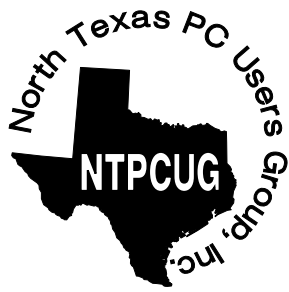
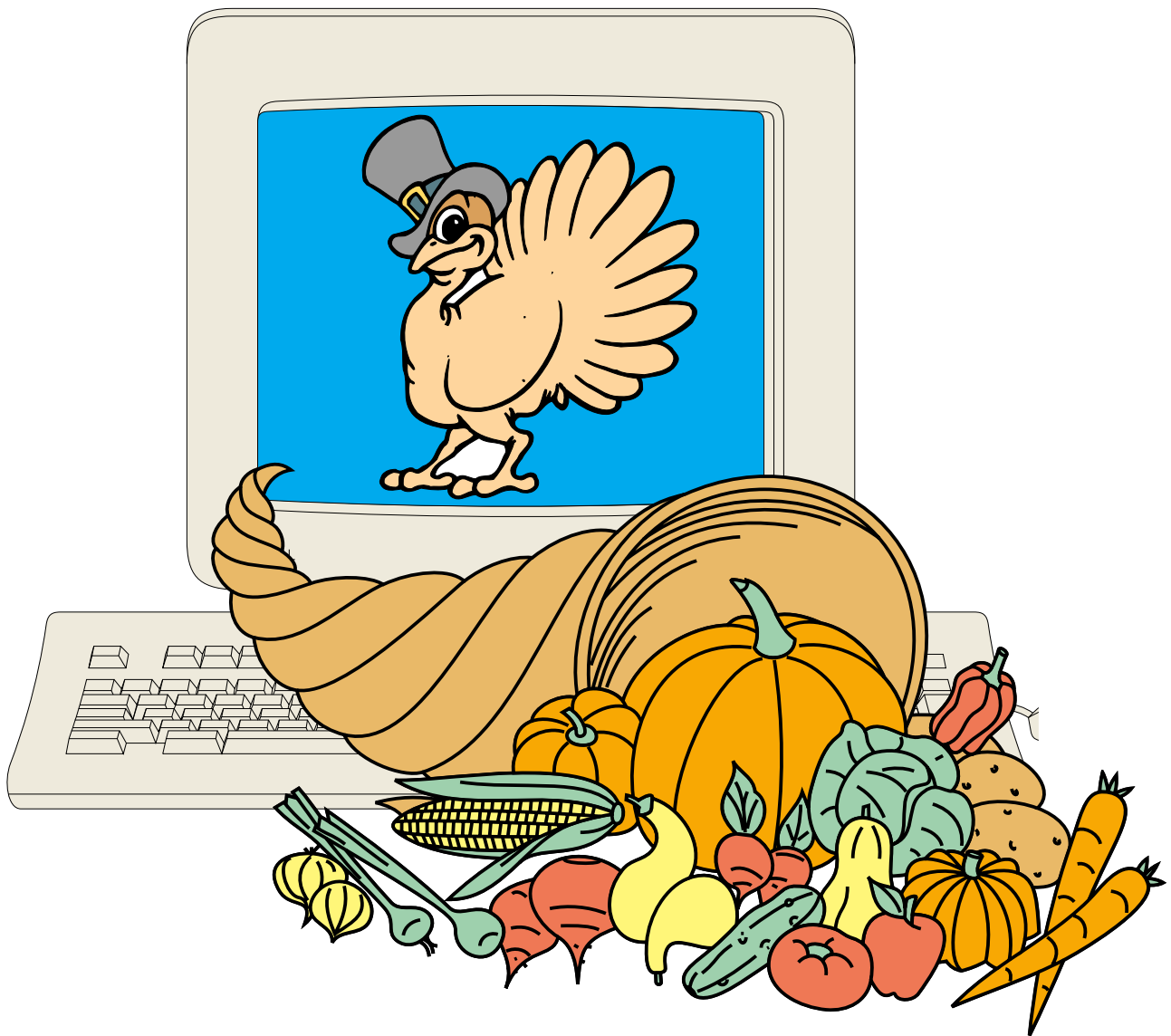


North Texas



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DEADLINE

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

Meeting Dates:

December 16 – 3rd Saturday

**(2001 Dates to
be announced)**



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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 NOVEMBER 18 MAIN PRESENTATION

NOVEMBER 18

10 AM AMD Computing Inc. presents their competitive challenge to Intel's high powered hardware. Mark will tell us about the AMD product line, the company history and what we can expect to see in the future. An AMD 900 MHz. processor and an equally fast motherboard will be given away at the end of the presentation.

11 AM PowerQuest Software tools presentation. The topics are: "How To Organize Your Hard Drive." PowerQuest just announced significant new releases of **PartitionMagic** (V6) and **Drive Image** (V4). Gene Barlow, representing PowerQuest Corporation, will talk about and demonstrate PartitionMagic V6. Then, "How To Protect Your Hard Drive." Drive Image V4, a full-system backup utility from PowerQuest, includes CD-R and CD-RDW support, support for Windows ME, and improved Drive Image File Editor. rs only. All software will be offered at a discount purchase price afterwards.

12 AM Shelly Goerz from Intel is featuring three cool new Intel toys that are being offered this gift-giving season. Preview the event at www.intelplay.com where all the toys are displayed. She will be giving away some or all of the toys to our members as door prizes. Shelly will be giving away an Intel=AE Pentium=AE III 550 MHz. processor and motherboard as a door prize this month.

SIG Focus: Several SIGs have very interesting topics this month, so carefully read the SIG Notes for details. **Microsoft Networking** will discuss setting up a home/small business network with Internet routing. **Alpha Five** will discuss software from Citrix Systems that lets you access any corporate application from an Internet browser. And **Professional MIDI & Audio** will demonstrate digital cameras and software. After meeting at a separate location for much of this year, **The Master Genealogist** SIG begins meeting at the main LHFC meeting site this month.

SIGs SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>Time</p> <p>8:00</p> <p>9:00</p> <p>10:00</p>	<p>SIG</p> <p>Microsoft Networking AppleCorps Hardware Solutions Excel/Spreadsheets The Master Genealogist</p> <p>Communications AppleCorps DOS/Disk Operating Systems Introduction to the PC - Communications Intro Alpha Five Dallas Corel Microsoft Word The Master Genealogist (continued)</p> <p>Internet - Beginning Main Presentation - AMD AppleCorps Professional MIDI & Audio Introduction to the PC - Communications Concepts Web Content Committee Dallas Corel (continued) WordPerfect for Windows</p>	<p>The Master Genealogist (continued)</p> <p>11:00</p> <p>Internet – Advanced Main Presentation – PowerQuest AppleCorps Professional MIDI & Audio (continued) Introduction to the PC - Communication Applications Quicken Linux WordPerfect for Windows (continued)</p> <p>12:00</p> <p>NTPCUG Business Meeting Main Presentation – Intel AppleCorps/FileMaker Investors Java Microsoft FrontPage</p> <p>12:30</p> <p>Visitors Orientation</p>	<p>1:00</p> <p>AppleCorps/ClarisWorks AppleCorps/Beginners e-Commerce</p> <p>SIG meetings are listed by time for the November 18 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.</p> <p>The following SIGs are meeting at separate locations, and are not included in the schedule above. Check the SIG notes for time and location.</p> <p>Meets on 11-11 Access Application Developers Issues Visual BASIC - Advanced Visual BASIC - Beginning</p>
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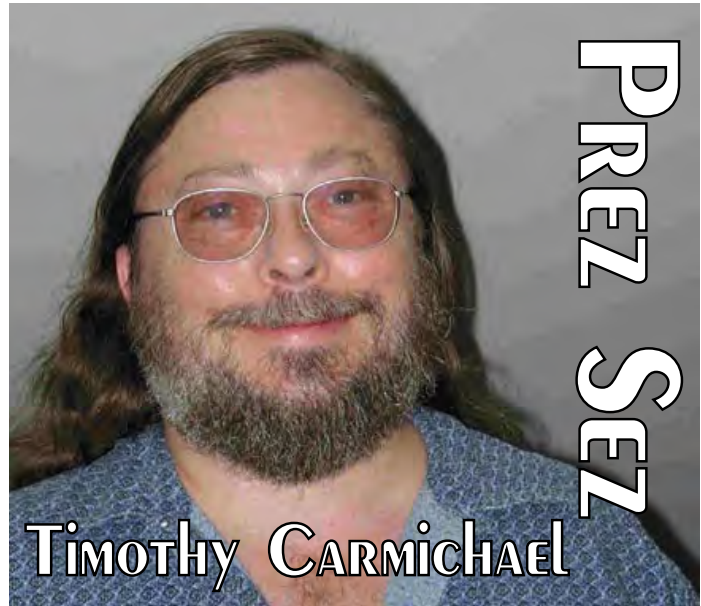
COME TO NOVEMBER NTPCUG MEETING

By Timothy Carmichael

Our last monthly meeting was lightly attended, and I encourage all of you to join us at the excellent main presentations and SIGs scheduled for November 18. **Vincent Gaines**, Program Chairman, has arranged for **PowerQuest**, **Intel**, and **AMD** to demonstrate their latest products and offer special discounts to our members. Bring a friend, too!

NTPCUG Web Server Crash and Revival

Recently our NT-based Web server hard drive crashed, and we took the opportunity to migrate to a Windows 2000 Server system. We were already shopping for an economical new hardware system at the time of the crash, and our Web Server Team had to rush to get the new server built and loaded. We owe thanks for this great team effort to **Gil Brand**, **Bill Parker**, **Paul Sloane**, and **Doug**



Gorrie. We now have a much more powerful Web server to host our Web services.

Gil Brand recently purchased a new 800 MHz Pentium III Dell system for his own use, and offered to resell it to the NTPCUG since it was needed immediately. Then he performed the tedious task of transferring the necessary hardware from the old system. He led the Web Server Team in installing the software and restoring databases and settings, and made many trips to the server site at our ISP during the server installation and checkout. Bill Parker and Doug Gorrie have been updating and tweaking settings and parameters of the software supporting e-mail, Web Board and others. Paul Sloane has been helping recover data from the old hard drive. Even having tape backups, recovery from such a crash can require a tremendous amount of time.

OUR GROWING Web Site

The NTPCUG Web Site at <http://www.ntpcug.org> is rapidly becoming an essential resource of timely news and communication for all our members. Our Webmaster Team (**Mary McWilliams Johnson** and **Chris Jung**) is working to expand the site in conjunction with our Web Content Team (**Bill Parker**, **Don Benish**, **Doug Gorrie**, **John McNeil**, **Pamela Carmichael**, and others). We are seeking ideas and volunteers for developing our valuable online resources, and your contributions will be an important part of the development process. Check the Web site often and give us your feedback, sugges-



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PREZ SEZ... CONTINUED

tions, and contributions so we can better address your needs. All e-mail sent to *webmaster@ntpcug.org* will be read by our Webmaster Team and passed on to the Web Content Team for further action. Better yet, let us know what you would like to help us with to improve the site.

Web Board Needs Your Input

The NTPCUG Web Board can become a valuable daily discussion forum for members and visitors if we start using it effectively. In past years we tried to build up a user-to-user contact program with the goal of providing our members quick access to experts in specific topic areas. Many of our members have expressed a desire for more tutoring and problem-solving assistance between monthly meetings. We want to revive this service, and need help from you to make it work with Web Board.

Many times I have run into a computer problem that was quickly solved by talking for a few minutes with an expert in that area who had encountered a similar problem and could offer potential solutions. Developing and troubleshooting software and hardware systems can be much quicker and easier if you have access to the specific information you need. Between all our members we have an outstanding knowledge base, and members who participate will find it an excellent way to learn more while helping others.

With Web Board discussion groups, you can get help from others on the Internet who are also local user group members willing to help further using the telephone. Try it out by posting a question you may have, and try answering other users questions when you can. This is not a competition, but a sharing of knowledge. You have more to offer than you may think you do.

Volunteers Rewarded

The NTPCUG members who volunteered to help us with the Microsoft eXtreme event on November 4 were **Ken Svaty, Bob McNeil, John**

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McNeil, Dick Trankle, Neal Berkowitz, Chris Carmichael, Pamela Carmichael and Reagan Andrews. They will be awarded one free Microsoft product of their choice at the Business Meeting on November 18. The products include FrontPage 2000, Windows 2000, Office 2000 Professional, and Office 2000 Developers. This is only one example of the benefits of being an active NTPCUG member volunteer!

Those of you who can donate some time to help out with the NTPCUG are needed more than ever. We are in the process of assessing and improving services for our members, and your suggestions are an important part of this process. Making those suggestions become reality also requires additional volunteer time and effort. Your contribution of only one or more hours a month will help all members, and you can benefit from being an active part of NTPCUG. Additional help is needed for projects that are on hold until we have the manpower to start them.

Anyone willing to participate as a monthly volunteer should contact **Claude McClure** (Volunteer Coordinator) or myself. **Claude** has diligently manned our NTPCUG information booth and coordinated volunteers at our meetings for many years, and volunteers like him keep the User Group functioning for the entire membership. With a little more help from more members, the individual workloads will be reduced. More details of what volunteers can help with can be found on our NTPCUG Website.

Timothy



High Speed Wireless Internet!



**AppleCorps of Dallas
2000 Schedule**

November 18th - 2nd Annual Game Day - A new tradition for ACD and NTPCUG.

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 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

November 3
December 1

Meeting Date

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

MICROSOFT VISUAL STUDIO 6.0 ENTERPRISE EDITION

Street Price varies widely, depending on source

Also available: Separate software components,

Visual Studio Professional Edition

*By: Larry Linson, Co-Leader of Application
Developer Issues SIG*

Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition supplies you with Microsoft's full suite of Developer Tools for applications to be used both on client machines and servers. Those are the Enterprise Editions of these software components: Visual Basic, Visual C++, Visual FoxPro, Visual InterDev, and Visual J++.

Also included are Visual SourceSafe, the Windows NT 4.0 Option Pack, SQL Server Developer Edition, and Microsoft SNA Server Developer edition.

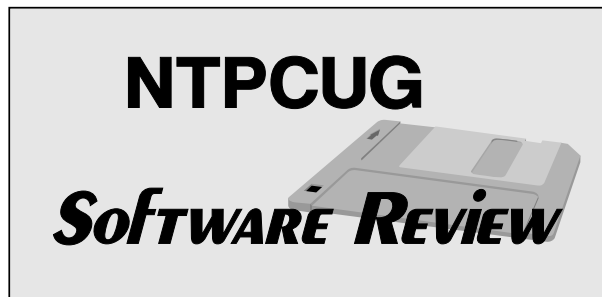
There is a voucher to send in to receive a Developer Edition of Microsoft's Back Office Server 4.5 (now, as Windows 2000 has been released in the meanwhile, the coupon may differ) and Service Packs (as they are issued, SP3 was included with my review copy, and SP4 has since been released). And, to be honest, these are only the major items. There are also a plethora of lesser products, samples, and utilities, some necessary and others helpful, that Microsoft did not even bother to list in the printed copy on the box.

You can also obtain a Professional Edition that includes the same Visual Basic, Visual C++, Visual FoxPro, Visual InterDev, and Visual J++, but fewer additional items. Review the information at Microsoft's Web site, <http://www.microsoft.com>, before you decide which edition you need.

If you develop for the desktop or client-server environments, the Pro Edition may well be what you need. If you're developing in the enormous-application, enterprise-wide, n-tier distributed application environment, or if you just have to have all the latest toys and there are more than a few of us in this latter category, chances are you'll need, or want, the Enterprise Edition.

What's New: There are many improvements and enhancements, especially related to Web development, and Web-enabled application development. And even more improvements and new tools have been released and made available for free downloading since the Visual Studio 6 was released. Because there are so many products included in the package, I'll just suggest you visit <http://www.microsoft.com> and look for the products of interest to you.

This is an evolutionary release, not the revolutionary release that Visual Studio.NET (VS.NET) will be (see "Coming in the Future"), but it's far more than a "maintenance release".



My advice: If you develop applications using Microsoft development tools, it's really a good idea to stay up-to-date once each version gets past its growing pains, usually one or two Service Packs. Visual Studio 6.0, now at the SP4 level, should be well past most of its growing pains. So, the time has come to make this upgrade, even if you aren't in the "Early Adopter" category. Come to think of it, if you haven't moved from the previous release to Version 6.0 by now, you definitely fall in the "Late Adopter" category.

I wasn't an early adopter of Visual Studio 6.0, getting it after SP3, but I've certainly been happy with it. To be honest, I've installed SP4 and it didn't correct any problems I was having – because I wasn't having any. I know, though,

that it was released for a reason and feel better with it installed.

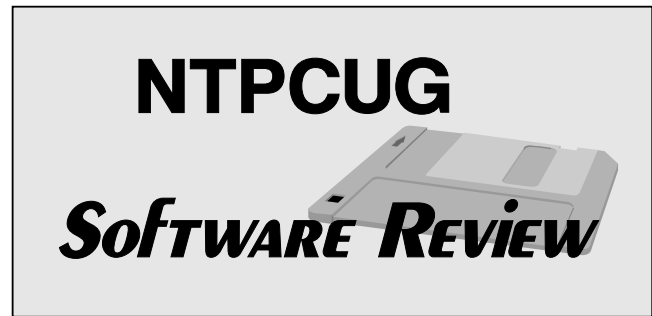
A Sneak Peek: If you haven't been vacationing in a remote area away from most media, you know that the next version of Visual Studio will support the Microsoft .NET Initiative. There'll be changes, one of the most startling being that Visual Basic will now include true inheritance, making it officially truly "object oriented". That will be a benefit to those who do code intensive VB and to the many who've complained long and loud about the absence of inheritance. It may not be so pleasing to the crowd who want to "point and click their way to a friendly user interface and then sprinkle just enough code behind the forms to make it work smoothly", because they will likely have to make a few adjustments to their mode of developing. In fact, I've heard a number in this latter category say that they'll stick with Visual Studio 6.0 even after Visual Studio.NET is released, at least until they are convinced that they won't have to change just to accommodate Microsoft's new vision.

Best guesses seem to be that VS.NET won't arrive before mid-2001 and possibly not until later, so you'll still get significant use out of Visual Studio 6.0 even if you're an early adopter of Visual Studio.NET. Microsoft's closest friends in the development community are advising them "do not release VS.NET until you get it *right*, because you're asking your developers to make a significant change and you don't want them to be fighting bugs at the same time they're making that change".

And, a little more advice, while you're waiting, whether you plan to jump on the .NET bandwagon early or not at all, grab the downloads related to XML and



Let's see . . . If I can't reach my ISP, or get on the WWW, how do I upgrade my software and PC BIOS files?



learn it. Even if you aren't doing anything where it seems to be of immediate value, it'll be everywhere in the near future. Come to our Microsoft Developer SIGs meetings or to the Microsoft Networking SIG meeting and, courtesy of Microsoft, while they last, you can get the same seven-CD-ROM set given to paying attendees at Microsoft Developer Days. It includes one CD of presentations, plus trial or beta versions of a number of server products that will be players in the .NET world. I don't think you'll find a single one of those presentations that doesn't mention XML.

Help! Visual Studio 6 does not contain traditional Windows Help. Instead, the Microsoft Developer Network Library CDs are included, along with a coupon for an update. More recently, Microsoft is providing a one-year subscription to the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN) Library edition for registered users of Visual Studio 6. Clicking on Help opens whatever portion of the MSDN information that you have loaded. You may have to insert the CDs if you haven't done a "complete" install -- something over 1 gigabyte of information. Whatever installation option you chose, you will be overwhelmed with information.

The downside to Help: my own view is that "MSDN as Help" is cumbersome,

Continued on page 10

MICROSOFT BACK AT TOP OF THIS MONTH'S COLUMN—TWICE AS 'HACKERS' PENETRATE MS INTRANET & AOL, OTHERS FILE 'FRIEND OF THE COURT' BRIEFS IN MICROSOFT V. DOJ SUIT

NOTHING SLOW THIS MONTH—DRAM PRICES FALL

Microsoft at the top—again. Bet they wish this bit of news would just go away, but don't think it will since it's so juicy. It's one thing to be bitten by a hacker, it's another thing to have everyone privy to the secret. Microsoft's efforts to put a "positive" (less negative) spin on the situation is yet another aspect that's been fun to read in the various media.

And, Microsoft again. Seems everybody in the software/ Internet hub/ or any distantly related business is trying to file "friend of the court" briefs in the appeal process. Looks like this may turn into a circus similar to the original trial.

All this is being followed by AMD releasing its 1.2 GHz *Athlon* CPU and higher speed *Duron* CPU's adding to the inevitable confusion PC buyers will face in selecting new PCs while DRAM prices fall again.

HACKER HITS MICROSOFT BIG TIME—QUESTION IS 'HOW FAR IN' AND JUST WHAT DID THEY SEE/GET?

Hacker(s) hit Microsoft in October—or was it August?—and everybody has an opinion about the penetration. Original stories in *The Wall Street Journal* indicated that MS security people discovered their system had been penetrated by one

that the penetration was both deep and about three months in duration.

Raised immediate concerns over the safety of recently-released Windows ME and possible changes/sabotage hacker(s) may have inflicted on the ME source code. Later Microsoft spokespeople, including MS CEO Steve Ballmer, minimized the seriousness of the penetration and claimed MS had known what was happening

from the beginning. If so, guess the hacker(s) really hadn't been that stealthy for the only 7-10 days penetration claimed by MS. Question being asked in the media is why, if it really wasn't pretty serious, was the FBI called in?

SO HOW WAS IT ALL DONE— WAS IT SOME SUPER HACK?

What should really embarrass MS security personnel was the ease with which this was accomplished. One media source inferred it was really quite simple and a kid could have done the deed.

Penetration was accomplished via a Windows-only E-mail "worm" named the QAZ Worm sent to a Microsoft employee who didn't have virus scanning enabled when the file was opened. Sound familiar? According to a ZDNET article by Robert Lemos, QAZ "replaces NotePad then searches for other hard drives to infect, sends the IP address of the in-

fectured machine to a —reportedly Russian E-mail address, and listens for responses."

The QAZ Worm does this by opening a "back-door" to the infected system using one of the TCP ports to mail the IP address to the hacker. This in essence gives the hacker control over the target machine and allows them to search for higher level passwords as was done in Microsoft's penetration.

But, QAZ isn't very new or unknown. Major virus protection software companies have had this identified for several months and have appropriate fixes. Symantec's Norton AntiVirus had a cure/fix for QAZ by July 18 of this year.

LESSON HERE FOR ALL OF US
'SECURITY' IS ONLY AS GOOD
AS WEAKEST LINK IN THE GROUP

I've been looking at my issues lately and decided that our "Security" at home needs a little more attention. Yes, we have virus scanners on all the machines on the family network—and each has its own registered copy of Norton AntiVirus. Each machine has its virus data files upgraded weekly. I've installed a firewall, *ZoneAlarm*, on my PC, but (here's the weak link) haven't gotten around to installing it on Connie's PC.

That's a mistake I intend to rectify since we have individual IPC's, i.e., I (still) use swbell.net and Connie has an account with AT&T worldnet. (Her account appears to be more reliable than mine in terms of E-mail servers.)

Both accounts could have wide-band access to the Net—Connie through the local cable modem access, and I via SWB's DSL access. Both of these have "always on" capabilities and fixed IP addresses. Since I routinely get 2-3 IP address hits when on the Web from a dial-in account during a typical session. I have no idea what Connie' IP address-seeking hit rate might be, but I'll soon find out since I intend to install *ZoneAlarm* on her machine.

Because we'll be adding either cable or DSL capabilities to all machines, I've also installed a router with built in firewall. Does this mean I'll



disable each machine's *ZoneAlarm* firewalls? No. definitely not.

It's 'All pile on' AGAIN TIME
IN MICROSOFT V. EVERYBODY
APPEAL IN DC FEDERAL COURT

This follows the move of the Microsoft antitrust suit to the DC Federal Appeals Court as lots of MS 'friends' move to file 'Amicus Curie' briefs in the suit. That's understandable since all of the DOJ and their cronies, 19 states' attorneys general have decided to really pour the heat (for their side) on MS during the proceedings. Some of the briefs are being filed by MS (real) allies, but several on both sides have been ordered combined and to be of less than 25 pages in length.

That's one win for trees and a loss for paper mills planning to boost their quarterly P&L statements, and one loss for verbose and wordy attorneys involved (on both sides.)

What's really humorous are the names of the filers—on both sides and fact that *AOL*, who is having their own antitrust problems of late, is also filing a brief in the case. AOL is joined by (get these names) Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), the Project to Promote Competition and Innovation in the Digital Age (ProComp) and the Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA) in a joint brief.

Not to be outdone, Microsoft 'allies' the Association of Competitive Technology (ACT) and the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) will also file a 25-page brief in the appeal proceedings. That's fitting and proper.

Who is sponsoring the groups may be much more interesting than the actual briefs. Surely, Microsoft is assisting the 'friendly briefs,' but real question for me is who is really behind the others? My best guess is that Oracle, AOL and Sun Microsystems (maybe even Ray Noorda)

The VARIETY STORE

have a somewhat weighty hand in these. May be wrong, may all be in the public spirit of fairness and 'what's best for America'—but I wouldn't bet my money on this concept

AMD RELEASES 1.2 GHZ 'Athlon' CPU 800 MHZ 'DURON' CPU DURING OCTOBER As DRAM PRICES FALL AGAIN THIS MONTH

AMD rubs salt into Intel's Pentium III, 1.13 GHz wounds with release of 1.2 GHz 'Athlon' CPU and 'Duron' 800 MHz CPU in October. No news here. Real news is that chips were available before the news release dates and were in users' hands before the services were able to announce the new chips.



Prices for each group are significantly below the Intel pricing guidelines.

Real news is sockets. Mainboard (Motherboard) vendors are having to keep pace with the new releases all calling for different socket alignments. This isn't really 'big' news since both Intel and AMD have been in a socket race for the last year and vendors have become accustomed to the socket debacle. Consumers are most likely to suffer as a result since the CPU availability issues have been clouded by various PR hypes, claims and counter claims.

For most of us, its all academic above the 600 MHz level. Most of us (except gamers) have never really taxed out current CPU's to their limit. Race to 1+ GHz has had little real meaning as a result, other than 'bragging rights.' Real message is 'Caveat Emptor.'

Reagan Andrews

Microsoft Visual Studio 6... Ctd.

difficult to use, and distressingly slow. Because Microsoft can't guess which product(s) you'll be using, your first use of Help will show you one item in the Treeview Control – an unexpanded icon for all of "MSDN". You'll be well-served if you take the time to define a subset category of just the online documentation for the particular product(s) you use most frequently.

The upside to Help: if you place the cursor in a word in a code window and press the F1 key, it does, as has always been the case, take you right to the help for that VB statement. And, a second plus is that this does encourage you to load the MSDN Library so it is available online, all the time, and to use the Online Documentation. The latest information and tutorials are continuously being added to the Microsoft Knowledge Base at <http://support.microsoft.com>.

Gratuitous advice on Help: subscribe to the MSDN e-mail newsletter and attend the free

MSDN developer events that Microsoft presents in major cities. That way you'll keep up with the frequent free downloads of new Microsoft Software Developer Kits (SDK) and other tools that Microsoft makes available. Some of those can also be obtained on CD, for at most the cost of materials and shipping.

Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendation: Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition (and Professional Edition) is an evolutionary release, but a release with significant enhancements, to the most popular suite of development tools. If you are in the Microsoft developer camp, you should upgrade to this Version (if you haven't already). If not, there's a thriving job market for developers who use the Microsoft tools – the water's fine, jump in and join us.

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November 5, 2000

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, November 11, 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 November 11, 2000: Assistant SIG Leader **Tom Browning** will demonstrate 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

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:

- **ACT! SIG** is inactive. Contact the SIG Coordinator or Jim Thompson at 817-261-6159.
- **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, 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

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sig_coordinator@ntpcug.org

Access

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 Michael Bodner



SIGs

modules to provide the functions for interoperability. This promises to be a very interesting and informative demo, so don't miss it. (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.)

In October 2000: We were privileged to have an outstanding guest speaker, **Adam Cogan**, of *Superior Software*, Sydney, Australia, and President of the *Sydney SQL Server, Visual Basic, Access, and Active Server Pages User Group*. Adam was in our area for the Microsoft Exchange Server conference and graciously agreed to speak at our meeting. He gave an excellent and information-filled two-hour presentation on XML in the Application Developer Issues and Access time periods, and, then a brief demonstration of an Access performance add-in while we conducted our giveaway drawing. Adam's PowerPoint presentation can be obtained from the Download Page of our Application Developer Issues Web site. Additional information and downloads are available from Superior Software (live link on back page of this issue).

We had another nice assortment of goodies in our October giveaway: a copy of the CD set that was given out at Developer Days for everyone who attended any meeting during the day, and a drawing for more prizes, something for almost everyone who remained until the end of the Access SIG. Topping the list were two Microsoft software packages provided by our host, Greg Nicholson, of Microsoft's local office. Others were courtesy of Microsoft User Group Support, the Microsoft Developer Network, and donations from members.

We definitely will have a drawing again in November. If you didn't get your Developer Days CD set last month, we have one for you. There'll

be a drawing for other 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:

A simple HTML editor: this small application is for very simple HTML markup similar to that required for these SIG Notes pages. The application inserts HTML tags, and, of course, also stores the Notes in an Access database. It is far from "commercial quality", but does show some interesting features, and some shortcomings of Access as a development tool for "editors".

Freeware Tools: Boost your productivity for free. Reviews of and references to tools generous developers have made available for download from the web. They'll assist you with your Access development, database administration, and maintenance. Expect a drawing for several copies of the tools we review and demonstrated.

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.

Games

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Genealogist - The Master

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Microsoft FrontPage

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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.

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WordPerfect / Windows

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 Diane Bentley

SIGs

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.

As a follow up to our September meeting's focus on Using Windows 2000 as an Application Development Platform, **Gil Brand**, SIG Leader of the Microsoft Networking SIG, will speak to us on Setting Up a Small Developer LAN for Business or Home Use. Gill will discuss the appropriate hardware and software to use and will also point out some available resources.

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.

October Meeting

Adam Cogan of Superior Software, Sydney, Australia, who was in town to attend the Microsoft Exchange Server Conference in Dallas, gave a presentation on Building e-Business Applications Using XML. XML has rapidly become a subject that no one can afford to ignore these days as it is central to just about every new development for the Internet (and is certainly also usable and useful in some non-Internet situations). Adam, whose presentation carried over into the Microsoft Access SIG, also demonstrated SSW's performance analyzer for Access applications. You can find some sample code and downloadable trial copies of SSW applications at the Superior Software Web site, <http://www.ssw.com.au> (live link on back page of this issue). Adam is

Larry Linson

Alpha Five

This month, Assistant SIG leader **Dan Blank** will discuss the use of Citrix Server extensions to make their Alpha Five applications available from the Web. This technology can be used to Web enable any corporate application, not just Alpha Five.

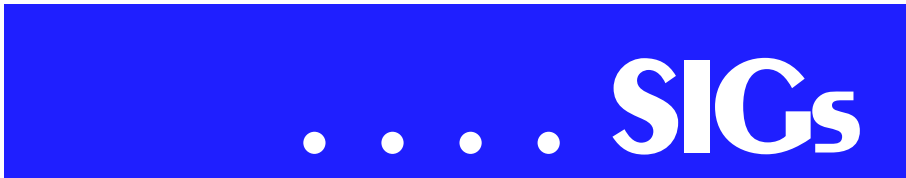
Bill Parker

Application Developers Issues

November Meeting



SIG of North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.



also President of the Sydney Microsoft Access/SQL/ASP User Group, www.ssw.com.au/SSW/AccessUG/default.asp (live link on back page of this issue). To view or download the slides of Adam's presentation, go to <http://members.tripod.com/appdevis-sues/downloads.htm> (live link on back page of this issue).

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/appdevis-sues/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.

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 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/appdevis-sues>, for meeting updates, details on past meetings (including meeting pictures), direc-

tions, a printable map and other miscellaneous information.

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

Daniel Ogden

Dallas Corel

Interactive Graphics Part II

November's program will explore additional features of Interactive Graphics with Corel PHOTO-PAINT 9. We created interactive "panoramic" QuickTime VR's (virtual reality) in September. This meeting we will add "hot spots" to our interactive scene and will create "object" QuickTime 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.

October in Review

For the **Interactive Graphics** topic at October's Dallas Corel SIG, **Marsha Drebelbis** brought a "panoramic" QuickTimeVR she made using her digital camera and PHOTO-PAINT 9. Projecting the files from her laptop computer, she demonstrated the steps to the final result. The interactive 360 panorama of White Rock Lake served as a basis to learn how to shoot overlapping photos, "stitch" them together, edit the images and create the QuickTime VR (virtual reality) scene. Additional objects may be added as "hot spots" to explore.

While interactive graphics are difficult to describe, once one becomes immersed in a VR scene, the fascination holds attention like no other. Marsha also took digital photos of the SIG attendees and created a QuickTime VR of the images on the spot. That file will be available for download on Dallas Corel's Web page, so everyone can experience it first hand.

Where to start? Substantial instructions are available in the Help files within

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	

Corel PHOTO-PAINT 9. Visit Web site locations with great examples and get inspired. Take a virtual visit to collections in the Louvre Museum in Paris at www.louvre.fr (live link on back page of this issue) or look out at Paris from the Eiffel Tower. You can see "object" QuickTimeVR's at www.nordick-track.com (live link on back page of this issue) where you can see 360 around several of the company's products. Visit www.ipix.com (live link on back page of this issue) to view Ipix bubble photos. These involve stitching together two photographic images, taken with a fisheye camera lens, to create the bubble. We plan to explore this and many more interactive topics in future SIG meetings.

CorelDRAW 10

DRAW 10 is scheduled to 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) 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).

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ 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

SIGs

❖ Oct/00 - QuickTimeVR and PHOTO-PAINT

Marsha Drebelbis

DOS / OPERATING SYSTEMS

Running a fresh, clean install of Windows 9x — and *still* getting lots of GPF's in Windows on a recently upgraded or new PC? GPF's (General Protection faults) or "Illegal Operation" messages usually indicate Windows 9x memory conflicts. That is, a Windows application writes to a memory space already occupied by another program's code.

What makes it even worse, the other program may not even be running, but left the "souvenir" in memory after it was closed even though it was "supposed" to clean up after itself on closing.

Windows won't tolerate the corruption and issues the error message. And, at the same time, Windows forces the user to terminate one of the programs involved. The user almost always loses any unsaved data. It's a major source of agonized screams in the night from frustrated and enraged users working against a deadline. It is not uncommon to hear things being broken shortly afterward.

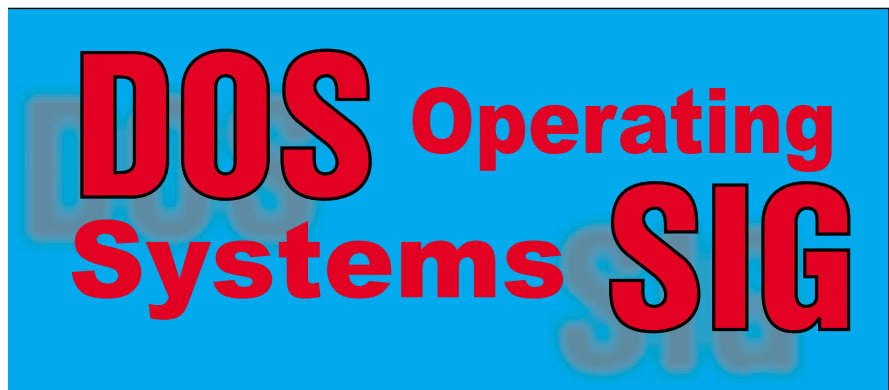
I almost never see GPF's when I'm just messing around with the PC, or before 1 a.m.

Running down the source of the GPF can be extremely frustrating since the error messages almost always refer to program modules the user never knew existed, much less could associate with software they installed.

Two sources for the errors

Largest contributors to the error situation are using Multitasking or task switching in Win 9x and unruly video and other drivers. The first can be easily controlled, if somewhat inconvenient. Don't do it. But, you may ask, isn't that one of the reasons we all switched to the modern Windows? Of course, but in the Win 9x environment, neither work all that well and memory protection is poor (combination of Windows faults and poorly written applications.)

One workaround for the conflicting task errors is to note which tasks appear to be at fault, i.e., which programs are running when you get the error message. If you see a pattern, try not to run the offending packages simultaneously. Also, schedule periodic shut downs while you are working since this can go a long way to stop the memory clutter/ contamination.





SIGs

Second area, undisciplined drivers, may be much more difficult to handle.

Here's a tip that may help

In the old days, when we were running Win 3x on top of DOS, most common source of GPF's was conflict between video drivers and DOS/Windows allocation of memory space in the UMB's (Upper Memory Blocks), i.e., the memory space between 640 KB and 1024 KB. DOS since 5.0 and Windows since 3.0 tried to make as much use of this area as possible to accommodate all the assorted drivers needed for graphics cards, CD-ROMs, sound boards, etc., multimedia PC's can demand. Every vendor seemed to think they *owned* this area. Win 9x and the new PC BIOS sets have solved most of these problems.

However, the driver problem still exists even in Win 9x as users demand more and more graphics "speed." If you have a truly undisciplined driver which refuses to work properly and your video is able to operate with a standard SVGA driver, go to the Windows Settings/Control Panel/Display/ Settings and change to the Windows SVGA driver rather than the vendor's "super" driver. Most graphics cards (even AGP cards) will operate with the Windows drivers and this will get you through the night in a pinch. You may be a trifle slower, but applications software doesn't usually need the added muscle of the super, vendor-supplied drivers. The AGP drivers themselves may play a part in these conflicts.

After you make the deadline; hit the vendor's site on the Web for the latest driver upgrades and possible technical assistance in re-configuring your system to handle them. Just remember to SAVE often.

Reagan Andrews

E-COMMERCE

In November, we'll be continuing our discussion of various topics related to e-commerce Web site development. 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

After a bit of an absence, the November 18 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). Next Month will be December 16th.

- ❖ Setup & Social time 8:00-8:30 AM - (Let's talk about how we want to structure the meetings in the future since there are other SIGs people might want to attend.)
- ❖ Beginners 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Jeri Steele
- ❖ General 9:45 AM - 11:00 AM
Bill Dow
Topic: Customizing Sources and your Source templates for The Master Genealogist

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 AND ADVANCED

Q&A is the most common format for us lately, and will be again in November.

At the October 21st meeting, **Tom O'Keefe** fielded a number of questions, the first of which was about shortcuts on the desktop. Shortcuts can save you TONS of time. They can be keyboard shortcuts -- very useful because your fingers are already on the keyboard. And on your desktop, you can get to many things by using that right mouse button. Its hard to break old habits, but you'll really speed things up once you use them a while.

For instance, did you know that Ctrl-C (hold "Ctrl" down, then tap on letter "C") will usually copy whatever is highlighted? This saves you from having to click on the Copy icon, or to Edit-Copy in a menu. Once in the Copy buffer, that same information can be pasted at your cursor location by using Ctrl-V.

Other tips include: Right-click on an open area of your desktop to get to screen's Display Properties, Right-click on Network Neighborhood to get to Properties for your Network setup or to map a network drive, Right-click on My Computer to see System Properties, and lots more.

The rest of the time was more Internet related. One significant comment on "free" DSL services: READ THE TERMS CAREFULLY !! One provider requires a minimum term, and you agree that you will buy their service if you use a phone on that line.

Someone offered www.globeexplorer.com (live link on back page of this issue) as an interesting site, so we looked at it. Its focus is earth imagery.

One question dealt with how to know whether it is safe to open a particular e-mail. Several suggestions came from the group.

Another question dealt with sites that list known virii. Frequently mentioned sites are www.mcafee.com (live link on back page of this issue) (part of Network Associates) and www.symantec.com (live link on back page of this issue).

Near the end, someone inquired how to print only a portion of a Web page. That's a good one for the November meeting. See you there.

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC

What did we do in October?

The "Intro" SIG talked a bit about the history leading up to Windows and then followed with demonstrations of how an operating system works with Windows Version 3.1 up through Windows 98 Second Edition. Yes, we did touch upon expectations of Windows Millennium edition. Following were introductions to graphics beginning with legacy box characters and then bit-mapped and scalable outline fonts, what a pixel is and how it affects graphics from fonts through digital photography. Continuing on beyond font generations, we touched upon the uses of word processing from the necessity of ASCII with an untrained machine to uses of high-level language applications with word processing.

What will we do next?



We have always fantasized about having eight-hour sessions five days a week and imagined how well a particular subject could be covered when good tools and lots of time were available. We also dreamt about different ways to accomplish as much as possible during the three-hour time frame available for us each monthly meeting. Further, we always alter our Introduction to the PC classes as computer and related equipment becomes obsolete and new innovations develop. The present needs of members and guests, however, tend to require less theory and more just plain "show me" applications. Being practical as we are, we will not eliminate the theory as it is a most valuable tool for growth and personal satisfaction. We will, however, increase the time for practical demonstrations and "how to" tutorials.

What our SIG plans for you is making maximum use of tools such as: the data projector (loaned to us by **Data Projections**) for displaying large screen images of our demos, several chalkboards, paper handouts, and those gracious volunteer speakers. With these resources, along with relentless updating of our prepared material, we hope to maximize your enlightenment and enjoyment during our SIG's time frame.

The classes will have a general theme used throughout the three-hour period. The first hour will be for introducing the basics and followed by an hour of putting these basics to use, and the final hour used for making applications do practical things.

Half of our class participants are members who are enjoying new product uses and upgrade demonstrations. The

other half of our classes consists of guests and first-time users. We believe this updated format will make the best use of our allocated time and increase the pleasures for "newbies" as well as established users.

Come see how it works

Visit our class on November 18th starting at 9:00 A.M. The subject will be "**Telecommunications.**" This period introduces members and guests to modems, data transmission, the Internet, and safe installations. We will learn that bauds, bits, and bytes can somehow travel for your computer to another at Hertzian rates from kilo- to mega- and giga- just for your information and enjoyment. And we will love it, too!

9:00 A.M. We start with a few minutes of history related to telephony and data transfer. This establishes the need for data modems and their successors for use in the home and businesses. We investigate uses of telephone lines and alternate methods for subscriber line (distribution) and bulk long distance (transmission). We look at modem and related devices as either internal or external to the computer.

10:00 A.M. We discuss how it works and how it all fits together as a system. The classroom Internet connection helps show us how telecommunication can work as a network with the World Wide Web (Web) or Internet.

11:00. How modems are connected and configured along with more advanced techniques using DSL and Cable TV are discussed with the pros and cons of each. The role of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) is explained. The tremendously popular E-mail and surfing the Web for information will be displayed on our projection screen from a live Internet connection.

Questions? We strive to give pertinent

<i>Introduction to the PC Class</i>		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Breakdown</i>
<i>9:00 A.M.</i>	<i>Introduction</i>	<i>introductions, prerequisites, needs, uses</i>
<i>10:00 A.M.</i>	<i>Concepts</i>	<i>typical uses, examples, formats</i>
<i>11:00 A.M.</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>products, set-ups, applications, techniques</i>

SIGs

answers. Although, on occasion it may take me eight minutes to say yes.

Welcome seniors, I am one, and welcome youngsters, Pamela is one - between us and volunteer leaders, we will strive to entertain and enlighten all of you through this introductory series. The Web page containing synopsis of all intro subjects has been rewritten to show our latest format so look for it at: http://www.ntpcug.org/sigs/intro_pc/index.htm

Spike Smith, SIG Leader
Pamela Carmichael, Assistant Leader

JAVA

The Java SIG meeting with Allaire presenting was a great success. There was a good crowd with a good number of questions. **George Riley** gave an excellent presentation and really went into the guts of Jrun and gave detailed explanations of how it worked and what to expect. There were also several drawings for CDs and goodies. I should have more CDs at a later meeting.

November's meeting will be a departure from the normal presentation theme. I am going to present the group with a task to rebuild our SIG Web site with all new Java



powered areas. I want to use JSP, servlets, helper classes and even EJBs if they seem to make sense to build a site that is easier to maintain, more flexible as to who can maintain it. I want to get volunteers to take on certain parts as their very own tasks and build the functionality on their local machines. We will then be able to integrate the parts in future meetings and work out problems. Hopefully, this will be a very useful and educational experience.

Don Benish

MICROSOFT NETWORKING

In November, **Gil Brand** will be presenting his recent experience in home networking, specifically the use of a LINK-SYS EtherFast Cable/DSL Router. If you have a need for home networking, join us at the Microsoft Networking SIG.

Other options, such as wireless, phone line networking, and power line networking will also be discussed. If you have experience with any of these technologies, please stop by and tell us about the good/bad/ugly of home networking with these methods.

This topic will also be presented in the Application Developers SIG at 11AM on Saturday, November 11th. See their SIG notes for location and directions.

Gil Brand

PROFESSIONAL MIDI & Audio

In November, we are going to expand the focus of our SIG to spotlight digital video and photo acquisition, recording, editing, and storage on CDs and other medium. **Tom Browning** and **Addis Elmore** will be bringing in a digital camera, laptop PC and image editing software (PhotoShop), and leading a discussion of digital image related topics ranging from novice user to professional photographer. All SIG members are encouraged to bring their own digital image gear, as we will be discussing

a wide range of related topics. We will also attempt to set the agenda for the first four meetings in 2001, so be sure to attend. As usual, we'll be meeting at 10:00 am in the Choir Room of the Freshman Center of the Lake Highlands High School. Check our Web site for address, driving directions and maps. Talk it up and bring your friends.

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 November 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 Web site live link on back page of this issue.

The topic for this month's meeting will be "Menus." Many of the applications we deal with as beginners are too simple to justify a menu bar. However, once we move into the realm of complete applications, it is very important that a menu bar be included. It gives us an opportunity to provide quick access to help files, navigation aids for multi-form applications, access to special functions, etc. 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 542 with the section entitled "Menus."

At our September meeting, 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 December meeting date. 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 discuss any questions brought up at the meeting relative to the project.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 9:00 AM on Saturday, November 11,



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

HUMOR LINE:

Things you wish you could say at work.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ahhh.... I see the screw-up fairy has visited us again. 2. I don't know what your problem is, but I bet it's hard to pronounce. 3. How about never? Is never good for you? 4. I see you've set aside this special time to humiliate yourself in public. 5. I'm really easy to get along with once you people learn to worship me. 6. I'll try being nicer if you try being smarter. 7. I'm out of my mind, but feel free to leave a message. 8. I don't work here. I'm a consultant. 9. It sounds like English, but I can't understand a word you're saying. 10. I can see your point, but I still think you're full of it. 11. I like you. You remind me of when I was young and stupid. 12. You are validating my inherent mistrust of strangers. 13. I have plenty of talent and vision, I just don't give a damn. 14. I'm already visualizing the duct tape over your mouth. 15. I will always cherish the initial misconceptions I had about you. 16. Thank you. We are all refreshed and challenged by your unique point of view. 17. The fact that no one understands you doesn't mean you're an artist. 18. Any connection between your reality and mine is purely coincidental. 19. What am I? Flypaper for freaks?? 20. I'm not being rude. You're just insignificant. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. It's a thankless job, but I've got a lot of karma to burn off. 22. Yes, I am an agent of Satan, but my duties are largely ceremonial. 23. No, my powers can only be used for good. 24. You sound reasonable. Time to up my medication. 25. Who me? I just wander from room to room... 26. And your crybaby, whiny-butt opinion would be...? 27. Do I look like a people person? 28. This isn't an office. It's hell with fluorescent lighting. 29. I started out with nothing and still have most of it left. 30. You... Off my planet! 31. Does your train of thought have a caboose? 32. Errors have been made. Others will be blamed. 33. A PBS mind in an MTV world. 34. Allow me to introduce my selves. 35. Whatever look you were going for, you missed. 36. I'm trying to imagine you with a personality. 37. A cubicle is just a padded cell without a door. 38. Stress is when you wake up screaming and realize that you haven't fallen asleep yet. 39. Can I trade this job for what's behind Door #1? 40. Too many freaks, not enough circuses. 41. Nice perfume. Must you marinate in it? 42. Chaos, disorder, & panic - my work is done here. 43. How do I set a laser printer to stun? 44. I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted the paychecks. 45. If I throw a stick, will you leave? 46. Sarcasm is just one more service we offer. |
|--|--|

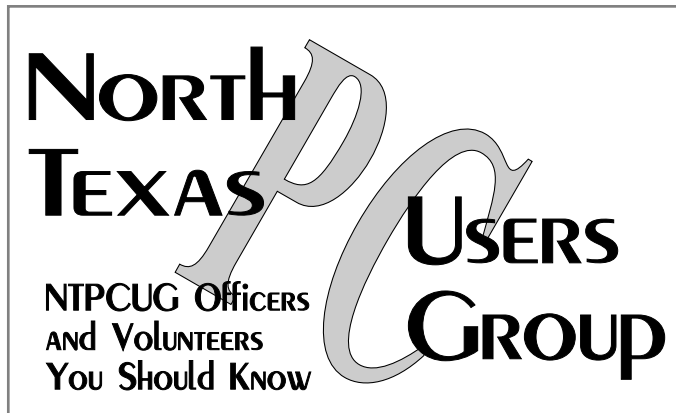
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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.



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Publicity	Spike Smith	(972) 231-0730 h
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Call Doug Gorrie at..... (214) 464-4568

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Home Page: ntpcug.org

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- ♠ Webmaster

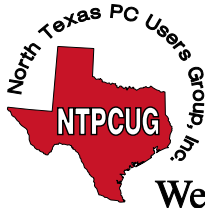
To e-mail officers and directors: bod@ntpcug.org

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

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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.

SIG Notes

Access

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

<http://www.ssw.com.au>

Application Developers Issues

www.ssw.com.au/SSW/AccessUG/default.asp

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

Dallas Corel

www.louvre.fr

www.nordictrack.com

www.ipix.com

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

<http://corel.com>

<http://www.i-us.com/graphicallyspeaking>

e-Commerce

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

Genealogy – The Master Genealogist

<http://pioneerinfo.com/tmg>

Internet – Beginning and Advanced

www.globeexplorer.com

www.mcafee.com

www.symantec.com

Visual Basic - Beginning

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