

North Texas



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PC NEWS

The North Texas PC News . . .

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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North Texas PC NEWS

Instructions for LOW-Bandwidth Users

If you're using a 28.8 or 56K modem and an ordinary telephone line, you should follow these steps:

- If using a PC, right-click on the cover

Instructions for HIGH-Bandwidth Users

If you're fortunate enough to get your Internet service through a T1, ISDN, or some other super-fast delivery pipe, simply click the cover image to launch and view the Newsletter.

Will Go ONLINE in March
See Pages 3 - 7

February, 2000
VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 2

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North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 1,270 last month.

Member distribution was 1,000; 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 March
North Texas PC NEWS:
March 3, 2000**

Meeting Dates:

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



Submit Newsletter articles to: newsletter@ntpcug.org
Visit the North Texas PC Users Group Web page:
<http://www.ntpcug.org>

Submitting Articles and Stories to the Newsletter

The North Texas PC NEWS is going online—and it's more important than ever that the NTPCUG newsletter contain timely and informative content of interest to our members. We will welcome pertinent "How to do it" articles, book reviews, software reviews and other materials that would be helpful and interesting to NTPCUG members.

For prospective authors, there are a few, but very important, "Do's and Don'ts" involved in article submission to the newsletter, first of which is accuracy. Be sure of your facts (unless you report them as "rumors") and always remember to report the source(s) as well.

Please don't submit articles that are taken from another source without crediting the source in your article, i.e., if you excerpt something from the Microsoft (or other) Web site, please state that in the article.

Remember to "sign" your article/story at the bottom. A simple "by Your Name" will be quite helpful,

particularly if the editors have questions or suggestions about the story.

Please don't submit the article or story in HTM or .PDF format. It can make editing and formatting quite time consuming and difficult.

We can accept MS Word 97, most WordPerfect files and ASCII .TXT files. The absolutely latest version of any word processor may not convert gracefully to our format and may have to be rejected as a result.

Graphics should be submitted in one of the "standard" formats, i.e., .TIF, .EPS, .GIF, .PCX or .JPG files. While "native" CorelDraw (CDR) files are also OK, other graphics editor native formats may not be convertible.

Again, we want your articles and thank you in advance for your input and cooperation.

Reagan Andrews

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS . . . VINCENT GAINES

NTPCUG FEBRUARY 26, 2000 MEETING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 26

10:00 AM – 10:55 AM

Main Presentation

Palm Product Overview

Palm Computing, Inc. (www.palm.com)

Jason Jaynes, National Account Manager

Come see and hear all about the Palm computing products which have been so highly praised. Learn about the company history, see the product line and understand the operating system. Details about device features, input/output methods, IR communication and more will be presented. Ask your questions, give your user feedback and pick up the latest literature.

There will be a drawing for a FREE Palm V unit and other products. *

12:00 – 12:55 PM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

* 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.

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	-
	H	-
9:00	A	WordPerfect for Windows
	B	Word for Windows
	C	DOS/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 - "Palm Product Overview"
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Introduction to the PC
	F	Visual Basic - Advanced

Time	Room	SIG
10:00	-	Ctd.
	G	-
11:00	H	Dallas Corel (continued)
	A	Investors
	B	Internet - Beginning
	C	-
	D	AppleCorps
	E	Java
	F	Access
	G	ACT!
12:00	H	Professional MIDI & Audio
	A	AppleCorps/ClarisWorks
	B	Internet - Advanced
	C	-
	D	AppleCorps/FileMaker
	E	Introduction to the PC
	F	ActiveX
	G	AppleCorps/Beginners
12:30	H	Games
	C	NTPCUG Business Meeting

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

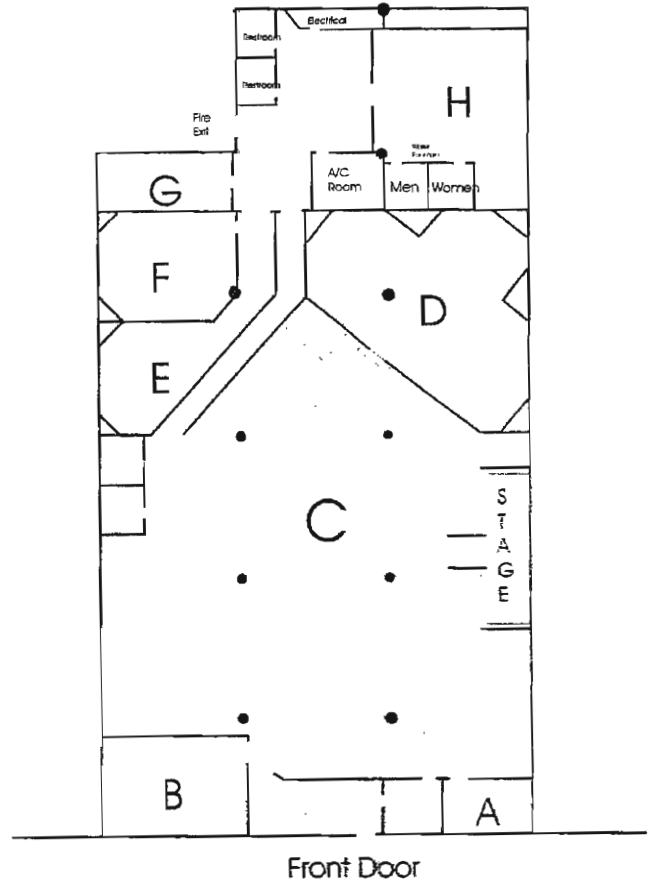
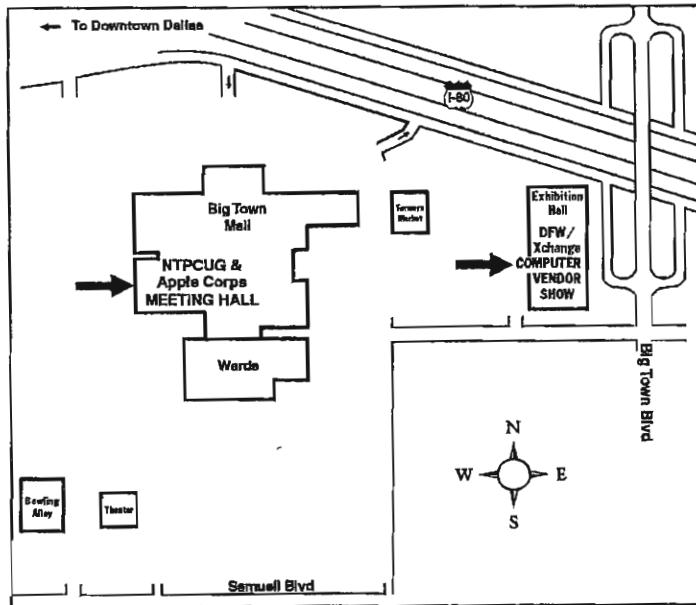
SIG meetings are listed by time and location for the February 26 meeting. Times and locations may change and members are advised to check the NTPCUG Web site for latest listings.

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

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



TRANSITIONS

Well, here we are at the beginning of this new year/decade/millennium with a new group of NTPCUG leaders facing new challenges in our evolving role as a Community Service Organization. The role of computer user groups has changed as computers have become more commonplace in our society. Hardware and software have become less expensive and more easily obtained, and vast information resources are accessible through the Internet. Even so, our role as a local community resource for those seeking computer knowledge and help fills an important niche. As teachers and communicators, we learn more as we teach others. Our goals for this year include searching out better ways to provide our members with information and methods of communication.

The NTPCUG officers and SIG Leaders keep this organization functioning for our members. These leaders are vital for running NTPCUG, and they deserve our appreciation for their contributions. They work FOR YOU to provide you with the best membership benefits possible, and have volunteered their time above and beyond other mem-



bers. Many of them fill more than one position in our organization. If you want changes and improvements, please step forward and offer your help along with your suggestions. More volunteers donating a little time each can greatly reduce our workload, and you will discover new rewards as a volunteer.

NEW BOD AND OFFICERS

Our January elections have yielded a new group of Directors of the Board: **Gil Brand, Marsha Drebelbis, Michele Wood, Bill Parker, Vincent Gaines** and myself.

Vincent Gaines has volunteered to be our Program Chairman, and will benefit from any leads you can give him on possible main presentations. **Bill Parker** has offered to take over the SIG Coordinator job. The SIGs are a vital component of NTPCUG, and he is working on ways to make them even more useful to us. The two of them will work together to continue providing our members with up-to-date presentations and discussions of computing technology.

Claude McClure is still working diligently as our Volunteer Coordinator, **Lewis Graber** still maintains our Newsletter Exchange, **Eb Foerster** continues to serve as Treasurer, and **Wade Emmert** still serves as Secretary.

LAST YEAR'S OFFICERS

Jim Hoisington, last year's President, has served on the Board of Directors and as President for many past years has worked especially hard during this last year. He has provided us great dedication in leading the NTPCUG through many

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changes and challenges. Jim continues to serve as NTPCUG Membership Director and President of DFW Xchange as he recuperates from this last year. Our move from Infomart to Big Town Mall was difficult for all of us, but required much time and effort from our previous Board of Directors, **Andy Reese**, **Alex Lilley** (also past SIG Coordinator), **Andy Oliver** (also past President), and **Marsha Drebelbis**.

MEETING SITE SEARCH

With the Big Town User Group Meeting Hall rent being increased by 50%, we are forced to find a more affordable meeting site. Our meeting location steering committee, led by **Gil Brand** with the help of **Michele Wood**, is searching intently for a new site for our monthly meetings. If anyone has a suggestion for possible future meeting locations, please e-mail me and I will pass it on to them.

Also keep in mind the fact that we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, and donations are tax-deductible. Any individuals or corporations interested in donating money, facility use, etc. would greatly help us survive and grow, and I will be grateful for any leads you can offer.

NEWSLETTER

Reagan Andrews temporarily took over the publication of our newsletter when our previous publisher, **John Prybil**, passed away in 1993. Reagan has been the Publisher and Managing Editor since then, carrying on the NTPCUG tradition of providing accurate and important information (and amusement) in a high-quality publication for our members. Our Advertising Director and Editor, **Connie Andrews**, has been his invaluable partner in keeping our newsletter such an important member benefit. Reagan (a past President) and Connie are both long-standing members and officers of NTPCUG, and have worked harder than most of us, with monthly deadlines which only they can meet.

We have been forced by the high costs of printing and mailing our newsletter to provide it electronically via the Web. We have delayed this longer than we should have, knowing how important the printed format

is to most of us. With our move to publish the newsletter electronically, Reagan and Connie will hopefully be unburdened from the early deadlines and headaches of getting the final copy to the printer and the printed copy to the mailing service in time to reach you before each meeting. They continue to be vital contributors to our group's publications, and will still benefit from your contributions to the newsletter.

WEB PRESENCE

Our Web site is becoming ever more important for coordinating our communications. Faster response to questions and calls for help is a key element of our improved member benefits. If you look over the site and see possible improvements and additions, please let us know.

The new NTPCUG Web Pages are the work of our Webmaster, **Mary McWilliams Johnson**, and others on our WebContent Committee. [Ed note: see related Web page review article for more information on WebContent Committee]. Mary is working hard to build us a high-quality Web site which will grow with us. **Gil Brand** and **Doug Gorrie** (another past President) are continuing to provide additional valuable support for our Web server and member services. Please read Doug's article in this issue on how to sign up on our members list server, and stay tuned in.

SPECIAL SIG FOR BEGINNERS

Spike Smith, leader of the Introduction to the PC SIG, has arranged for a special event at the February meeting. He will be presenting a session for senior citizens and beginners of all ages, which you can read more about in his SIG notes. This is often the first SIG our new members attend and Spike has guided many through their early computer learning curves. Bring a friend!

THANKS

I want to thank all of you who volunteer and help make the NTPCUG one of the best computer user groups in the nation. If I have not mentioned you by name here, it is due to lack of space, not lack of appreciation. Thanks to your dedication, we can continue to improve the viability of our group and better serve our membership through this transition.

Timothy...

NTPCUG'S Web Site Ready for Prime Time

What a delight to see the colorful look and experience the snappy new features on NTPCUG's Web site. It's easy to read, easy to navigate, and full of content we members will appreciate. Newcomers and guests will enjoy it, too. Hopefully a favorable impression of our site will encourage more to join our organization and actively participate. Launched at the start of the new year, the enhanced site paves the way for NTPCUG's new approach to communicating with and serving its audience. Our own virtual community. Check it out for yourself at <http://www.ntpcug.org>.

We have volunteer **Mary McWilliams Johnson** to thank, since she designed it. Her upbeat new red-white-blue graphics greet us and immediately draw us into the content, with currently popular rollover navigation buttons. Mary's professional background as a technical writer, graphic designer and multimedia producer for major corporations blends well with Web development. Her articles have been published nationally, including *The Christian Science Monitor* and *Alternatives*. She recently taught classes in HTML at Richland College. Mary became enthralled with Web development a few years ago and hasn't looked back. You can see examples of her other, award-winning Web design at <http://www.superconnect.com/wordsmitt> and <http://www.superconnect.com/marystips>. You may communicate with her at webmaster@ntpcug.org.

Doug Gorrie has facilitated NTPCUG's Web site since its inception several years ago. He and **Chris Young** have maintained it monthly. Doug coordinates with **Gil Brand** to keep the server and other required hardware up to snuff. They also brought together NTPCUG and The Beam, which gives our SIG meeting rooms access to the Internet during our monthly meetings. It's a wonderful advantage for us members. Thanks to all.



ANNOUNCEMENTS NTPCUG & Special Events

Now the Board of Directors invites members to participate and contribute. Start using this Web site as a communications vehicle right away. Give the BOD or the Webmaster your feedback too. Additional content resource suggestions are always appreciated. Keep in mind the nonprofit nature of NTPCUG.

Upcoming features on the site will include our newsletter, to be published in downloadable .PDF format. Fortunately for us, Editor **Reagan Andrews** will tackle that. Many thanks to him and **Connie Andrews** for their continued diligence. While News Groups, Message Board and the Members Only area hold great potential, they are currently works in progress. Our needs for the Web site in the future will grow, as our ties to a physical meeting location changes. Use this site to augment our face-to-face monthly meetings. It becomes our virtual community.

SIG leaders are invited to contribute materials regularly. In fact, SIGs are encouraged to develop your own Web page for our site. As an example, Dallas Corel SIG's Web page was developed by **Jay Bartlet** and is maintained monthly by **Rose Anne Ellison**. SIG Coordinator **Bill Parker** and Web Manager **Doug Gorrie** will welcome your input. Take this opportunity to place special interest white papers, SIG meeting review notes, or attach meeting handouts on the site.

Our Web site is really a wonderful extension of NTPCUG, a valuable community resource for you to enjoy, so start today.

Marsha Drebelbis

How to Join the NTPCUG "MEMBERS" Mailing List

Beginning in March, we expect to be delivering your monthly newsletter to you **electronically**, on our Web site (www.ntpcug.org). This change has **huge** financial benefits to the User Group. However, since the newsletter will not be arriving by paper mail, a different vehicle is needed to ensure that members are aware of where the newsletter is stored and how to retrieve it. In addition, other issues relative to the User Group may need to be covered as well, such as special presentations, local NTPCUG supported events, changes in meeting location, etc.

NTPCUG operates a **ListServer**. A ListServer is special software that relays information via e-mail on any number of separate topics. For each topic, the ListServer stores the e-mail address of interested readers, such as yourself. Through the ListServer, members can stay informed about User Group events and issues between newsletters. This would also include receipt of instructions on where the newsletter is located on our Web site. Our ListServer currently maintains several mailing lists.

As an NTPCUG member, you may "join" one of these lists, called MEMBERS. By joining the MEMBERS list, you are ensured of receiving an announcement when each monthly newsletter is released, where it is located, and how to view it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS NTPCUG & Special Events

Again, to receive this information, you must **join** the MEMBERS list. To do so, merely send an e-mail message to the ListServer. **PLEASE NOTE** that your e-mail message **must** come from the e-mail account where you want your announcements sent to. In other words, if you join the list **from** an AOL account, our announcements and information will be e-mailed to your AOL account. You cannot join from one account and expect to receive e-mail at another.

The format to join is as follows:

Address an e-mail message to listserv@ntpcug.org. The subject can be anything -- it is ignored by the ListServer. But in the body of the message, enter the following three words:

subscribe members your name

where your name is your name as you want to be known by the "members" list on our ListServer. An example entry here would be

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MICROSOFT OFFICE AND THE INTERNET

Many people are working with HTML and the Internet. One of the more valuable aspects of the Internet is the capability of placing dynamic information in a location where the public can view it, or as reference material for outlying offices. The Office 2000 suite was designed to increase productivity and lower the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) of the Office suite by implementing methods that would make it easy for office workers and individuals to work with source applications for Web display.

HTML is the markup language that makes it possible to build and view pages on the Web; numerous other languages have been implemented to enhance the appearance and ability to interact with

NTPCUG ListSERVER... Ctd.

subscribe members Fred Flintstone

When your request to join is processed, an automated response will be returned to you confirming that your e-mail address has been added. Please be aware that your request to join the list may be "moderated", meaning that all such requests will be verified against membership records before being accepted.

Should you have a problem getting onto the MEMBERS list or in reading your newsletter online, NTPCUG has individuals available to assist our members. If you find you need such assistance, please send e-mail to postmaster@ntpcug.org. Someone will contact you by e-mail or by phone.

Also, don't forget that NTPCUG membership also includes the option of having an e-mail account on our own mail server. While it does not allow "surfing the net", it can meet the needs of those needing only local e-mail access. Again, if you feel that this limited service meets your needs, send e-mail to postmaster@ntpcug.org.

We hope this method proves satisfactory in getting NTPCUG announcements and accessing your monthly newsletter. We are prepared to make it work for you.

Thanks.

Doug Gorrie
(972) 618-8002



materials on the Web. The design of Office 2000 incorporates components and formats that enhance peoples' ability to use the Web to move, share and display information.

This months column is intended to describe some of the new functionality that has been built into Office 2000, hopefully without making your eyes glaze over too much. Since we expect that the newsletter will be in electronic format soon, we are looking forward to publishing the screen shots that go with this type of material, and adding some hyperlinks into the body of the text for those who would like to follow up on the content.

Overview of HTML in Excel 2000

As more corporations are migrating their data to the Web for easier access and distribution, the vision for Microsoft Excel 2000, as with other Office 2000 applications, is to provide enhanced integration with the Web through robust HTML support. To this end, Excel 2000 provides a number of new features and enhancements:

- ❖ Save as HTML
- ❖ Publish as HTML (static)
- ❖ Web Components (Publish with Interactivity)
- ❖ HTML Email

Save as HTML - The design goals for Save as HTML are to allow the loading and saving of Excel data as HTML documents while preserving the formatting and functionality of the spreadsheet. This "round-tripping" of data allows the user to view the Excel document in a browser, and to re-edit their Excel HTML data from the HTML source, and use HTML as a companion file format to the Excel Workbook format (.xls) if desired. Excel uses XML to preserve complex information contained in HTML documents, and CSS for maintenance of formatting.

The Save as Web Page dialog, displayed below, can be accessed by either of two methods:

- ❖ File | Save As Web Page
- ❖ File | Save As | Save as type: Web Page (*.htm; *.html)

Key points for support of Save as HTML:

- ❖ Microsoft Excel 2000 is not an HTML editor. No provision is made to preserve existing HTML code loaded into and saved in Excel 2000. Once loaded into Excel, existing HTML will be revised to comply with Excel's table format.
- ❖ The only way to Save as HTML is to checkmark "Entire Workbook" and click Save. All other choices (Selection: Sheet, Add Interactivity, etc.) result in a Publish of some type. Save as HTML does not support Excel functionality in the browser.
- ❖ Save as HTML is the only format which can store multiple worksheets. Multiple worksheets are stored as multiple .htm files, along with graphics, CSS and XML data, in a separate subfolder for each workbook.
- ❖ While Published HTML will maintain much of the worksheet information if reopened in Excel, Save as HTML is the only HTML saving method which will fully support round-tripping of all elements of the workbook functionality.
- ❖ Save as HTML does not try to minimize file size or maximize performance for viewing in a browser.

Publish as HTML (static) - The design goals for Publish as HTML are to allow the creation of a quick standalone Web page that only contains information from the active worksheet. Publish is also the method used to publish information into an existing Web page, and to update and replace the previously published information in a Web page.

Key points for support of Publish as HTML (static):

- ❖ Publish as HTML tries to minimize file size and maximize performance for viewing in a browser. Publish will be the preferred method when the user is trying to minimize Excel-related overhead in their HTML documents.
- ❖ Publish as HTML can create HTML documents from selected portions of a worksheet, such as PivotTables, charts, or cell ranges. It cannot save multiple worksheets.
- ❖ Information can be published to an existing HTML document, and changes can be republished to the same file if the Excel source document is saved after the Publish (Excel 2000 appears to support the !-##Table##- tag as an insertion point).

Microsoft®
Answers

- ❖ In order to republish, you must save the original document either as an xls file, or the entire workbook as HTML. These are the only cases in which republish information will be saved.

Web Components

Office 2000 provides COM(ActiveX) controls which allow the creation of Excel Web documents with not only spreadsheet data, but spreadsheet functionality. Selecting Add Interactivity when Publishing Excel 2000 data can be used to create an interactive HTML file with selected Excel functionality when viewed in the browser. In an intranet setting, Web Components can provide Excel functionality in HTML files on computers which do not have Office 2000 installed.

The three Web Components used in publishing HTML documents from Excel are:

Web Calc (interactive spreadsheet) - this component supports most of the worksheet functions that desktop Excel does, and looks and works much like Excel within the browser. You can export data back to Excel.

Information in the cells can be modified (both values and formulas) and the data will recalculate as in an Excel workbook. The example below shows the HTML document with the Spreadsheet Prop-



erty Toolbox displayed, which provides additional formatting and control of worksheet functionality within the browser.

Pivot List (interactive pivot table) - this component looks and functions like an OLAP pivot table rather than a normal pivot table (with hierarchies). This area will probably generate a lot of support calls, because users will expect this to function like a traditional pivot table, and in many ways it doesn't. Pivot List includes the ability to set up an interactive pivot table with a query to an external data source, and the ability to refresh the pivot table on the fly.

Chart component (interactive chart) - this is a combination of an interactive spreadsheet and interactive chart. This component allows you to try out different data and watch the chart change dynamically.

Installing Web Components

Web Components will be installed by default when Office 2000 is installed, and are available for viewing interactive spreadsheets in Internet Explorer 5.0 and IE4.01 SP1. If an interactive spreadsheet is opened in either of these browsers and

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.

Doug Gorrie



Web Components are not installed locally, the Web Components will attempt to install from the intranet source, and the following dialog will be displayed:

Key points for support of Web Components as used by Excel:

- ❖ Currently, IE5 and IE4.01 SP1 are the only browsers that support the use of Web Components.
- ❖ Web Components are available only on computers that either have them installed locally, or have intranet access to their source. Web Components will not function externally on the Internet.
- ❖ Documents saved with interactivity will not round-trip back to Excel 2000.
- ❖ As in a static Publish, Add Interactivity will not save multiple worksheets.

HTML Email in Excel - In addition to sending an Excel document as an email attachment, Excel 2000 can also send the active worksheet as HTML embedded in the email message. This feature is accessed in Excel via File | Send To | Mail Recipient. The Assistant will display the prompt below:

Selecting Send the current sheet as the message body with a MAPI and HTML supported email client prompts for email information as displayed below:

The resulting email is displayed in Outlook or other HTML compatible email clients.

Key points for support of HTML Email:

- ❖ Excel uses the same code path for HTML email as it does for a static Publish, so the issues will be identical to the static Publish scenario.
- ❖ HTML mail is only supported in email clients that support MAPI and HTML.

As always, if you have a topic of interest, or questions to be asked, we will be happy to receive them, and will try to incorporate the answers into later columns.

Bob Russell,
Office and Consumer Support.

MOVING TO THE Web BRINGS 'PC NEWS' INTO World Of More Timely Publication With Shortened Deadlines, Other Benefits To Members – Meanwhile, Sun Microsoft Continue Seeing Linux Impact In 2000

MS v. Everybody just keeps churning ...

Yes, I know this isn't what you usually expect in *Variety Store*, but I felt it was important enough to justify some space and the *Variety Store* seemed an appropriate venue for my ramblings. It concerns the *North Texas PC News* and its future.

This will be the last *printed* issue of the *North Texas PC News*. While I've enjoyed the interactions, both good and bad, with the print shops involved in the NTPCUG publication, the shift to publishing on the Web rather than on paper is long overdue.

The shift in media will be substantial and readers can expect a significant change in format and content over the next several months—which I think will be quite exciting for both me and to NTPCUG members. There are lots of benefits to be gained from switching from "hard copy" to electronic media. Perhaps, most important of which will be the shortened delays between completion and delivery to members since we won't have the 21-day lag caused by printing, binding and mailing involved in the past.

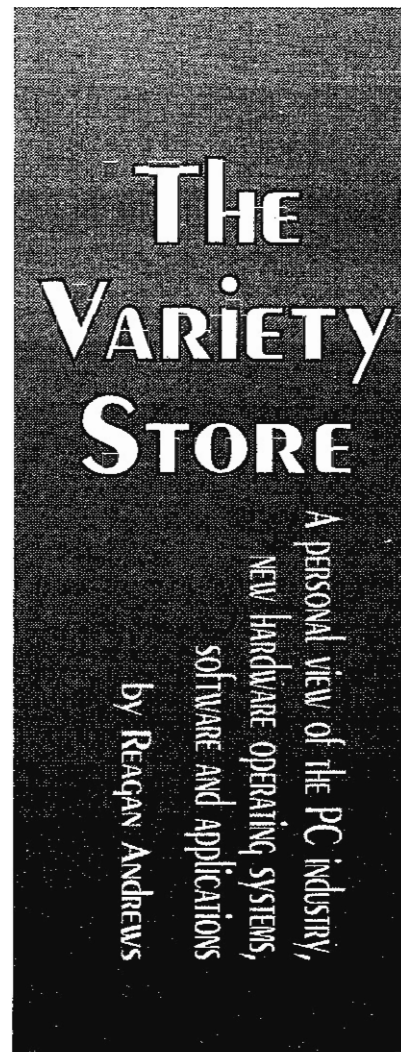
Initially, I'll be publishing to the Web in PDF format via Adobe

Acrobat. This should allow members to actually print copies of the newsletter at home if they wish to have a hard copy of the *PC News*. There is some possibility that we may publish the club magazine in dual formats, i.e., both PDF and HTML for on-screen viewing rather than taking the time to print out a copy for unhurried home reading.

Early attempts at Web publishing with the October issue of the newsletter produced rather large files that demanded too much time for members to download via 28.8K modems. I intend to rectify that problem via reduction

in the number and resolution of graphics included in the Web-based edition. Also, elimination of the "fountain fills" in the existing graphics should serve to reduce the size of the finished magazine.

Will the *Variety Store* continue? Absolutely! I must have some venue for my psychotic, pedantic and biased opinions. If the demands of newsletter publication decline sufficiently, I may go back to monthly *Variety Store* columns. I haven't been able to give that much time to the column as a result of increased demands from my "real" job and my family for the last



year and hope that the shift will allow me to focus more on the fun side of newsletter publication.

Meanwhile, back to the usual.

CONTINUED ACQUISITIONS, MERGERS IN INDUSTRY ONLY SERVE TO CONFUSE USERS

Since everybody has merged/bought everybody else, I've lost track of who owns who—or what. I'm not even sure I really know who is my ISP these days as there have been so many permutations and



combinations in the telecommunications arena.

I suspect that we will all eventually find ourselves paying fees for everything to one huge conglomerate with many, many names. Not a happy thought, come to think of it.

SUN Looking OVER Their Shoulders NOW THAT LINUX THREATENS SUN's INTERNET SERVER MARKETS ...

I do know that SUN is less than happy now. Even though Microsoft appears to be on the DOJ ropes. LINUX is the reason.

Seems that lots of back office servers are using the "free" operating systems, enough that SUN has noticed the difference, and SUN's stranglehold on the Internet server world is threatened as a result.

Gee, couldn't happen to a nicer group of folks. While SUN was chortling with glee over Judge Jackson's rulings/pronouncements in the Microsoft v. Everybody case—and SUN's leader really does hate Microsoft and Bill Gates—seems that LINUX sort of took them by surprise.

This isn't helped by endorsements by nearly every other hardware vendor in the server business. List includes IBM,

Compaq, Dell, etc. Hmmmm I can just imagine a 1GHz Power PC server running LINUX and leaving most of the SUN-based hardware far, far behind.

COMPAQ A COMPETITOR? Alpha could SHINE AGAIN...

Could Compaq be far behind? The Alpha CPU could also be a real threat to SUN running at super-fast clock rates. Would Compaq try to make another stab at the already crowded (from the SUN viewpoint) Internet server market by positioning the Alpha within striking range of the SUN machines?

You bet they would, as well as vendors running the 800+ MHz AMD and Intel (Pentium III) CPU's. This is one area where CPU speed really does count and SUN can look forward (and over their shoulders) to a lot of server competition in the future.

USER (CORPORATE) SUPPORT IMPORTANT FACTOR AT THIS LEVEL—BOTH IBM AND COMPAQ (DEC) TOUT WIDE EXPERIENCE

Support may be the deciding factor in this race. Both IBM and Compaq (DEC) have lots of experience at this level of competition and may really put the heat on SUN in the next several years.

IBM shines in the mainframe support area—as does the DEC crew acquired by Compaq in the bargain. Eventual winner may be decided by the LINUX software suitability. My money is on IBM.

MICROSOFT v. EVERYBODY CASE CONTINUES—As Both Sides MOVE TOWARD APPEAL

Where does that leave Microsoft? Who knows with the DOJ case hanging over their heads? Microsoft did take the first steps toward an appeal in the case with a January answer to Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's findings. Also, Microsoft appears to have gone for the big guns in their efforts by hiring a few heavyweights (former US Attorneys General) to argue their side in the coming legal battles.

Just in case you haven't been following the news, Microsoft filed briefs challenging Judge Jackson's findings of fact in the case. This was expected, but the hiring of real legal heavyweights was a refreshing note in the affair. Microsoft's "old" legal team gave the impression they were almost "asleep at the wheel" and not quite up to the task of defending the Redmond, WA, giant in the DOJ case. Hopefully, the new team will give Microsoft a little better day in court in the hearings.

Reagan Andrews

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



by Claude McClure

Hearts and Flowers

This month starts with one of our minor as well as gentler holidays. Valentine's Day only becomes important, if you get it wrong (according to a local advertiser). While you still have the heart-shaped image in your mind, I would like to mention some of the valentine deserving things about the NTPCUG. There are many areas to send a virtual box of candy or an early blooming Amaryllis.

Not even Godiva chocolate would be too good for the outgoing Board of Directors who served many hours guiding the last twelve months. Thanks to **Jim Hoisington, Timothy Carmichael, Marsha Drebelbis, Alex Lilley, Andy Oliver and Andy Reese**. They have maintained a learning and meeting center for club membership in an evolving computer society. They per-

formed this service while donating many other club duties like leading SIG's and committees.

Spike Smith proved he is a man of many talents. He stepped outside his duties as leader of the Introduction to the PC SIG into the greater need of making our current meeting hall qualify to City codes for a large meeting space as well as our demands for classrooms and auditorium facility. The Largest virtual valentine that can be delivered goes to you, Spike.

A word of thanks to the support team who help Spike clean up the space and for the latest addition of our comfortable white plastic resin chairs.

For all the words so neatly paragraphed on the many pages of the *North Texas PC News* it seems only fitting to mention our gratitude. A bag of candy conversation hearts seems apropos for **Reagan Andrews, Connie**

Andrews, and all the contributors to our monthly magazine.

I'm sure you want to remember the SIG leaders who come up with such an array interesting topics that they must be sent a box of chocolates, "because you never know what you are going to get". You can read this newsletter or download SIG reports at www.ntpcug.org. There is a SIG for almost every popular computing interest.

Finally, for those who are mentioned elsewhere in this month's newsletter and the volunteers' names below, nothing would be more fitting than a virtual package of Hershey's Kisses.

Claude McCluree

Big Town Liaison
Mark Mills

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
Dick Abbott
James Hope

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth
Statistician:
Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)

Scheduler:
Claude McClure

Anchors:
Roger Bopp
Vernon Cates
Cinda Lovil
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Raymond Reyes
Ken Sauter
Fred Toulmin

Booth Crew:
Randi Boucher
Randy Durham
Eteta E. Eta
Tim Foster
John McNeil (Double)
Linda Moore
Oscar Tyler
T.J. Wickliffe

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. **Via the Internet:** Send me an E-mail at 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

Vincent Gainesl (972) 721-2770 (w)
..... (972) 234-3231 (h)

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 Bill Parker at Sig_coordinator@ntpcug.org before the PC News monthly deadline listed on the inside cover .)

ACCESS

Coming in February: SIG Leader **Larry Linson's** topic is "More About Finding Records in Microsoft Access." He will discuss and demonstrate making our own *Find Dialog* for one specific field, another Find Dialog to search more than one specific field, and, finally, show a *Generic Find Dialog* for multiple fields. We'll talk about the advantages and disadvantages of this last approach.

In January: SIG Leader Larry Linson discussed and demonstrated several methods for finding a record in an Access form: Access' own built-in *Find Record* and *Filter* operations, using the *RecordsetClone* to locate a record in the Form's recordset, automatic synchronization with a *Form* embedded in

a *Subform Control*, and replacing the form's *RecordSource* with another that selects a single record or limited subset.

Looking ahead to March: **Jim Wehe** will describe and demonstrate a real-world Access database for food service ordering. As a special bonus, we will have at least one user of the application describe the operation where it is used and explain the special requirements that had to be considered.

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

FROM BILL PARKER, SIG COORDINATOR

The following are changes/additions/needs that the NTPCUG has made to the SIG's. Please notify me of any changes in contact information for existing SIG Leaders.

New SIGs:

—No new SIGs were added this month.

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- **Excel/Spreadsheets SIG** [Contact Eb Foerster @ (214) 357-7602 h]
- **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 (214) 369-5889 (H), or e-mail to sig_coordinator@ntpcug.org.

SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Bill Parker at:

sig_coordinator@ntpcug.org

Access

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ACT!

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Birl Smith (972) 960-8227 h
..... 1 (888) 740-6730 w
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Dallas Corel

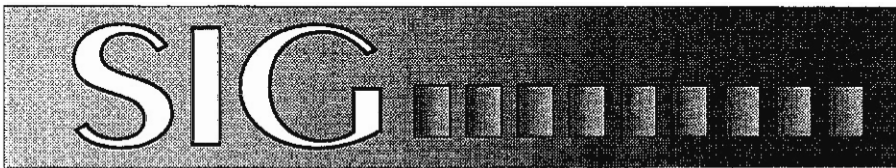
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DOS/Operating Systems

Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h
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Excel/Spreadsheet

Eb Foerster (214) 357-7602 h
eb.foerster@ntpcug.org
Michael Bodner



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://homestead.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 now appears, after a period of uncertainty, to include all patches to date of posting, including Y2K fixes. We haven't heard that it is orderable on CD, so if you have SR2, you might be better off just downloading any post-SR2 patches. SR 2B is a multi-megabyte download and will take some time, even on a fast modem -- downloading it is probably best limited to high-speed connection, through a LAN and T-1, cable modem, or DSL connection.

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.: We are hoping soon to see an operational Members Area on our Web site, <http://www.ntpcug.org>. Join the Members e-mail list (instructions are in this February 2000 issue and also 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 February and we'll try to both inform and entertain you.

Larry Linson

ACT!

Sales Logic of Scottsdale, AZ announced to purchase of ACT! from Symantec on January 2, 2000. They intend to continue to market it as a companion product to SalesLogix product, which seems to be a high-end product targeted toward the fortune 500 companies.

SalesLogix intends to use the existing products to a new level using a Web-leveraged approach which they call Interact.com.

We will discuss the changes to the ACT! product and what they may mean, as well as try to answer any questions which may come up about using the ACT Product.

Jim Thompson

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Visual Basic — Advanced

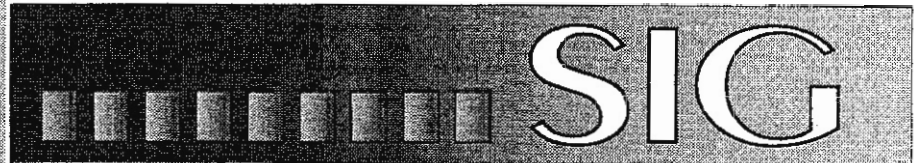
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 Diane Bentley



ActiveX Application Developers

Coming in February, SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will present Part I of "Introduction to Relational Database." We'll discuss a little history, a few definitions, and some basic rules. We'll plan on finishing our coverage of this topic at the March meeting. This presentation will cover much the same subject matter as **Fred Williams** discussed in his similar presentations in the past. It will not, however, be the same as, or based on, Fred's presentation; we'll use Rebecca Riordan's book, *Designing Relational Database Systems*, as our resource. That's the book Larry reviewed and recommended in last month's *North Texas PC News*. It's published by Microsoft Press -- if you'd like to get a head start on this month's presentation, you can order it from the online booksellers, visit <http://www.cyriv.com/RDBBook.htm> to order it from the author, or (most likely) find it in a well-stocked local bookstore.

In January: SIG Leader **Dan Ogden** used our high-speed Internet connection via *The Beam* to conduct a tour of sites he's found useful as resources for developers in general and ActiveX developers in particular. We gained a list of URLs (Universal Resource Locators), visited the sites, and learned how to benefit from them.

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 meet-

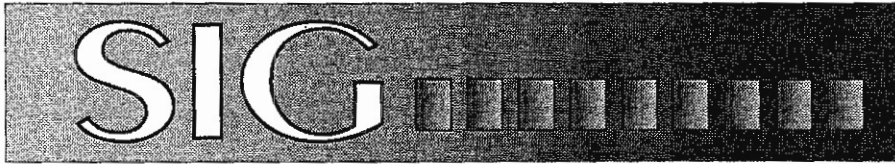
ing, send an e-mail to lmilinson@yahoo.com or dogden@gte.net.

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

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 Bill Parker:

sig_coordinator@ntpcug.org.



Contract,” “Documenting System Specifications,” and “Structured Analysis and System Specification.”

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

Larry Linson

Alpha Five

An idea mentioned at last month's meeting was to build a complete database application in the SIG, so members can see the process from start to finish. This process will start in February. We will not do EVERYTHING in the SIG meeting, but will rely on volunteers to enhance different pieces between meetings. During the meeting we will discuss design alternatives, and where each may be appropriate. We will build the basics during the SIG meeting, and let members flesh it out.

The first app we will work on is a customer contact database. While this could be a simple flat table (one ships with Alpha Five), we may implement a relational design that allows for multiple contacts at a company, with memo fields at both the company and contact levels. A contact can also have multiple categories defined, e.g. Vendor, Golf, Financial. If a relational design is used, accessing contacts in key sequence by company name becomes a design issue. Some concepts, like an optional shipping address, will lead to the use of conditional objects when printing shipping documents. These and other design considerations will be discussed.

Come and contribute your ideas.

Bill Parker

COMMUNICATIONS

In February we will be talking about Internet security. We will discuss computer viruses, security holes in browsers, ways you are vulnerable to attack, and what you can do to protect yourself. Computer viruses were once reserved for those that exchanged floppy disks or used bulletin boards. Today we acquire software on CD-ROM and over the Internet since most programs won't fit on a single 3 floppy disk. The Internet does not give us the security of having someone else check our programs or e-mail before we download. Bulletin boards perform their own virus checking and if a problem is found they will post alerts to warn of potential problems. When we download programs from the Internet we rarely go back the next day so we would not know if we had received a bad file. We do not want to leave our e-mail address because we receive enough junk e-mail. Also, we don't know what security precautions an Internet site has taken.

Viruses became a major problem in 1999 as for the first time major companies and ISP's became vulnerable and closed down their e-mail systems to find, prevent, filter or remove infected files. Computer viruses can do more harm now because computers are networked in the home and office. The viruses themselves have become smarter, stealthier, self-replicating, able to use the Internet to download updates, able to destroy winsocks, operating systems, cmos, hardware and personal files.

Internet security is a concern for everyone. If you have bought anything using the Internet you may be vulnerable. The hacker that stole 300,000 credit card names, numbers and expiration dates is an example of information that is beyond our immediate control. Retail sites allow consumers to store their credit cards for future purchases. The public must insist

that Internet retailers increase their security. The risk of information abuse increases for everyone because we no longer write letters, pay cash, keep our addresses in a little book or know our passwords. We are dependent on our computers because we must store and retrieve more personal information. We are vulnerable because our information could be used by others or destroyed. We are a society of ideas not products. Names, copyrights, trademarks, software and designs make the products we buy better.

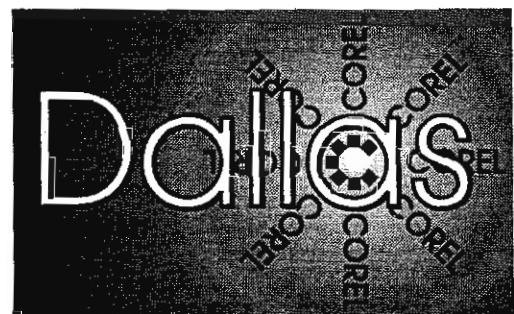
Twenty-seven ISP's had their systems compromised by a hacker that gained root access to their systems. In California two teenagers gained root access to 400 Department of Defense sites. The security problem affects all of us from various sources. If you would like to know more, join us at the next SIG.

Birl Smith and Alan Brosz

DALLAS COREL SIG NOTES February 2000

Mary's Web Site Building Tips

If you wonder how to get better results from your Web site, come to our February Dallas Corel SIG meeting. **Mary McWilliams Johnson** will bring us "How to Communicate Effectively With Streamlined Graphics and Content." She recently designed our new NTPCUG Web site <http://www.ntpcug.org> and has won awards for "Wordsmith Workshop" <http://www.superconnect.com/wordsmith> and "Mary's Tips on Designing Web Sites" <http://www.superconnect.com/marystips>. With a background as technical writer, graphic designer



Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group

and multimedia producer, Mary became enthralled with Web development and hasn't looked back. Mary will show how we can merge our artwork in DRAW and PHOTO-PAINT with additional tools for effective Web site design and communications. See you in February.

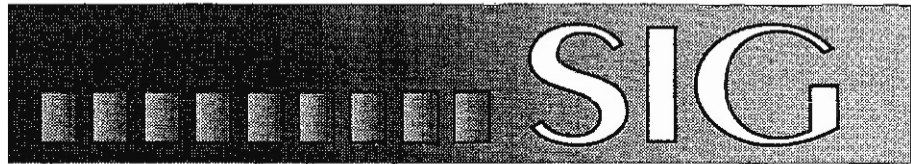
January in Review

Mastering masks is so basic to success in PHOTO-PAINT, we must jump into the fun of it and learn as we go. Skillful use of masks makes it possible to produce corrective and special effects in photo editing. In January **Marsha Drebelbis** shared examples from her past projects and showed how each photo was treated. Projecting images so all could see, we took a look at choices made at each step to the finished piece. Whether on a client project or for personal whimsy, we worked through the process of painting on masks, feathering, desaturating, tinting, and color correcting. Find a smorgasbord of additional training, plug-ins and fun tools

IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Corel Corporation
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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



for image editing at <http://www.i-us.com>.

Combined April SIGs – Corel and WordPerfect

Rose Anne Ellison will address a joint meeting of Dallas Corel SIG and WordPerfect SIG in April. It will be at our usual meeting time and place, 9:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. in Room H. Rose Anne topic will be Corel Presentations 9. As a professional presentations designer, she will again bring us tips and demonstrate how to make effective on-screen presentations with Corel software, including DRAW, PHOTO-PAINT, and PRESENTATIONS. Remember that Presentations 9 is a module found in the Corel WordPerfect 2000 Suite.

Corel Seminar in Dallas May 2-3

We are pleased that **Rick Altman** will bring his popular seminar for CorelDRAW users to us in Dallas, TX May 2-3, 2000. Referred to as an off-season traveling seminar, this event is smaller (reservation seating for 45 people) than the full Conference, but packed with information and learning opportunities. Geared for CorelDRAW users low-intermediate and up, it features two days of engaging topics and presentations. For full details and reservations, visit <http://www.altman.com/seminars>. We who have attended his seminars in the past give them rave reviews. Remember when he made a surprise visit to our SIG meeting a few years ago?

Corel World 2000

CorelWORLD 2000 Conference is scheduled for September 10-15, 2000 in San Diego, CA. Rick Altman and many additional Corel graphics luminaries will be featured presenters. This conference offers the Corel graphics software user a full course of learning options. Find details at <http://www.altman.com/corelworld>.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ 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
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Jan/99 – Masks in PHOTO-PAINT

Marsha Drebelbis

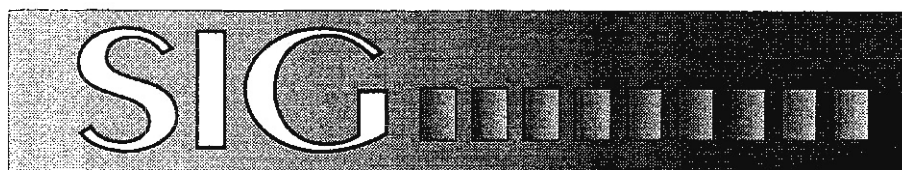
DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS

By the time you read this SIG note, *Windows 2000* should have hit the streets in local retail outlets. Be interesting to see how Microsoft prices the new product—and how long it takes for pirated copies to hit the local computer flea markets at substantially-lower prices than the "real" Win2000 at retail.

Plug 'n Pray revisited

Since I've struggled with Plug 'n Play for a couple of years and found my version of the wording more appropriate, I thought it might be time to revisit this topic for the SIG meeting in February. May also look at Win2000's version and compare with Win95 and Win98 in terms of installation ease and outcome.

We'll try to explore the many, many choices/decisions users must make in



the setup process after discovering that the MS *default* installation has failed. Here, I'm using "default" as "Typical" in the MS list of installation choices. This would usually be my absolute last choice with most Win 9x installations as a result of sad experience(s).

Users need to remember that this is a very complex combination of BIOS setup options, Win 9x options and device driver options. If I'm unusually well prepared, i.e., have the time to do it; I may have a series of illustrations to accompany the discussions. I plan to focus on typical device settings such as I/O port addresses IRQ demands and selected DMA channel assignments.

For purpose of the discussion, I'll assume a fairly straightforward, recent Award BIOS set and include some detail on the VIA chip sets which I favor over the Intel sets at the Socket 7 level. With x86 Socket 7 CPU's this is an easy choice since the Intel chip sets restrict the user to 64M of cached DRAM while the VIA sets allow up to 2M of cache SRAM capable of caching 512+M of SDRAM.

We'll try to keep the discussion level out of the "techie/hacker" realm and hope this will be both an interesting and informative DOS/Operating Systems meeting.

Reagan Andrews

DOS Operating Systems SIG

Excel/SPREADSHEET

At the February meeting we will discuss the use of and design of Web Queries. Web Queries allow you to query data from a specific site on the Internet or an intranet server and receive the information directly into Microsoft Excel. Web Queries are text files with the file extension .iqy containing three or four lines of text and can be easily generated. Any table on the Internet can be imported or updated directly into Excel. If you would like to see your favor-



ite table imported, bring the URL of the site to the meeting.

At the January meeting we examined 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.

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. If your

problem is not easy to explain in words at the meeting send me an example of your .xls file to ebfoerster@ntpcug.org.

Eb Foerster

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

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.pioneerinfo.com/tmg/.

Jeri Steele

INTERNET - BEGINNING AND ADVANCED

Our January 2000 meeting of the Internet SIGs quickly became a combined meeting of Questions and Answers. We had a good crowd both hours.

Windows Tips

Surprisingly, some of the best discussion centered on Windows shortcuts

and tips. Attendees observed how the presenters were moving quickly from one screen to another, or how they brought up certain screens in 1-2 key-strokes that required several keystrokes for many. This prompted some questions as to how this was done.

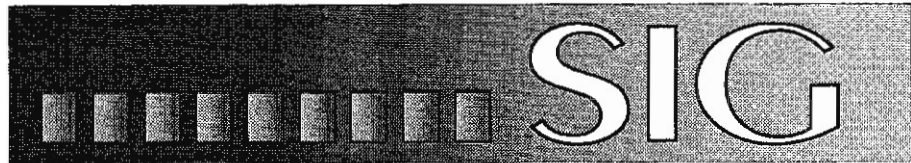
For instance, do you ever have trouble finding the small square in the upper right corner of a window that maximizes the window? You can do the same thing by double clicking *anywhere* on the title bar – the blue bar at the top of your windowpane. And if you want to restore it back to its smaller size, just double click the title bar again.

Do you use Windows Explorer to look for files on your hard disk? To open Windows Explorer, you can go through the START button to Programs, and onward to wherever it is hiding. But a quicker way is to *right* click on START, then left click on Explore. It does the same thing – only quicker.

Occasionally, you may find your file, then double click on it to start its associated application. For instance, files that have a “doc” extension were created with Microsoft WORD. Those ending in “xls” use EXCEL. Clicking on such files starts the application, and your file is opened within it.

But what if double-clicking your file tries to start the wrong application? You can override Windows’ default by holding the Shift key down and *right* clicking on the file name. The menu that pops up includes a normally unseen option – “Open With”. If you left click on Open With, you get a menu of most application programs, and can pick the one that *you* think will work.

What if you cannot find the file you are looking for? If you have some idea about what it is called, or when it was created, click START and choose Find, then Files or Folders. You can search on all or part of a file name, in one folder or across the entire hard disk(s). The “Date Modified” tab lets you narrow the search to files created within a specified time frame, while the “Advanced” tab lets you specify text to



look for *within* your hard disk files. Use any or all of these options to locate your “lost” files.

Internet Questions

Many of the questions during our meeting related to e-mail. Seems that some folks use AOL, and cannot see attachments received from other users, whether or not those users are on AOL. From Doug’s personal experience with neighbors, any time an AOL user is sent two or more attachments in the same e-mail, the attachments are separated from the e-mail and placed into a single file with an unusual extension (“eml” maybe – can’t recall for sure as this article is written). I’m told this same situation can exist with *single* attachments as well.

These AOL files can be viewed with WINZIP, as suggested on AOL’s site. But even then, I’ve found that files are frequently unreadable. The problem, in my view, is that AOL handles e-mail in a non-standard manner. So while AOL can be easier to use overall, its handling of e-mail leaves *much* to be desired. AOL has shown little desire to adopt the TCP/IP standards used by the rest of the world.

A session dealing entirely with e-mail was suggested, and may be forthcoming. Terms such as UUENCODE and Base64 can become factors in how you send or receive e-mail as well.

In February, we hope to have **Pat Hykkonen** continue his series on TCP/IP protocols, as begun in November. This would include Telnet, FTP, SMNP, SNMP, and good old HTTP. Watch the Web site for an update on this part of the presentation.

If you have specific issues you wish to see presented in our Internet SIGs, please send e-mail to doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org and we will try to cover it.

See you on February 26th !!

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC

Attention: Senior Citizens and Computer Beginners of all ages

A special beginners in personal computing presentation **designed for seniors** and suitable for all others is scheduled for 12:00 to 1:55 on February 26, 2000. This will replace the regular Intro SIG presentations scheduled for this time.

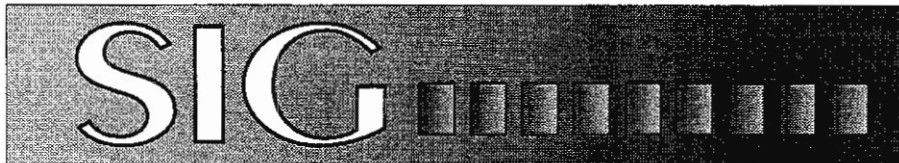
Seniors aged 50 through 80+ are most welcome. All seniors above 40 years of age are welcome. Yes, and computer beginners aged 12 and up are potential seniors and are welcome too.

This program includes a training tape prepared by Microsoft and features Windows computers. The material covered, however, is generic in nature and is therefore compatible with those planning for Apple McIntosh (Mac) systems.

The Microsoft videotape, *Opening New Windows on the World*, is slanted towards making senior citizens feel comfortable. Even though there is a slight bias toward advanced and mature persons, the technical content is great and will be enjoyed by those of all ages.

This seminar is split into three segments: hardware, software, and the Internet. Each period begins with a portion of the excellent videotape followed by live demonstrations and discussion pertinent to each session and followed by a short break. Question and answer periods will be integrated with a working computer system and interconnection to the Web via The Beam (a very high-speed ISP).

Please invite your senior friends and younger folks alike to this free presenta-



tion. Designed especially for those starting out with computing and perhaps those wishing to come in for a refresher.

This is a great opportunity for new members and guests to learn about personal computers and also what our computer users group, NTPCUG, is all about.

If enough interest for a "Seniors Program" is generated, we may create a permanent SIG (Special Interest Group) relating to this age group and incorporate some of the specialized pro-

grams that Microsoft and others offer along this line.

For more information concerning the Introduction to the PC SIG, check out the Web page:

http://www.ntpcug.org/sigs/intro_pc/

Also, for more information on our "seniors" program, see:

<http://members.home.com/spike3/seniors.htm>

Harold (Spike) Smith

Introduction to the PC Class Schedule

Class #	Date	Time	Subject
7	Feb. 26	10:00 A.M.	Spreadsheets and Databases
8		Noon	Special Program see SIG notes
9		1:00 P.M.	Special Program (continued)
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
4	June 17	10:00 AM	Microsoft Windows
5		Noon	PC Graphics
6		1:00 P.M.	Word Processing

INVESTORS

This group meets to discuss many different ideas about investing and money management. In November some indicators will be discussed about the current state of the stock market.

We would like to hear what people want to discuss in future meetings. Please tell us at the November meeting or e-mail your ideas and suggestions to InfoInvest@aol.com.

Kathryn (Kathy) Kirby & Dick Richtman

JAVA

We had a great turnout for our presentation on Enterprise Java Beans. **Mark Smith** of Valtech talked about how they were used and what they could do. There were many questions from the audience from persons who obviously have been interested in using such things. After going through a series of slides covering the basics of EJB, Mark then started an EJB server on his laptop and demonstrated a representative example of a banking bean that might be used to process a deposit transaction. He has offered to make the slides available to us. If we can swing it, I will pass out copies at the next meeting.

Speaking of which, **Jamie Nettles** has offered to demonstrate a Java application he wrote. *Spirals* is an application that combines evolutionary algorithms and object-oriented design to produce eye-catching doodles. It turns out if you add together multiple circles of differing frequencies and amplitudes, then undersample those summations and plot the results, you can produce some interesting patterns, somewhat reminiscent of the old Spirographs. The application generates a set of random doodles and presents these to the user, who chooses which doodles are to be preserved and which die.

The application then takes the surviving doodles and breeds new doodles from these, using mutation and crossover. This can go on for as many generations as the user desires. Jamie will present the design of the application in

the form of class diagrams. Spirals is written in Java 2 and uses Swing. It consists of a GUI portion and the portion that understands the mutating ob-



jects. After describing the design, Jamie will demonstrate Spirals in action.

Don Benish

MICROSOFT NETWORKING

Next Meeting: February 26, 2000, 8 AM

In February, SIG member **Jim Thompson** will give a demo of a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection. We plan to connect the demo system in Room "B" (running NT4 Workstation) to the User Group system (running NT4 Server) located on the Internet.

Our connection will be via the high-speed satellite link provided by the Beam, one of our User Group sponsors. Check out their products at www.TheBeam.com.

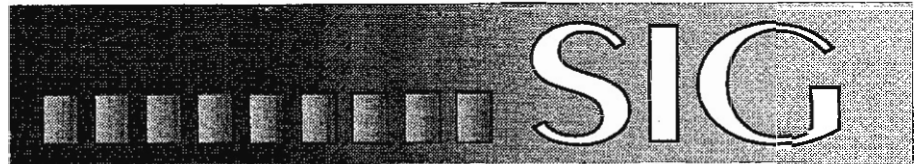
Don't forget to arrive early to be eligible for the software freebies!

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

Upcoming Schedule:

? March- Win2K demo and discussion

? April- Continuation of Win2K demos and discussions



? May- Open for suggestions (e-mail gil.brand@ntpcug.org):

NT Security, NT Monitoring, etc.

Site-of-the-month:

Dec 99 - 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.

Previous meetings:

January, 2000

Paul Sloane gave a presentation on the relative advantages and disadvantages of "Upgrading from WinNT to Win2K, or Clean Install Win2K". Check our home page at www.ntpcug.org to view the related handouts.

December, 1999

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).

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 administra-

tor! Check our home page at 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) for a copy of the presentation.

September 1999

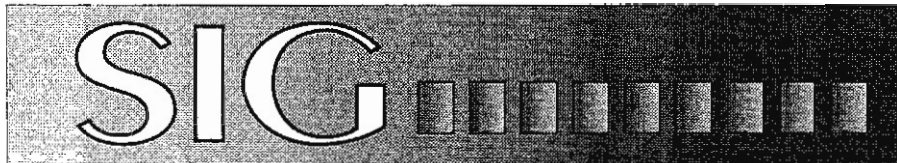
SIG member **Rodney Loos** gave a presentation on using Win98 Internet Connection Sharing (ICS) with a cable modem. See the SIG area on our Web site (www.ntpcug.org) for a copy of the presentation.

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) 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.

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 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 & Audio

SIG Leader: Alan Lummus, *alummus@airmail.net*, W&H 972-733-4141

SIG Asst. Leader: Timothy Carmichael, *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

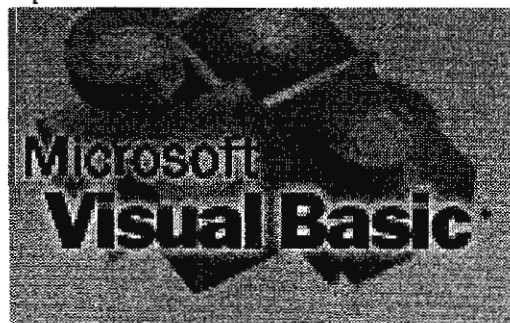
The February meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG on February 26, 2000 will feature a discussion by **Tom Browning**. His subject will be "Tackling Timers." Tom will have a simple VB project that makes labels blink, an alarm, a clock and maybe a few other uses of timers. Tom will bring a few disks with source code for door prizes.

Last month, I demonstrated the use of the Package and Deployment Wizard as distributed with Visual Basic 6.0. I took a simple Visual Basic application and prepared two distribution disks ready to install on a Windows computer.

March's meeting will be the semi-annual "For Beginners Only" session where we introduce Visual Basic to those with no (or very little) experience with Visual Basic. This presentation is updated and given twice each year to help beginning programmers get started in Visual Basic.

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

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 Ba-



sic 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.

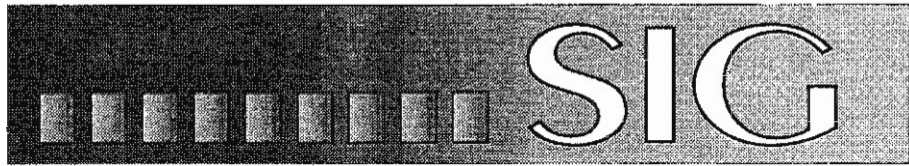
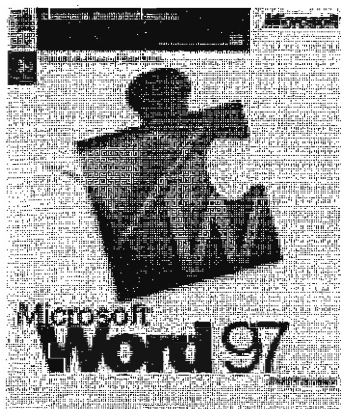
Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 26, 2000 at the Big Town Mall. It seems pretty certain we will be meeting in Room F for the foreseeable future. Check the NTPCUG Web site for any changes in meeting time or place. I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic - Advanced

During the February 2000 meeting of the Advanced Visual Basic SIG I'll continue with my discussion on Class Modules. In the January 2000 meeting I showed several reasons why you would want to use a Class Module. This month I'll show you several ways of creating and maintaining them. I'll discuss the manual method, the Class Builder Wizard, and my own Wizard implemented as a Visual Basic Add-in.

In the coming months I would encourage all members to e-mail me what topics you would like to be covered at the meetings. These meetings are for you,



the members and your guests. The more input I get from you, the more informative the meetings will become and the more you will get out of them. I'll collect the responses and post the results on my Web site (and on the NTPCUG Web site if possible) with all the handouts and sample code used at the previous meetings.

You can e-mail me at *stephenj@flash.net*. If you have an immediate problem, you can call me at 214-532-9788; however, you best bet is via e-mail. You can get access to my Web site by entering the address *www.flash.net/~stephenj/ntpcug* from your browser.

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

I am looking forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Stephen Johnson

Word for Windows

Meeting time and place: 9:00-9:55 in Room B

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.

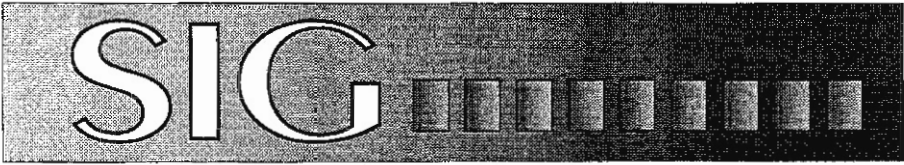
We want this SIG to help you solve your Word problems and discover how to do things you didn't know you wanted to do.

*Michele Wood
(mwood@flash.net) & Sherry
Covert (shervinc@ix.net-
com.com)*

WORDPERFECT for Windows

For those of you who were unable to be at the January meeting, we discussed a handful of Web sites that were specific to WordPerfect. Not only did we look at *www.corel.com*, but also several other sites related to the assistance in WordPerfect help. We peeked at newsgroups, discussed how they work, and talk about subscription services such as *TipWorld*. For a detailed list of the sites we reviewed, check out





Cindy's Web site at www.flash.net/~cadams11.

This month we will be looking into the world of Web page creation in WordPerfect 9. We will be looking at how the Web page template works, how to work with standard WordPerfect graphics, as well as some other graphic formats. Don't forget that we will have another giveaway this month, so come with your questions and we'll have fun

For those of you who are interested in Presentations 9 that ships with the Corel WordPerfect Office 2000, we have a treat in store for you! Mark

your calendar because in April we are going to join the Dallas Corel SIG in Room H at 9:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. for a special demonstration of Presentations 9 by **Rose Anne Ellison**. I will remind you of this next month, but wanted to give you a heads up on it.

See you in February!

Cindy Adams & Diane Bentley

Tip of the Month – Customizing Your Editing Environment

WordPerfect's what-you-see-is-what-you-get (WYSIWYG) editing environ-

ment is very handy for previewing your document on the printed page. However, if you need to maintain finer control over spacing, take advantage of WordPerfect's Display Symbols feature, which substitutes white space with symbols representing different space-inducing commands, such as spaces, hard returns, and tabs. Small bullets represent spaces (made with the space bar), for example, while left arrows identify left tabs and two arrows facing inward indicate hard indents. To turn on Display Symbols, choose Tools, Settings from the menu, double-click the Display icon, and click the Symbols tab. Select the symbols you want in your document window and click OK. (These symbols do not print; they're for editing only).

This tip is via *TipWorld's* "WordPerfect Suite 8 Tips". If you would like more

tips like this on a daily basis, you can sign up to have them come straight to your e-mail box by going to <http://www.tip-world.com> to choose your daily tips of the day!

Cindy Adams

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc

Membership

Application

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

Member # _____

Name (Last): _____ (First): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone (Check preferred.) Home: (_____) _____ - _____
 Work: (_____) _____ - _____ Ext. _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

E-mailAddress _____

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.

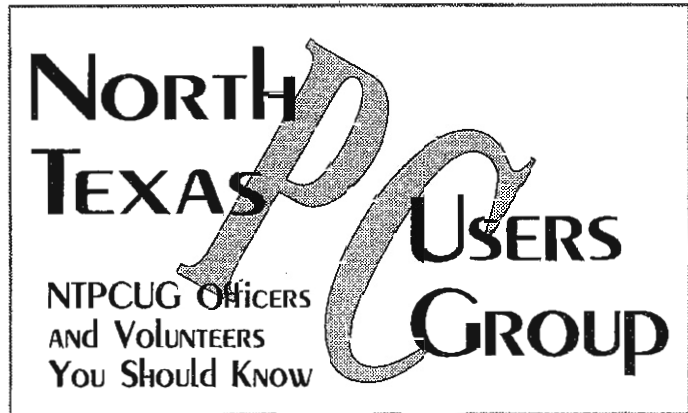
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

Phone (214) 327-6455 for recorded information about the North Texas PC Users Group and scheduled meeting date times and locations. Please leave a message if you would like specific information about the Group. Or, visit our Web Page at: www.ntpcug.org

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

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



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

Timothy Carmichael *Chairman*
Marsha Drebels **Vincent Gaines**
Gil Brand **Bill Parker**
Michele Wood

Password problems?

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

NTPCUG Web Addresses

Home Page: ntpcug.org

Click on: *How to Contact Us* and you will see a link to:

- ♠ President
- ♠ Advertising
- ♠ Newsletter
- ♠ Auditorium Presentations
- ♠ Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator
- ♠ Publicity
- ♠ Webmaster

To e-mail officers and directors: bod@ntpcug.org

To e-mail the *PC News* and submit articles: newsletter@ntpcug.org

To e-mail all members who have joined the Members mailing list: members@ntpcug.org

To enroll in NTPCUG Newsgroups, send e-mail to: postmaster@ntpcug.org

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..)

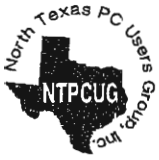
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President-Elect	(Open)	
Program Chairman	Vincent Gaines	(972) 234-3231 h (972) 721-2770 w
Treasurer	Eb Foerster	(214) 357-7602 h
Secretary	Wade Emmert	(214) 740-3164 w
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
SIG Coordinator	Bill Parker	(214) 379-5889 h
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h

DFW Xchange Information (214) 746-3365
www.dfwxchange.com

Life Members

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



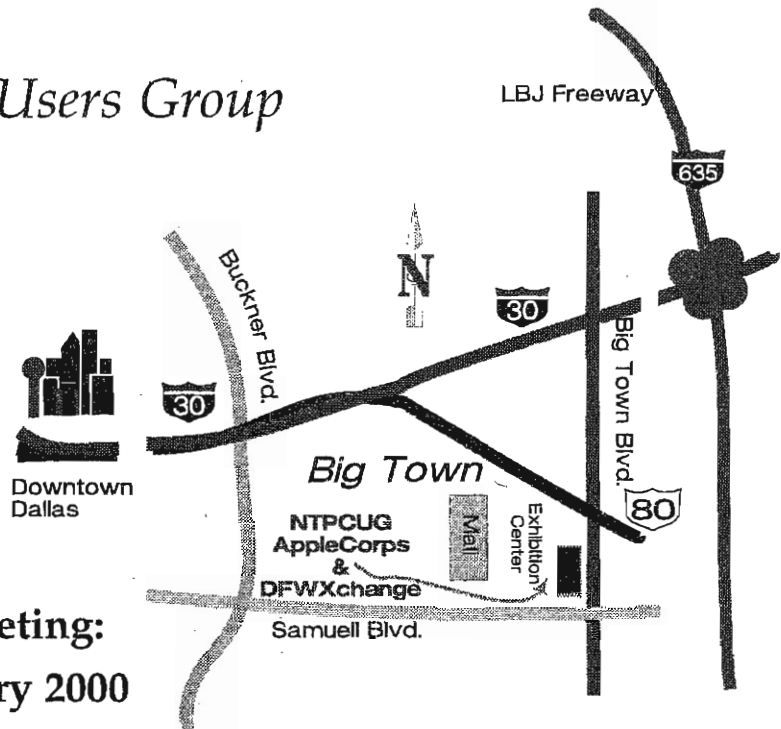
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**Next Meeting:
26 February 2000**