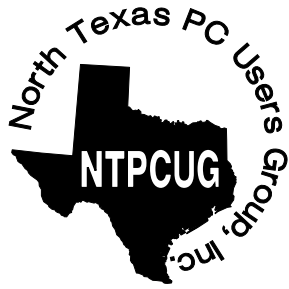


North Texas



PC NEWS



Online Edition

October 2000
VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 10

Published monthly by members of North Texas Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Send all editorial correspondence to: Editor, North Texas PC NEWS at: newsletter@ntpcug.org

Send address changes to: Membership Director, NTPCUG, P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449.

Managing Editor Reagan Andrews
(214) 828-0699

Copy Editor Connie Andrews
(214) 828-0699

Newsletter Exchange Lewis Graber

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or its members. Copyright ©2000 by North Texas PC NEWS. (Articles without specific copyright notices may be reproduced unchanged by other not-for-profit User Groups if credit is given to the author and the publication.)

Circulation:

Member distribution was 700

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows 97. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Corel Ventura 8.0, Corel Draw 9.0, Arts & Letters Express 6.01, Adobe Photoshop 4.01, Microsoft Publisher 2000 and Adobe Acrobat 4.01 Principal typefaces include: Times, Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, and Lithos.

DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for November
North Texas PC NEWS:
November, 3, 2000**

Meeting Dates:

**November 18 – 3rd Saturday
December 16 – 3rd Saturday**



Articles and Announcements:

President’s Message 2 - 3
Timothy Carmichael

A Little Embarrassment 4
Reuters/EBN

!!! Mark Yout Calendar !!! 5
Connie Andrews

The Perfect Gift! 5
Doug Gorrie

The Adventures of PC Tech 6 - 7
Ben Thar

The Variety Store 8 - 10
Reagan Andrews

Special Items:

Vendor Presentations . . . 1

SIG Meetings 1
Rooms & Times

SIG Reports . . . 11-20

Officers & People You
should know . . . 21

**Web Links
This Month . . . 22**

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 OCTOBER 21 MAIN PRESENTATION

LHHS FRESHMAN CENTER AUDITORIUM – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

11 AM Macromedia FLASH! software. This company has one of the hottest Web site development tools in the industry now. Mary McWilliams Johnson uses it to develop some of our site's more exotic and flashy graphics. Learn more and you'll earn more!

12 Noon Shelly Goerz from Intel is featuring the new Intel InBusiness small business networking products. She will also do a follow-up story showing more features of the digital camera's that were demonstrated in August. Those of you who won a camera - remember to bring in your pictures and show them off in the main meeting.

Shelly will be giving away an Intel(r) Pentium(r) III processor and mother-board as a door prize this month. As she told us in July these CPU's deliver awesome power for demanding multimedia, content creation, and Internet applications, and remember it's genuine Intel inside!

SIG Focus: There are two focus events this month. Allaire, developers of Cold Fusion, will be presenting their Jrun product in the Java Sig. In the Linux SIG, a conference pass to Oracle's iDevelop 2000, worth \$995, will be given away to an NTPCUG member. See details in the SIG Notes section.

OCTOBER 21

SIGs SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

Time	SIG
8:00	Microsoft Networking AppleCorps Hardware Solutions Excel/Spreadsheets
9:00	Communications AppleCorps DOS/Disk Operating Systems Introduction to the PC - MS Windows Alpha Five Dallas Corel Microsoft Word
10:00	Internet - Beginning AppleCorps Professional MIDI & Audio Introduction to the PC - PC Graphics Web Content Committee Dallas Corel (continued) WordPerfect for Windows
11:00	Internet - Advanced Main Presentation – Macromedia AppleCorps
11:00	(Continued) Professional MIDI & Audio (ct.d) Introduction to the PC - Word Processing Quicken Macromedia Flash (in Auditorium) WordPerfect for Windows (continued) Linux
12:00	NTPCUG Business Meeting Main Presentation – Intel AppleCorps/FileMaker Investors Java Microsoft FrontPage Games
12:30	Visitors Orientation
1:00	AppleCorps/ClarisWorks AppleCorps/Beginners e-Commerce

SIG meetings are listed by time for the October 21 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 10-14

- Access
- Application Developers Issues
- Visual BASIC - Advanced
- Visual BASIC - Beginning

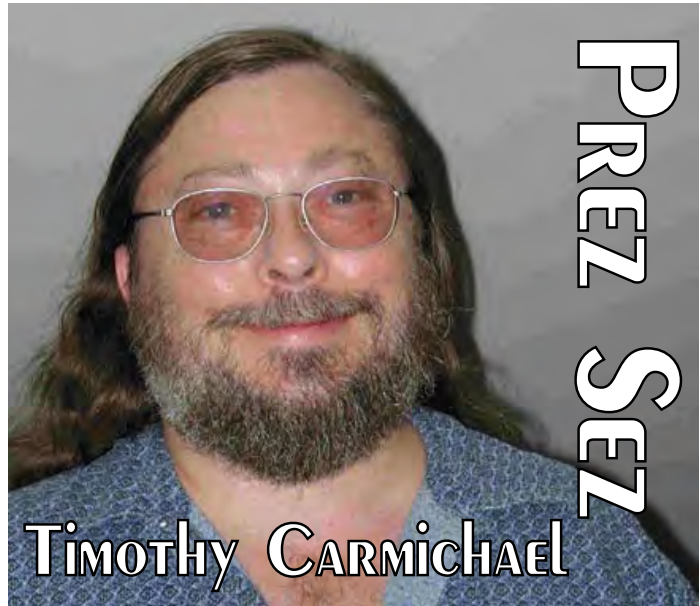
Meets on 10-21

- Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

WebBoard is Live!

Check out our new Web site feature, the **NTPCUG Conference Center**, running WebBoard. Sometimes referred to as forums or discussion groups, WebBoard is a tool for online conferencing. You will find topic areas for all the NTPCUG SIGs as well as other special interests to be added soon. Read messages, post questions, and even page other online users.

Please take advantage of this new member service, which supports better communication between members outside of our monthly meetings. Members have been requesting this service ever since we retired our old BBS system, but we have lacked enough volunteers to work on it. We owe a special thanks to **Bill Parker, Gil Brand, Doug Gorrie, and Don Benish** for



their dedicated work on this project and other Web server features.

Also, we will be adding both a *Volunteer Opportunities* page and a *Library* page in the sig notes system. The content of the "current notes" section for both of these pages will be shown directly on the web site, as the sig notes are. Currently the board is not limited to NTPCUG members, so let others know it exists. E-mail support for messages will also be provided, hopefully in the near future, so you can post and get responses without browsing to the board!

MICROSOFT eXTREME is COMING!

Mark your calendars! Microsoft will be bringing their *eXtreme* show to Dallas on November 4th. Televised presentation will be held at the AMC The Grand 24 theater complex at 10110 Technology Blvd. The Presentation event is co-hosted by the North Texas PC Users Group and begins at Noon Dallas time.

Microsoft *eXtreme* will feature demonstrations of Encarta® Reference Suite 2001, Encarta® Language Learning products, Windows® Millennium Edition (Me), Pocket PC, Game Voice, The new MSN®, and New games at the November 4th presentation. For more information about the products, location and times, check out the *eXtreme* Web site — www.microsoft.com/extreme/.



Formerly OnRamp, National Knowledge Networks and Signet Partners

BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY

Lan ISDN, Point-to-Point T1, Fractional T3

WEB SITE HOSTING & MANAGEMENT

Virtual Domain, Server Collocation

CONSULTING

Firewall Security, Network Design

DIAL-UP ACCESS

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

www.veriotexas.net, info@veriotexas.net

1-888-266-7267

PREZ SEZ... CONTINUED



In the past, Microsoft has flooded the stage with give-aways (Tee-shirts and Microsoft software) and the last eXtreme presentation was absolutely packed — standing room only! Be sure to register early at the Microsoft eXtreme site and come early to the presentation.

NTPCUG will be asking for volunteers to assist with registration (at the show) and the product drawings. Please contact me if you are interested in this opportunity. We can use

your help and you will have a lot of fun besides.

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are the heart of the NTPCUG and our major educational function as a PC users group. The following SIGs are looking for help and leadership in conducting their SIG meetings:

Microsoft FrontPage

[Contact Bob Smith (817-429-1961 x405)]

Investors

[Contact Kathryn Kirby at infovest@aol.com].

Microsoft Word

[Contact Michele Wood at 972-732-5172].

Please don't think you need to be an expert in the topic area to be a SIG Leader. Anyone with an interest in the area and reasonable organizational ability can fill this need for leadership. If you are interested and want to make a significant contribution to the NTPCUG, please contact the people listed above.

Timothy

We Make Meetings More Effective

◆ **Product Sales & Rentals**

An extensive line of presentation products from a variety of leading manufacturers for rent or sale.

◆ **Video & Data Conferencing Systems**

A complete range of solutions for every need and budget -- from the desktop to the conference room.

◆ **Installation & System Design**

Consultation, design and installation of customized solutions from the classroom to the boardroom.

◆ **Presentation Skills Coaching**

Individual or group training sessions teach proven techniques for delivering dynamic presentations.

◆ **Creative Design Services**

Time-saving, affordable ways to maximize the effectiveness of your next presentation.

◆ **Service Programs**

Customized service plans for maintenance and support minimize equipment downtime.

Data Projections, Inc.

Phone 972.386.7686
 Fax 972.386.7685
 Toll Free 800.840.7991



**Quality Products
 Excellent Service
 Customer Commitment**

www.data-projections.com

Austin Boise Dallas Houston Indianapolis St. Louis San Antonio

**A LITTLE EMBARRASSMENT FOR QUALCOMM CEO
LAPTOP & SENSITIVE CORPORATE DATA MISSING
– A LESSON FOR ALL OF US**

[Ed. Note: The following was taken from a Reuters story that appeared on the *Electronic Buyers News* Web site. I thought with my recent emphasis on security issues in *The PC News* it might be very appropriate to run verbatim.]

Reuters
(09/19/00, 09:19: AM EDT)

IRVINE, Calif. (Reuters) -- The laptop computer of Qualcomm's chief executive, which disappeared at a journalist conference this weekend, was still missing on Monday in what police said could be a targeted attack or simple theft.

The computer disappeared shortly after Qualcomm (QCOM.O) chief Irwin Jacobs ended a presentation to a national conference of business journalists. He left the computer unattended for about 15 minutes on the hotel's podium before returning to find it gone, conference organizers said.

"This is a situation that could be the commercial theft of a laptop or a planned burglary with someone targeting this particular individual and his trade secrets, national security or anything in between," Irvine police Lt. Sam Allevato said.

Police in Irvine, a community south of Los Angeles, were investigating the case as commercial grand theft.



San Diego-based Qualcomm officials were conducting their own investigation.

"The concern is it's the laptop he uses for business purposes and contents being available," spokeswoman Christine Trimble said. She declined to speculate on a motive or elaborate on the contents of the computer.

The contents of the laptop had been backed up, Trimble added.

– 30 –

I thoroughly enjoyed this and think it holds some valuable lessons for all of us. I do question why a laptop containing so much valuable (according to other media) Qualcomm business data was used to do a presentation? It could have been placed on either a CDROM or DVD

disk on a laptop that didn't also have such important data. Again, if the data had to be available, why wasn't it on removable media which Jacobs could have placed in a pocket as he left the podium briefly?

A second question, speaking about stolen laptops: Is Oracle doing business with Qualcomm?]



High Speed Wireless Internet!

!!! 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 for the rest of this year.

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

See the schedule below for a listing of those dates.



Newsletter Deadline
October 6
November 3
December 1

Meeting Date
October 21
November 18
December 16

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.

Check our Web page or at *steele@pioneer-info.com* for information about when and where the Master Genealogist SIG will meet each month.

Up-to-date Information

Make it a habit to check our Web page at *ntpcug.org* for any last minute changes. For instance, this month (Aug.) the Java SIG will meet off site for a special presentation. Keep informed through our Web site and newsletter for all current developments.

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.

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

The Adventures of PC Tech

CHAPTER 22

by Ben Thar

The invitation came in the mail: COMPUEXPO Computer Show in Atlantic City, New Jersey – THE LARGEST COMPUTER SHOW IN THE UNITED STATES, it read.

Mary Margaret never thought about going to computer trade shows in her position, but the invitation was in front of her and a post-it note from her boss simply stated “Planning to attend?”

“Right,” she thought, “like I’m going to turn down a chance like this.” Even though the show date was over two months away, MM called the corporate travel agent about reservations. The agent called her back with the question, “What is so darn important that’s going on in Atlantic City during that week. I can’t find any open reservations.”

Mary’s heart sank. “Oh please try again,” she said, “I’ll fly at midnight, I’ll change planes in Chicago (and that’s scary), I really want to go.” So the agent tried again and he found her an 11:00 p.m. flight, changing planes in Atlanta.

She’d heard a story at the user’s group where a plane headed to the same conference got to the halfway point and the airline cancelled the second leg of the trip. These computer people raised such a ruckus that the airline took a plane bound for Cleveland and re-routed it just to get the troublemakers out of the terminal.

With that out of the way, Mary Margaret filled out the application for the show and “hmmm that’s strange,” she

murmured to herself “these hotel rates are the highest I’ve seen and the applications asks for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices for hotels.” She called her friend Connie from the user’s group to find out what was going on. If anyone knew, Connie would.

“Well, you see Mary Margaret it’s like this,” Connie explained that a giant corporation putting on the event buys up all the available hotel rooms and re-sells them at the rate posted on the back of the door. MM couldn’t believe it; she had never paid the rate on the door in her life. “Get used to it,” her friend said, “they have been doing it forever and it probably won’t change. The company knows that a lot of corporate types come to these shows and that the companies will pay the price.”

“Yes,” said Mary, “but what about the poor person who wants to go to the event, but has to pay from his own pocket.” The reply, “They stay in Newark.”

Support calls never stopped. Some things could be answered over the phone. TURN THE COMPUTER OFF AND BACK ON AND CALL ME IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN.

PC Tech thought about changing her voice mail to say just that. Other inquiring questions involved, WHAT HAS CHANGED, FROM WHEN IT DID WORK, UNTIL NOW? and DO YOU HAVE A RECENT BACKUP? (Ha!, Ha!, Ha! Ha!, Ha! – what’s that?) and CAN YOU TELL ME MORE THAN, “THE SYSTEM HASN’T WORKED IN WEEKS?”

On to brighter subjects, MM hired a consulting firm to be on call while she attended the COMPUEXPO show, and left for a new adventure.

One a.m. in the Atlantic City airport terminal and a computer



company employee is handing her a T-shirt. Wow, catch them as they come to town; what a great advertising gimmick. After fighting some guy for her suitcase, MM proceeded to the airport cab line. It reminded her of Disney World. The line even has signs "Thirty minute wait from this point." The picture of patience (her time off came at a time when she needed an attitude adjustment) Mary waited in line.

The cab driver grouched, "You know these GUYS that come to this stupid computer show. They don't tip. They don't gamble. Why don't these nerds just stay at home with the little woman and the cat?"

Mary, through clenched teeth, said "I would think that they are bringing revenue into the city, all of the hotel rooms are full, all of the cabs are full, the car rental agencies are overbooked, the airlines put on extra flights, and I bet the restaurants will do a land office business this week."

"Yea, yea, but we gotta complain about some-thin' in this town or we ain't happy," he grumbled. AS SHE GOT OUT OF THE CAB, Mary Margaret left a sizable tip for the cabby and he said, "And what brings you to town, lady?"

"Oh, I'm one of the nerds," she smiled.

Up at dawn, full on a \$2.99 breakfast, MM waited outside the big hall for the doors to pen. Never had she seen crowd like this. All dressed up, until you got to their feet, and then anything goes, tennis shows, walking shoes, Hush Puppies, your name it,

A trip to the shore store loomed in her future.

The COMPUEXPO keynote address, given by a leader in the industry, was insightful for what it promised. From everything Mary read in the trade press about legal battles, cheating, bickering, and general thievery that supposedly occurred, the talk was refreshing. Upon reflection, MM realized "keynote" meant "feel good speech." Make 'em feel good and send them

out on the showroom floor with checkbooks blazing.

The showroom floor? Unbelievable.

Aisle after aisle of computer vendor or anything remotely related to computers. Some space more like a circus side show. Bob Denver over here playing Gilligan's granddad, a rap group over there breaking dancing, a karaoke setup playing your favorite tunes of the 60's, and people sitting for a half hour sales pitch to earn a hat that looked dorky to begin with.

Gosh, it's fun. Mary met many nice people, information about their products, sometimes not too informed on the competition, but overall helpful in explaining the technology to her.

"Don't get me wrong," she told her mom on the phone after two exhausting days, "I picked up my share of gimmes, key chains, Frisbees and stuff.; I'm pacing myself to make it through itself this week." Her mom exclaimed that the show made the national news, and that they showed the NJ Convention Center floor.

"No, mom, it's the Waterfront Convention Center." Mary corrected. "I'm sure they said the NJ Convention Center."

"Okay, mom, I need to get to bed, goodnight," Because it bothered her, MM got up that night and read through the Show newspaper that they thrust in her hand before she even hit the door on Monday.

She collapsed on the bed with a loud groan, "OH NO, there's another Convention Center and it's bigger than the one I've been strolling through for the last two days. I'll never see it all.

Ben

[Ed. Note: With Comdex/Fall 00 coming up, thought it might be appropriate to reprint this article from the November, 1993 issue of The North Texas PC News.]

MICROSOFT BACK AT TOP OF THIS MONTH'S COLUMN—TWICE AS AOL-TIME WARNER MERGER DRAWS QUESTIONS, MAXTOR ACQUIRES QUANTUM, DRAM PRICES FALLING AS TECH STOCKS SINK

Nothing Slow This Month

Microsoft is back at the top of the news this month! For two reasons, first of which is their successful fight to avoid a 'fast track' to the Supreme Court and stop by the Federal Appeals Court (which has ruled in MS's favor on several occasions during the original DOJ antitrust action.) Second is a surprise, yet not so surprising, \$135 million investment in Corel Corp. Both stories can be found toward the end of this column

AOL-TIME WARNER-AT&T Links QUESTIONED IN MEDIA AND CONGRESS

Sharing the top in terms of news value is the ongoing congressional investigation of the proposed AOL-Time Warner merger. AT&T is also embroiled in the affair and the triad is seen by some as "threatening competition" in the high-speed Internet access (cable) arena.

I had not really thought much about the 'giant' that might emerge from such a merger, how it might affect me personally and how it would affect Internet users in general. That changed after reading a lead article in *The Wall Street Journal's* October 9th "MarketPlace" section on the proposed merger.

Titled "AOL for Dummies: Understanding What's At Stake in the Merger," written by Thomas E. Weber, the story details some possibly chilling outcomes after the merger. I'd suggest anyone thinking about high-speed Internet access (most of us) obtain access to the *WSJ* issue and read it carefully. Bottom line is two-fold: AOL will create a 'captive audience' and the service will cost more without competition.

Since I'm reading more and more complaints about DSL in some of the trades, I'll have to think very carefully before I make any decisions concerning acquiring either alternative.

MAXTOR ACQUIRES QUANTUM Disk Drive Component

That wasn't the only surprise this month, though. Maxtor (subsidiary of Korean giant, Hyundai) made a bid, apparently successful, to buy Quantum's hard disk drive component, the third-largest disk drive maker in the PC business. That will make Maxtor the largest drive player in the arena with an estimated output of 50 million drives per year, eclipsing Seagate, IBM and Western Digital in the process.

May mean big things in store for users as drive prices keep plummeting. Another secret—Maxtor's "slower" drives are sold by CompUSA with their own label. By slower, I mean the 5400 RPM units while Maxtor's 7200 RPM drives have the Maxtor label and boxes.

Frye's "slower" Maxtor drives, the 5400 RPM units mentioned

THE VARIETY STORE

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE PC INDUSTRY,
NEW HARDWARE OPERATING SYSTEMS,
SOFTWARE AND APPLICATIONS

by REAGAN ANDREWS

above, are still being sold under the Maxtor label. Go figure.

DRAM PRICES FALLING AGAIN, INTEL MAY DROP RAMBUS, DEVELOP OWN DDR

DRAM, SDRAM, PC-100 SDRAM and PC-133 SDRAM prices are falling again after a couple of months bump in pricing. According to media sources, DRAM (all the above) production is again at a very high level and the commodity nature of the memory market dictates that prices must fall as demand wanes. I don't know what this may say about the PC market in general, but it may be a very important indicator as to future demands for new PC's, i.e., may indicate some (hopefully temporary) saturation in the market.

Intel, on the other hand, appears to be backing away from the much more expensive RDRAM (Rambus) and considering/ developing DDR (doubled-data-rate) enabled chipsets for the near future. One reason is outrageous costs for the RDRAM memory—roughly three times the cost of equivalent PC-133 SDRAM modules—and PC buyers view that the additional cost really isn't worth the touted speed gains, if any. Intel has had lots of problems developing a chipset that could accommodate both RDRAM and SDRAM, as in the abortive early releases of the 820 chipset.

Raises some interesting questions for me. I'm looking at four (4) relatively current PC's as I type this column. All are at 450 MHz or higher. The fastest, an AMD *Athlon* 650 MHz CPU and mainboard are joined by an AMD K6-2 550 MHz CPU and mainboard and two AMD K6-2 450 MHz CPU's and mainboards.

That doesn't count two Cyrix x86 300 MHz CPU's and boards, a Cyrix 586 120 MHz CPU and board, and two Cyrix 486DX2 (66 MHz) CPU's and boards. These last are definitely "obsolete" but are still capable of running Win95 quite well and Win 3.11/DOS 6.22 even better. Almost all of these machines use different memory types

I hate to think of contributing to a landfill somewhere and will probably donate them to some



organization that doesn't care whether they are Y2K compliant or will run the latest iteration of *Doom*. I do have a solution, found it on our NTPCUG Web site.

Solution? TEXAS CENTER FOR THE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED

It's the **Texas Center for the Physically Impaired**. They want used computers from 386 PC's to more current hardware, memory (SIMMs or DIMMs) modems (2400 baud or better) CDROM drives, printers and volunteers with hardware and software experience in DOS and Win 3.1x. It's headed by Dr. Robert Langford who can be contacted at (214) 340-6328, or via E-mail at robert.langford@ntpcug.org.

Apple, Microsoft AND OTHER TECH VENDORS SEE STOCKS TUMBLING DOWN A LONG SLIDE

In the midst of all this furor and happy news, Apple Computing, Microsoft and other well-regarded tech stocks have "tanked" over the last several weeks. Microsoft looks like a really good "buy" right now and the Apple fall was quite a shocker. My question is what do the analysts know that I haven't seen in the news?

Steve Jobs, Apple Computing Co. co-founder and returned messiah, must be really confused over the tumble Apple's stock took in early October. Hailed as a conquering hero who rode in on a white charger to pull Apple out of harm's way, now he watches as his and Apple's fortunes take a severe beating in one day's time.

Microsoft v. DOJ, Round Two Goodby SUPREME, Hello Appeals

This is even more fun (for me) than the original case which I found somewhat embarrassing as a result of Microsoft's early ineptitude and arrogance. Judge Jackson and his allies, Boice and the DOJ-battalion of attorneys, coupled with the states' attorneys generals ran roughshod over Microsoft in a true "comedy of errors" (mostly

THE VARIETY STORE

Microsoft's) and made common sense look as if it had vanished from the courtroom.

That may be just a bit harsh, but that's how it looked from the outside. Judge Jackson allowed DOJ expansion of the case charges that appeared somewhat specious given the original premises. That he was overturned by the Appeals Court didn't appear to have any bearing on his later handling of the suit and subsequent decisions.

His subsequent rush toward the Supreme Court for a quick decision (?affirmation?) didn't smell any better than the original proceedings.

MICROSOFT BUYS INTO COREL, COREL NAMES NEW CEO

Corel Corporation, publishers of CorelDRAW, Corel Ventura and WordPerfect, looked like they were on the rocks and headed toward oblivion last month. What a difference two announcements can make. First was that Corel has a new President and CEO, Derek J. Burney, and second was Microsoft buying \$135 million of Corel preferred, non-voting stock.

Why would software giant Microsoft invest \$135 million in Corel Corp.? Lots and lots of speculation on this recent turn of events in the industry ranging from Microsoft needing Linux/UNIX expertise, to a desire to make the "office suite" market still look competitive. Announcements from Corel and Microsoft mention this as a step in Microsoft's new .NET effort. I don't know Steve Ballmer's (Microsoft CEO) thinking in this, but speculation that MS

needs Linux expertise is really far away from the historical facts of the OS business.

Microsoft has been involved in the UNIX business longer than MS has been in the Windows business, strange to say. Microsoft marketed a UNIX variant, Xenix, for the x86 market, including a version that ran on the PC-XT, back in the dark ages of OS vendors. This is the x86 UNIX OS later called SCO Xenix, and marketed by the Santa Cruz Operation which has recently forged an alliance with Ray Noorda's Caldera Corp. (Visited Caldera's Web site, Caldera.com, and couldn't find any mention of Ray Noorda anywhere on the site. Also visited DR DOS-related sites with similar results)

If I were betting my money, I'd give odds that MS is really interested in Corel's advanced Web graphics and SCSI technology. Microsoft does have some lower level graphics products, but doesn't have the upper level publishing software that could make some inroads into the Mac stranglehold over the commercial art and Web design arena. Readers should remember that there were lots of rumors that Microsoft would absorb Micrografx a few years ago for exactly that technology.



New Corel President and CEO Derek J. Burney

Also, MS might like some of Corel's SCSI and RAID expertise behind them in their pursuit of the large-scale server market. (Corel has been a power in the SCSI technology area longer than they have been a significant player in art and publishing software.)

I really wish I could speculate wisely on the future for *CorelDRAW* and *Corel Ventura* since I use both, and would like to see them prosper. (This isn't entirely altruistic—just the thought of fighting the learning curve on other graphics programs is chilling.)

Reagan

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

Special Notice: We bid a fond farewell to **Thomas Lewis**, who has been one of our Microsoft contacts, a stalwart of MSDN marketing to developers in Microsoft's Dallas office, and a former leader of the NTPCUG Advanced Visual Basic SIG. We are happy to see Thomas move onward and upward with his company, but we will miss his informative presentations and pleasant company.

Best of luck, Thomas! Come back to see us once in a while!

We will be meeting at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, October 14, with the North Texas Microsoft Developers SIGs (of the North Texas PC User Group) at Microsoft's Addison facility at 5080 Spec-

trum Drive, Suite 115E, Dallas, TX 75248. We'll be meeting along with Beginning Visual Basic SIG, Advanced Visual Basic SIG, and the newly re-named 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).

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.

New SIGs:

- **Linux SIG** and **e-Commerce SIG** will hold their second meetings.

SIGs not meeting:

- The ACT! SIG has become inactive. Anyone wishing this SIG to restart should contact the SIG Coordinator or Jim Thompson at 817-261-6159.

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, Application Developers Issues**, and **The Master Genealogist**.

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- **Microsoft FrontPage** [Contact Bob Smith (817-429-1961 x405)]
- **Investors** [Contact Kathryn Kirby at infovest@aol.com].
- **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.

SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Bill Parker at:

sig_coordinator@ntpcug.org

Access

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 hM
lmilinson@yahoo.com

ACT !

Jim Thompson (817) 261-6159 h
 (214) 665-9442 w
jjmt@ieee.org

Alpha Five

Bill Parker (214) 369-5889 h
bill@partec.net
 Dan Blank (972) 395-3367 h
danblank@bigfoot.com

Application Developers Issues

Dan Ogden (972) 417-1917
dogden@gte.net
 Larry Linson
lmilinson@yahoo.com
 Linda Moore
lhmoore@pobox.com

Communications

Birl Smith (972) 406-0060 w
birlsmith@netscape.net

Dallas Corel

Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266
mdreb@litigraph.com
 Susan Biggs..... (214) 340-7794
birdmom@performing-tech.com
 Maria Whitworth.. (972) 381-5025
drpr@swbell.net

DOS/Operating Systems

Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h
reagan.andrews@ntpcug.org

e-Commerce

Alan Lummus.... (972) 733-4141 w&h
alan.lummus@ntpcug.org

Excel/Spreadsheet

Art Babb..... (214) 324-5920 h
 (214) 525-5750 w
alb91@earthlink.net
 Eb Foerster (214) 357-7602 h
eb.foerster@ntpcug.org
 Michael Bodner



SIGs

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 October 14, 2000: We will be taking a break from the more formal PowerPoint presentations for a couple of shorter demonstrations of Access applications. Assistant SIG Leader **Tom Browning** will demonstrate some Access 2000 class modules that he prepared. They post appointments to an Outlook 2000 schedule and perform other Outlook operations from an Access 2000 application. This promises to be a very interesting and informative demo, so don't miss it.

In September 2000: The presentation originally planned was deferred to October. The Application Developer Issues presentation on "Access 2000 for the Developer" by App Dev Issues SIG Leader **Dan Ogden** had the rapt attention of the audience, wasn't finished, and Tom and Larry decided it would be best for that to be completed. We then had announcements about Microsoft Developer Days, coming on Tuesday, October 10 (for more information, search for Developer Days at Microsoft Web Site, and about Dr. Rick Dobson's Seminar on Access 2000, SQL Server, and Internet Interfaces, coming October 25 - 27 (for more information, see the site for Dr. Dobson's book Access Data Projects (ADP); ADPs use ADO to provide access via OLEDB 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 Web sites, 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 stock with DAO instead, and demonstration of ADO in Access.

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

Application Developers Issues

Co-SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will speak on "Application Development Project Documentation." Project documentation is an important component to include when engineering an application. Larry will give an overview of the various types of project documentation, where they fit in the project life cycle, and a summary of the information each

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

might contain. Larry's overview will also provide us an opportunity to select specific document types for more detailed discussion at future meetings.

Coming in November: As a follow up to our September meeting's focus on "Windows 2000," **Gil Brand**, SIG Leader of the **Microsoft Networking SIG**, will speak to us on setting up a small LAN for developers for business or home use. Gill will discuss the appropriate hardware and software to use

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

SIGs

and will also point out some available resources.

September Meeting

SIG Co-Leader **Daniel Ogden** gave a presentation on "Using Windows 2000 as an Application Development Platform." Dan discussed the many benefits Windows 2000 offers to the developer compared to Windows 95/98 and Windows NT 4.0 including reliability, robustness, preemptive multitasking, security, the Win98 interface, plug and play drivers, laptop power management and networking enhancements. Dan also touched on such features as system file protection, kernel driver memory protection, Kerberos security, Active Directory, COM+, disk quotas, file encryption and performance enhancements to support his conclusion that Windows 2000 is the superior platform, Microsoft or otherwise, for application development. Following Dan's presentation, which spilled over into the Microsoft Access SIG, the attendees were treated, through the courtesy of Microsoft, to a drawing for several Microsoft products including two copies each of *Windows 2000 Server* and *Visual Studio Enterprise 6.0*. To view or download the slides of Dan's presentation, go to <http://members.tripod.com/appdevisues/downloads.htm> (live link on back page of this issue).

September's attendance at all of the **North Texas Microsoft Developer SIGs** was the largest yet of any month since our move to Microsoft. While we will miss our sponsor at Microsoft, **Thomas Lewis** (who has moved on to bigger and better things in Redmond), Microsoft continues to enthusiastically support our use of their facilities.

August Meeting

SIG Co-Leader Larry Linson led a discussion on "VBA Add-Ins for Office 2000 Developers," including the Code Librarian, Code Commenter, Error Han-

dlar, Multi-Code Import/Export, and String Editor, which are included in the Office 2000 Developer Edition (for more on this topic, see the article by Ken Getz, "Increase Office 2000 Programming Productivity" in the July 2000 issue of *Access - VB - SQL Advisor*). Larry's presentation demonstrated the value of VBA to application developers as these add-ins can be used across the entire spectrum of VBA-enabled applications and also demonstrated the value of using Microsoft tools and technologies in application development. Once again, Microsoft provided several valuable prizes including various Microsoft games such as *Monster Truck Rally*. To view or download the slides of Larry's presentation, go to <http://members.tripod.com/appdevisues/downloads.htm> (live link on back page of this issue).

July Meeting

SIG Co-Leader Larry Linson gave a presentation on "Developing Multi-User Microsoft Access Database Applications." Due to the scope and subject matter of Larry's presentation, it spanned not only the Application Developer Issues SIG, but also the **Microsoft Access SIG**. Larry covered some of the common pitfalls encountered in multi-user Access and provided some pointers on when to use each of the several configurations possible when using Access in a networked environment. While the July meeting of the North Texas Microsoft Developer SIGs did not feature any Microsoft-sponsored drawings, several valuable prizes contributed by attendees were given away after the conclusion of the Access SIG. To view or download the slides of Larry's presentation, go to <http://members.tripod.com/appdevisues/downloads.htm> (live link on back page of this issue).

June Meeting



SIGs

SIG Co-Leader Daniel Ogden, Esq. gave a presentation on "Current Trends in Intellectual Property and Internet Law." The attendees present peppered Dan with many questions throughout his presentation and probably learned more about this important area of law for developers than they have ever cared too. In particular, attendees quizzed Dan regarding such things as the patentability of Internet "one-click shopping" and "basket" checkout, protection against "cybersquatting", and copyright protection for software code. Since this area of law is constantly changing, this topic will probably be revisited in the future as events warrant. Once again Microsoft, in our June meeting, generously provided us with some terrific prizes for our grand drawing after the conclusion of the Access SIG, including a copy of *Windows 2000 Professional* and *Windows 2000 Server*. To view or download the slides of Dan's presentation, go to <http://members.tripod.com/appdevissues/downloads.htm> (live link on back page of this issue).

SIG Background

The **Application Developer Issues SIG** focuses on providing information to developers that assists them in (1) developing applications that use Microsoft tools and technologies, (2) engineering applications through various design methodologies, and (3) staying abreast of legal developments and industry trends that affect developers. We are one of the four NTPCUG SIGs that make up the North Texas Microsoft Developer SIGs (along with the Beginning Visual Basic SIG, the Advanced Visual Basic SIG, and the Microsoft Access SIG), which meet at on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the South Central District offices of Microsoft Corporation (5080 Spectrum Drive, Suite 115E, Addison). Our SIG meets at 11:00 AM. For more information, please visit our Web site, <http://members.tripod.com/appdevissues> (live link on back page of this issue), for meeting

updates, details on past meetings (including meeting pictures), directions, a printable map and other miscellaneous information.

Come join us in October as we seek to provide pertinent information on issues important to application developers.

Daniel Ogden

COMMUNICATIONS

Anthony will be talking about the Norton Firewalls in our October meeting. Norton is a popular firewall that is available in retail stores. Most Firewalls are available only through Internet purchase. Norton has a unique combination of services.

I will briefly discuss Microsoft NT security configuration. NT has been described as the most secure network operating system if you protect your administrator-level name and passwords. The operating system is secure but it must be configured to provide security. I have listed a few ways to secure your computer: (1) Manage User Rights. In User Manager, go to Policies/User Right, "access this computer from a network", is granted to Administrator, Everyone and Power User by default. You need to at least remove the Everyone group from the User Rights Policy. (2) Use a Non-Administrator Account for Internet Browsing. The VDESK utility in the Resource Kit allows multiple desktops on which you can log on with different user rights. The Task Manager included with this utility allows the user to switch between desktops all in the same session. You should have an Administrator desktop with management utilities available and running and a desktop available for Internet use with very restricted rights. Also, you should remove all users' rights to "force shutdown from a remote system".

(3) Secure your Registry from remote access by all users except administra-

tors by adding the following:
HKLM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityPipeServers\winreg=1

This key is set automatically in NT Server 4, but not Workstation. By using a desktop other than the Administrator it will prevent someone from changing your registry from a remote location. (4) Be Aware of Browser security holes. Your network is secure but browsers open doors through applets, Active X, scripting, etc. A few virus programs offer protection from Active X scripting types of threats. Trojans, sometimes classified as viruses, attempts to locate, record and transmit personal information. Firewalls are a good method of protecting Browser security holes. Firewalls allow the of selecting services allowed and restricting access. Protect your Browser by installing available patches, upgrades and new releases. (5) Remove unnecessary services. Entirely disable Server if you don't need it. If you have another computer networked you may need to ensure that the network card bindings are set to exclude RAS services i.e., the Remote Access WAN Wrapper. Never enable anonymous FTP unless you have to.

(6) Secure your files. Use NTFS as your file system. Unshare as many directories and files as possible. (7) Enable some form of auditing on your file system and review the log files daily so you can at least detect intrusion attempts. (8) Change the Administrator account to another name. Use the Registry to ensure that the Last User isn't shown on the Login dialog. The registry setting for this option is:

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Don'tDisplayLastUserName=1

Anyone can find the name of your administrator account by running the following command: **Nbstat -A address**. (9) Create a password that cannot be found in the dictionary. (10) Check permissions on shared resources. This list may not be inclusive but it will give you a list to start with.

Birl Smith

**DALLAS COREL
Motion Graphics**

Learn to create **Motion Graphics** with Corel. Make .AVI movies and photographic panoramas as QuickTime VR (virtual reality). We will explore these features in PHOTO-PAINT 9 at our October meeting. If you have already made some Motion 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 mail to mdreb@litigraph.com.

Microsoft Buys Corel Stock

It's true. Learn more at CNN's Web Site (live link on back page of this issue) and what it means at David Huss's Web Site (live link on back page of this issue).

September in Review

KnockOut 1.5 is one of Corel's newest worthwhile graphics programs. It makes complicated masking a breeze. For September's program, **Marsha Drebels** brought the excellent 20-



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.

minute multimedia tutorial from the application's CD and then she showed how KnockOut works. She demonstrated how to use the 'Knocked Out' images in conjunction with Corel-PHOTO-PAINT. Since PHOTO-PAINT already features strong masking tools, who needs KnockOut? 1) Folks who want greater ease and even more control when creating masks. 2) Image editing professionals who need to create complex masks. For more info, see Marsha's REVIEW of KnockOut software below.

of its fascinating features. With new technology equipment, many questions continually arise and a lively exchange ensued. She and various SIG members contributed their experiences and tips. For example, we know photographic images have been subjected to various altering techniques for the last 150 years. Digital editing is merely the latest. For more information an excellent book, recommended by Gene Brown, is *Photo Fakery* by Dino A. Brugioni (available at www.amazon.com (live link on back page of this issue)). **Susan Biggs** shared her favorite digital photo Web site: Ron Reznick's work at www.trapagon.com (live link on back page of this issue). One member gave a testimonial for the new Wacom tablets (find at www.outpost.com - live link on back page of this issue) and showed hers. Wouldn't you like adding to the fun of image editing by having both a cordless pen and a cordless mouse for your tablet?

CorelDRAW 10

At Seybold in San Francisco, Corel showed its graphics products in action. Corel unveiled CorelDRAW® 10 Graphics Suite and its new line of recently acquired graphics products, in-

**IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES
& PHONE NUMBERS**

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

- ❖ Technical Support Representatives 888-267-3548
- ❖ G1 Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products) 800-772-6735
- ❖ Customer Service Representatives 800-772-6735
- ❖ IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network) 613-728-1990
- ❖ 24 Hour Automated Fax System 613-728-0826 Ext.3080
- ❖ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays
- ❖ To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

A variety of image making and image editing topics arose during the remainder of the session. Marsha, like several SIG members, recently acquired a digital camera and she demonstrated some



SIG of North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

... SIGs

cluding Corel Painter, KPT and KPT Vector Effects, and Bryce. DRAW 10 will be on the shelves in late November, 2000. Further information is available at <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/000829.corel.html> (live link on back page of this issue).

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ Oct/99 – Filters and Plugins, Part I
- ❖ Nov/99 – Photographic editing Plugins, Part II
- ❖ Dec/99 – Filters and Plugins, Part III
- ❖ Jan/00 – Masks in PHOTO-PAINT
- ❖ Feb/00 – Web Site Design/Development Tips
- ❖ Mar/00 - Paper for Inkjet Printer Output
- ❖ Apr/00 – Presentations 9
- ❖ May/00 - Member Showcase
- ❖ Jun/00 - Virtual Corel Training on CD
- ❖ Jul/00 - Customization and Utilities for Corel
- ❖ Aug/00 - Tips and Tricks in Corel 9
- ❖ Sep/00 - KnockOut 1.5 and PHOTO-PAINT

Marsha Drebelbis

DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS

Onward and Upward! It's that time when lots of us get a little 'energy-boost' and decide to upgrade our systems. Remember though, the hardware setup has to be 'solid' before the operating system (OS) will function properly.

Used to be hardware setup was a *relatively* easy process for 'typical' AT-style machines running DOS and *Windows 3.1x*. All the user had to know was what devices got which IRQ and port address (in hex, naturally). Lot of it

was easy, i.e., the IDE controller took IRQ 14, COM ports took IRQ 4 (COM 1 & 3) or IRQ 3 (COM 2 & 4), etc. Second printer went to IRQ 5 and we knew to stay away from IRQ's 2, 6, 7, 9 and 13.

If the user kept good notes when installing additional devices, was usually not that difficult to eventually get it all straight and working well.

That was then — 'Plug and Play' (PnP) is now.

Add to this new classes of hardware for the home computer. Network interface cards (NIC's), soundcards, high-speed graphics cards and CD-RW drives complicate things since they usually ask for another IRQ, or so, and more port addresses.

We got a little 'help' from *Windows 95* and the BIOS/motherboard vendors. The whole game has changed with the 'smart' PCI bus and 'smart' PC BIOS sets. With 'automatic' assignment of IRQs in the interchange between PnP-aware operating systems and the new PnP-aware BIOS sets, the potential for setup disaster has increased exponentially.

I speak from recent and bitter experience.

PnP isn't perfect yet. Neither are the new BIOS sets. Add an OS trying to take control of the setup process that isn't all that perfect either and the user can windup with a nightmare rather than the improved PC expected. Add to this fact that all PC-related hardware profit margins are razor thin and vendors may let more marginal or 'bad' devices pass on to users and the situation is even further complicated.

It's very difficult to trouble-shoot a sick system in these conditions. I spent a week attempting to get things straight between a new motherboard and CPU, a new video card, new SCSI controller, new 20G disk and Windows 9x. Have had this happen before when I was playing 'Mix n Match' with older components to assemble a PC for a relative or friend. These were all new, top-of-the-line (i.e., expensive) parts. I'd thought in the past I was pretty good at diagnostics. Not this time.

Source of the problems was a motherboard/BIOS set that was 'slightly' marginal. It was almost impossible to pin down, though.

Reagan Andrews

E-COMMERCE

In October, our first regular SIG meeting will focus on definitions of terms relative to e-commerce and an examination of the e-commerce needs of various business models. Unless otherwise noted the day of the meeting, we will meet at 1:00 pm, immediately following the Microsoft FrontPage SIG, in Room 202B of the Freshman Center of



the Lake Highlands High School. See the map on the NTPCUG's Web site for location.

Bob has put up a Web site for our SIG's use, and you can already obtain valuable information and links from:

<http://www.imageworks.net/ecommerce/default.htm> (live link on back page of this issue).

Alan Lummus

GAMES

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

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

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

Chris Carmichael

INTERNET - BEGINNING AND INTERNET ADVANCED

Our August & September sessions have centered almost entirely on DSL (Digital Subscriber Line). We have had several superb speakers from SBC Communications talking about the technology, rates, availability, troubleshooting, and hardware. There is tremendous interest in high speed Internet connections.

In October, we want to talk *less* about DSL, and more about *other issues* that you may be concerned about. So it's time for a general Question and Answer session. Bring the basic or ad-

SIGs . . .

vanced questions you have and we'll try to address them.

We also want *your* input for future topics. We ask this question frequently, but rarely receive feedback. Please send suggestions to doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org, and we'll try to address them in the near future if possible.

We know that many of you have a lot of knowledge about the Internet. Have you considered sharing that information with the rest of the members? We're all volunteers, and the current SIG Leaders rarely object to have "guest speakers". No previous training is required, and the audience is friendly!!

I mentioned previously that I have requested Cisco Systems to demo some wireless LAN hardware, allowing us to talk through walls without all the wires. That session has been postponed to January, as all of Cisco's demo equipment is reserved until then. Look for details about this presentation in January.

Don't forget that we now meet at Lake Highlands Freshman Center (LHFC). Be sure to review our Web site for an updated map.

See you October 21st !!

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC

What did we do at the Introduction to the PC meeting in September?

Well, we did look out from our doorway and down the hallway for late arrivals. Nope. An occasional straggler, but nowhere near enough members and guests to fill our classroom.

Those in attendance heard a brief history of computers, disk operating systems, and files, folders, and directories. No, in our eyes, it is not necessarily redundant using "folders" and "files" as different objects.

Thanks to one of our sponsors, **Data Projections**, we had another excellent digital projector for live demonstrations for all participants to see what's going on.

Our SIG caters to those novices who know enough about PCs to not sit through repeat performances. However, they do show up when we present a subject which is new to their needs. The others, and also **very important** groups of people, are those new members and guests who know little about personal computing. We do not expect those in the latter group (coined as "newbies") to be perusing the World Wide Web and visiting the NTPCUG or Community Web Pages in order to discover our SIG's existence or goals. Our new members to the SIG usually come from those other gracious SIG leaders who tell friends to forego camping out in their SIG and look into the basics that we have to offer. These are generous and thankful offerings and we appreciate them all.

Since we cater to nearly 50% newbie attendances, we want you guys and gals who read these notes to pass the word around that NTPCUG does have a great place for newbies and novices and of course, those twenty-five to thirty-five other Special Interest Groups for specific applications seekers.

What will we do on October 21? Well, read on - here is our agenda:

9:00 A.M. Microsoft Windows

Most new users have acquired machines with MS Windows 95 or Windows 98. A few brand-new purchasers will have Windows Me. Our program

SIGs

will not cover earlier versions of Windows except for updating.

We will discuss all of the operating functions we did prior to Windows as an operating system. We still have to do these things. Perhaps we do it easier now?

Of course we will mention those features that are new, neat, and nice.

This may sound “technical” but the single greatest thing that was developed into Windows was **multitasking**. As a previous DOS user - one readily understands how important this is. Now, lets learn to enjoy it - even more.

10:00 A.M. PC Graphics

Today’s normal PC activities require graphics that were not possible with the original personal computers. Now we take our displays with dialog boxes, colorful icons, drop down menus, and abilities to show a “dreaded blue screen” that is just as frightening as in the days of PC DOS and MS DOS. Graphics means a lot for just the operation of the PC.

Beyond the basic operating system, we have graphics applications that will convert your desktop into a “digital photography darkroom.” We can lay out floor plans, physical surveys, maps, and do dynamic testing and structural analyses of flying aircraft (with some mathematics packages added).

We will touch on some of the basics involved, i.e., pixels, graphic file formats, and perhaps the pros and cons of owning a digital camera.

11:00 A.M. Word Processing

Did you say you were not a clerk/typist? If you were, a high-end word processor will make you better. However, we want to talk about how your PC uses and processes words, commands,

and how it really appreciates accurate text to be a good operative.

Before touching upon the many fine features of popular word processing applications programs, we need to understand our built-in text editors and what it means to be ASCII compliant.

Do you need 470 type fonts? What do you do when your PC tells you that it will no longer let you perform until you eliminate some fonts? The biggest question then may be - which ones shall I eliminate, and why those instead of others? What happens if Joe doesn’t have the type style that Alice’s letter requests? All this and much more at our October meeting.

I really would like to know how many persons will be reading this particular October notice and you can help. Just let me know if you have read this far by stating - first name or pseudonym | as user, novice, or newbie | Introduction to the PC SIG classes need to be highly structured (formal) or minimally structured (mostly open)? Your returned information will be valued and appreciated. Just depress two buttons to send comments. I have no needs for your names and addresses. I will only tabulate | pseudo name | user, novice, or



newbie | high or minimum | that is it and thank you. (This form is only available on the SIG’s Web page at www.ntpcug.org.)

Bring or send your friends.

Enjoy!

*Spike Smith, SIG Leader
Pamela Carmichael, Assistant Leader*

INVESTORS

Our next meeting will be on October 21, 2000. We meet at 12 noon in the Orchestra room, but please check on the day of the meeting for possible room changes.

In September we looked at a Web site that showed cup & handle formations and actually gave recommendations of companies they thought fit this criteria. We had a handout on ECNs (electronic communication networks) being upset over the NASDAQ creating their own system – called SuperMontage.

For the October meeting we plan to look at an article out of Online Investor about how to do cost basis on spin offs. Also – a look at a site for tax related stumbling blocks www.fairmark.com (live link on back page of this issue).

And – if our luck holds, and we treat him nicely, – one of our members will bring his Meta Stock program and we will see what is happening in the investment world.

Please join us and bring your investing ideas.

Kathryn (Kathy) Kirby

JAVA

Well, in September our presenter flaked out on us. Instead, I figured out how to get my laptop hooked up to the network at LHHS and we cruised the Net looking at various Java sites and helping many of the newer users to understand where they can get help and find Java tools and stuff.

If you have a presentation you would like to lead us through on the Internet, perhaps you have a server somewhere and can't drag it into the school to show it to us, let me know and we can try to access it through the Internet and have the presentation that way.

After our hour was over, there was a formation meeting for a new Linux SIG that may be forming. It will be very handy if we have it in the same room because I think many of our members will want to attend it as well.

In October we will have a presentation by Allaire demonstrating Jrun and their other products.

Don Benish

Linux

September was the first meeting for the Linux SIG. With almost 20 people attending, there seems to be a lot of interest in forming this SIG on a permanent basis. There is not a formal SIG leader yet, although someone is interested.

One of the activities at the September meeting was to install Linux on a computer. It was never successfully installed, and the culprit may have been a bad CD-ROM drive. Hopefully, there will be an update on this at the October meeting.

While a formal program is not set for October, there will be a drawing for one registration to Oracle's iDevelop 2000 Conference, November 7-8 at the Austin Convention Center, <http://technet.oracle.com/idevelop> (live link on back page of this issue). The standard conference fee is \$995, and each attendee gets an Oracle developer's software suite worth \$12,000 (their figure). We just received this conference pass from Oracle's marketing partner. At press time, there has been no time to contact Oracle to see if they can talk to the group about their Linux products, but there is an outside chance something may be scheduled. The Oracle giveaway may be more appropriate for the Java SIG, but it is also a good way to give an extra jump start to the Linux SIG as it gets started. NTPCUG mem-

SIGs

bership is required for the conference drawing. Joining NTPCUG would be a very cheap way to get a shot at going to the conference!

MACROMEDIA FLASH

This month we will adjourn the normal SIG meeting so that members can attend Macromedia's Flash 5 presentation in the main auditorium. The SIG meeting is the same time as the main presentation, so all people interested in Flash will definitely want to see a demonstration of this new version of Flash.

David Chien

MICROSOFT FRONTPAGE

Checkout our main Web site, www.imageworks.net/fp2000/ (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.

I really need help from everyone if we are going to continue this group. Please let me know what you would like to see covered in the months to come. We have in the past gone over almost every basic area of FrontPage.

Please let me know what interest you have and I will attempt to find material on it to demo or discuss.

Bob Smith

MICROSOFT NETWORKING

This month co-SIG leader Paul Sloane will present the basics of Internet Information Server 5.0 setup and configuration on a Windows 2000 Server platform. He will be using his company Web site, www.dataprojects.com (live link on back page of this issue) as an example. Any remaining time will be devoted to a general Q&A session.

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

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

November - Open for suggestions (email gil.brand@ntpcug.org)

December - Open for suggestions (email gil.brand@ntpcug.org)

Gil Brand

PROFESSIONAL MIDI AND AUDIO

Our special thanks to **Jim and Gary Carter** for their hard work and excellent introduction to MIDI and Cakewalk Pro Audio 9 at our September meeting. They have also kindly agreed to continue their presentation in coming months, so stay tuned for the latest scheduling. If you do not already have a version of Cakewalk, you might want to download a trial copy from the Internet and try it out before their next presentation.

In October, we are having a volunteer bring in his turntable, phono-preamp, computer, CD-burner, and the Easy CD Creator Deluxe, v.4 software by Adaptec. We will be focusing on recording cuts from an LP and/or other analog sources to a digital file on a computer hard drive, cleaning up the sound, preparing the resulting files, and finally actually recording those files (burning) onto a CD. We all have old cassettes, 8-tracks (anyone remember those?), reel to reel recordings, wire recordings (now I am really showing my age!) and other older analog recordings we would like to transcribe to a more modern and, hopefully, more permanent medium. This is your opportunity to come and see how it can be done. In the meantime, you might wish to check out several related links below, especially the one regarding transcribing LPs to

... SIGs

CD. As usual, we will be meeting at 10 am in the Choir Room of the Freshman Center of the Lake Highlands High School. Check the map on our Web site for directions.

In November, **Tom Browning** will help us expand the focus of our SIG to spotlight digital video and photo acquisition, recording, editing, and storage on CDs and other medium. We are still looking for volunteers to bring in relevant equipment and software, so please let us know what you have available in this area to help. Talk it up and bring your friends.

In December, Jim and Gary will continue with their presentation and explorations into the wonderful world of MIDI and Cakewalk Pro Audio 9.

J. Alan Lummus

Visual Basic - BEGINNING

The October meeting of the Beginning Visual Basic SIG will be held at the Microsoft facilities located at 5080 Spec-

trum Drive in Addison, Texas. For further information on the facilities and a map to get to these facilities, visit the www.ntmsdevsigs.homestead.com Web site.

The topic for this month's meeting will be "Projects with Multiple Forms." Most of the applications we discuss here in the Beginning Visual Basic SIG contain just a single form. As our applications get larger, the need for more than one form arises. We will discuss the issues involved with applications that contain more than one form. For those with access to Gary Cornell's book *Visual Basic 6 from the Ground Up*, I will be using the text starting on page 426 with the section entitled "Projects with Multiple Forms."

Last month, I presented a recommended SIG project related to a fictional business called the "Millennium Credit Union." I offered to critique all submissions of applications by our De-

ember meeting. You can download a complete description of this project on the NTPCUG WebBoard which is accessible through the Web site www.ntpcug.org. This application could be done on a single form but would be much more effective with multiple forms. I will discuss my rationale for this and any other questions brought up at the meeting relative to the project.



Bring your questions about Beginning Visual Basic to Suite 115E at 5080 Spectrum Drive in Addison, TX. I am looking forward to meeting you at this month's meeting on October 14, 2000 at 9:00 AM.

Jim Carter



Join the crowd of NTPCUG Members rushing to make their SIG Meetings at the new Freshman Center Meeting Site!

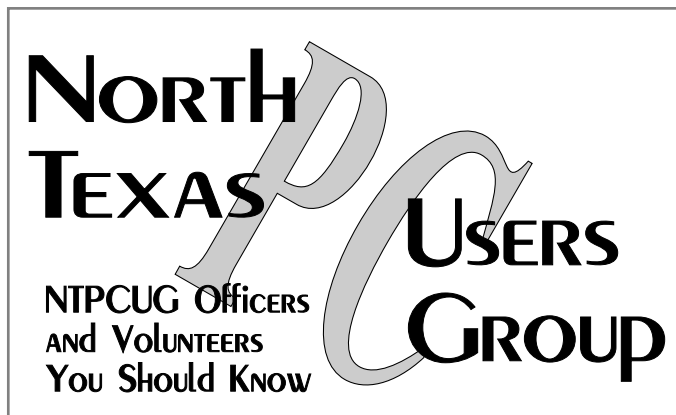
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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 found on the NTPCUG Web site, 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, Inc. Board of Directors

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

NTPCUG Officers

President	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 566-4626 w
President-Elect	(Open)	
Program Chairman	Vincent Gaines	(972) 234-3231 h (972) 721-2770 w
Treasurer	Martin Mills	(972) 991-4270 h
Secretary	Vincent Gaines	(972) 234-3231 h
Membership Dir.	Tom Browning	(214) 692-9784 h
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**
Alex Lilley **Claude McClure**

E-mail 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

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

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.

SIGs

Access

<http://www.ntmsdevsigns.homestead.com>

<http://members.tripod.com/appdevissues/downloads.htm>

<http://members.tripod.com/appdevissues>

Dallas Corel

CNN's [Web Site](#)

David Huss's [Web Site](#)

www.amazon.com

www.trapagon.com

www.outpost.com

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/000829/corel.html>

e-Commerce

<http://www.imageworks.net/ecommerce/default.htm>

Introduction to the PC

www.ntpcug.org

Investors

www.fairmark.com

Linux

<http://technet.oracle.com/idevelop>

Microsoft FrontPage

[main website](http://www.imageworks.net/fp2000/), www.imageworks.net/fp2000/

Microsoft Networking

www.dataprojects.com

Visual Basic - Beginning

www.ntmsdevsigns.homestead.com