North Texas PC NEWS

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
NTPCUG

NTPCUG July Meeting Will be at
North Lake Community College—
(See Map at www.ntpcug.org)

Online Edition

North Texas PC NEWS

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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.

D E A D L I N E
Copy deadline for August
North Texas PC NEWS:
Friday, August 3, 2001

Meeting Dates:

July 21, 3rd Saturday
August 18, 3rd Saturday

NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, INC

Of Interest In This Issue...

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

Submitting Articles and Stories to the Newsletter

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

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

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

Remember to "sign" your article/ story at the bottom. A simple "by Your Name" will be quite helpful, particularly if the editors have questions or suggestions about the story.

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

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

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

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

Reagan Andrews

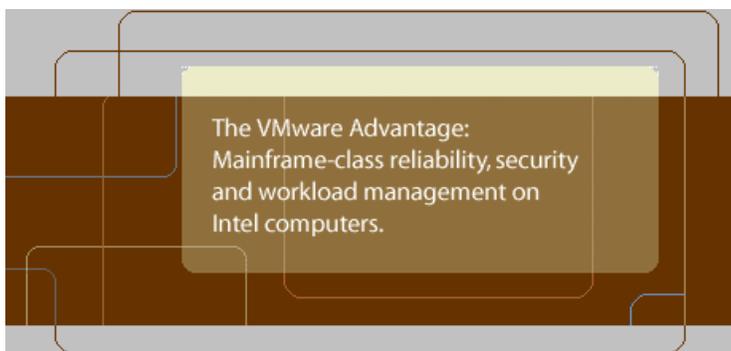# Programs & Presentations . . . Vincent Gaines

VMware will be presenting their systems-control software at 10 AM

Imagine being able to run multiple client and server environments simultaneously on one system!

VMware's award winning Multiple Worlds Technology uniquely delivers these capabilities.

Ed Sanders, Dallas-based Corporate Account manager, will discuss the underlying technology and demonstrate networked Windows and Linux environments running simultaneously on one machine. VMware will also support Windows XP.

This is a must-see presentation for QA professionals, tech-support professionals, Web developers, security professionals, individuals, students, trainers and more!

The VMware Advantage:
Mainframe-class reliability, security and workload management on Intel computers.

July 21

SIGs Special Interest Group Meeting Schedule

Time	SIG
8:00	Microsoft Networking
	Hardware Solutions
	Excel/Spreadsheets
	The Master Genealogist (8:30)
9:00	Communications
	DOS/Disk Operating Systems
	Introduction to the PC
	Alpha Five
	Dallas Corel
	Microsoft Word
	The Master Genealogist (continued)
10:00	Internet - Beginning
	Main Presentation – VMware
	Professional MIDI & Audio
	Introduction to the PC
	Web Content Committee
	Dallas Corel (continued)
	WordPerfect for Windows
	The Master Genealogist (continued)

Time	SIG
11:00	Internet – Advanced
	Web Design - Basics
	Professional MIDI & Audio (continued)
	Introduction to the PC
	Quicken
	Linux
	WordPerfect for Windows (continued)
12:00	**NTPCUG Business Meeting**
	Investors
	Java
	Microsoft FrontPage
12:30	Volunteer Q&A
1:00	e-Commerce

SIG meetings are listed by time for the July 21 meeting. Times may change, and members are advised to check the NTPCUG Web site for latest listings. Room locations will be posted 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 7/14
   Access
   Application Developers Issues
   Visual BASIC - Advanced
   Visual BASIC - Beginning

Summer Location

Our summer meeting location at North Lake College seems to be a success. There were a few folks that had difficulty with the driving directions, but most seemed to find the location without much trouble. We will try to do a better job with signs at the July meeting, which will also be at North Lake College. If you can help put up the signs, please let me know. Signs need to go up before 8:00 AM on the day of the meeting.

Attendance was also very good at the North Lake location. We had slightly fewer members register at the information desk in June (104), compared to our May meeting at the Lake Highlands Freshman Center (116). Given that we would loose people to both summer vacation and the confusion of a new location, the attendance was very encouraging. Also, because of

Prez Sez — Bill Parker

the various entrances at North Lake, not all members may have signed in at the information desk. Please help us by making sure you register when you come to the meeting. We are really trying to figure out how to get more members to attend meetings, and naturally, how to attract new members.

Another attendance statistic we wanted to measure at North Lake is the number of members coming from further west. In May at the Freshman Center, 5% of members came from Tarrant County (76xxx ZIP codes). In June at North Lake, 16% of members came from the 76xxx ZIP codes. This certainly indicates that location of the meeting makes a difference.

IMPORTANT NOTE!!!

For July, NTPCUG will again meet at North Lake College in Las Colinas (Irving). **DO NOT GO TO LHFC FOR THE JULY MEETING!!!**

The August meeting date and location were not available at press time for the July newsletter (the newsletter deadline was July 6).

Training CDs

Board member **Martin Hellar** has an article in this newsletter about training CDs from Virtual Training Company that he is donating to the Club. This is a great resource on current topics, so be sure to take advantage of it. Also, mention to Martin that you appreciate his donation.

PREZ SEZ... CTD.

VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate all the volunteers that help make the meetings happen, get the newsletter published, manage memberships, develop the Web site, find meeting locations, publicize meetings, schedule auditorium presentations, run SIG meetings, etc. Everything we do is done be volunteers. You know that there is a lot of work that goes into the Club being able to provide members with training, information, and discussion opportunities that make membership worthwhile. With all of the people that contribute generously of their time, there is always a big need for more help to accomplish the many things that are still on our wish list. If you see something that might benefit the Club and members, please mention to a board member that you could help in that area. We always want suggestions of how the Club can benefit you more. If you can help implement the suggestion, that is even better.

There is currently a need for help on the Web site, and for help with the membership database. The more we improve the Club, the easier it is to attract new members. Growing the Club will make the user group experience better for all of us. Please contribute where you can.

One area that changes according to our members' needs are the SIGs that meet each month. This month there will be a formative session for the ArsDigita community System, an open source e-commerce platform. If enough members express interest in forming this SIG, it will be an addition to the expanding list of Web topics that are offered. Since SIGs are the backbone of NTPCUG, members should be aggressive in helping to make the SIGs the best they can be. If you have an interest in starting a new SIG or in contributing a presentation to an existing SIG, contact the SIG Coordinator or a SIG leader.

Bill

Visual Basic 6 Master Reference

Subtitle: The Definitive Visual Basic Reference

By Clayton Walnum
Published by IDG Books, ISBN 0-7645-3253-7
1564 pages plus CD-ROM, hardcover
List price: US$69.99, Cdn $98.99, UK Pounds 59.99 incl. VAT
Street price: US$5 at the **75%-Off Bookstores** in the Dallas area, varying elsewhere, up to list

In the Preface, the author explains that to thoroughly detail "the entire VB language and most of the controls and objects" would fill a book at least twice this size. I think it might take a good deal more than that. So, he started with the core language and worked up until "we reached the maximum size book we thought would be reasonable and still cover the most important elements." In my view, he accomplished that. However, as he was careful to note, there is no coverage of a number of the additional controls that

are included with the Professional and Enterprise editions of VB, nor of VB database programming.

The book is arranged like a dictionary, in alphabetic order. Although it's superfluous, there is a table of contents with one reference to "Preface" and then, instead of chapters, the letters of the alphabet with the starting page for definitions beginning with that letter.

What is covered, he covers in depth. Descriptions are detailed and complete, often with examples and pertinent cross-references. If the item is

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Below: NTPCUG's Vincent Gaines, on stage left, and Microsoft's Allen Childress, on stage right, greet members attending the Microsoft Office XP demonstration at the NTPCUG June 16th Meeting at North Lake Community College.

an object, it includes a list of properties and methods applicable to the object. Because of the alphabetic arrangement, you can go directly to the property or method of interest without looking it up in the table of contents or index. If the item is a property or method, you will find a reference to the object or objects to which it applies. What's more, machine-readable examples are on the included CD-ROM to supplement the printed examples in the text.

An interesting inclusion, despite the stated limitations, is the FileSystemObject, which is neither an intrinsic part of VB nor a custom control included with VB. The FileSystemObject is an object of the Windows Scripting Runtime that some VB developers like better than the intrinsic File I/O statements that are native to VB (and which are covered in the book). However, unlike the intrinsic File I/O, users may have disabled the Windows Scripting Runtime as a security measure – in which case, intrinsic File I/O will work just fine, but the File System Object won't work at all. There's no caution on that point.

Omission of database items seems serious to me, because I know few Visual Basic developers who do not, at least sometime, do database, or data-based, applications – certainly far more than are likely to need the FileSystemObject. Perhaps the publisher intended another volume specifically on the subject of database. I've seen a book on database

Gosh! I'm really impressed with High Speed Web access. I'm just a little confused with all activity on my PC when when I'm not using it though...

programming with VB by this publisher, but not a comparable reference.

Overall, coverage is extensive, and covered well, in an easy-to-use format. If you expect to continue using "classic" Visual Basic, either along with VB.NET or instead of moving to VB.NET, a copy of this book ought to be on your shelf, even at list price. If you're lucky, as I was, and find it at one of the Dallas area's 75%-Off Bookstores, it'll be even more of a bargain. (Late-breaking news: there were several copies available at that company's location on Rufe Snow, just off Loop 820, on June 30. I also saw one at near-list price in a regular bookstore the same day.)

PRO: It's the "Language Reference Manual on steroids". It's easy-to-use and cross-referenced. The elements covered are complete, detailed, and illustrated by examples.

CON: Database access elements and some of Visual Basic's custom controls are omitted.

Larry Linson

NTPCUG

PROGRAM BOOK REVIEW
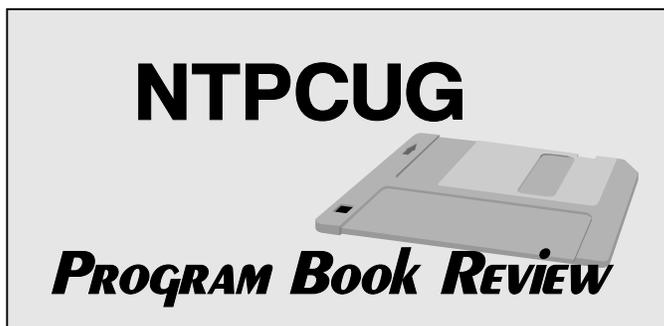
Professional Training Videos Now Available via NTPCUG

Another Reason to be a Member of NTPCUG

For years members of NTPCUG have been able to use the Lending Library of diskettes and books to review or use various programs and games. Now a new opportunity is being offered. Thirty training CDs from the Virtual Training Company (VTC) are being donated to NTPCUG. The titles, shown below, cover a range of subjects but are only a portion of the currently published 124 CDs. How come NTPCUG didn't get all 124 CDs? Well, that's all that I purchased for my own use and education. I really believe that these CDs offer a nice convenient way to learn. I wanted to share them with NTPCUG. These CDs can be "borrowed" from NTPCUG for a period of one month at no cost to members. A refundable deposit of $75.00 will be required.

NTPCUG will become a reseller of VTC's CDs and members of NTPCUG will be able to purchase any of the 124 CDs at 25% discount.

For those of you that haven't heard about VTC Training CDs, a little explanation follows. These CDs are a series of QuickTime Movies. There are currently 124 different CDs available from VTC. They cover a wide range of topics for the PC operating systems and programs. The CDs contain 3 to 15 hours of Movies. Each CD starts with the basics of the subject, but don't let that deceive you. You'll be surprised at the little tricks that show up

in an area that you thought you were completely familiar with. So, don't jump to a topic way down in the contents page, you may be missing something. The later parts of the CDs cover the more advanced topics. My personal experience has been that my newspaper employees found these CDs offered more help than the built-in help files in the programs that we were using. So, if we were working in Corel Draw 8, we kept the VTC CD for Draw 8 in the computer while building ads.

If after you "borrow" a CD and want to buy it, NTPCUG will act as a reseller and sell it to you. If after you look at the complete list of available CDs from VTC Company and want to order a CD, ask NTPCG to get it for you. If you are a member of NTPCUG, that gets you a 25% discount.

The first time that you "borrow" a CD, you will have probably have to do some installation before playing the CD. Each CD comes with instructions as to what is required and how to implement these requirements. Some of the requirements are, you need to have QuickTime 3 or better. If you do not have it, the CD will have a copy on it for you to install. These CDs play better on Netscape 4.6 than on Internet Explorer. So, if you want to install Netscape, it is also on the CD. To play the CD you double click on the ClickMe icon. You do not copy the QuickTime files to your computer. If you have trouble playing the CD, you can dial 1-

Christopher Carmichael, left, hands out drawing tickets to NTPCUG members at the June meeting.

888-TRAINCD for tech support. VTC has a good tech support group and they can help you. Please, "borrow" one of the CDs in a subject that interests you and give it a try. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you hear.

The VTC CDs now available in our Lending Library are:

- ❖ Adobe Acrobat 4.0
- ❖ Adobe Page Mill 3.0
- ❖ Adobe Photoshop 5.0/5.5
- ❖ Adobe Photoshop 6.0
- ❖ Adobe Photoshop for Photographers
- ❖ Adobe Photoshop Specisl Fx
- ❖ C++
- ❖ Corel Draw 8
- ❖ Corel Draw 9
- ❖ Corel Draw 10
- ❖ HTML4
- ❖ Microsoft Access 2000
- ❖ Microsoft Excel 2000
- ❖ Microsoft Excel 97
- ❖ Microsoft Office 98 for MacIntosh
- ❖ Microsoft Outlook 2000
- ❖ Microsoft Outlook 97
- ❖ Microsoft Power Point 2000
- ❖ Microsoft Power Point 97
- ❖ Microsoft Visual basic 6
- ❖ Microsoft Visual Basic 6 Advanced
- ❖ Microsoft Visual Basic for Access
- ❖ Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- ❖ Microsoft Windows 2000 Network Infostructure
- ❖ Microsoft Windows IIS 4
- ❖ Microsoft Windows NT4 Server Installation
- ❖ Microsoft Windows NT4 Workstation
- ❖ Microsoft Word 2000
- ❖ Microsoft Word 97
- ❖ TCP/IP
- ❖ XML

Martin Hellar
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CPU Heat revisited

This month I want to get a little closer to the problem and indulge users in an exploration of "greasy kid stuff." No, I'm not referring to the hair dressing insulted in the ads from the 1950's, but to thermal compound that's a necessity to insure that the heatsink-fan on top of the CPU does its job, i.e., removes heat from the CPU and keeps the microcircuit within safe operating parameters. It is a vital component in thermal management at this stage.

Most Socket 7 CPU's: Pentium II's, K6-II's and K6-III's along with Cyrix 6x86 chips demand use of a heatsink-fan combination above 66 MHz. These are only effective if there is a film of thermal compound between the fan unit and the CPU. Most common compound looks like the zinc oxide paste frequently seen on lifeguards noses, i.e., a sticky, white gooey substance. I tend to prefer the white stuff sold by RadioShack.

Socket A (AMD) CPU's most frequently use a gray pad of thermal compound that conforms to the heatsink and CPU under heat and pressure. This cannot be re-used and must be replaced if the units are separated. The greasy kid stuff usually can be reused if its smoothed out and covers the entire contact area.

Reagan Andrews

NTPCUG members grab T-shirts and Microsoft Office XP packages at the June meeting below
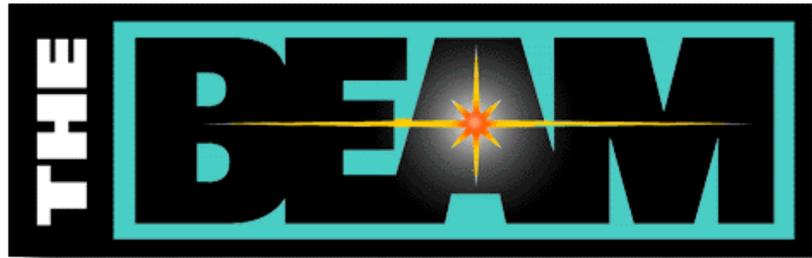
!!! Mark Your Calendar !!!

Future Newsletter Deadlines and
Meeting Dates

Our main meeting [presentation(s)
and most SIGs] will be held usually
on the **third Saturday** of each month.

The **newsletter deadline** for SIG
notes and articles each month will be
fifteen days before the main meeting.

See the schedule below for a listing
of those dates.

High Speed Wireless Internet!

Newsletter Deadline   Meeting Date
July 6   July 21 (3rd Sat.)
       August Meeting to be announced.

Off-Site SIGs

The North Texas Microsoft Developers SIGs (Be-
ginning Visual Basic, Advanced Visual Basic, Ac-
cess, and Application Developers Issues SIGs)
will meet the second Saturday of each month at
Microsoft Corporation's Las Colinas facilities:

..... Microsoft Las Colinas, Building 1
..... Microsoft Product Support Services
..... 7000 N. State Highway 161
..... Irving, TX 75039

Up-to-date Information

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

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 giv-
ing a one-year membership in the North Texas
PC Users Group. This is an especially appro-
priate 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 com-
puter lessons in the Introduction to the PC
SIG.

More experienced users would appreciate
value of vendor presentations in making impor-
tant 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 espe-
cially welcome.

Doug

Every Member
NTPCUG
Get a New Member

8

Laws Of Work

If you can't get your work done in the first 24 hours, work nights.

A pat on the back is only a few centimeters from a kick in the butt.

Don't be irreplaceable: if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

It doesn't matter what you do, it only matters what you say you've done and what you're going to do.

After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.

The more crap you put up with, the more crap you are going to get.

You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.

Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

When the bosses talk about improving productivity, they are never talking about themselves.

If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. No use being a damn fool about it.

There will always be beer cans rolling on the floor of your car when the boss asks for a ride home from the office.

Keep your boss's boss off your boss's back.

Everything can be filed under "miscellaneous."

Never delay the ending of a meeting or the beginning of a cocktail hour.

To err is human, to forgive is not our policy.

Anyone can do any amount of work provided it isn't the work he/she is supposed to be doing.

Important letters that contain no errors will develop errors in the mail.

If you are good, you will be assigned all the work. If you are really good, you will get out of it.

You are always doing something marginal when the boss drops by your desk.

People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't.

If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.

At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.

When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

Following the rules will not get the job done.

Getting the job done is no excuse for not following the rules.

Humor Line

When confronted by a difficult problem you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"

No matter how much you do, you never do enough.

The last person that quit or was fired will be held responsible for everything that goes wrong.

Anonymous

Microsoft wins big & loses big
No MS Breakup, Appeals court says Monopoly Lowers 'burden of proof' for states' cases
XP Rollouts provide surprizes in May & June

It's almost all Microsoft this month! Federal Appeals Court finally dropped a decision on the media with mixed news for the Redmond, WA, based software giant.

Two most important decisions were a combination of "good news - bad news" for both sides in the massive legal struggle. Appeals court held that Microsoft was, indeed, a monopoly, with 'bad' (i.e., illegal) behavior for a company in such a position. But, they also held that Judge Jackson gave the public appearance of 'bias' by his extracurricular comments to various media while trying the case and overturned his decision to break up Microsoft into smaller pieces.

Microsoft was mightily pleased by the last, but headed for untold years of misery from future litigation by the first. Expect ravening hoards of states attorneys general seeking 'justice' (i.e., as much money as they could legally extort from Microsoft) in waves of antitrust litigation that will greatly resemble a Tokyo-destroying tsunami in a Japanese monster flick.

States' job easier—if they can convince juries

The Fed decisions greatly lowered the burden of proof the states would require with this decision, but left me in somewhat of a bemused state.

In the ensuing civil litigation by the states, counties/parishes and

other interested (greedy) parties against Microsoft—guaranteed to provide full employment for scads, droves and Texas-size herds of stampeding attorneys—the states will have to prove that the public was injured by this behavior in some concrete $$$ amounts. This should be a lot of fun with a full panoply of 'expert witnesses' droning on and on for countless hours before horribly bored and unwilling participants (jurors). [See the 'About evidence' sidebar.]

This is, by the way, the absolute perfect playing field for psychopaths (that's an antique term that has been replaced by 'Antisocial Personality Disorder' even though the behavior is the same).

"Facts" the real problem for both attorneys and jurors

And "facts" will be a giant-sized problem. We will be dealing with endless speculations and "what-ifs" going back to the 1980's in the face of market realities—the public already voted with their purchases while the competition voted with their prejudices. I would remind readers that WordPerfect gave away a massive position in "office" software when they bet that Windows 3.0 wouldn't fly.

Other competitors proved they couldn't market an alternative to the Microsoft OS products, i.e., Novell's experience with *DR DOS* and IBM's inability to make *OS/2* a viable 'standard.' (*Warp 3.0* was very good, but plagued with the same problems that *LINUX* faces now— installation and configuration are/were much too difficult for the typical user.) I speak from

The Variety Store

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

by Reagan Andrews

personal experiences attempting to install and configure several versions of both OS/2 and LINUX.

A view too far
From the far, far left

Saw an interesting editorial in *The Dallas Morning News* on the appeal decision written by Robert Reich (Secretary of Labor under the Clinton administration). He all but called Microsoft the "Evil Empire" and stated that the "Court should compel company (Microsoft) to make Windows freely available to everyone." Now, that's an interesting comment and may make some of us think. Since when, as Reich suggests, does the Federal government, or anyone else in America, have or deserve the power/authority to "give away" the intellectual property of another person or corporation?

Yes, I know the government can enact "Emergency Powers" acts that might contravene constitutional rights, but these are usually wartime measures and are often regretted later. (Internment of Japanese-American citizens during WW-II is an excellent example.)

Didn't NAPSTER settle all this?

I thought this issue was settled with the NAPSTER decisions. That is, individuals who create intellectual property are entitled to compensation for their efforts and it is illegal for a third party to "pirate" that intellectual property and distribute it to others without compensating the creator.

Reich, a professor of social and economic policy at Brandeis University, displayed what appears to be an unusual level of ignorance of business and the computer industry in particular. I won't go into the details, but allow me to report his lack of knowledge of patents and subsequent licensing agreements is abysmal. It's worth a return to the Sunday, July 8th issue of the *DMN*. Look for it on page 4 of the *Sunday Reader* section.

Hmmmm Even for *Variety Store* the above is somewhat more embellished with 'Purple Prose'

The Variety Store

than usual. Will I tone it down? Probably not since it's so much fun.

Microsoft XP! XP! XP!
Office XP & Windows XP
On Display & Raise Questions

May & June full of surprizes

Following May's column, I've been to three computer-related shows/ Microsoft rollouts—ITEC, Microsoft Office XP and Microsoft eXtreme—at three different venues, each with its own ambience and audience—all covered in photos in the June issue. Since Microsoft Office XP and Windows XP have been much in the news in addition to Microsoft's recent court experience, I'm going to focus on the XP-related events from a slightly different viewpoint than usual.

Microsoft XP: Interesting and very scary

Although I thought I was registering for the *Windows XP* conference May 31, I was really registering for the Microsoft *Office XP* rollout on May 31, instead. Wound up at the Hotel Intercontinental (formerly the Grand Kempinski) at Beltline and the Dallas North Tollway, Thursday a.m. PC/Microsoft history buffs will remember this as the site for Microsoft's Dallas rollout of *Windows 3.0* in May, 1990, and in the same ballroom.

I was lucky, in spite of my error. In retrospect, the marketing approach employed by Microsoft for this group (mostly corporate IT types) was very, very different than what I had experienced at the *eXtreme* events in the past and at the 2001 extreme event two days later on June 2nd at the Anatole. Both events were "live" but the quality and intensity of the presentations at the earlier Office XP rollout was outstanding. I found myself admiring the ease and facility with which the demonstrators revealed new features in XP and was re-

minded of similar demonstrations I witnessed at Comdex in past years.

Of course, the demos were "scripted" and undoubtedly carefully avoided any significant problem areas remaining in the products. Skill of the demonstrators was apparent as well as their familiarity with the program modules. There was a lot to like in Office XP as shown at the rollout.

SharePoint Portal Server and SmartTabs raised security questions

There was also a lot to question in terms of security. That was the general buzz I overheard from many clusters of attendees after seeing the depth of integration among products and the capabilities of the new *SharePoint Portal Server 2001*. Seemed to me SharePoint was given "center stage" early in the show and was revealed as an extremely powerful tool at the corporate level. Microsoft responded to security questions with assurances that SharePoint is secure and safe. Still caused a lot of shaking heads though. I bet we'll hear a lot more about this concern in coming months.

When I began this column, SmartTabs was a serious concern and appeared to present as much 'danger' as SharePoint from the individual user's perspective as well as from a Web-centric view. Microsoft caught so much static and screams of concern over SmartTabs from the Internet community over ability to place links to Microsoft areas on Web sites, that they announced that it was, for now, being pulled from release with Windows XP when it will be delivered in November.

Win XP drawing lots of media criticism

Media critics seem to be very ambivalent about Windows XP. While most are extolling XP's stability based on the Win 2000 kernel, other XP 'features' are eliciting unusually heavy fire for a prod-

uct that's still in beta and hasn't "gone gold" as far as I can tell. I haven't been involved in beta testing since I got my fill (burned out) with Win 95, but (then) when MS (Brad Silverberg who lead the project) felt they were almost ready, they began referring to later "builds" with "RC" (Release Candidate) numbers. "Going Gold" means beta testing was completed and the RC was going to manufacturing.

XP 'Registration' demand

First major criticism was the issue of user registration with Microsoft when Windows XP was initially installed. Fact that mostly only home users would be burdened with this onerous task any time major changes were made to PC hardware was galling, but understandable. I asked about the registration issue from a number of MS people at the Office XP rollout and got a number of differing answers that in retrospect appeared somewhat confusing.

One of the answers I received was that XP could be installed on a desktop PC and a second copy installed on a laptop PC. This made some sense, but the reply that I could not do the same thing with a second, "portable", PC didn't make any sense at all. I took this a step further and enquired about multiple-user licenses at a discount for SOHO's (Small Office Home Office) with three - five PC's and was told this would not be possible—or available.

Situation was not clarified by Microsoft at all. However, a recent article by Walter S. Mossberg in his *Personal Technology* column that appeared in the July 5th issue of *The Wall Street Journal* did spell it out pretty well. Mossberg discussed the registration procedures, the "OS Death" if the user did not register XP in 30 days and the problems he sees with user privacy as a result of data that Microsoft gathers in the registration process.

I see another problem with registration. Imagine that MS sells 10 million to 30 million copies of Windows XP in the first week it is released to the public. And, all the new XP users decide to regis-

ter their copies over a relatively short period, say 2 - 3 days. How long will users have to stay on 'hold' to meet MS's demands? This may be a very interesting situation as it unfolds.

'Piracy' hurts Microsoft and others

Reason for this onerous new intrusion into users' time and privacy? Software Piracy concerns are at top of the list. Microsoft is highly concerned with losses due to Piracy. The SPA estimated that software publishers lost $2.9 billion in the US and $11 billion world wide in 1998. Microsoft stated "On average for every authorized copy of computer software in use, at least one unauthorized or 'pirated' copy is made.

Probably most pirated are Microsoft's Windows 9x and Office. Saw a lot of this at *1st Saturday* in the past and believe it continues to present.

Microsoft applications by default?

Another article in the *WSJ* raised even more interesting issues about the new Windows. Kodak discovered that when a Kodak digital camera was attached to a PC running Windows XP, Microsoft's photo handling program was launched by XP instead of the Kodak-supplied software designed for the camera. In addition to this, the Microsoft software only recognized MS partner/vendors for printing the photos across the Web and apparently

attempted to charge a fee in addition to the vendor's fees for each picture transmitted.

This doesn't come even a little bit close to 'kosher' if this pre-emptive default remains in the delivered Windows XP and might be a very good reason for looking for alternative solutions. It also reminds me of the reason I became very disenchanted with Apple when the Macintosh was introduced. The first Mac was quite expensive and users were informed that opening the case would void any warranty on the computer. Since the Mac was hobbled by barely adequate memory to run just the OS, users who wished to use the computer to do real work would have to pay Apple roughly three times the $$$ for the same memory they could buy on the street.

Microsoft's new business model?

Mossberg described the registration shift as "draconian" in the way it was being implemented by Microsoft. Problem is that Microsoft may not have much choice if it wishes to survive. I'll take readers back to DOS and Windows 3.x in explanation of this factor. Microsoft/IBM produced new version of the DOS fairly rapidly until Win 95 came down the road. I remember that there were usually compelling reasons (with exception of DOS 4.0 which was an IBM-designed DOS and was frankly terrible) to upgrade to each new version through DOS 6.22. Windows 3.x was the same.

Windows 9.x hasn't been as compelling unless the user wanted some feature only available in upgrades such as FAT 32 and USB support that came with Win 95 OSR 2. The Office products fell into the same pit—users with Office 97 really had little reason to upgrade to Office 2000, and a lot of users (including me) didn't.

Microsoft is looking at a semi-saturated OS and application software market and resulting declines

The Variety Store

in sales as a result. I suspect that the "average" user has changed as well with most new users seeing the PC as a "television experience" and not really caring what version of the OS or applications they are running as long as they produce. Microsoft is well aware of this shift and feels significant pressure to enhance revenues via non-traditional avenues for Microsoft.

My solution?

Although I've got a copy of the Windows XP beta and am comparing it to Win 2000, I may not upgrade to XP when it's released as a result of the above. I tend to see both as highly intrusive and displaying unmitigated arrogance on the part of Microsoft in dealing with individual users. I would also suspect that price of OEM copies of Win 2000 Professional will drop sharply after XP is released and may adopt that as a standard.

Reagan Andrews

About 'Facts' & 'Evidence' — Jurors will be real victims as they are 'forced' to Attend to myriad of lengthy presentations and exhibits in the Microsoft trials

Attorneys general and Microsoft attorneys will have a substantial problem with 'facts' in the cases to come. They will be faced with taking a highly speculative and complex situation and convincing juries of their 'facts.' There will be a tendency on both sides to 'over-present' their cases in a massive sales effort to bring jurors to their point of view and will employ equally massive amounts of 'evidence' in the process.

We're talking about being sucked into a mighty morass of charts, graphs, endless PowerPoint presentations, videos and all other imaginable media that jurors in each venue will have to endure and attempt to understand—if they can keep conscious. I'll guarantee it will be a mind-diminishing experience. Figure that any juror will lose at least (hopefully on a temporary basis) 30 IQ points, possibly for months.

If NTPCUG's Dallas Corel SIG Leader, **Marsha Drebelbis**, is involved, the jurors will be lucky since Marsha's company, Litigation Graphics which specializes in forensic presentations, produces presentations that tend to be at a much higher and less mind-numbing level than other exhibits I've seen in past forensic display efforts.

I hadn't realized the danger of 'Information Overload' until I attended a Microsoft event for PC user group officers in Redmond, WA, in 1987. With extreme interest in Microsoft's directions, I began the sessions with tremendous enthusiasm, but noted after several hundred PowerPoint slides, that I was much less interested than before.

I felt like my brain had turned to mush by end of the three-day conference (probably after 1000's of slides in darkened rooms) in spite of Microsoft's attempts to lighten the affair with planned entertainment.

The Department of Defense (DoD) reached a similar conclusion and has placed limits on the size of such PowerPoint presentations. I'm not sure that this was a result of mind-numbing overload, or fact that DoD servers were being brought to their knees by 1000's of huge files sent in for these presentations daily.

Reagan Andrews

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

PLEASE NOTE: Another, but minor, change of meeting place begins with the June, 2001 meeting. We will still meet at Microsoft's facility at Las Colinas, but we will meet in the Marketing conference room on the Fourth floor.

We will be meeting at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, June 9, 2001, with the North Texas Microsoft Developers SIGs (of the North Texas PC User Group) at Microsoft's Las Colinas facilities:

Microsoft Las Colinas, Building 1
Microsoft Product Support Services
7000 N. State Highway 161
Irving, TX 75039

Directions: The Microsoft campus area is located approximately 15 minutes

from the DFW International Airport off US Hwy 114 & State Highway 161.

To reach the campus from DFW or Ft. Worth, take the North airport exit or Hwy 121 North to Hwy 114, go east on Hwy 114 toward Dallas SH 161 exit (also known as Valley View). Turn left at the light (north) onto Hwy. 161, (going over Hwy 114 bridge) about 1 mile and there are two red brick buildings on your right just before you come to MacArthur.

To reach the campus from Dallas, take Interstate 35 north or south to Hwy 114, go west on Hwy 114 toward the airport and Fort Worth to the SH 161 exit. Turn right at the light (north onto SH 161), go approximately 1 mile and it is the red brick buildings on your right just before you come to Ma-

FROM BILL PARKER, PRESIDENT

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

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

Volunteer Needs:

SIG Coordinator — not too tough a job, and you are part of the inner workings of the Club. See the newsletter and Volunteer Section of Web site for more details.

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

Leadership — at least one individual willing to lead the SIG, and an assistant.

Membership — at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

If you have a group that meets these qualifications or would like help in finding others who might share your interests, please contact me at (214) 369-5889 (h), or e-mail to *sig_coordinator@ntpcug.org*.

SIG LEADER LISTINGS

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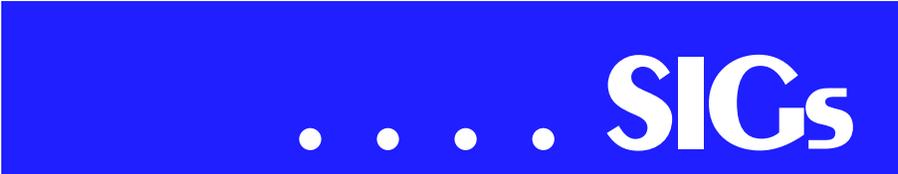*drpr@swbell.net*

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. . . . SIGs

cArthur. LC-1 is our first red brick building located at 7000 SH 161, Irving, TX 75039 and LC-2 is our second red brick building located at 7100 SH 161, Irving, TX 75039.

We'll be meeting along with Beginning Visual Basic SIG, Advanced Visual Basic SIG, and the 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://ntmsdevsigs.homestead.com.* 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 July 14, 2001: SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will take a 'first look' at Access 2002. It is true that most of the Office XP changes affecting Access were cross-product changes, if you felt disappointed in the lack of Access shown at the Office Launch. However, there are some Access-specific changes in addition to the Data Access Pages improvements **Greg Nicholson** showed us at the last meeting. We will take a look at some of those and perhaps a few of the cross-product changes that might be of interest.

Special Guest Speaker Coming August 11, 2001: Toi Beveridge, President of our sister organization, the Metroplex Access Developers, will speak at a combined meeting of Application Developer Issues and the Access

SIGs. Toi will give an introduction to n-tier applications, using Access, Visual Basic, and Active Server Pages. This approach is used on Web-based database applications, from somewhat small to very large. The user interface is 'thin-client' using the Web browser with Active Server Pages executing on the server, business rules and data access components that are created with Visual Basic, and an Access database (although it could well be a server database if you need the capacity).

In June 9, 2001: Our congenial Microsoft host, Greg Nicholson, talked about "Access 2002's Data Access Pages (DAP)" – a way to use Access directly to create Web pages that interact with an Access database. While the usefulness of DAPs in Access 2000 was limited mostly to Intranets, the Access 2002 DAPs are usable (with a free download) by people who do not have Office installed with the Office Web Extensions. Thus they can be used to create an interactive database at a general Internet Web site. Greg also covered using DAPs with Team Services, an approach to workgroup computing using Office XP.

Microsoft donated several prizes for the drawing and brought enough copies of some trial versions so that everyone could have one and an Office Launch T-shirt, along with other useful printed information.

And you can expect us to have a drawing again in July for valuable prizes, too, at the end of the Access meeting. Come for the meeting! Stay for the drawing for valuable prizes! Just remember that value, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

Coming soon to the Access SIG:

More on Generating Test Data: The second segment on test data will briefly review capturing, cleaning, reading, and storing raw data, including over-

views of the File System Object of the Windows Scripting Runtime and the new, built-in Split function. We will demonstrate and explain combining saved raw test data to create realistic-looking test data for public view and demonstration of your application. The process will include use of the psuedo-random number generation features of VBA.

Access Data Projects (ADP): ADPs use ADO to provide access via OLE DB or ADO Data Providers directly to

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Quicken
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Visual Basic — Beginning
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Visual Basic — Advanced
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Web Design Basics
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diane7@flash.net

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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.

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 $150, and it comes free with some editions of Microsoft Office 2000 and Office XP.

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. Perhaps we can also discuss the different model of the successor Access Method, currently in beta test along with various other .NET components, ADO+.

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

For information on meeting time and location, see the Access SIG notes in this issue.

Daniel Ogden

Communications

The July meeting will discuss the public beta release of Microsoft's Explorer 6. Explorer 6 gives the user added tool bars, uses less memory, controls and deletes cookies, loads faster than Netscape 6.1 and has a Platform for Privacy Preferences. There is support for new document formats and a new Outlook Express. The reviews are good but not great. Some of us would prefer tool bars and menus that retain some consistency.

Also, in the news, Steve Gibson's *GRC.COM* site has been the target of several Denial of Service Attacks. Steve Gibson is a leading expert on Internet security. The transcript written by Steve Gibson is quite lengthy, detailed and gives an insight to the regulation of the Internet and cyber crime. The transcript touches on most Internet security topics. Steve Gibson is most concerned about open sockets in future operating systems. The transcript is full of Attack Zombies and Bots. The Denial of Service attacks on Steve Gibson's site were compounded by poor security on public and private systems with high bandwidth. The Denial of Service Attacks on Steve Gibson's site would indicate that non-commercial sites have become targets. Internet annoyances, hacks and cracks are increasing. Poor security could make you an unknowing participant in one of these annoyances. Join us in the July SIG and bring your comments.

Birl Smith

Dallas Corel

Enter 3D Worlds with Corel Bryce

2D designer **Marsha Drebelbis** will introduce the 3D world of Corel Bryce in Dallas Corel's July meeting. If you have ever wondered if 3D is for you, come and we'll explore together.

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June in Review

Educator **Pam Gregory** peaked our curiosity at the Dallas Corel SIG program in June and patiently showed us how RAVE Moves! Her enthusiasm for CorelDRAW, since version 7, and results with the new RAVE module, brought her to us from her family's farm home east of Tyler, Texas. She had created very cool animations using Flash, including 'The 10 Commandments'. Now she tackles R.A.V.E., the new animation software module found in CorelDRAW 10 Suite, and invited us to join in the fun. Both Flash and R.A.V.E. are vector-based, so the file sizes can be much smaller than traditional bitmap-based animation. Perfect for the Web and multimedia presentations. Corel RAVE (Raster Animated Vector Effects), has a surprisingly simple timeline interface that even novices can use to animate text and graphics. Control object properties (such as position, size, transparency, and blending) over time and save the resulting animations in several format options, including Flash for the Web. Pam explained the differences between bitmap and vector animation. She compared features offered in RAVE and Flash, and while admitting a few RAVE bugs exist, she gave this version 1.0 high marks. Demonstrating with her own creative projects the Corel-familiar RAVE interface, she then exported her work as animated .GIF, Flash and .AVI. As you might expect, she says to always retain work in its native file format so later

changes are possible. Pam uses her artistic creativity to make fascinating animated tutorials for the anatomy and physiology classes she teaches at Tyler Junior College. She found her tutorials help today's student retain information she presents, hold interest in her subject, and gain quicker understanding of complex topics. What encouragement for us to start our own RAVE projects!
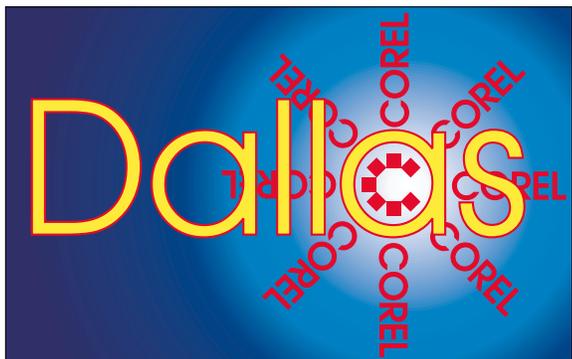
Must-have Resource Books

- ❖ *CorelPHOTO-PAINT 10: The Official Guide*, by David Huss
- ❖ *CorelDRAW 10: The Official Guide*, by Steve Bain (includes CD)

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ Jul/00 - Customization and Utilities for Corel
- ❖ Aug/00 - Tips and Tricks in Corel 9
- ❖ Sep/00 - KnockOut 1.5 and PHOTO-PAINT
- ❖ Oct/00 - QuickTimeVR and PHOTO-PAINT
- ❖ Nov/00 - Motion Graphics in Corel
- ❖ Dec/00 - DRAW 10 Introduction
- ❖ Jan/01 - PHOTO-PAINT Tips
- ❖ Feb/01 - Graphics Utilities
- ❖ Mar/01 - Scanning Tips and Techniques
    - ❖ Apr/01 – PHOTO-PAINT Effects
    - ❖ May/01 - Member Showcase
    - ❖ Jun/01 - RAVE Moves!
    Marsha Drebelbis

SIG of North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

DOS / Operating Systems

Is it time for a name change? I don't think we've talked about DOS other than as an integral component of Win 95 in some time and the SIG name may be misleading to visitors/members. I tried to explain that all our OS's are in fact Disk Operating Systems, i.e., DOS's, in my description of the SIG on the NTPCUG Web site, printed below.

I was tempted, not too long ago, to call us the "Gossip, Lies & Unfounded Rumours SIG" with both the British spelling and a spiffy acronym "GLAUR SIG" and see what would happen, but my editor and taste arbiter (Connie) felt that would be only more confusing.

Too much memory for Win 9x?

What's not confusing is Win 9x's memory handling problems. Yes, we all know about Win 9x and problems with ill-behaved software leading to crashes, but that's not the problem I recently encountered.

Windows 9x cannot (usually) handle more than 512 MB of SDRAM without choking. This wasn't a problem most members could encounter until SDRAM prices plunged down to ridiculous levels this year. I remember my exhortations that the easiest and least expensive way to boost system performance was by adding more memory if possible. What I didn't know was the upper limit built into Win 9x.

This memory limitation does not apply to Windows NT 4.0 or Windows 2000, and probably won't apply to Windows XP when it's released in November since it's based on the 2000 kernel.

I ran into the "Too Much Memory' barrier when I took my main system to 768 MB after the price of Micron CAS2, 256 MB PC 133 SDRAMS fell to $40 (saw it at $35 at 1st Saturday.) The system was running Win 98 SE prior to installation of Win 2000 when it choked.

Microsoft is aware of the problem and has "fixes" on its Web site. They are located at *http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q253/9/12.asp,* and *http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q181/9/66.asp*. While the fix is relatively simple, adding memory above 512 MB may not actually increase system performance in Win 9x anyway.

NTPCUG Web site description

The DOS SIG's name may be misleading. Since Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows NT, Windows 2000, OS/2 Warp, LINUX and UNIX are all Disk Operating Systems (DOS's), We look at much more than just MS-DOS from

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Microsoft, PC-DOS from IBM, or DR DOS from Caldera. And, each can be affected by the intimate relationship between hardware, PC BIOS, peripherals and operating system parameters. We are aimed at the core of the PC - the interaction between machine and the users' operating software - and how this facilitates or impedes operation of the PC running applications software and games important to the PC user.

DOS SIG meetings may be consumed by discussions and tutorials on aspects of DOS, on the interaction between DOS and users' hardware, or on specific applications software that's troublesome to users. Often, the SIG meetings are an open forum with give-and-take interactions between members and SIG leaders. We also periodically bring in vendors, consultants and technical representatives to share with members the latest advances in the operating systems, hardware and applications that will influence the way users employ their PCs in the future. Our meetings feature advice and tips for PC users across the spectrum from beginners to experts.

The DOS Special Interest Group is one of the oldest in the North Texas PC Users Group. It has been led by Past President, PC News Publisher (acting) and former Director, Reagan Andrews, since September, 1986. The DOS SIG name was adopted in May, 1986, after several years as the Beginners SIG - formed by Mike Durbin in 1982, shortly after the NTPCUG was organ-

ized at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas.

Reagan Andrews

e-Commerce

In July, we will be looking at alternative e-commerce package solutions such as Microsoft's bCentral and others.

For July and perhaps August, we are out of our usual home at the Freshman Center at Lake Highlands High School. Check the NTPCUG Web site for the exact address, driving directions and maps, and be sure to check the room assignments and time when you sign in at the front door.

Check out past and current topics and discussions on our Web site at: *www.imageworks.net/ecommerce*. See you at the meeting.

Alan Lummus

Internet – Beginning & Advanced

In recent weeks, I have had the opportunity to research airfares and car rentals via several Internet travel sites. Since many of us have occasion to travel, either on business or for pleasure, I thought it might make for some interesting discussion. So for the Beginning Internet SIG at 10:00 AM, I plan to cover several of the "better" sites.

Of course, "better" can change from day to day. I find it best to try several sites, including those of the airlines and car rental agencies themselves. If you can't make the meeting, I'll mention several of them here.

Expedia turned out to be a good choice in one circumstance. I was able to secure airline tickets to Kansas City at a much lower rate than anywhere else, given the constraints I had. They beat out Travelocity and each individual airline site. They also had a link to an

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AVIS deal that saved me money on my 3-day trip.

But the situation can change from time to time. Two other sites worth checking are Orbitz, recently deployed by five of the major airlines, and Bestfares.

Another fairly new service is at Side-Step. Here, you download an add-on to your Web browser, and use it to search for the best deals.

For the REALLY best deals, try Hotwire or Priceline. But if they are that good, why didn't I start with them? The reason is that neither tells you what time your flight takes off and returns until AFTER you purchase. If you can be REAL flexible, then these are probably your best deals. But if you can't do that, then look elsewhere.

I'll try to have a more comprehensive list at our July 21st meeting. If you have some favorite sites, let me know. E-mail me at *doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org*.

In the Advanced SIG, we'll talk about whatever you think important. Bring your ideas and we'll try to cover them.

One last note: Pat Hykkonen, long time co-leader of the Internet SIGs, is moving on. We want to thank Pat for his many lively presentations and wealth of knowledge. Pat – we wish you the best, and invite you back to visit anytime.

See you on July 21st, and **don't forget that we are meeting at North Lake College in July** !!

Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe

Introduction to the PC

What did we do at our June Meeting?

Would you believe that yours truly, the SIG leader, would be late for the meeting? Sure 'nuff! After winding around the North Lake Community College

campus and following all of the 'Welcome Center' signs, I eventually made it to the wrong side of Building 'A' - the side adjacent to 'P' and entered what I thought was the ground level which is called the fourth floor. I asked for directions and was told to ignore floor numbering signs and just go down two floors.

The campus is very pretty and our meeting rooms were great. Yes, we did have an Internet connection and also a data projector (compliments of Data Projections) to go along with comfortable furniture. [But what did we do?] We enjoyed rediscovering the basics of the Desktop, Find, and locating what would become everyday use programs if they were not so well hidden and camouflaged.

What becomes of interest in our SIG meetings is not always the results from those planned conditions and rehearsals. Often, highlights of the day occur while glossing over a buzz word or two and discovering from our members that certain objects need further explanations. This is where the library of class presentations and Internet Web pages along with use of a data projector provide extra value. On almost all of the Web pages and associated articles I create, I add comments to the source program so that the various techniques and codes are easily found; a quick reference for learning is readily available.

Presenting these 'Introduction To The PC' classes and seminars have been a rewarding experience these last four years. When I started, I hurriedly began rewriting all class material to be up-to-date and reflect the hardware and software currently available. This was a major task and it didn't take too long

to discover that one is not about to stay caught up with this highly-dynamic industry. Of the sixteen formal presentations - their handouts have seldom been used more than once until revisions are required. The industry just does not keep an operating system, hardware, or peripheral around long enough to pre-print anything more than a few months in advance. If we find time to edit a handout used in our SIG it is edited as history as new product will have already been introduced into the office and home markets.

We do not really push state-of-the-art as the way to go, as most home users cannot afford it and most businesses find it totally impractical to introduce new changes affecting themselves and their clients in shorter than two-year spans. Typically, we have drawn the line and seldom flaunt anything earlier than Windows 95 and avoid software prior to Windows 3.1. After all, newbies want new off-the-shelf systems and us old timers want to be able to use high technology not only for ease and comfort but (remember) there is such a thing as bragging rights.

What will we do at our July Meeting?

Remember - the regular meeting rooms we use at The Freshman Center Lake Highlands will be dark in July. The next meeting will be held at The North Lake Community College in Irving. Please check back at our Web site for exact location and travel maps. Also, try this one: *http://nlc.dcccd.edu/aboutnlc/maps/map2.htm*.

As we were winding up a session on imaging last month, it was brought out that sometimes the ability to manipulate images in a camera's FlashCard (digital film) would occur while using other than the camera as a controlling device. I had not known of the problem with CompactFlash cards but did with Smart-

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

Card. Well, I went home and experimented with my FlashCards, card reader/writer, and computer software programs, and camera software. Yes, I find that I too can cause uncomfortable things to happen to my loaded CompactFlash card. We will talk about this in July as it gets complicated using DOS on card and Windows or Apple operating system. All of you who have some comments on this subject - let's hear from you.

You can expect July's program to continue with the discussion on 'When to Update and When to Replace.' We must carefully make our best guess considering the recent history of a dynamic industry that is also hungry and looking for new sources of revenue.

Enjoy!

Harold (Spike) Smith

INVESTORS

I will be at the July meeting and will solicit someone taking over the August meeting.

Kathryn (Kathy) Kirby

MICROSOFT FRONTPAGE

Check out our main Web site for information on the SIG and special topics covered in previous meetings.

In July, we look forward to the presentation by Mary McWilliams Johnson regarding Dreamweaver 4, which we postponed from June in order to accommodate Microsoft's presentation about the new version of FrontPage in their recent Office XP release. Come and see for yourself how Dreamweaver stacks up against FrontPage.

Please remember that we are not in our usual location in July and, probably, August so be sure to check the NTPCUG main page for location, times, and driving instructions. Then be sure to check room and time assignment when you check in at the meeting.

Alan Lummus

SIGs . . . .

MICROSOFT NETWORKING

In July, we will have a panel discussion on Tips & Tricks. These 'must-have' tools, short-cuts, and web sites make everyday computer tasks much easier.

If you have examples that you would like to share with the SIG, send me a message at gil.brand@ntpcug.org.

This month we will have some MAJOR door prizes! But you MUST arrive before 8:15AM to receive a ticket for the drawing!

Gil Brand
(gil.brand@ntpcug.org)

MICROSOFT WORD

August Meeting Topic -- Copying and Moving, Document Scraps, Spike

You probably have a favorite way to copy and move text; perhaps it is your favorite because it is the *only* way you know. Would you believe there is the Menu Bar, Toolbar, Shortcut Menu, Drag-and-Drop, Keyboard and Function Keys ... more ways than you probably think you can handle. I guarantee you will learn new methods that will delight you! You may even find working with Document Scraps make your life easier. Never heard of that? You will. Spike is an easy way to copy several areas of text and paste them all at one time.

Diane Bentley

PROFESSIONAL MIDI AND AUDIO

In July, we will return to exploring the world of Professional Digital Audio, with a wide-ranging discussion of all topics you wish to raise. We will touch on CD hardware and software concerns, recording microphones, mixers, A/D converters and D/A converters, hard disk and DAT recording, digital editing, CD mastering, and virtually

any other subject you would like to consider. Bring your questions and your answers!

As a departure from our usual, we will NOT meet in the Choir Room of the Freshman Center of Lake Highlands High School from 10 am to 12 noon. Check the NTPCUG Web site main page for meeting location and times, maps and driving instructions! Then, be sure to check on room and time assignments again when you check in at the front desk the day of the meeting.

J. Alan Lummus

WEB DESIGN – BASICS

The July session [which will be held at North Lake College] will address Content - Choosing content (planning for a site), Researching similar sites, Layout basics, an introduction to Navigation, Creating links, and an introduction to File Management and FTP.

Further information on Web Design can be accessed through the Tutors On Tap Web site. See you all in July!

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WORDPERFECT

Topic for July 21 - Direct Mail Flyer for Advertising. *This topic is tentative and may change.*

We are ready for our first direct mail promotion. We will design a flyer to promote *SticStor*. Do you have ideas as to what information should go into the flyer, or some design ideas? Tell us what you have in mind; we would like to incorporate your ideas into this project!

Cindy Adams

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.

**NTPCUG Officers
And Volunteers
You Should Know**
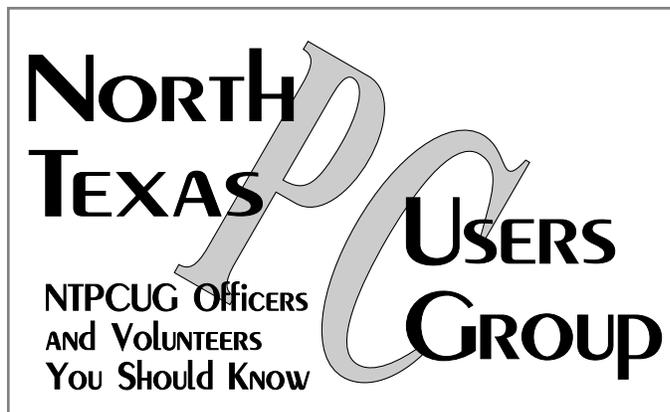
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
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Vincent Gaines	**Bob Russell**
Martin Hellar	**David Williams**

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President	Bill Parker	(214) 369-5889 h
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		(972) 721-2770 w
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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) Coorinator
♠ 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**