephen Johnson (214) 532-9788  
 stephenj@flash.net

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Michele Wood  
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 Sherry Covert  
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**WordPerfect / Windows**

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 Diane Bentley



sites, and discuss how best to benefit from them.

In December: SIG Leader Dan Ogden covered the last few new features of Access 2000 and moved on to the Office 2000 Developer Tools. Developer Tools include the runtime and setup Wizard for Access, but this release has a bit more for other Office software components, too.

Likely future topics Here are some topics we've considered: (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, and (3) 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. If you have topic ideas or especially if you will volunteer to speak at a future SIG meeting, send an e-mail to [lmilinson@yahoo.com](mailto:lmilinson@yahoo.com) or [dogden@gte.net](mailto:dogden@gte.net).

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

Come join us in January, 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

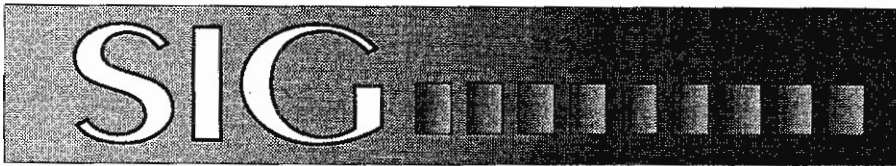
**COMMUNICATIONS**

Our December meeting hosted a discussion on Broadband Wireless services from our very own **Alan Brosz**. Alan provided an overview for this technology plus discussed the key aspects of Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service

**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)



(MMDS). MMDS is part of Broadband Wireless and the BEAM service is using this method for delivery of data, Internet, and digital TV to subscribers in the greater North Texas metroplex. Based upon a centralized transmitter, the BEAM is broadcast to subscribers who are located in a fixed "cell" area. Its "line of site" operation plus affordability for the carriers makes this service quite viable as a solution for the last mile. Broadband Wireless using MMDS (and the Telco line return) promises to be very suitable for the end user that requires integrated services.

In January we will have a "open forum" meaning a general Q/A plus discussing what topics you would like to learn more about. I would like to have more member participation. It's really quite simple and besides the comment for time, it's fun and exciting. Topics can be almost anything as long as they have some association with communications in general. The other alternative is vendor participation so if you know of a vendor involved with a neat data/voice/video service, slick h/w, or fancy s/w give Birl or I an EMAIL and we will follow-up. Till then, lets "Stay Connected in 2000" by attending the Communications SIG meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000. You won't regret the experience!

*Alan Brosz and Birl Smith*

## Dallas Corel

January 2000

Masks make it possible to produce many special effects in photo editing. Mastering masks is basic to success in PHOTO-PAINT. January's SIG meeting will focus on the many ways masks can help achieve what you want on projects.

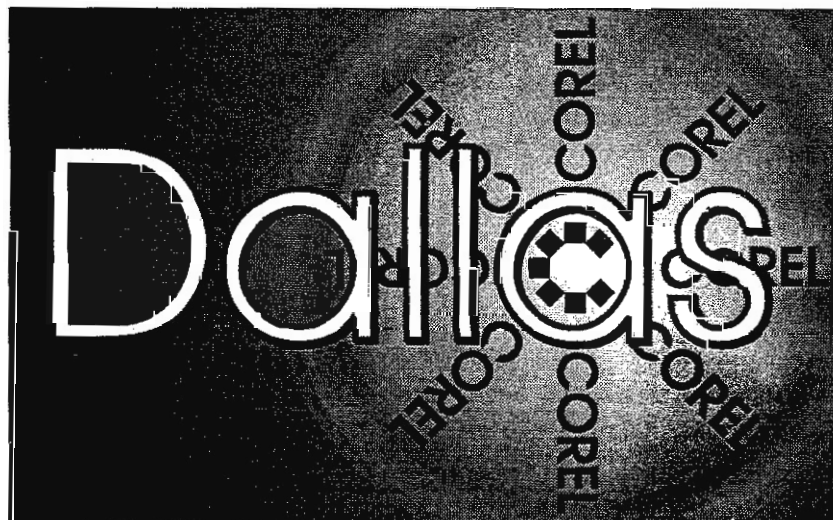
Bring your questions and share your successes too.

### December in Review

Special Effects filters process image information and alter that image according to preset specifications to produce a special effect. Our exploration of filters, started in October, continued at December's meeting. We discussed customizing filters with third-party plugins. Maria Whitworth demonstrated Andromeda Software's **Cutline Filter**. Its stylized screening and woodcut effect is a Corel PHOTO-PAINT compatible plug-in (filter) which converts photographs to black and white digital engravings and woodcuts. Maria showed how we COREL users can create the engraved effect found in *The Wall Street Journal*. The effects of this filter emulate the style adopted by hand engravers called "cutline" when representing bright and dark areas in an engraving. The result is a digitally engraved effect that emulates this classic, old-world engraving technique. The screening filter replaces gray tones in a photograph or illustration with black and white lines that can be 'cross-

hatched' in the shadow areas as the lines become thicker; or subtly break up into dots in the highlight areas as the lines become thinner. Cutline gives flexibility to change the direction and curvature of the engraving lines to enhance dimensionality, and can re-interpret the width and shape of these lines. One lucky member attendee won the Cutline Filter door prize.

Marsha Drebelbis demonstrated **Deep Paint** plug-in, available from Right Hemisphere. It's a natural media tool for your computer graphics work. If you already are facile with PHOTO-PAINT, just access Deep Paint by installing it as a plug-in. When you get to a place in your work on an image in PHOTO-PAINT, access the plug-in, and another world of additional brush effects will open up to you. Some of the numerous effects include drippy watercolor effects, rough charcoal textures, airbrush and most uniquely impressive, the 3-D oil paint. Here you can adjust the "bump" and "shine" to give your strokes thickness with height and shadows of the realistic paint you desire. It creates paint so thick you'll want to stir it. Deep Paint will respond to your stylus and tablet, just like you were holding a real brush. Then take your image back into PHOTO-PAINT and continue. Layers will be retained.



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

PHOTO-PAINT 9 comes with a rich list of brush effects, but if you want more, get Deep Paint from Right Hemisphere. You can also choose to use Deep Paint as a professional paint application by itself. To download your fully enabled free trial version, or for more information go to <http://www.deep-paint.com/ss2/>. This one's a winner.

Susan Biggs, who is hooked on plug-ins for PHOTO-PAINT, shared her extensive list of plug-in sources with our group.

Doug Gorrie got our Dallas Corel SIG meeting room H "online", so we accessed the Web in our December meeting.

Recent Programs at  
Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ Dec/98 – PHOTO-PAINT 8 Effects
- ❖ Feb/99 – Paper for Successful Inkjet Printer Output

#### IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

**Corel Corporation**  
1600 Carling Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
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- ❖ 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



- ❖ 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
- ❖ Sep/99 – Corel and the Entrepreneur
- ❖ Oct/99 – Filters and Plugins, Part I
- ❖ Nov/99 – Photographic editing Plugins
- ❖ Dec/99 – Filters and Plugins, Part III

*Marsha Drebelbis*

#### DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS

What does all this CPU speed buy us—and, is it really useful? That, and Y2K issues/ problems will be the focus of the January DOS/ Operating Systems SIG meeting.

Let's start with Y2K.

MS/PC DOS: I'm not going to devote much time to DOS since few users actively use DOS these days as their primary work area. Biggest problem will be date/time file stamping and I'm fairly certain that some devoted DOS hacker will post a fix for this on the Web. If you want to stay with DOS, scan

the newsgroups and the MS Y2K download area.

Win95: According to Microsoft, there aren't many problems with Win95, but they do have a small (for Microsoft) patch (2.3M) to update Win95 to full compliance.

Win98: Microsoft reports that updating the Win98 "Second Edition" insures full Y2K compliance. Users who like Win98 should definitely go for SE as much for the enhancements as for the Y2K patch.

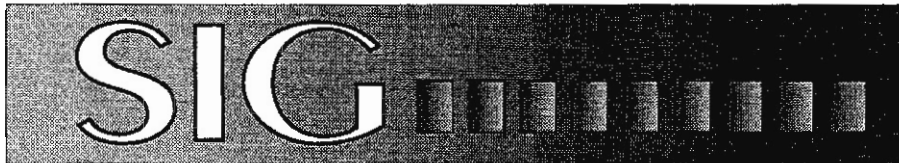
Linux: Caldera claims their Linux 2.3 is fully compliant at this time. RedHat stated that RedHat Linux versions 5.2 and later have been tested independently and found compliant. Since I really don't keep up with Unix/Linux, I don't know if the 2038 date roll-over issue has been resolved in these versions of Linux.

Just for fun, I'll be "restoring" an old, definitely non-Y2K compliant, 486DX2-powered PC to service just before 12/31/99 11:59:59 to see what happens. There are some relatively inexpensive BIOS extension boards available that claim to make older PC's Y2K compliant and I may give this a shot.

Speed Revisited

"Speed" is another issue entirely since we are seeing almost weekly





announcements from Intel and AMD proclaiming another 50 MHz increase in CPU speeds for their premium chips. Real beneficiaries would appear to be the MEGA spreadsheet manipulators, interactive gamers and heavy-duty graphics users.

The newer, faster CPU's certainly don't make the WWW any faster—unless the user has a dedicated T-1 or T-3 line to their ISP. They don't make my fingers type any faster although spell-checking and grammar correction in MS Word definitely benefits from the speed increases over the original 4.77 MHz IBM-PC.

Actually, almost all PC's are more I/O limited than CPU-speed limited at this point. That is, hard disk access/ throughput rates, video card performance, USB transmission rates, etc., have a much more "noticeable" impact on perceived system "speed" than CPU rates for the average user. It's also the reason that system "tweaking" in terms of disk caching, CD caching and other areas can produce more "usable" speed for most users than upgrading to a faster CPU.

For a more detailed look into this area, check out the ZDnet.com Help & Tips areas.

*Reagan Andrews*

### EXCEL/SPREADSHEET

My apologies for the absence of these SIG notes in last month's newsletter. At the December meeting we reviewed a cash flow analysis program written by Yours Truly for a Design and Construction Consulting Services company.



There are some interesting features of that program that we will probably revisit at a future time.

Next we will examine the Template Wizard with Data Tracking add-in. This add-in creates a template that links selected cells in a workbook to fields in a database. When you open a new workbook using the template and enter data in the linked cells, Excel creates a new record in the database and copies the data to the corresponding data fields.

If you have an interesting application that you want to share with the group, give me a call and I will schedule you at a future meeting.

Coming sometime in the future: download table data from the Internet directly into Excel with a connection to the Internet running in the background. We may have a quick preview of this feature next month.

Whether you are a beginning or experienced user, bring your problems to the next meeting and we will try to find a solution to your problem. I say "we" because most questions are answered by SIG attendees.

*Eb Foerster*

### GAMES

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

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

Last month was our annual Games Review meeting held jointly with the AppleCorps of Dallas. We gave away several hundred games CDs which were donated by Hasbro Interactive, and we handed out a dozen games to members who promised to review them for us. Come this month to hear feedback from the reviewers, maybe some demonstrations, and pick up more free games. Bring your old games to trade with others (save some of your holiday expenses by bartering) and get tips on where to find the latest games of all types.

*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.pioneer-info.com/tmg/](http://www.pioneer-info.com/tmg/).

*Jeri Steele*

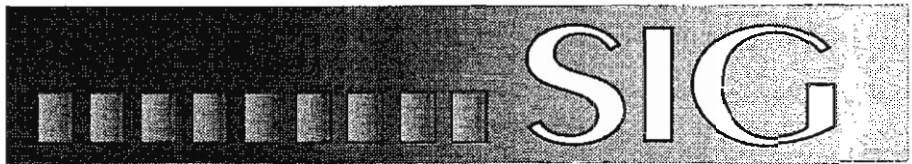
### INTRODUCTION TO THE PC

Our December meeting was designed to introduce the fifteen classes of the Introduction series and followed with Files, DOS (as related to Windows and all PCs), directories, and general information to get one started.

Apparently, holiday shopping was more important to our members than was attendance, so we used the intimate numbers of participants for Q & A and demonstrating PC abilities on one of our 21-inch monitors.

We were able to use Internet services from The Beam [a very high-speed download from 2-GHz microwave] to pick up my Web pages designed for our NTPCUG classes. Perhaps, a large percentage of our

classes can be enhanced by adding to utilizing my pages, NTPCUG pages, and others for keeping up-to-date and presenting more interesting classes.



The January meeting will present intro classes 4 thru 6 and if any of our members and non-member guests have not participated in the previous classes, they will be welcome anyway as each class can be a stand-alone for new or review service.

10:00, Class 4, MS Windows

What can you do with Windows that you cannot do with PC DOS and MS DOS?

- ❖ Play Solitaire

- ❖ Open multiple programs
  - wordprocessor
  - spreadsheets
  - graphics
  - communications
- ❖ Point and click
- ❖ Drag and drop
- ❖ Use Windows type fonts/printer drivers/communications

You can also buy new software. They just are not making new DOS applications programs anymore.

Windows '95 and Windows '98 has Plug and Play (PnP). A gutsy attempt for everything to automatically be configured and initialized.

Windows 3.1xx uses lots of .ini files; Windows '95 uses a common "Registry" file instead.

12:00, Class 5, PC Graphics

Graphics were extremely rare and simple with old PC programs. Now we are not only advanced, we have become sophisticated.

PC Graphics takes on many forms. We can be an artist with Corel Draw. We can lay out a house and foundation with AUTOCad. We can take the red out of the eyes with PhotoShop. We can . . . . . well, do lot's of things with graphics.

Windows has created a gigantic need for graphics . . . . just to keep up with their needs for an icon for everything. We will learn to accept them and even make them if you like.

How about your own personal greeting cards? Hallmark won't really care (if you do not steal their design).

If you like a collage, just have a gander at the tasteless amassment of images on most of the web pages of the Internet. Also, enjoy some truly artistic and pleasant displays.

1:00, Class 6, Word Processing

Very simple word processing programs called editors are great for light duty tasks, modifying computer commands, creating small files, etc. And then, come the wonder work savers, the typical word processors which help with format-

### Introduction to the PC Class Schedule

Class #	Date	Time	Subject
4	Jan. 15	10:00 AM	Microsoft Windows
5		Noon	PC Graphics
6		1:00 P.M.	Word Processing
7	Feb. 26	10:00 A.M.	Spreadsheets and Databases
8		Noon	Modems/Telecommunications
9		1:00 P.M.	PC Hardware
10	Mar. 18	10:00 A.M.	PC Printers
11		Noon	Networks and Such
12		1:00 P.M.	Neat & Necessary Software
13	April 15	10:00 A.M.	Multimedia Software & Hardware
14		Noon	Virus Protection & Utilities
15		1:00 P.M.	PCs Into The 21st Century
1	May 20	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

# SIG

ting, style, spelling, and some with grammar and thesaurus modules. At the high end, we have publishing engines that replace typesetting, composing, and practically anything that can be automated in the publishing industry.

We use word processor techniques within our communications programs and email. Learn the basics, for sure, then progress further as you so desire.

Be sure to understand those builtin programs that DOS and Windows have provided. These are: "MS DOS Edit," Windows "Clipboard" and "Notepad" and "WordPad."

FAT (File Allocation Tables) at the root. There are ways to keep track of files and such things and this is usually called the FAT. We use analogies to pretend these are all understandable. When we are finished with baskets, drawers, cabinets, funnels, highways and such, we will then manage our files rather well. We often use words like integration and interface and inte and inter prefixes for "whatevers."

Those persons completing ALL fifteen sessions will earn an attractive and personalized certificate of achievement.

Enjoy.

*Harold (Spike) Smith*

## INVESTORS

In January we will talk about building or fine-tuning your financial plan. Should you have a financial planner? We will probably have a guest speaker - a Financial Planner from Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

*Kathryn (Kathy) Kirby & Dick Richtman*

## JAVA

Our presenter got lost on his way to the meeting where he was going to talk about Enterprise Java Beans. So, he has offered to come back next month, now that he knows how to get here, and give the presentation. I hope to see you all there.

Lucky for us **Troy Thompson** happened to be at the meeting and the previous presenter had a computer hooked to the Internet connection, that is now available to every room through TheBeam wireless Internet service. Troy gave a spur-of-the-moment presentation on Java servlets and demonstrated a counter servlet he had written for the Java course he teaches at Mountain View College. He happened to have the code on a floppy he had with him and was able to demonstrate the counter over the Internet and show the code that is used to accomplish this feat. I actually took the floppy home with me and got it working on my own computer so he wasn't pulling our legs. One of the cool things about it is that it recognizes the session and does not count if you press reload. I will eventually post the code up on the SIG Web site which I have been lax



in maintaining lately. If you would like to help out by offering to be assistant SIG leader I would be grateful.

If you have cool servlets, or applets, or applications you would like to display and explain, let me know and I will schedule you for a future meeting.

If you are interested in trying your hand at teaching a Java course at the juco level let me know. I may know of some openings.

See ya next month to learn about EJB.

*Don Benish*

## MICROSOFT NETWORKING

Next Meeting: January 15, 2000  
AM

In December, we held a round table discussion on "Windows PC Vulnerability Assessment and Patch Implementation". Many of the attendees have had no significant problems with viruses or system attacks, and therefore take little or no preventive action.

The most commonly mentioned steps were:

- Keep virus definitions updated (at least twice a week);

- Subscribe to security newsletters (such as Microsoft, NT BugTraq);

- Obtain software to detect a port-scanning attack on your system (e.g., Black Ice).

In January, **Paul Sloane** will give a presentation on the relative advantages and disadvantages of "Upgrading from WinNT to Win2K, or Clean Install Win2K".

Join us and bring your own experiences with Win2K.

Don't forget to arrive early to be eligible for the software freebies!

Site-of-the-month: [www.grc.com](http://www.grc.com). This site will give you a report on just how much information your computer system exposes to the Internet. Give it a try.

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

#### Upcoming Schedule:

**February-** Setting up a VPN connection

**March -** Open for suggestions (email [gil.brand@ntpcug.org](mailto:gil.brand@ntpcug.org)):

NT Security, Win2K, NT Monitoring, etc.

Previous meetings:

November, 1999

Kathy Schmitt and **Michael Bentley** of JC Penney gave a presentation on the Windows NT Resource Kit. Now that you know everything about these handy tools, you can really cause problems for your company NT administrator! Check our Web site at [www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org) to see the presentation.

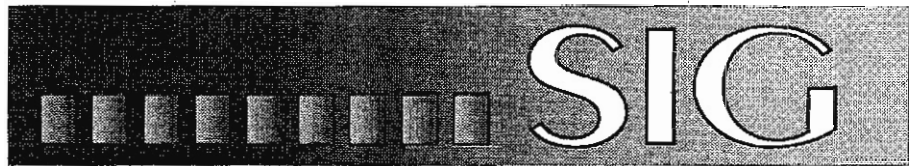
October 1999

At the October meeting, **Allen Childress** of Microsoft gave a presentation on "Choosing the Right Operating System," a comparison of Windows 98, Windows 2000, and Windows CE operating systems. See the SIG area on our Web site ([www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org)) for a copy of the presentation.

September 1999

SIG member **Rodney Loos** gave a presentation on using Win98 Internet Connection Sharing (ICS) with a cable modem. See the SIG area on our Web site ([www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org)) for a copy of the presentation.

August 1999



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.

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 e-mail 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 2000, Windows NT Server/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 op-

tions 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*

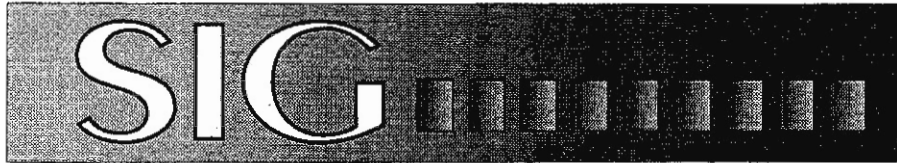
#### Professional MIDI & Audio

SIG Leader: Alan Lummus, [alummus@airmail.net](mailto:alummus@airmail.net), W&H 972-733-4141

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

Our SIG focuses on the variety of uses of computers by both professional and amateur musicians and recording engineers.

MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) has been around since before the IBM PC started supporting it, and is used by many musicians to control and synchronize multi-instrument musical performances. The PC can use MIDI, connected to electronic keyboards, synthesizers and a host of other devices, to compose and play music, produce musical scores, and teach students



how to play keyboards and other musical instruments.

Audio engineers use computers to record and edit live musical performances, restore, clean up, and improve the sonics of older recordings such as LPs, cassettes, 8-track, reel to reel, and wire recorders; compile and arrange different recordings, and record live or edited performances and transcriptions onto CD, DAT, or DVD. We examine the entire range of audio engineering from microphone selection and placement through the entire chain of recording to DAT or computer hard drive, transcription to computer hard drive from other recording formats, digital editing, and CD or DVD burning or mastering for commercial production.

We discuss hardware, software, interfaces, interconnects, signal cabling, controllers, instruments, synthesizers, and all related devices, from amateur to professional levels. Come and share your experiences and learn more about these two interrelated fields of MIDI and Professional Audio.

*J. Alan Lummus*

### Visual Basic - BEGINNING

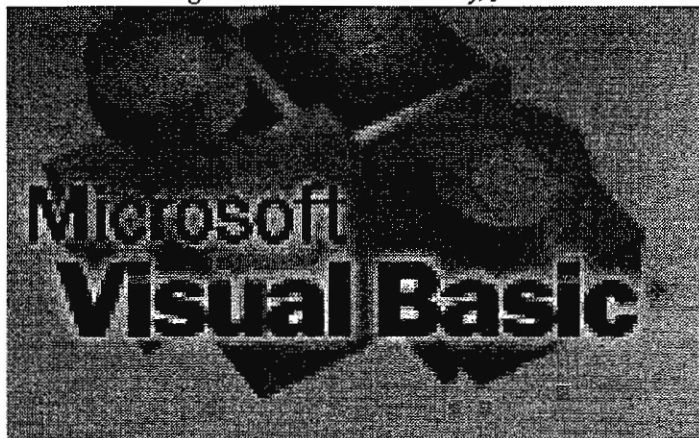
The January meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG on January 15, 2000 will feature a discussion of the Package and Deployment Wizard included with Visual Basic 6.0. We will start take a simple application and prepare it for distribution. I will explain each step of the process and discuss points where customization of the installation can occur. For those of you with Gary Cornell's "Visual Basic

from the Ground Up," read Chapter 26 to get an understanding of how the Package and Deployment Wizard works in Visual Basic 6.0.

Last month, I demonstrated the use of the Menu Editor in Visual Basic 6.0. I created a File menu with access keys and demonstrated the use of the associated Click event procedures.

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, Janu-



ary 15, 2000 at the Big Town Mall. 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 SIG - ADVANCED

The January 15 meeting will feature the introduction of the new SIG Leader for the Advanced Visual Basic SIG, **Stephen Johnson**. Stephen is the Programming Manager for a local property management company and has experience teaching Visual Basic at the junior college level. Please welcome Stephen to our monthly meeting.

Stephen will present a program on class modules at the January meeting, a topic we can all use more information on. Be ready to discuss class modules with Stephen this month.

The December meeting of the Advanced Visual Basic SIG was a general Q&A session on Visual Basic. Questions regarding Y2K issues were addressed and Y2K CDs were distributed courtesy of Microsoft Mindshare folks. This was especially appropriate as we approach December 31, 1999!

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







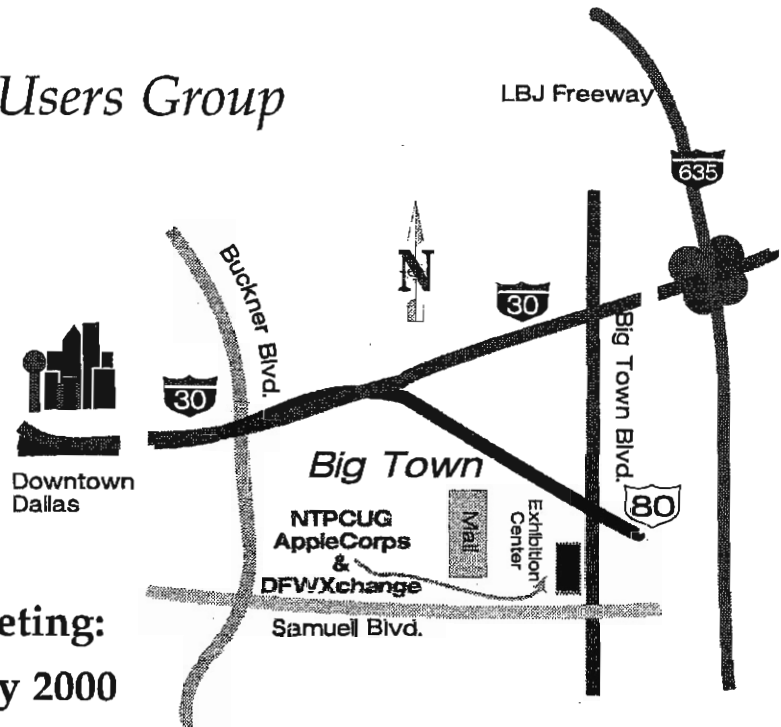
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## North Texas PC Users Group



**Next Meeting:**  
**15 January 2000**