North Texas

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NTPCUG

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D E A D L I N E
Copy deadline for January
North Texas PC NEWS:
January, 5, 2001

Meeting Dates:

December 16 – 3rd Saturday
January 20 – 3rd Saturday
February 17 – 3rd Saturday

NT✦PCUG
NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, INC

Of Interest In This Issue...

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*

THE MAIN PRESENTATIONS FOR DECEMBER 16, 2000 ARE:

10 AM - Charles Clinton will represent Intel. His presentation for December is to better define the differences between the Celeron, Pentium III and Pentium 4. This is an interactive session. Come with your questions regarding Intel processors and any other Intel products that we have seen this past 5 months.

Charles will also bring the MB and processor bundles for last month's winner and to draw for in December along with some other things for drawing...after all it is that time of year for gift giving!

11 AM - Mark Haley will represent *www.mypctalks.com* (live link on back page of this issue). Their latest product "My PC Talks" is amazing - it converts Web text to speech and teaches you to speak in 6 languages (including French, Spanish, German, Italian and Japanese). The text to speech technology is ideal for hearing your e-mails or teaching children to read. It is also great for people who have difficulty reading since it enlarges the text as it reads it.

They also have remarkable multimedia CD-ROMs on Travel, National Parks, Space, Bird Watching and Nature which include magnificent full screen photographs, stunning videos, interactive maps and Internet sites. Our CD-ROMS are the perfect gifts and the best hobbies. "We make travel, speaking languages, and astronomy easy, affordable and fun. Our CD-ROMs retail for $15 to $30 each, at the user meeting they will be sold at half price - $10-$15 each."

We plan to give a copy of one of our CD-ROMs to the first ten people to attend the meeting (of course we would hand these out at the end of presentation).

DECEMBER 16

SIGs SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP Meeting Schedule

Time	SIG
8:00	Microsoft Networking
	AppleCorps
	Hardware Solutions
	Excel/Spreadsheets
	The Master Genealogist
9:00	Communications
	AppleCorps
	DOS/Disk Operating Systems
	Introduction to the PC
	Alpha Five
	Dallas Corel
	Microsoft Word
	The Master Genealogist (continued)
10:00	Internet - Beginning
	Main Presentation - Intel
	AppleCorps
	Professional MIDI & Audio
	Introduction to the PC
	Web Content Committee
	Dallas Corel (continued)
	WordPerfect for Windows
	The Master Genealogist (continued)

Time	SIG
11:00	Internet – Advanced
	Main Presentation
	www.mypctalks.com
	AppleCorps
	Professional MIDI & Audio
	(continued)
	Introduction to the PC
	Quicken
	Linux
	WordPerfect for Windows
	(continued)
12:00	NTPCUG Business
	Meeting
	AppleCorps/FileMaker
	Investors
	Java
	Microsoft FrontPage
12:30	Visitors Orientation
1:00	AppleCorps/ClarisWorks
	AppleCorps/Beginners
	e-Commerce

SIG meetings are listed by time for the December 16 meeting. Times may change, and members are advised to check the NTPCUG Web site for latest listings. Room locations will be posted at LHFC on the day of the meeting.

The following SIGs are meeting at separate locations, and are not included in the schedule above. Check the SIG notes for time and location.

Meets on 12-9
    Access
    Application Developers Issues
    Visual BASIC - Advanced
    Visual BASIC - Beginning

December Meeting . . . and Party

We plan to have a festive meeting on December 16, with refreshments and prizes. Please come join us and bring a snack or soda to share with your fellow members in the main reception area. There will be several door prizes, including a copy of Microsoft Office Premium 2000. Pick up your drawing ticket as you enter the building, and drawing winners will be announced at the end of the Business Meeting at 12:30 PM.

Volunteer Appreciation

Those of you who attended the November meeting may have enjoyed the refreshments that appeared by the information tables. We want to thank **Lee Lowrie** for bringing coffee and cookies, and **Vincent Gaines** for providing hot

Prez Sez

Timothy Carmichael
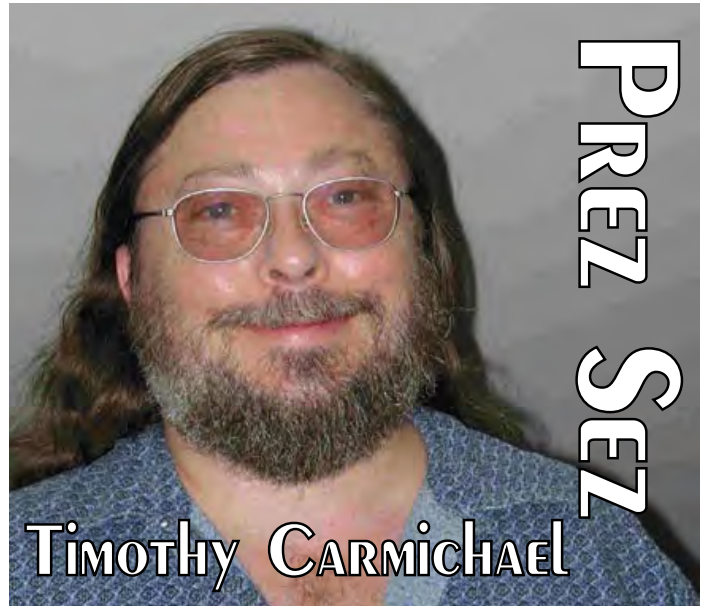
chocolate and donuts. They saw the need and voluntarily stepped forward to provide a service that benefited everyone. This is an example of the cooperative spirit we need to encourage in our User Group. Look at the Volunteer Opportunities on the NTPCUG Web site to see where you can contribute.

January Elections

The annual elections of NTPCUG Board of Directors will be held at the Business Meeting on January 20, 2001. Nominations are open for President, President-Elect (serve as BOD member for one year, then as President for the following year), and 5 at-large Directors of the Board.

Nominees for Directors include **Bill Parker, Gil Brand, Vincent Gaines, Martin Hellar, and David Williams**. Current board members **Michele Wood** and **Marsha Drebelbis** will not be able to commit to the time to run this year. As of now, no one has stepped forward to run for President and President-Elect. Nominees must be committed to leading for the next year, and should plan to attend the monthly main User Group meeting on the third Saturday of each month and the officers meeting on the following Tuesday evening.

If you care about building up and expanding the User Group as a valuable community service, we

Prez Sez... Continued

welcome your participation. Please submit nominations by e-mail to *bod@ntpcug.org* (live link on back page of this issue), or contact **Timothy Carmichael**. A full listing of nominees with brief biographical information will be published with the election ballot in the January issue of the *PC News*.

Timothy

Win 9x Help Closer Than You Might Think

Need a little help with Win 9x? We all do from time to time. Presumed lack of documentation for Windows since version 95 has plagued the user community in a number of venues. Well, maybe Microsoft has been trying to give users a little help since Win 3x, but nobody has listened—or looked closely enough at the Windows directory.

Users of Win 9x have always had some Microsoft support they've tended to overlook. I'm talking about the Windows TXT files in the main Windows directory/folder. If you are looking for keyboard shortcuts to moving about in Windows, look at the Windows TIPS.TXT file.

I was reminded of this in a recent DOS/ Operating Systems SIG meeting as a user described how to change the file association in REGIS-

Win 9x Help... Ctd.

TRY for a particular type of graphics file. It was simple and direct: highlight the file and use [Shift] + right-button mouse click to bring up the associations menu in Windows Explorer. Where had I seen this before? Of course, in the TIPS.TXT file.

Other files that may be of help to the perplexed PC user are:

Windows 95
CONFIG.TXT
DISPLAY.TXT
EXCHANGE.TXT
EXTRA.TXT
FAQ.TXT
GENERAL.TXT
HARDWARE.TXT
INFRARED.TXT
INTERNET.TXT
MOUSE.TXT
MSDOSDRV.TXT
NETWORK.TXT
PRINTERS.TXT
PROGRAMS.TXT
PWS.TXT
TIPS.TXT
Y2KW95.TXT

Windows 98 & 98 SE
CONFIG.TXT
DISPLAY.TXT
FAQ.TXT
GENERAL.TXT
HARDWARE.TXT
MOUSE.TXT
MSDOSDRV.TXT

NETWORK.TXT
PRINTERS.TXT
PROGRAMS.TXT
RECOVER.TXT
SUPPORT.TXT
TIPS.TXT

There's a lot of information contained in these files and new Windows users may find them to be very helpful in configuring/ troubleshooting their systems.

Etoin Shrdlu

AppleCorps of Dallas 2000 Schedule

December 16th - Holiday Party/Swap Meet

Lynn Wegley
Program Director
Apple Corp of Dallas

Notice

The Microsoft Word SIG is looking for a new SIG Leader by year-end. If you are interested, or for more information, please call Michele Wood at 214-503-1012(evening) or Sherry Gable at 972-732-4167 (daytime).

!!! Mark Your Calendar !!!

Future Newsletter Deadlines and Meeting Dates

Our main meeting [presentation(s) and most SIGs] will be at Lake Highlands Freshman Center on the **third Saturday** of each month.

The **newsletter deadline** each month will be **fifteen days before** the main meeting.

See the schedule at right for a listing of those dates.

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

Newsletter Deadline	Meeting Date
December 1	December 16
January 5	January 20
February 2	February 17

Off-Site SIGs

The North Texas Microsoft Developers SIGs (Beginning Visual Basic, Advanced Visual Basic, Access, and Application Developers Issues SIGs) will meet the second Saturday of each month at Microsoft Corporation's South Central District office at 5080 Spectrum Drive, Suite 115E in Dallas.

Up-to-date Information

Make it a habit to check our Web site at *ntpcug.org* for any last minute changes. Keep informed through our Web site and newsletter for all current developments.

Connie Andrews

A New PC News Feature!!

Check the back page of this issue for a listing of all the Web Links mentioned this month in the newsletter. The links are "live" within Adobe Acrobat and will be Web sites or timely articles.

!!!!! VIRUS ALERT: Shockwave Virus upgraded to high risk !!!!!

by James Niccolai

James Niccolai is a San Francisco-based senior correspondent for the IDG News Service, an InfoWorld affiliate.

SAN FRANCISCO – An Internet worm that disguises itself as a Shockwave Flash movie is gaining traction among corporations around the world, and at least one anti-virus software vendor upgraded the virus to "high risk" Friday afternoon.

Anti-virus company McAfee, in Santa Clara, Calif., said it has received as many as 50 reports of the virus in the past 24 hours, most of which are from corporations, including several Fortune 500 companies. The unusually high number of reports prompted the Network Associates' subsidiary to upgrade the virus from medium risk to high risk late Friday afternoon.

Trend Micro, in Cupertino, Calif., is also seeing increased incidences of the virus, which arrives in an e-mail bearing the subject line, "A great shockwave flash movie." Trend Micro received reports of the worm Friday from nine Fortune 500 companies in the United States, Europe, and Asia, as well as numerous smaller companies, officials said.

The worm, which first appeared Thursday, is delivered to users in the form of an e-mail attachment that appears to be a Shockwave Media Player. When a user tries to view the movie attachment, the worm sends a copy of itself to all people in the address book of the user's Microsoft Outlook e-mail program, potentially clogging e-mail networks.

The worm does not destroy files on a user's computer, but renames all files of the .jpeg and .zip type and moves them to the PC's root directory, said Patrick Nolan, a virus researcher with
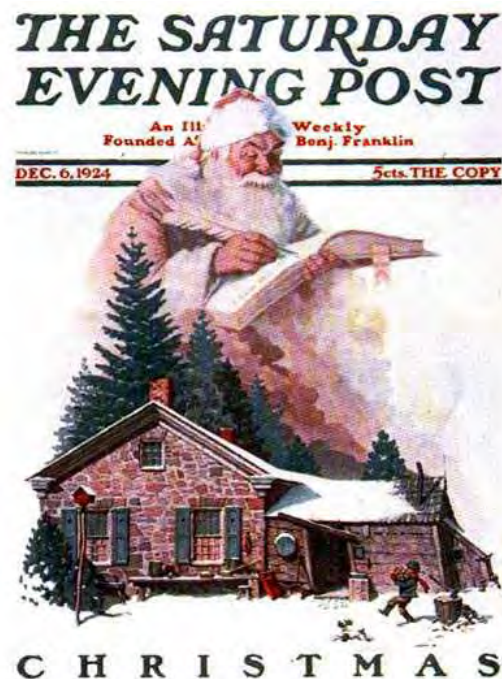
McAfee's Anti-Virus Emergency Response Team (AVERT).

There does not appear to be a pattern to the industries that have been affected by the virus, which include companies in the manufacturing, banking, health care, and retail sectors, various officials said.

Although the worm does not delete files, it can clog e-mail networks and take e-mail servers offline. Cleaning up files that have been relocated and renamed could also waste considerable man hours, Nolan said.

Anti-virus vendors have long been warning users not to open attached files of the .exe type. One reason the Creative.exe virus may be spreading so quickly is that it uses the Shockwave Flash movie icon. Users tend to trust familiar icons they see on their computers, and virus writers are starting to play off that trust, a spokeswoman for McAfee said.

"This could be setting a new trend in virus writing," the spokeswoman said.

The virus has not caused as much damage as the notorious "I Love You" virus, which reached

HUMOR LINE . . .

Things you wish you could say

Before you criticize someone walk a mile in his shoes. That way if he gets angry he'll be a mile away-and barefoot.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

I have found at my age going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of my face.

For every action there is an equal and opposite government program.

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

Always yield to temptation, because it may not pass your way again.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

NEW VIRUS ... CTD.

millions of computers in May this year and wreaked havoc at corporations around the globe. The ability of "I Love You" to delete files and the fact that it spread so rapidly earned it McAfee's highest risk assessment" "high risk – outbreak." The Shockware virus is currently rated at high risk, one step below.

Eat well - stay fit - die anyway.

Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.

No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.

There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

By the time you can make ends meet they move the ends.

Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.

Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.

I believe the only time the world beats a path to my door is when I'm in the bathroom.

Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

Microsoft v.DOJ Looks a Lot Like Florida As Comdex 'Wireless Year' Predictions raise RF Concerns and DSL Fades as ISP's falter

DRAM Prices Continue Falling

It's beginning to look a lot like Florida That's the appearance what with all the legal news about Microsoft v. the Entire Known Universe in a flurry of brief filings to the Supreme Court, announced suit by NorthPoint Communications Group, Inc., against Verizon (a/ka GTE) for pulling out of their planned merger, Rambus against almost all known DRAM fabricators for patent infringement, etc., etc., etc. Seems to be "full employment season" for attorneys again.

Comdex "Flat" This Year?

If I began the column for December with that, you know Comdex must have been a little flat this year. Really surprising that there has been so little attention to the giant fall trade show in the media this year. Maybe not, after all, given the speed with which tech stocks have tanked over the past month and media may be looking harder at this trend than at a speculative, wireless future.

"Wireless" apparently was a major theme for Comdex this year in Las Vegas as everybody (in wireless appliance marketing) heralded the coming year with promises of true wireless splendor in the year ahead. Sure. Just like it always seemed to be "UNIX Year" just beyond the horizon. Since moving into bifocals, I've noticed my urge for hand-held anything has greatly diminished—as has my desire for instant

availability to others, via pagers, cell phones, etc., who probably didn't try the regular telephone first.

Yes there were new, non-wireless product announcements in November, including an accelerated release of Intel's Pentium 4 (is it *Pentium IV* or *Pentium 4*, since it was the *Pentium III*?) CPU's and subsequent admission that initial shipment sent out to PC makers came complete with "minor" (sic, Intel) software errors. Reason for the speedy shipment, and even speedier recall and repairs, was the obvious encroachment by AMD on the "fastest chip on the block" title.

DSL—The Light that's failing?

Last week in November cast a chill on the DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) community as Covad Communications Group, Inc., announced a plan to cut approximately 400 positions (13% according to a *WSJ* article on November 28, 2000) from its employee roles as part of a larger restructuring of the high-speed, DSL, network. This was followed closely, December 1, 2000, by an announcement that DSL.net would have similar reductions in its work force. DSL.net plans to reduce its employee roles by 28% or approximately 140 positions.

Swinging into the DSL fray, Verizon Communications, Inc., announced they would be pulling out of a proposed acquisition of 55% of NorthPoint Communications Group, Inc., as a result of "a material adverse change" in NorthPoint's business according to an article in the December 1, 2000, issue of *The Wall Street Journal.* North-

The Variety Store

A personal view of the PC industry, new hardware operating systems, software and applications

by Reagan Andrews

Point, of course, immediately announced they would take Verizon to court and sue.

WSJ, in the same article, pointed out that Teligent, Inc., another DSL provider has announced similar funding problems and analysts speculated on the firm's ability to survive.

What's it all mean?

It may mean that DSL isn't going to be the alternative answer to cable modems after all. Media has been filled with less-than-happy reports of angry, dissatisfied (former) DSL customers with criticism of implementation of DSL. Former users quote long delays for service, unexpected loss of services and somewhat less than truthful subscriber Help personnel that forced them to withdraw from the DSL community as users.

I have not heard this criticism voiced against the SBC (local DSL provider), but also haven't heard any glowing DSL accounts of happy users. This may be because I haven't talked with local users, or haven't visited the appropriate NTPCUG SIG's lately. I do know that SBC is rushing to provide DSL service in my area (Lakewood), but this effort appears to be a somewhat "bungled" attempt that may provide nexus for a really humorous short story if I decide to expound on the machinations involved.

In regard to the latter, I was reminded by Doug Gorrie, NTPCUG past-president and recently-retired SBC employee, that SBC, like many other providers, has been hit by a shortage of skilled installation personnel that may be the center of the commode of errors I've observed in my neighborhood over the last few weeks/months.

Nonetheless, I had been hoping that DSL would prove to be an attractive alternative to AT&T" cable

modem and @home service for high-speed Internet access.

Intel's Pentium 4 Announcement Chilled by Subsequent Error Announcement in November

Rushing the *Pentium 4* out the door in a mighty quest to stave off the challenge by the AMD *Athlon Thunderbird* CPU running at 1.2 GHz, Intel tripped over their own haste and shipped a number of the new CPU's with some internal microcode errors. This has to be extremely frustrating and embarrassing to the premier (?formerly?) CPU vendor.

Called a "minor flaw" by Intel, the new *Pentium 4 CPU's* were intended to take the high-speed crown away from AMD. Instead the 1.4 GHz chips proved to be a little less than the stellar hits intended by Intel as news of the recall reverberated among the media. More embarrassing to Intel has to be the rumors that the chips are downright slow in a number of applications (mostly gaming) and not worth the bother. Since I haven't had a chance (hint, hint—Intel and AMD) to try either of the CPU's, I can't really comment on the issue, except to wonder why the average user would care.

Speed at what cost?

Reminds me that I heard a colleague advise a prospective new PC buyer to get the fastest CPU that could be afforded, preferably one of the 900+ MHz units. Prospective user wanted

The Variety Store

to do mainly E-mail, educational programs for a new child and occasional word processing. My colleague is heavily invested in gaming, and probably sees the PC world through these eyes. What he didn't see was that the potential PC buyer wasn't similarly inclined and had no use for the (then) premium he would pay for the useless CPU speed.

Occasionally, when I'm up to my neck in graphics manipulation, I might appreciate the speed of either CPU. Otherwise, it's "ho-hum" time and most of my microprocessor's power is wasted waiting for me to make a keystroke. Certainly won't make my 56K modem work any faster than the phone lines will allow (usually 28.8K) or my printer grind out copies of my superlative prose any faster than its usual 8 PPM.

Hmmm Just might make Adobe *Acrobat 4.0* work a little faster though.

Microsoft Brief Asks Appeals Court to Dismiss Breakup Order in November Filing

No surprise here. Microsoft filed a brief before the DC Federal Appeals Court to stay the breakup order decided by Judge Jackson in his landmark decision on basis of trial errors and judicial bias. Late November filing cited Judge Jackson's "apparent" bias against Microsoft and broadening of case to include issues not included in the original charges.

Main issue is the proposed breakup of Microsoft. Various legal experts have expounded on both sides of the issue so far, but consensus would appear to be in favor of a repudiation/ modification of this decision. My own feelings are that Microsoft will probably win this one, given the recent "tank" of tech stocks on the NASDAQ and general uneasiness over the entire PC/Web industry.

Most fun of all is the issue of Judge Jackson's probable bias against Microsoft in the case. Looking over his past history, this would ap-

pear to be a "no-brainer." The *WSJ* quoted a number of the Judge's press interviews and public forum remarks concerning Microsoft and its "monopolistic" practices that "would lead a reasonable observer to question his impartiality." Gee, we've felt this way all along.

DOJ attorneys have argued continuously for the break up and are expected to press this issue before the Appeals Court in spite of the above. Sure will be a lot of fun to watch as the case continues. Wonder what will happen to "The great American Success Company" if DOJ has their way

Wireless? Controversy Continues As RF & Cancer Evidence Mounts And Users Multiply Despite Warnings

Wireless as "Wave of the future?" I wonder as I remember a conversation with my brother-in-law concerning the perils of wireless. I've been concerned since I witnessed a demonstration of Anderson Consulting's concept of the hospital of the future based on a number of state-of-the-art technologies. One of the items that caught my interest was a young woman wearing a wireless notepad around her hips as she entered progress notes about an imaginary patient.

Selected SIG REPORTS . . .

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups
*Further background information about a SIG is available from the SIG's
Web page at **www.ntpcug.org***

ACCESS

We will be meeting at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, December 9, with the North Texas Microsoft Developers SIGs (of the North Texas PC User Group) at Microsoft's Addison facility at 5080 Spectrum Drive, Suite 115E, Dallas, TX 75248. We'll be meeting along with Beginning Visual Basic SIG, Advanced Visual Basic SIG, and the newly renamed Application Developer Issues SIG (formerly ActiveX Application Developers). *North Texas Microsoft Developer SIGs will meet on the second Saturday to avoid conflict with the date of NTPCUG's other SIG meetings.* Meeting times are:

09:00 AM -- Beginning Visual Basic
10:00 AM -- Advanced Visual Basic
11:00 AM -- Application Developer Issues
12:00 Noon -- Microsoft Access Database

For more information, visit *http:/www.ntmsdevsigs.homestead.com* (live link on back page of this issue). You'll find a schedule, be able to click-through to a zoomable map, get driving directions, and link to separate sites for each of the four SIGs. You must have script execution enabled in your browser.

Coming December 9, 2000: SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will talk about some unobvious lessons he learned while working on *A Simple HTML Editor in Access* to prepare these SIG notes. Time permitting, he will also talk about a 'finishing touch' that many of us often omit from our Access appli-

FROM BILL PARKER, SIG COORDINATOR

The following are changes/additions/needs for the SIG's. Please update SIG contact information through the SIG Leaders' administrative area on the Web.

SIGs not meeting:

-　　　　　Flash SIG is inactive. Contact the SIG Coordinator.

-　　　　　Games SIG no longer meets.

The following SIGs are meeting at a location different from the main NTPCUG site. Check SIG notes for details: **Access, Visual Basic – Beginning, Visual Basic – Advanced,** and **Application Developers Issues**.

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

— Microsoft FrontPage [Contact Bob Smith (817-429-1961 x405]

— Investors [Contact Kathryn Kirby at *infoinvest@aol.com* (live link on back page of this issue).

— Microsoft Word [Contact Michele Wood at 972-732-5172].

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.

. . . . . SIGs

cations -- *Custom Menus* and we will try to squeeze in a brief *Questions and Answers* period, too.

In November 2000: Assistant SIG Leader **Tom Browning** demonstrated two features: interoperability with other applications by posting appointments to an Outlook 2000 schedule from an Access application, and the value of using class modules for easily usable/reusable code. As you might guess, he used Access 2000 class modules to provide the functions for interoperability. Tom showed three methods of using COM automation to interact with Outlook -- a Function in a Standard Module, that Function with parameters as the single Method of a Class, and then a Class with Properties and Methods, as we are accustomed to using object. (Note: this presentation was originally scheduled for September but Tom graciously agreed to defer twice to allow longer presentations to fill both the Application Developer Issues and Access timeslots.) Tom's code can be obtained from the Download Page of our Application Developer Issues website (live link on back page of this issue).

We had another nice assortment of goodies in our November giveaway: a copy of the CD set that was given out at Microsoft *Developer Days* for everyone who didn't get their copy last month, a copy of the Microsoft Partner .NET Readiness Package for everyone, and a drawing for more prizes, something for almost everyone who remained until the end of the Access SIG. Topping the list were several Microsoft T-shirts from Developer Days, two more Microsoft T-shirts and two Microsoft Office Administrator books from Microsoft Press provided by our host, Greg Nicholson, of Microsoft's local office.

We definitely will have a drawing again in December for valuable prizes, too, at the end of the Access meeting. ***Come for the meeting! Stay for the***

drawing for valuable prizes! Just remember that value, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

Coming soon to the Access SIG:

Access Data Projects (ADP): ADPs use ADO to provide access via OLE DB or ADO Data Providers directly to Microsoft SQL Server. This eliminates the overhead of linking through Jet and translation by ODBC drivers. The drawbacks include no Access security on your application and no provision for local tables.

Data Access Pages (DAP): This is the Access interface to databases for use on an Intranet where all the users will be using Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or later. They could be used on a special web site, if desired, where all users were required to use IE 5.0+. The drawback here is that once the Forms are converted to DAPs, you can't use VBA for your code but must use vbscript or javascript, so there's going to be a bit more learning curve for many of us.

Simple Web Interface: What's the hot database topic these days? It's Web interfaces to databases. One of the easiest tools for creating simple websites, Microsoft Front Page, can interact with Access (and also some server databases) to provide a user-friendly and inexpensive 'web database interface'. We will cover at least two approaches to using Front Page with Access. Why do I call it inexpensive? Street price is under $100, and it comes free with some editions of Microsoft Office 2000.

ActiveX Data Objects (ADO): ADO is Microsoft's newest candidate for Access Method of the Future. We'll take a look at where it is (not quite as complete as DAO just yet), where it pays to use ADO, where it pays to stick with DAO instead, and demonstration of ADO in Access.

Games
Chris Carmichael (214)331-6303 h
chris.carmichael @ntpcug.org
Timothy Carmichael
.... (972) 566-4626
timothy.carmichael @ntpcug.org

Genealogist - The Master
Jeri Steele.......... (972) 306-1596 w
steele @pioneerinfo.com
Bill Dow (972) 306-1596 w
dow @PioneerInfo.com

Hardware Solutions
Charles Miller...... (903) 938-4220 h
cbaxter @pobox.com
Ralph Beaver...... (817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson ..... (972) 938-0344 h

Internet–Beginning
Doug Gorrie .... (972) 618-8002 h
.... (214) 464-4568 w
doug.gorrie @ntpcug.org
Tom O'Keefe ...... (972) 247-8812 h
okeefe @metronet.com
Pat Hykkonen ..... (972) 939-9872
pat @hykkonen.net

Internet–Advanced
Doug Gorrie .... (972) 618-8002 h
.... (214) 464-4568 w
doug.gorrie @ntpcug.org
Tom O'Keefe ...... (972) 247-8812 h
okeefe @metronet.com
Pat Hykkonen ..... (972) 939-9872
pat @hykkonen.net

Introduction to the PC
Harold (Spike) Smith
.... (972) 231-0730 h
Spike3 @home.com
Pamela Carmichael (972) 554-7239
Pamela.Carmichael @ntpcug.org

Investors
Kathryn (Kathy) Kirby
infoinvest @aol.com

Java
Don Benish .... (972) 705-9512
don.benish @ntpcug.org

Macromedia Flash
David Chien .... (972) 558-6146
.... (972) 475-3124 w
microjadeinc @yahoo.com

Microsoft FrontPage
Bob Smith (817) 429-1961 x405
bob @imageworks.net

This space is reserved for *your* presentation. Won't you volunteer to talk to us about something interesting that you've done or some interesting Access subject that you've learned?

Larry Linson

Alpha Five

The Alpha User Conference is being held December 1-3 in Boston. There will be a wide range of talks, and I am sure a lot of good information to bring back to our local group about the status

Microsoft Networking
Gil Brand .... (214) 508-8370 w
.... (214) 341-7182 h
gil.brand@ntpcug.org
Paul Sloane .... (214) 328-3234 w&h
paul.sloane@ntpcug.org

Microsoft Word
Michele Wood ..... (972) 732-5172 w
mwood@flash.net
Sherry Gable .... (972) 732-4167 w
sgable@flash.net

Professional MIDI & Audio
Alan Lummus
.... (972)733-4141 w&h
alummus@mindspring.com
Timothy Carmichael
.... (972) 566-4626
timothy.carmichael@ntpcug.org

Quicken
Phil Faulkner .... (972) 239-0561 h
philfaulkner@prodigy.net
W. L. Harris .... (972) 291-7616 h
WLHar@earthlink.net

Visual Basic — Beginning
Jim Carter .... (972) 235-5968 h
Jim_Carter@msn.com

Visual Basic — Advanced
Stephen Johnson (214) 532-9788
stephenj@flash.net

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

of Alpha Five version 5. I have been working with the beta version of the product, and some of the enhancements are quite amazing.

Although version 5 won't be out until the first part of next year, development on Alpha Five version 6 began a couple months ago. This version will have a Web-enabled client / server option.

At the meeting this month, in addition to general info about the user conference, I will do the presentation about debugging scripts in A5 that I will be giving at the conference.

Bill Parker

Dallas Corel

CorelDRAW 10

DRAW 10 was on the shelves in late November 2000. For the December meeting, we plan to call on Susan Biggs for her experiences with this new version, and we may also play with loading/installing DRAW 10 so that SIG members may anticipate their own installation of the new program. Further information about CorelDRAW 10 is available at *http://biz.ya-*

hoo.com/bw/000829/corel.html (live link on back page of this issue) and of course *http://corel.com* (live link on back page of this issue). Check out David Huss's review at *http://www.i-us.com/graphicallyspeaking* (live link on back page of this issue).

November in Review

November's program explored additional features of Interactive Graphics with Corel PHOTO-PAINT 9. We created interactive "panoramic" Quick-Time VR's (virtual reality) in September. We added "hot spots" to our interactive scene and created "object" Quick-Time VR's. If you have already made some Interactive Graphics using Corel, why not bring the files to share? You may send them in advance via e-mail to your faithful SIG Leader at *mdreb@litigraph.com*. We plan to explore this and many more interactive topics in future SIG meetings.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

❖ Dec/99 – Filters and Plugins, Part III

❖ Jan/00 – Masks in PHOTO-PAINT

SIG of North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

....SIGs

Marsha Drebelbis

DOS / Operating Systems

We all make mistakes. That's a given, especially late at night when working against a deadline. Case in point is a recent message from a member who inadvertently deleted an entire directory/folder in Win 98 and discovered neither the folder nor the files it contained were in the Win 98 *Recycle Bin*. This saga is subject of the DOS/Operating Systems SIG December meeting—and also emphasizes absolute need to back up often.

What to do?

First, and most important when the accidental deletion is detected, **don't** write anything *new* to the disk/volume where the folder and files were stored. The files are still there, just as in DOS 6.22, but could be written over by installation of a new program. That includes installation of a file recovery program in an effort to retrieve the "lost" folder and files.

That means don't rush out to the store and purchase Norton's or anyone else's

file undelete utilities, rush back and install the package immediately. Think first. If you installed Win 9x on top of Win 3x with DOS 6.2x underneath it, your "old" DOS directory may still be there—complete with Microsoft's DOS Undelete utility. This could get the files back with a couple of caveats. The old DOS undelete won't work with FAT32 or Win 9x's LFN (long file names) and you'll need a DOS 6x boot disk to restart the PC in DOS. I haven't tried it, but I'm pretty sure the DOS 6x undelete utility won't work properly under DOS 7 (the version of DOS under Win 95.)

Actually, I really don't suggest going this route anyway.

I do suggest going to the Web, though. I did a *Google* (my favorite search engine) search for "UNDELETE + UTILITIES" and came back with several good answers. One that looked very good was at *http://www.dti-data.com/undeleteit.html.* Called *Fast File Undelete*, it costs $29.00, can be downloaded from the Web site and will run from a floppy disk according to the vendor. The utility is for Win 9x, saw others in the Google search for Win NT and Win 2000 as well. No, I didn't have time to try it or to check out similar programs on TuCows or Stroud's Web sites.

No UNDELETE in Win 9x?

There is an UNDELETE function in Win 9x. That's why the *Recycle Bin* is on the desktop. Problem is that it's not 100% effective unless the user is careful to do all their file deletions with Explorer, and even then bad things can happen to good people.

Another problem is poorly written Windows applications programs that may include deletion capability, but bypass the *Recycle Bin* in the process. Couple

this with people (like myself) who prefer to do file management with older DOS file managers or non-Microsoft file management software that may also bypass the *Recycle Bin* and the situation becomes even more risky.

Best solution of all to the above is to back up frequently. Another is to partition the hard disk into several volumes with one volume devoted to data that can be backed up onto a CD/R or ZIP disk quickly. In my case this tends to encourage more frequent back ups of important data than backing up the whole disk to tape, etc.

Reagan Andrews
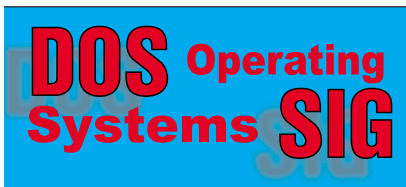
SIGs . . . .

e-Commerce

Check out past and current topics and discussions on the SIG's Web site at: *http://www.imageworks.net/ecommerce/* (live link on back page of this issue).

We meet at 1:00 pm in the Freshman Center at Lake Highlands High School. Check the NTPCUG Web site for the exact address, driving directions and maps. Be sure to check for our SIG's room assignment when you sign in at the front door.

Alan Lummus

Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

The December 16 meeting of the North Texas TMG Users Group will again be held at the same time / location as the main SIG meetings of the NTPCUG at Lake Highland High School Freshmen Center! Our meeting will continue to be three hours long, but the times have changed slightly. We will now meet from 8 am to 11 am. See *http://www.ntpcug.org* for further details and directions to the site. The meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday

of the month (one exception in 2001). This month will be December 16th.

I will be updating my Web page at *http://pioneerinfo.com/tmg* (live link on back page of this issue) to reflect this new information shortly.

The December 16 meeting is a show & tell time. Anyone with something to share should be prepared to share how-to information. We would especially like to see any Christmas gifts that you prepared using your genealogy!

Jeri Steele

Internet - Beginning & Advanced

In November, we did Q & A throughout the two-hour Internet window.

During part of out time, **Tom O'Keefe** described and diagrammed the options available when wiring several computers together. A simple hub allows multiple computers to be on a common network, but provides no additional security from hackers. A router, on the other hand, increases your security using DHCP (Dynamic Host Control Protocol) and NAT (Network Address Translation), but may not tie multiple computers together. Combining both a router and a hub provides both safety and flexibility.

One related site mentioned by Tom is FREESCO, at *www.freesco.org* (live link on back page of this issue). This site, which stands for "Free ciSCO", provides you with a minimal level LINUX operating system that can run on a low end PC (386 or better with at least 6-8 MB of RAM, one floppy, and 2-3 NIC (Network Interface Cards.) It can be used as a

true hardware based firewall between your network and the Internet, in addition to other functionality. It takes some networking experience to make this work, but the cost is right -- FREE !!

We also did a quick discussion on ZoneAlarm, from Zone Labs at *www.zonelabs.com* (live link on back page of this issue) and BlackICE, from Network Ice (*www.networkice.com*)(live link on back page of this issue). Both act to limit hackers' access to your PC, but ZoneAlarm does it one better -- it catches attempts by software running on your PC to initiate access to the Internet.

Why is this feature a plus? Some software these days can be downloaded from Web pages without your knowledge. If that software tries to connect to another site, perhaps to relay information about your PC's contents or about the Web sites you visit, ZoneAlarm should catch it.

This kind of software is often termed as SpyWare. One site that describes it, and catches some of it, is Gibson Re-

. . . . . SIGs

search Corporation (*www.grc.com*)(live link on back page of this issue). GRC has a product called OptOut -- look it over.

In December, the Beginning Internet SIG will focus in part on some new functionality available in WebBoard. WebBoard is the Web-based information sharing tool available to members throughout the month. But recently, we implemented the e-mail interface as well. We will describe how you can create or reply to WebBoard messages using e-mail, and how you can automatically receive copies of messages from selected SIGs as they are sent to in WebBoard.

WebBoard emulates the Bulletin Board System (BBS) software we successfully used several years ago, and replaces our past attempts to use Internet newsgroup functionality to trade information. The newsgroup software never caught on, but we think WebBoard will. Join us and see for yourself -- it's a great Q&A tool to use between meetings

The Advanced Internet SIG will essentially be Q&A. Bring your questions and topics with you.

Doug Gorrie
Tom O'Keefe
Pat Hykkonen

Microsoft FrontPage

 I will be unable to attend the December meeting. I have a trip I must take during that same time. I hope to see you all in January. If you have any suggestions please let me know. See you next year.

Checkout our main Web site (live link on back page of this issue) for up-to-date info on our next meeting and to let us know what you would like to see covered during the coming months.

Bob Smith

Professional MIDI & Audio

In December, we welcome the return of **Jim & Gary Carter** with more on MIDI in general and CakeWalk Pro, v.9.0, in particular. This will be a continuation of the informative, hands-on presentation Jim and Gary started for us in September. All SIG members are encouraged to bring in their own MIDI files and related equipment of interest.

Alan Lummus

Visual Basic SIG - Beginning

The December meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will be held at the facilities of Microsoft located at 5080 Spectrum Drive in Addison, Texas. For further information on the facilities and a map to get to these facilities, please visit the *www.ntmsdevsigs.homestead.com* (live link on back page of this issue) Web site.

The topic for this month's meeting will be "The Package and Deployment Wizard." For those of you who need to distribute an application you have written to other members of your department, outside salesmen, customers, etc. the Package and Deployment Wizard will help you prepare your application for proper distribution. We will prepare a simple application for distribution using the Package and Deployment Wizard included with Visual Basic 6.0. For those of you with access to it, I will be using the text from Gary Cornell's book *Visual Basic 6 from the Ground Up* starting on page 892 with the Chapter 26 entitled "Distributing Your Application: The Package and Deployment Wizard."

As a reminder to those of you participating in the SIG project, DO NOT USE THE PACKAGE AND DEPLOYMENT WIZARD. You must submit your vbp file along with the associated modules that make up your application. I cannot analyze your application from the executable file. I must see your code with, hopefully, comments. Entries can be on 3.5-inch diskettes at the December meeting on Saturday or you may e-mail your files to me at *Jim_Carter@msn.com* by midnight on December 9, 2000. Feel free to use WinZip to reduce the size of your files.

At our November meeting, I discussed the procedure for adding a menu bar to your application using the Menu Editor tool provided in Visual Basic 6.0 with recommendations on using the menu bar to change background colors and switch between forms in the SIG project.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 9, 2000 in Suite 115E at the Microsoft facilities on 5080 Spectrum Drive in Addison, Texas. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting

Jim Carter

Continued from Page 10

Unit was at waist level and about height of her ovaries. I asked her about this and she seemed totally unconcerned about adverse impact of the probable RF radiation. My thoughts were a little less than sanguine and focused on the apparatus and probable lack of appropriate shielding with concern to her child-bearing abilities in the coming years.

She seemed surprised at my concern, but was totally unaware of the "Inverse Square Law" and RF radiation. My brother-in-law remarked that he didn't use a cell phone close to his head while driving, but chose to use an earphone/microphone headset instead—because he was aware of the impact of distance to effect of RF radiation.

My concern couples this with increased level of RF radiation in general over the last several years. Question is at what point we will consider RF radiation dangerous and begin curtailing unnecessary radiation?

How Much RF Radiation in Your Home?

Let's start with your PC (or PC's) and look at the possible RF "leakage." Most "newer" PC's are running in the 600+ MHz range these days. Usually, with a front side bus running at 100 - 200 MHz (newer AMD Athlon CPU's.) PCI bus runs at 33 MHz and AGP graphics runs at 66 - 128 MHz. Original IBM PC was running at a "blistering" 4.77 MHz and when "high-speed" 80286 machines (10 - 20 MHz) hit Comdex, FCC sent investigators to check RF leakage from the PC cases. Number of vendors had to shut down their exhibits as a result.

Problem here is bus speed. Although CPU speeds have gone through the roof, they tend to be restricted to the CPU and its case. It's the bus that leaks RF. Moving from 4.77 MHz to 200 MHz (and faster next year) means that wave length is considerably shorter than before.

This complicates the problem of shielding for the case designer since tolerances need to be much closer to prevent RF leakage from the PC case itself.

Are cases being built to the needed closer tolerances? Don't bet on it. And, you still have the "holes" in the case, i.e., apertures through which various devices connect with the outside world. Many of these are now plastic rather than metal and may present a grand RF window to the outside world. If you want to test how well the case is shielded you can purchase/rent an extremely expensive tool to do so. A quick and dirty test can be run by a portable TV with rabbit-ears antennae. If you see interference on the screen as you bring the TV set closer to the PC, you have RF leakage. (Note: some of this is normal and nothing to really worry about.)

Other RF sources may be a surprise to users

The omnipresent cordless phones work on RF energy. With operating frequencies ranging from 27 MHz - 2.4 GHz, these devices spread their own RF contamination throughout the house. Granted we're talking microwatts or milliwatts here, but the effects are cumulative. Poorly-shielded microwave ovens are another source of unwanted RF energy as are Light dimmers. New appliances are being added almost daily—add wireless devices such as remote speakers, home wireless LANs, etc., to the list.

Users may be inundated with RF energy they didn't even know existed in addition to the expanding landscape features of cell-phone and pager repeater towers.

## Caveat emptor, as usual.

Reagan Andrews

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: *http://www.ntpcug.org*

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with any corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank found on the NTPCUG Web site, *http://www.ntpcug.org,* 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 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

NTPCUG Officers and Volunteers You Should Know
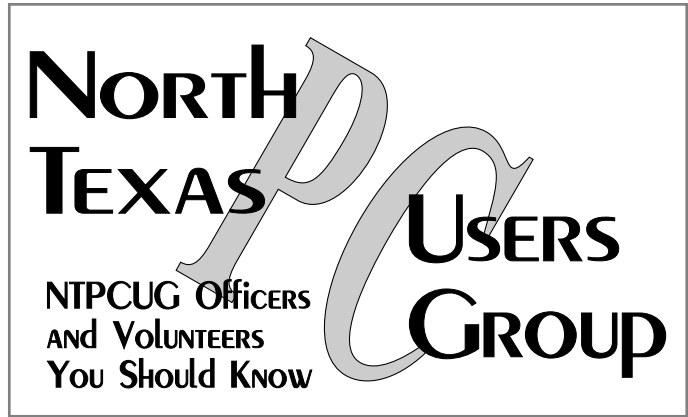
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President	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 566-4626 w
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Program Chairman	Vincent Gaines	(972) 234-3231 h
		(972) 721-2770 w
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Publicity	Spike Smith	(972) 231-0730 h
SIG Coordinator	Bill Parker	(214) 379-5889 h
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h

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
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E-mail Password problems?
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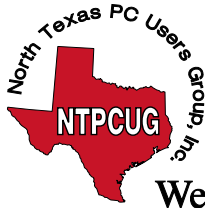♠ Special Interest Group (SIG) Coorinator
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To e-mail officers and directors: *bod@ntpcug.org*

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

Web Links in This Issue

The following Web links are those placed by SIG Leaders in their SIG Notes for this month. When looking at the newsletter in Adobe's Acrobat Reader, the cursor will change from the little "hand" to a small box with a "W" inside. A left-button mouse click should open your browser and connect to the Internet automatically.

Main Presentation

www.mypctalks.com

Prez Sez
bod@ntpcug.org

From Bill Parker, SIG Coordinator

infoinvest@aol.com

SIG Notes

Access
http://www.ntmsdevsigs.homestead.com

Download Page of our Application Developer Issues website

Dallas Corel

www.louvre.fr

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