

README.DOC

A Monthly Newsletter of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group \$3.00

**General Meeting, February 25, 1989 at 9:00 AM
Orange Coast College-Science Lecture Hall**

**Affordable MIDI from Yamaha
TaxView by SoftView
Steve Gibson Returns for Commentary**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

README.DOC is published monthly by the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP, P. O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. The group's recorded message phone number is (714) 898-7998.

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Articles may be submitted via modem to the OCIPUG BBS, on paper or on an IBM format diskette (5-1/4" 360k format preferred). We will accept them in any of several formats, although we strongly prefer pure ASCII files. Other acceptable formats include Microsoft Word, Multimate, WordPerfect and Wordstar. Submissions on paper should be double-spaced and typed. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing.

DEADLINE

Articles and advertising must be received by the twentieth (20th) of the month prior to date of publication.

ADVERTISING

All advertisements must be camera ready and prepaid; rates and deadlines for commercial advertisements are available on request.

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ADVERTISING POLICY

Members are allowed to place an advertisement for personal items in the *README.DOC* newsletter at no cost. There will be a limit to the amount of advertising placed in the newsletter. All submissions will be placed on a first come, first served basis.

Commercial advertisements, from members and others, are also welcome. For information concerning advertising rates and requirements, contact:

Steven Dela (714) 775-8373 or write to Advertising Manager, OCIPUG, P. O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP is to provide a forum for members to share information and experiences that will help other members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their IBM PC and compatible personal computers.

TRADEMARKS

The mention of the names of various products in this publication without indication of Trademark or Registered Trade Mark status does not imply that these products are not so protected by law.

General Meeting, February 25, 1989 at 9:00 AM Orange Coast College-Science Lecture Hall

Affordable MIDI from Yamaha TaxView by SoftView Steve Gibson Returns for Commentary

by Paul Curtis

This month's General Meeting Program will feature something for the music minded and something for the rest of us. An interesting tax program called TAXVIEW will be demonstrated, along with a return visit by one of our most popular speakers, Steve Gibson.

MIDI - Musical Instrument Digital Interface

Let me start by confessing that I know absolutely nothing about MIDI technology. It will make for a real interesting meeting for me because I will learn something from the ground up.

Yamaha Corporation of America is our neighbor in Buena Park. They have what appears to be the latest in technology available and we thought it would be appropriate to invite them to our meeting.

We have invited Yamaha to

bring their new C1 Laptop Computer and several of their keyboards to demonstrate and explain MIDI technology. According to Computer Shopper, Yamaha has sold more Yamaha DX7 systems than any other electronic instrument in history.

We are going to try to have a MIDI concert in the Science Lecture Hall after the General Meeting and a short lunch break, but this has not been firmed up yet. We have spoken to several people about this and we will receive a commitment from them by meeting time.

TAXVIEW

With the tax season approaching, we welcome Mr. Brian Powers, Western Regional Manager of SoftView, Inc. who will demonstrate TaxView, an Income Tax Preparation program, running in the Microsoft Windows

environment. TaxView comes loaded with virtually all of the forms, schedules, and worksheets you need to prepare your tax returns, and will print all forms in IRS approved format on your laser, dot-matrix, or other Windows supported printers. TaxView is context sensitive, and almost makes doing taxes fun! Brian presented this package last month at the Windows SIG meeting, and it was well received.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Finally, Steve Gibson will be asked to enlighten us on new developments within the computer industry. Steve has consistently drawn capacity crowds each time to our meetings. We look forward to his comments.

Looks like an exciting meeting. Be there early and stay late for the Midi concert.

Important Announcement Concerning the March General Meeting

There has been some confusion about what the actual date of the March General Meeting. We had hoped to reschedule it for April 1st, in order to space the meetings out more equally. Unfortunately, that date had already been taken for the Science Lecture Hall.

The meeting has been returned to the original March 18th date. We hope this has not caused any inconvenience for any of our members.

Remember: March General Meeting is March 18th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are beginning to make some significant changes in the operation of the club that I would like to share with you.

Among the things that have been changed are the following:

We now have wireless remote microphones for use at all of the meetings and special events so that the guest speakers may be wired up in advance. This will make it more convenient for them and will allow us more efficient use of our meeting time. Thanks to RICHARD SABIN for his efforts in that area.

The SIG guide has been improved with the addition of the remaining SIG meetings each month after the general meeting plus those for the following month. Thanks goes to RICHARD VILLA for that idea.

We now have a bulletin board in the lobby where people may post notes for each other, personal and otherwise. Thanks goes to TOM SUTRO for that idea.

We are starting to formulate an overall graphic theme for all of our publications, press releases, letterhead and other items. JOE LORENZINI has done a first class job with our club stationary. As you all know, graphic design is a difficult thing to generate when you are trying to please many people. JOE has done it and we thank him.

JOHN LUNSFORD has agreed to assume the responsibility for putting together the new user handbook which was given to him at the November Board of Directors meeting. This is a challenge and we appreciate his efforts. He will appreciate your ideas about the publication as well as your offers of assistance.

JOHN GOODMAN has agreed to assume the responsibility for the Public Relations committee.

This committee was formed to divide up the tasks and redesign the job of the Newsletter Editor and the Membership Chairman. John will be calling upon some of you for assistance from time to time. Please support him in his efforts to spread the good news about the value of membership in our organization.

We have completed our geographic center study and have determined that the intersection of Brookhurst and Adams is about the place where the greatest number of members would have to travel the shortest distance to get to a SIG meeting. We have 154 members in Huntington Beach, 122 members in Costa Mesa, 95 in Irvine and 84 in Newport Beach.

We have started our Ambassador Program where we designate a member to represent the club to a particular hardware or software vendor. This should help speed up the flow of communication in both directions and assist in solidifying our relationships.

We have created the means of having Special Events on fairly short notice now because the system for having these is in place. Dave Lorenzini has done a lot of work on both Special Events and the Program Committee and our special thanks goes to him.

We now have an emergency back up program system in place in the event that a scheduled speaker is unable to be present at the general meeting. This will avoid the repetition of a three hour random access period although I think that might be useful once in a while. Once again, DAVE LORENZINI to the rescue. Thanks, DAVE.

We have now set up program themes for each month of the year so they can be featured in the newsletter, the BBS and at the SIG meetings where appropriate. This should help us spread the word and should also assist those companies who wish to advertise

in the newsletter.

We are still in need of volunteers to perform a lot of the tasks which need to be done on an ongoing basis. It is the little details taken care of by volunteers that make the difference in how our club operates and how it is perceived by those who are looking in from the outside. Please contact me directly if you are able to assist; I am anxious to hear from you.

We are in need of an Editor for the README.DOC Newsletter. If anyone has an interest in tackling this task please contact STEVE DELA. He is in the difficult position of having to perform double duty at his place of employment as well as produce the newsletter - a situation which can't last much longer.

I still have quite a few of the Lotus 1-2-3 Value Packs available for distribution and will be bringing them to the February General Meeting. If you have need for one please be sure to pick one up while passing through the lobby.

BONNIE ULANOVSKY has gotten the Shareware SIG up and running with lightning speed. This is going to be the SIG to watch in 1989. It has attracted a lot of attention and is starting to attract some noted shareware authors. We need to do our best to support these people. One way we can do this is by registering our copies of their programs if we make use of them. The other way to support them, of course, is to pass copies of their programs along so other people have the opportunity to evaluate and register them.

Finally, I would like to thank BEN LEGARE for the fine job he is doing with the Random Access portion of our program. He has assumed the responsibility for this function and run with it without missing a beat and that is really appreciated. Thank you, BEN, for your willingness to SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.

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Paul Curtis, President

General Meeting Report

LAN's, Paradox, and WP Office

Steven Dela

Tom Sutro opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and announced that several people would not be able to attend because of the recent outbreak of flu. We hope that this illness won't visit your family anytime soon. Tom asked for new members and guests to stand, which forty people responded. Welcome to OCIPUG!

Tom turned over the meeting to Jim Mansfield, the coordinator for the PC Networking SIG, who gave a short definition of what constitutes a network and what equipment is involved. The main purpose of a Local Area Network (LAN) is to share data, programs, and communicate within the network. Also, it provides connectivity with other resources, such as a laser printer shared with several computers. Rather than describe all the options available, he invited three companies to demonstrate the hardware, software, and application software that run on a LAN.

First, Rich Geasey from corporate communications of Western Digital, discussed what hardware is usually found in a LAN. CPU's, tape backups, printers, uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) along with the different types of connecting cables (twisted pair, coaxial, and fiber optic) are commonly found. File servers, adapter cards and cables were discussed in brief detail. The program software found on a LAN is normal DOS software and commercial programs. There are many type of LAN systems, such as Ethernet, Arcnet, Novell, 3 COM, Vianet, and IBM's Token Ring, which are the more familiar. Most people went away from this

presentation with enough knowledge about Networks to be an important resource back in their own companies.

As part of there visit, Western Digital has generously donated the hardware for a three station network that will be put to use when we relocate to a permanent location for our group's headquarters.

Next, Andre Peterson, the Vice President Marketing of WordPerfect, spoke about WordPerfect's Office program. This program is especially suited for a network environment. Electronic mail is one the hottest ideas that companies want to implement within a network environment. By tying WordPerfect and WordPerfect Office together, companies have a complete capability to handle word processing and communications. WordPerfect Office consists of Electronic Mail, a Calendar, a To Do List, Calculator, and Notebook running under the WP Library Shell.

Two interesting features of WP Office are the Calendar and the To Do List. With the Calendar, you can request a meeting with several people and the program will tell you if all the people are available at that particular time. If not, other times can be tried. The To Do List features a list of things to do that day. Unfortunately, if you do not complete all the items that day, it will add them to the list for tomorrow (ouch!).

Their goal is to automate the office today, the country by 1990, and then the world. Two of the largest users of this program are

Data General and the US Department of Justice. If you are on a local office network, this is one program that will prove to be of benefit to office productivity.

Terry Currier demonstrated a Shareware program called "To Do List Manager" version 3.1 by Art Hill. It basically is a scheduler for personal use. Cost of the disk is a special price of \$1, which Terry generously will donate to the Tim Smith Scholarship Fund.

Last, Steve Schiro of Borland demonstrated Paradox 3.0 on the network system that Western Digital set up for the meeting. As a full relational database, it is especially suited for a network environment. A complete demonstration was presented with questions answered afterwards.

Ben LeGare conducted the Random Access session and many questions were answered.

Dan Likens has written a new raffle program that is much faster than before. For every draw, it lists 10 members numbers. The clock ticks down in about 6 seconds before the next name is revealed. You had to stay on your toes to be sure that you didn't miss your name. Please see insert for names of the winners and prizes.

Be sure to attend the February 25th General Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Raffle Prize Winners

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Jerry DeAinza | WP Library | WP Corporation |
| Ralph Minerich | Sidekick+ | Borland |
| Joseph Bollinger | Pageview | Microsoft |
| Steve Schiffman | FrameworkII Bk | Egghead |
| Victor Stanley | Paradox 3.0 | Borland |
| Mike Stewart | Exec Portfolio | Toshiba |
| John Valero | WP Executive | WP Corporation |
| Cal Strobele | Desqview | Quarterdeck |
| Ali Tehrani | StarLan Pak | Western Digital |

IBM's Recognition of EGA's Shortcomings with the Creation of the VGA Standard

On our journey toward the goal of selecting the best possible display system for the least possible money for Steve's Dream Machine we've traced the evolution of IBM compatible display system technology from the original CGA and MDA standards through the development of the Hercules and EGA standards. IBM's announcement of their new generation PS/2 machines offered up yet another display system to "the standard" throne. Oddly named after the integrated circuit chip which implements it, the Video Graphics Array, or VGA, has provided enough new cleverness and innovation to displace the prior EGA standard.

With graphic user interfaces gaining ever more market recognition and IBM's own OS/2 Presentation Manager on the horizon, IBM needed to push their graphics resolution offering above the EGA's 640 by 350. At the same time IBM wished to further enhance the system's color capabilities, probably to further differentiate themselves from Apple Computer's monochrome Macintosh products and to better compete with Apple's newer colorful Mac II. To further confuse things, this was all happening at a time when IBM was determined to lower its manufacturing costs.

While the EGA display had innovated with its split-personality dual-frequency horizontal sweep rate in order to deliver both 350 line vertical resolution without sacrificing 200 line CGA compatibility, this made the EGA monitor more expensive to manufacture than IBM was now happy with. IBM made a brilliant move in their VGA system which completely eliminated the need for the expensive frequency changing display while actually enhancing

the appearance of older CGA-style text and graphics.

The VGA's fixed horizontal sweep rate of 31,500 cycles per second offers several wonderfully clever savings. In the first place, dividing the horizontal rate of 31,500 hertz by the 60 cycle vertical rate yields 525 total horizontal lines scannable during one screen. This high scan line count delivers even better legibility from VGA text which now has a text character pixel budget of 8x16, while the EGA's barely adequate high resolution line count of 350 jumps up to a very respectable 480. The excess line count (the difference between the 525 total and the 480 used) even allows a tidy 1/4 inch border in all modes.

The VGA's cleverness stems from two additional things which IBM did in order to deliver backward compatibility to the CGA and VGA. The VGA monitor's very fast horizontal scan rate put IBM in the enviable position of actually having, in some cases, too many scan lines, rather than too few. So in such cases IBM slightly INCREASES the vertical refresh rate (to above 60 hertz) in order to trim back on the number of lines displayed when they need fewer.

Secondarily, rather than slowing the display's HORIZONTAL rate drastically down to the CGA's 15,750 cycles, in order to deliver just 200 horizontal scan lines, the VGA raises its VERTICAL rate just slightly up to 70 hertz which yields 400 scan lines. Then a clever double-scanning approach is used to emulate the CGA's 200 line mode. Double scanning simply repeats each of the CGA's lines twice, and results in a higher resolution appearance while maintaining complete software backward compatibility.

The only remaining "tweak" required involves keeping the VGA's displayed screen height constant, which the IBM VGA

monitor achieves by sensing the polarity of the Vertical Synchronization signal sent to it by the VGA adapter. The monitor uses the Vertical Sync signal polarity to adjust the spacing between successive scan lines so that the VGA's image is kept almost uniformly sized throughout the increasing jungle of new, old, and older display modes.

Thus the VGA system scans 350, 400, and 480 lines to achieve CGA, EGA, and VGA compatible display modes while leaving the horizontal scanning rate set to a constant 31,500 hertz and only tweaking the vertical refresh rate between a happy 60 and 70 cycles per second. The result is a simpler and far less expensive VGA monitor which exceeds the EGA's capabilities and delivers far cleaner CGA emulation.

The other major change presented by the VGA system is an expansion of the system's color capabilities. The original CGA monitor utilized one signal each for Red, Blue, and Green colors, and an additional single signal for intensity which delivered 16 total possible colors. The EGA expanded upon this by providing two signals each for the Red, Green, and Blue colors, thus delivering four intensities of each color, with 64 color mixtures possible. The VGA's color system operates in an ANALOG rather than DIGITAL fashion where varying voltages rather than ON/OFF signals are provided for each color for mixing. Software and memory limitations pare the resulting infinite color possibilities down to a maximum of 256 colors chosen from a total palette of 262,144 in some display modes.

Next issue we'll examine the role of multisynchronous monitors in the past, present and future of our display systems.

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Librarians Corner

Bonnie Ulanovsky

The March Shareware SIG meeting will feature DIR SCANNER, a file manager that is slick, friendly, fast and flexible. Nat Martino, author of DIR SCANNER, will be our guest speaker and give us a demonstration of the program. I thought it excellent when I first saw the program over a year ago, liked it even better when I looked at it last August. It allows movement through your subdirectories far more rapidly than anything I've seen. You can select your favorite text editor and file lister to work with DIR SCANNER and access them with a single keystroke. The function keys may be assigned to suit individual requirements or you can use the defaults.

We expect a good turnout for this meeting. The Valcom classroom at ACP is rather small, so will try to arrange for a classroom or small lecture hall at Orange Coast College. Please call me at 646-5230 or the OCIPUG Information and Message Line 898-7998 or check the BBS for the exact location. New and advanced users will enjoy meeting the author and see the program

introduced first hand. If you wish you can get your registered copy there and then. Registration is \$15.00.

Mailing lists are a very popular item in the library, so I was very pleased to receive a new version of LABEL MASTER from RKS Associates just in time for the newsletter. We also received a new version (1.20) of Dr. Herro's Ada tutorial program. And one that several people have asked for. It was from J. J. Schoch, Peter Norton Computing, Inc., who was a guest speaker last Spring. The disk gives additional information about Norton products, and although it is entitled DEMO DISK, Norton Products Guide, it isn't just a demo. The disk is for people who have NORTON products and will be reviewed next month's issue by Kevin Moser.

LABEL MASTER version 4.0 from RKS Associates was released January 1, 1989. Version 3.0 received acclaim from both PC MAGAZINE and PC COMPUTING. It got top rating in its Editor's Choice in a 1987 review of 25 mailing list managers. In October of 1988, PC Computing it was noted for ease of use, simplicity and economy. It was

rated easier and more convenient to use than any other reasonably priced mailing list manager.

Version 4.0 provides on line help, full screen records browsing, a memo field for attaching extended comments to records, a country field for USA, Canada, Australia, England, etc., an extended phone field to accommodate international numbers, automatic dialing feature that will work with a Hayes compatible modem. There is a filter feature that will let you work with any sub-set of a file. While the filter is set, the filter controls everything, including the printer.

One of the features I found particularly attractive is that the Zip code is entered before the city and state, and I'll bet some of you have already guessed why. That's right, the city and state are then entered automatically once the Zip has been entered provided that it has been entered once before. Automation is wonderful!

In addition, LABEL MASTER provides a pop-up calendar, a pop-up digital clock, pop-up calculator, and a coffee break game; all of which are accessed by depressing the appropriate function key. All are exited by depressing the Escape key.

LABEL MASTER has no limitation on the number of records it allows. It will work on a floppy disk system, but a hard disk is preferable. On a floppy system, the program will allow 1000 addresses on a 360K disk, on a hard disk system the amount of available space is the only limitation.

ADA-TUTOR version 1.20 by John J. Herro is not just a "quiz," it is a thorough course of interactive instruction that even checks "homework" assignments.

**ADVANCED
COMPUTER
PRODUCTS, INC.**
1310 East Edinger Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714) 558-8813

Be sure to check out the many specials that ACP runs each week in the local newspapers.

Watch for the next ACP Swap Meet coming soon.

ADA-TUTR teaches good program design, not just syntax, so that programs will take advantage of the features of Ada that make them more reliable and easier to maintain.

The Distribution disk contains a 49 page manual designed to be used with the interactive tutorial and includes additional assignments that may be prepared away from the computer, your solutions will be compared with the tutorial's solutions. Explanations are succinct, but not so cryptic that one is left wondering.

If you program in BASIC or Pascal, I feel certain you will enjoy this course in Ada. Author, John J. Herro, Ph.D., taught graduate courses in Ada at the Florida Institute of Technology and the State University of New York. He also taught Ada to employees of General Electric Co., Grumman Aerospace Corp., and Harris Corp.

When ADA-TUTR is run on a PC, an Ada compiler is helpful, but not required. A list of Ada compilers available for the PC, some of them inexpensive, is included. The PC needs a hard disk, and can have a monochrome or color monitor. Since ADA-TUTR comes with Ada source code, it will run on other computers with Ada compilers.

An additional reminder about the March meeting. We will meet on March 18, due to Easter holiday. NOT APRIL 1 as indicated in the meeting schedule. Mark your calendar. See you Saturday, February 25

**SUPPORT YOUR
SHAREWARE AUTHORS**



Member Spotlight

Jim Mansfield

Richard Villa

For those of you who enjoyed the demonstration of Networks at the January OCIPUG General Meeting, thank Jim Mansfield, who coordinated the event. As our Networking SIG Leader, Jim brings a long history of experience in networks.

Born in Elgin, Illinois, near Chicago, Jim came to Orange County in 1964 and currently resides in Costa Mesa. He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Masters Degree from U.C.I. His wife, Ann is a preschool teacher and they have two children, the youngest a senior in high school.

Jim is the Marketing Manager for Computer Consoles, a manufacturer of super minicomputers. Jim started his career in the computer industry in 1967 as a programmer. He had the opportunity to live in Australia for 4 years, employed there with Varian Data Machines.

Jim owns an EVEREX 1800, a '286-based machine. He has a NOVELL ELS network attached, so he can share data with his XT he regularly brings home from work. His entire family uses WordPerfect for their word processing needs. After taking a look at last month's presentation of WordPerfect's Office program, I'm sure that this will part of his network soon.

Jim enjoys running, backpacking, and since 1980 spends many of his Saturday afternoons as a part-time instructor for Coastline Community College. His teaching includes an introduction to networks and other subjects from time to time.

Jim joined OCIPUG in October of 1987, as member # 825. He has stepped forward many times to help the club during the last year. Jim has found his experience with the club to be very beneficial. He has shared his knowledge with others in order to help them better understand their computers.

We thank Jim for all the hard work he has done for OCIPUG. Take a few moments next time you see Jim and thank him for the great program in January. We look forward to another of his planned meetings in the near future.

If you know of a member who would be a good candidate for Member Spotlight, drop a note to anyone on the newsletter staff. Even better yet, you could write the article personally about that member and what they have done to help others within OCIPUG. We look forward to your ideas.



TEMP WORK OR JOB SHOPPING

Harv Haight, PE

Current members can be grouped on what they do and how they use a computer.

To all of us, a word processor is essential in communicating. Members who are authors, secretaries, newspaper personnel, and legal staffers hone their skills with WORDSTAR, MS-WORD, WORDPERFECT, and others. Business men, accountants, marketeers, and realtors seek the best spread sheet program, or interactive files which show them how to manage better. Technicians, engineers, design draftsmen, and artists strive to master the marvels of the new graphics, computer-aided design, advanced math techniques, and how to program in a variety of languages. Finally, some of us keep alert in retirement or enjoy a hobby by absorbing the new things that appear constantly.

We all try to order our lives better with new computer techniques of scheduling our day (and we all play computer games).

Few of us are independently wealthy; most of us work for someone (even in retirement). And OCIPUG probably helps us understand our computer-related job and how to do it better. Some of us have gained enough skills at work or through owning a computer and through OCIPUG that we toy with the notion of a different occupation. One way of doing this is through "temp agency" employment, or via a "high-tech" job shop. Despite the fact that temporary workers can make considerably more money than "captive" employees, it takes certain personal attitudes to "go temporary." Today, in the courts, it is more and more difficult for an employer to fire a worker without "just cause," and with the benefits most employers must provide, a captive employee represents a

considerable investment. A temporary employee may be discharged without notice, without severance, and without "just cause." The employer has a contract with the temp agency or the job shop, and not with the temp or jobshopper. The employer-client provides no benefits (although the agency or job shop may).

An employee hires temporary workers for several reasons: 1) he needs someone with specialized skills not available "in-house," 2) he needs backup personnel with skills similar to his permanent employees, 3) he has dead-lines to meet which are otherwise overwhelming, or 4) hiring temp workers reduces his overhead burden. In any case, he does not hire a temp or job-shopper to teach him or her skills. He pays a premium for immediate results.

Although temp agencies may specialize in such fields as medical technology or legal aides, most temp agencies hire people for computer work with skills in wordprocessing, spread sheets, and database entries. KELLY SERVICES or DORRELL TEMPORARY SERVICES are typical temp agencies. Most temp agencies test computer proficiency in some way, to assure technical competency in specific software. A high-tech job shop is a completely different operation, generally

dealing with higher-level skills. Some organizations, such as ALL-STAFF OF ORANGE COUNTY, contract for all skill levels. Neither temporary nor job-shop employment should be confused with professional engineering consulting, which requires state licensing and certain legal obligations.

To expand upon this discussion, an archive has been entered upon the OCIPUG BBS called JOBSHOP.ARC. This contains these files:

TEMPWORK.TXT (also TEMPWORK.COM) - this article
 JOB-SHOP.TXT (also JOB-SHOP.COM) - a syllabus of job-shopping
 JBSH-RES.TXT (also JBSH-RES.COM) - a sample job-shopper resume
 TEMP-CA.TXT (also TEMP-CA.COM) --- a representative list of temporary agencies in or near Orange County
 JBSP-CA.TXT (also JBSP-CA.COM) - a representative list of job-shops in or near Orange County

The public-domain software TXT2COM.COM has been used to help read or print out these files; note, please, that printout of the lists should be at 15 to 17 cpi. All .txt files are ASCII.



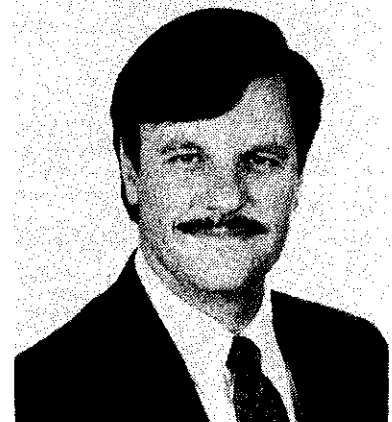
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Technical Corner

Every Keyboard Has A Tale Part 4

John M. Goodman, Ph.D.

Last month I reviewed the variety of keyboards available for our PCs. I told you that I now use the new Omni Key 102 keyboard from Northgate and for the most part like it a lot, but that I have found some important problems with it as well.

There is a switch on the bottom of the Omni Key 102 to allow it to be used with either an XT or an AT computer. It also has some "intelligence" built in, to allow it to detect which kind of PC you are using and thus adapt its scan codes to the need of your PC's BIOS. All this is well and good, but it also means that this keyboard's peculiarities are somewhat different on different PCs. It took me a while to sort them all out.

One other warning: With most PCs, if you want to you may unplug one keyboard and plug in another at any time without problems. Since the Omni 102 is built to adapt itself to your PC it needs to "have a conversation" with the PC at power up. Thus it must be connected at that time. (I don't imagine many of you routinely change keyboards in mid-computing session, but if you do....)

The Omni Key 102 offers essentially the IBM AT extended keyboard layout with these changes: The 12 function keys are located at the left end, just like the earlier IBM designs (with F11 and F12 placed a short ways above F1 and F2). The control and Alt keys are where they were before. (There is an additional Ctrl key located at the lower right, as on IBM's 102 key design, but unlike the IBM

extended layout, there is no second Alt key). The escape key is just to the left of the top row number one key as in the original PC design. The backslash has migrated to the right of the right-shift key (a location never used by IBM, but one used by a number of other clone keyboard makers.) The tilde is now to the right of the space bar. Finally, they have added an equals key on the numeric keypad, which is why this is a 102 key layout instead of IBM's 101.

All in all I find this layout to be among the best I have used, with a couple of glaring exceptions.

When the backslash key was next to the left shift key, as on the original PC, the Alt-\ key combination was particularly easy to make using only one hand. On the 83-key AT layout it was impossible to do, but the newest IBM (101 key) layout made it possible again by the introduction of the second Alt key. Since the Omni Key 102 has no second Alt key, it again prevents doing this particular combination with one hand. I use Superkey and for it Alt-\ is particularly important. I miss being able to do it one-handed.

I also really want the escape key moved a safe distance away from all the other keys. Hitting it by mistake often costs me many keystrokes.

My suggestions for Northgate are these: Now that you have moved the function keys back to the left, please place the escape key where IBM's 101 key layout had the F1 key. Then move the tilde up to the left end of the top row (where you now have the escape key) and put a second Alt key to the right of the space bar. This would, of course, be a 103 key layout, but in my opinion it would be a significantly more useful one.

Extended Problems

I said last month that there is another problem lurking in all these extended keyboards. Let me now tell you about it. It is typical of the compatibility problems we often see when manufacturers "improve" a product.

For example, now that they have two sets of cursor motion keys (the numeric keypad keys with NumLock off and the new set), the question for them is, should pressing one left arrow produce any different effect than pressing the other. Of course not, you say? Not so.

Your keyboard sends your PC a "scan code" each time any key is depressed and another one when that key is released. This is true for every key, including the shift keys and that normally-ignored 5 key in the numeric keypad when NumLock is off. The scan codes for each key are unique. That is how a program like Sidekick can tell if you have pressed the left shift key or the right shift key or both. So what about the new keys on the 101 or 102 key layouts? They too have unique scan codes. (Actually it is even worse. They have two scan codes for the press and two for the release.)

Actually, most programs don't look at scan codes. Normally the BIOS takes care of that and the BIOS on machines meant to use these new keyboards are able to translate things just fine. So all ordinary programs, which ask the BIOS to tell them what keys have been pressed, never know what kind of keyboard you are using.

Some programs, however, want to take total control of the keyboard. If they have not been updated to "understand" the new scan codes they can get very much confused.

One example: One version of Q&A would interpret the left arrow key as a backspace if it were tapped either on the numeric keypad or on the new cursor pad, but if the new cursor pad left arrow were held down Q&A interpreted that as a whole lot of copies of the Greek letter alpha! Fortunately, they have fixed that in the latest version of Q&A.

Likewise the shifted PgUp and PgDn keys on the numeric keypad are simply numbers, while the shifted PgUp and PgDn keys on the cursor pad do something entirely new. PC-Write uses these shifted motion keys to move a screen at a time. Until version 3.02, I believe, it could not do so if you used an extended keyboard's cursor pad.

The details of just what scan codes are sent is beyond the scope of this article. On our BBS you can find a program, KEYSCOPE.ARC, that will help you find out what is going on both in terms of what the BIOS sees and what it tells other programs.

That about does it for keyboards, for now. Is this the end of my series? I don't know. Recently I heard that Northgate is about to come out with yet a newer keyboard layout, this time sporting 103 keys. Is it my hoped for layout? Will they also fix the snap, click, contact problem? We all will have to wait and see. If I learn something significant from that or any other keyboard I will be sure to let you know.

This article is copyright, 1989, by John M. Goodman and may not be reprinted without advance written permission. You may write to him at P. O. Box 746, Westminster, CA 92684-0746.



Short Reviews

John Goodman

Printer Boss

Recently I saw a very appealing advertisement for a product that promised to make my rather modest dot matrix printer perform some amazing tricks. The product is *Printer Boss* by Connecticut Software. For a list price of \$129.95 they claim to be able to make any Epson or IBM compatible dot-matrix printer print in a dozen or more fonts including some near letter quality ones, print sideways, print logos (which you create using a program they include) or let you use your printer as a typewriter.

The good news is that it generally does what they say it will. The bad news is that the results are not actually very impressive, nor is the user interface particularly fun to use. Further, if your printer is not an actual Epson or either the IBM Graphics Printer or IBM Proprinter you will have to experiment to find out how to get this program to work as well as it can.

I asked Arthur Boughey to review this product and after a short look at it he said it was simply not up-to-date. I noticed that the advertisement quotes reviews from 1984 and 1986. Most of the files are dated sometime in 1985 or 1986.

The program is a TSR, so it takes some (35-62 kB) of your precious 640 kB to do its work. In exchange it gives you some buffering of information on its way to the printer, so you can ship off a fair size file and immediately get your computer back to do other work while the printer is busy putting that file on paper. Like all TSR programs it will most likely have some bad interactions with some other TSRs, but I did not run across any in my testing of it.

If you want to enhance your

printer output and if your printer is one they support (or closely compatible with them) then you may enjoy this program. Call (800) 321-0409 to order.

Intelligence Training Programs

A lot of what I do is teach people how to use their computers. When I saw an advertisement for some programs that would make that task easier I was interested. I sent for four of them to try out.

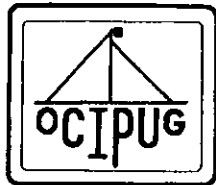
The ones I got were "Training for the IBM PC-DOS," "The Expert Series Training Program for Lotus 1-2-3," "Advanced Training for Lotus 1-2-3" and "The Expert Series Program for Displaywrite 3," all from the Intellisance-Cdex Corporation. Each of these programs lists for \$124.95, plus tax and shipping.

Once again I asked Arthur Boughey to look at the DOS trainer. I asked Keith Hawthorne to look at the Introductory Lotus one. Keith, in particular, was enthusiastic in anticipation. He was pretty sure he would want to return to try out the Advanced Lotus program soon.

The Intellisance programs are all copy protected. You copy the programs to your hard disk, but then you must insert the key disk each time you run them. Second, they demand a lot of room on your hard disk, in each case more than the program they are training you to use.

These are annoyances, but not necessarily fatal objections. What did doom the programs, with our reviewers, were how they operated. "Awkward, insulted my intelligence." "Maybe suitable for a grade-school child, but unbearable for an adult." "Overly cute." These were some of their more printable comments.

Sorry, Intellisance. I had hoped for something I could use. It seems you just don't have it in these programs. If you want to talk to the company they can be reached at (800) 982-1213.



The Orange Coast IBM PC User Group SIG GUIDE

A Calendar of Meetings & Events edited by Richard Villa and Robert Siegenthaler

For more information on membership, write to OCIPUG at PO Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Call Voice - (714) 898-7998 or BBS - (714) 964-2034

**F
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| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| 26 | MS Word 27 | Real Estate 8 AM 28 | Desktop Publishing 1 | Modem 6:30 PM 2 | 3 | New Users 9 AM DOS 12:30 PM 4 |
| 5 | OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM 6 | Spreadsheet 7 | 8 | CAD/ Graphics 9 | 10 | Shareware 10 AM 11 |
| 12 | 13 | P-CAD ----- Database 14 | Investors 15 | Networking ----- Advanced Hardware 16 | 17 | 9AM - OCIPUG General Meeting O.C.C. Science Hall WordPerfect 12:15 18 |
| 19 | Accounting 20 | C Language 21 | Windows 22 | Hardware 23 | 24 | 25 |
| <i>Easter</i> 26 | MS Word 27 | Real Estate 8 AM 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

All Special Interest Groups (SIG's)
are held from 7 PM to 10 PM unless
otherwise listed.

ACCOUNTING

SIG Leader: Ed Halstead (714) 840-7027

SIG Leader: Karen Swanson (714) 846-2059

No information for February meeting available at press time.

P.C.R., 7372 Prince Drive, Huntington Beach (Nr. NE Corner Warner & Gothard). [Location 5]

**ADVANCED
HARDWARE**

SIG Leader: Loren Hunt (714) 962-3249

No topic available at press time.

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

C LANGUAGE

SIG Leader: Joel Charbonnet (714) 856-1591

No information for March meeting available. This is a good time to start learning C.

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

CAD/GRAPHICS

SIG Leader: David Carroll (714) 775-3130

Designated Guru: Dave Lorenzini (714) 852-8663

At the March meeting we will be reviewing animation graphic packages.

Slidlink, 17951 Skypark Circle #E, Irvine. [Location 4]

DATABASE

SIG Leader: Bob Schmiedeke (714) 536-1178

Contact Person: Jerry Smith (714) 847-1431

At the March Meeting, an expert from Q&A will discuss this package.

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

**DESKTOP
PUBLISHING**

SIG Leader: Ben LeGare (714) 586-8236

Designated Guru: Richard Villa (213) 439-8110

This SIG covers all desktop publishing topics in general during the first half, and specializes in *Ventura Publisher* and other advanced topics in the second half. Demonstrations are shown with high-end hardware and software.

WEH Computers, 18682 Beach Blvd., Suite 150, Huntington Beach. [Inset Map 3]

**DOS and
LANGUAGES**

SIG Leader: Steven Pierce (714) 631-2120

Designated Guru: John Goodman (714) 895-3195

Come to this group to learn more about how your PC works and how to get it to do what you want. Topic for February will be undocumented DOS commands.

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

HARDWARE

SIG Leader: Dan Likens (714) 953-5663

This SIG is one of the most popular, judging by the strong attendance. No topic information was received at press time., but please bring your hardware questions to the SIG.

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

INVESTORS

SIG Leader: Gordon Savage (714) 533-3986

Contact Person: Greg Cimmarrusti (714) 559-8939

This group explores the world of software designed especially to help investors of stocks, bonds and commodities.

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

MODEM*(SIG Leader needed soon - Call Dave Carroll at (714) 775-3130 if interested)*

Designated Guru: Rich Sabin (714) 968-3539

Reach out and access the whole world of information through telecommunications. No information was received at press time. Come and random access with us.

Costa Mesa High School, Room 109 (Across the street from Orange Coast College)

NETWORKING

SIG Leader: Jim Mansfield (714) 751-2243

SIG Leader: Andy McGill (714) 731-2951

No topic for March was received at press time.

Coastline Community College, 2990 Mesa Verde Drive East, Costa Mesa. [Location 7]

**NEW USER/
NEW MEMBER**

(SIG Leader needed soon - Call Dave Carroll at (714) 775-3130 if interested)

Contact Person: John Lunsford (714) 995-0947

This is the best SIG to attend first. The meetings run on a 4-month cycle and this month is number **THREE** in the cycle..

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

P-CAD

(SIG Leader needed soon - Call Dave Carroll at (714) 775-3130 if interested)

Contact Person: Dan Likens (714) 953-5663

P-CAD is an electronic circuit board design graphics program, and this SIG is also a local *P-CAD User Group*. The next few months we will be looking at add-in utility programs for *P-CAD*.

CALL THE CONTACT PERSON FOR LOCATION

REAL ESTATE

Contact Person: Kent Pierce (714) 536-0271

Contact Person: Tom Sutro (714) 850-0474

Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and several local Boards of Realtors, this is one of our largest SIG's. Check the Hot Line for the topic of the month. (Coffee at 7:30 AM)

Newport Harbor - Costa Mesa Board of Realtors Boardatorium, 401 North Newport Blvd., Newport Beach. [Location 6]

SHAREWARE

SIG Leader: Bonnie Ulanovsky (714) 646-5230

Various shareware programs will be demonstrated, and random access will answer your questions about which programs are best for you. *Directory Scanner*, presented by author Nate Martino at the March Meeting. Library disks will be available for purchase from Bonnie. Member prices \$3.00 per disk. (Call Bonnie prior to meeting to order specific titles.)

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

SPREADSHEET

SIG Leader: John Alesi (714) 770-1130

Designated Guru: Neil Carman (714) 964-1901

This group covers *Lotus 123* and other popular spreadsheet programs, including shareware products, for both beginners and advanced users. **March meeting will review add-in products to Lotus 1-2-3.**

ACP Computer Center, 1310-D East Edinger, Santa Ana. [Inset Map 2]

WINDOWS

(SIG Leader needed soon - Call Dave Carroll at (714) 775-3130 if interested)

Designated Guru: Richard Villa (213) 439-8110

This SIG covers techniques and software running under the *Microsoft Windows* environment, including *PageMaker*, *Excel*, *Designer*, and many others. Note: *PageMaker* also covered under the Desktop Publishing SIG.

WEH Computers, 18682 Beach Blvd., Suite 150, Huntington Beach. [Inset Map 3]

WORD

SIG Leader: Winston Jewson (714) 544-4330

Microsoft Advocate: David Lorenzini (714) 852-8663

March meeting will discuss the latest release of Word 5.0. Random access to follow.

Architecural Resources, 3420 Irvine Ave., Suite 103, Newport Beach (near Bristol)

WORDPERFECT

SIG Leader: Jim Pieratt (714) 969-4782

SIG Leader: Taoward Lee (714) 646-5557

WordPerfect is a popular and powerful word processing program suitable for both beginners and advanced users.

OCC Science Hall, Orange Coast College (after general meeting). [Inset Map 1]

**GENERAL
MEETING**

Affordable MIDI Technology
Income Tax Preparation with *TaxView*

Brian M. Powers, SoftView, Inc.

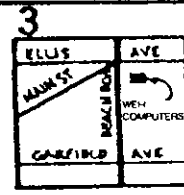
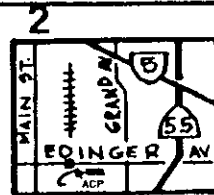
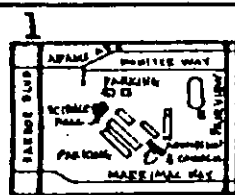
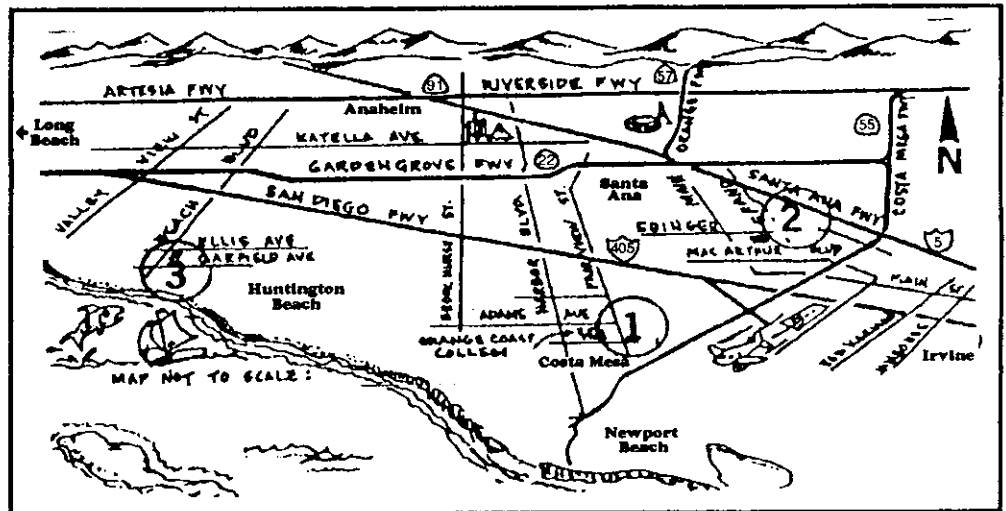
Commentary by Steve Gibson

President, Gibson Research and InfoWorld's "Tech Talk: Columnist

Saturday, February 25, 1989 - 9:00 AM to NOON
Orange Coast College Science Hall

Coming March 18th: Computer Languages

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BREAKING NEWS
Call our 24-hour
Hot line Number
(714) 898-7998**



Inset Map 1: Orange Coast College, General Meeting & WordPerfect SIG: Science Hall (next to Chemistry Bldg.)
 Modem SIG: Room 10, Administration Building (next to Fine Arts).

Inset Map 2: Advanced Computer Products (ACP), 1310-D East Edinger Avenue, Santa Ana, (between Main & Grand, west of 55 Freeway). Park in front.

Inset Map 3: WEH Computers, 18682 Beach Blvd., Suite 150, Huntington Beach (between Ellis & Garfield).

Location 4: Slidelinek, 17951 Skypark Circle #E, Irvine

Location 5: P.C.R., 7372 Prince Drive, Huntington Beach (Near NE corner Warner & Gothard).

Location 6: Newport Harbor-Costa Mesa Board of Realtors Boardatorium, 401 N. Newport Bl., Newport Beach.

Location 7: Coastline Community College, Costa Mesa Center, Room 1, 2990 Mesa Verde Drive East (Corner Baker Street), Costa Mesa.

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SIG Reports

Shareware SIG

Kevin Moser

The Shareware SIG met at 10:00 AM on January 14th, 1989 in the training room at ADVANCED COMPUTER PRODUCTS, 1322 Edinger, Santa Ana. The thirty three who attended filled the room to overflowing; with extended popularity of this SIG, new quarters may be necessary. While computer, overhead projector, and screen were set up, SIG leader Bonnie Ulanovsky reiterated for newcomers the purpose of this SIG, and announced availability of "PC Write, Version 3.02" and the receipt of BUTTONWARE's "PC-File:DB."

Bonnie introduced Arthur Boughey to demonstrate the "FD" utility and the "Wash" file manager programs. "FD" identifies duplicate files on hard disk sub-directories. "Wash" is similar to "Xtree" or "1Dir." Both programs are available on the RBB or through Bonnie.

John Lunsford again categorized differences of public domain, freeware, shareware, and commercially-distributed software. An overview of his favorites available in the Club library includes "List, Qedit, Edit, Narc, Arcmaster, Pkarc, Pkxarc, Procomm, and Catdisk." John showed how to recover a shareware program from archived form and how to analyze and use the extracted files.

To show the differences between text editors and word processors, John Goodman reviewed the features of several shareware and commercial programs in each category, and then touched briefly on program editors, for use with programming languages.

As a team, John Goodman and

John Lunsford demonstrated "Qedit" and "PC Write" upon the projected screen, using as well the shareware program "PC-Outline."

SEMWARE's shareware text editor "Qedit, Version 2.07" includes a DOS shell, keyboard remapping, macro capability, window capability (up to 8 windows, viewing more than one file at a time, or viewing different parts of the same file). No printer support is provided, but it allows creation an ASCII text files and embedded printer control characters. Only the available RAM limits the size of files. Fee for registration is \$44.00.

QUICKSOFT's shareware full-fledged word processor "PC-Write, Version 3.02" by Bob Wallace has most of the bells and whistles of far more expensive commercial programs. Menu-driven, it supports a mouse and hundreds of printers. Keyboard mapping is provided, help screens are extensive, and it has a 100,000-word dictionary. It supports column layout and is impressively F-A-S-T! Fee for registration is \$89.00.

The program closed with a raffle of prizes donated by ADVANCED COMPUTER PRODUCTS. John Gulsby, Bill Phillips, and Mildred Hamilton were winners, with a complete IBM Personal Design Server won by Arthur Saltzman.

WordPerfect SIG

Anne Fawcett

Andre Peterson, Vice-President of Marketing at WordPerfect Corporation, and Glenn Groesbeck, WordPerfect's Regional Manager, opened the meeting by awarding several "Library Shell" and "Folder" programs to attendees, as well as solar calculators, pens, T-shirts, hats, and even M & M's.

According to Peterson, "Library Shell, Version 2.0" provides a menu for all available programs. The manual for "DataPerfect" is under revision and Version 2.1 will be released about April- May. At that time "Runtime" and the developers' version should also be ready. Development of this package started about two years ago, when WordPerfect saw the need for a database which could handle millions of records efficiently; presently the database has 800,000 entries and up to 16 million seems feasible. The new version allows multiple users to access via networking the same fields and data, and will show the last entry and offer a chance to revise it. "PlanPerfect" already has linked spreadsheets and is scheduled for release in March.

WordPerfect has donated a copy of "Library" for SIG members to try, as well as a VHS video to teach "WordPerfect." A SIG member in the audience suggested a future video for salesmen, dealers, and teachers, to show how to install "WordPerfect, Version 5.0" from the time the box was opened, and to include solutions to known difficulties and lists of customer support telephone numbers.

Peterson told how, over a 2-1/2 year period, WordPerfect completely rewrote "WordPerfect," as well as fine-tuning all printer drivers. WordPerfect is committed to constant refinement of the package, with release dates shown to the month, and with a major upgrade more-or-less annually. WordPerfect encourages customer input; about 10,000 calls are received each day. This support helps hold onto customers and promotes word-of-mouth advertising. Customer support at WordPerfect will tell you how to fix your problem, and if it results from

a bug known to WordPerfect, a replacement disk will be sent of a later release date. If the customer just wants to buy disks of later release date, WordPerfect charges \$10 a disk (discounted for more than one). Many changes will not significantly affect most users, although the next few upgrades won't be WYSIWYG for users without 80286 capability. Version 6.0 should be totally WYSIWYG when enough users have upgraded programs to warrant selling in volume.

For other than a rank beginner, Peterson recommended Karen Acerson's "Complete Reference Guide for WP5.0." "Using WordPerfect 5.0" by Que and "WordPerfect Made Easy" are others more suitable for beginners. The Workbook Manual used with the "Learn" tutorial has a very good step-by-step approach.

In a "random access session,"

the following problems with "WordPerfect" were brought up by SIG members:

Bob Schmiedeke: Sometimes line feeds won't work properly because of printer quirks. Customer support has very good technical advice for specific instances. Envelope settings should be changed so that the printer will not pause after each envelope (choose Print, Select, Edit, Forms, Envelopes, and then change Manual to Continuous).

Chet Brisco: When printing envelopes on a HP-compatible laser printer, envelope size is measured differently in the printer definition than in the text file. For "landscape" orientation, the page origin is at the lower left hand corner, as viewed in portrait orientation. Thus, for example, in the text file the envelope form may be defined as 9" x 4.5", whereas the printer definition is 4.5" x 9",

landscape (JUST THE REVERSE!).

A prompt to the beep before printing would be helpful to the user, to remind of calling out GO. Also helpful would be a change to what happens to the text on screen when purposely adding text to the left of a "Tab." Finally, where can "WordPerfect" be told to print a specified page group, such as pages 102 through 107?

February's WordPerfect SIG meeting will still be after the General Meeting in Science Hall, but beginning in March the SIG meeting will occur on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 PM at a location to be announced in README.DOC.

Graphics meetings are scheduled for 9:00 AM to 12:00 at Toward Lee's house in Costa Mesa for the next three Saturdays remaining. Meetings are arranged such that you won't be confused if

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2/89 IBM **PRINTER RIBBONS — ALL COLORS**

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| Right Writer (IBM)..... | \$ 69.95 |
| Basic & Simple Word Processor..... | \$ 39.95 |
| Lotus 1-2-3 (IBM)with FREE Allways & Lotus Value Pack..... | \$319.95 |
| PFS First Graphics (IBM)..... | \$ 98.95 |
| PFS Professional Write..... | \$149.95 |
| Windows 286..... | \$ 79.95 |
| Norton Advanced (IBM)..... | \$ 99.95 |
| PC Tools Deluxe..... | \$ 59.95 |
| Hijaak..... | \$ 84.95 |
| PC Paintbrush Plus..... | \$109.95 |

HRS: M-F 9 AM to 7 PM / SAT 10 AM to 5 PM

| | |
|--|----------|
| SPINRITE | \$ 54.95 |
| Ultima V (Apple/IBM)..... | \$ 49.95 |
| TURBO TAX (IBM) | \$ 51.95 |
| Pagemaker 3.0 (IBM)..... | \$529.95 |
| Word Perfect 5.0..... | \$239.95 |
| Video Capture VC 1000 | \$229.95 |
| Add real world graphics to your PC! | |
| Auto Sketch..... | \$ 69.95 |
| Allways..... | \$109.95 |
| Practical Peripherals 2400 INT..... | \$179.95 |
| Procomm Plus..... | \$ 59.95 |

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| 1180i..... | 229.95 |
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| 24 Pin - 1124 | \$359.95 |
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you come for any of these sessions out of sequence.

PC Networking SIG

Jim Mansfield

The PC Networking SIG met on Thursday night, January 19th, at COASTLINE's Mesa Verde Center. The following topics were suggested for programs in 1989: fault tolerant networks, use of database managers on LAN's (and the emerging client/server model for database managers), and diskless workstations. In addition, demonstrations were suggested of the following operating systems: IBM PC LAN, 3+OPEN from 3COM, and the IBM/MICROSOFT LAN Manager. Please contact Jim Mansfield with other suggestions, or bring your ideas to the February SIG meeting.

A presentation of Ethernet protocol focused on a recent article in PC Magazine which discussed several popular Ethernet network interface boards, describing how the protocol works and how differences in hardware and software design can influence network performance. Through benchmark tests, it was shown that these differences can affect network performance by 20% or more.

Software to simulate an Ethernet Protocol Analyzer was used to examine several Ethernet "packets" (network information units) as they would appear on a LAN cable. The features of this sophisticated instrument were discussed, and how its ability to dissect Ethernet packets could aid the network troubleshooter in solving complex and subtle problems.

Investor's Sig

Gregory J. Cimmarrusti

During the well-attended January meeting of the Investor's SIG at ADVANCED COMPUTER PRODUCTS, goals for 1989 were discussed, as well as the different

software packages currently available, and the possibility of purchasing data diskettes with historical data which might benefit members.

Senior member Fred Haney discussed the many different indicators which have worked or failed over his illustrious 60 years of investing. We concluded with a demonstration of "XPress" data service for collection of stock quotes by use of a personal computer.

Demonstrations of all of WALL STREET MICRO'S software products are scheduled for the February meeting.

Greg's Motto: "Here's to love, money, and the time to enjoy them!"

Windows & Desktop Publishing SIG's

Richard Villa

At the Windows SIG meeting in January at WEH Computers in Huntington Beach, Brian Powers of SOFTVIEW demonstrated "TaxView," a tax return preparation program for Windows. Can you imagine getting excited about doing your taxes? Well, "TaxView" makes it easier by the ability to print all forms on your printer for sending directly to the IRS. Contact-sensitive help screens in "TaxView" guide you through the specifics of the tax code and by pressing a mouse button you enter into any forms or schedules you need. Two copies of "TaxView" were raffled to SIG members by Greg.

SIG leader Richard Villa presented many new Windows Shareware programs, available on the MSAPP SIG of CompuServe. "CmdPost" is a shell/auto menu program; "Easel," a graphics format conversion program; "Tiffany," a program which captures a picture of your Windows application to save in TIFF format; "Xword," a crossword puzzle game; and "Stree"/"Sexec,"

two programs which yield an "Xtree"-like environment and permit advanced manipulation of files.

The February Desktop Publishing SIG meeting reviewed "Freedom of Press," a "PostScript"-compatible driver for HP LaserJets and other printers, including dot matrix. Listed at \$495, "Freedom of Press" takes a PostScript file created by "Ventura," "PageMaker," or other program and interprets it into bit-mapped code for output to non-"PostScript" devices. With an HP LaserJet-compatible "PostScript" printer, the output was very good. Fonts were nearly identical to the "Postscript" output from the same machine. Since ADOBE uses their own "smoothing" technique on fonts, with a magnifier minor differences were visible which could not otherwise been seen. But output is very SLOOOOW. On a 20-Mhz 386 machine, one page of output from "Freedom of Press" took nearly 18 minutes, compared to 3 minutes with true "PostScript." With simple files, times were much closer; evidentially, interpreting of images consumed much time. Publisher COMPUTER APPLICATIONS told me Version 2.0, with speed improvement, will replace present Version 1.1 this month.

Bill Hazard, owner of WEH COMPUTERS, demonstrated "Arts & Letters," an impressive designing program now available.

DOS and Languages

Farrell Eagle

The February DOS SIG meeting, at its new time just after the New Users SIG, featured John Goodman presenting the Flambeaux Software HELP programs and a "focus group" for Peter Norton Software.

Flambeaux has three programs, DOS HELP, TECH HELP and the HELP Development Kit. The first

two programs are currently available in version 3.3a, but Flambeaux will soon be releasing version 4 of each. The development kit is still in its first release.

The DOS HELP program is like a collection of all the best books on DOS in one package, with all the facts easily accessible and concisely presented. The current version covers all versions of DOS up to 3.3; the new version will add information about version 4.0. The TECH HELP program is a similar package including in this case information from the IBM Technical Reference manuals and many other sources.

A key feature of both programs is that one can be reading about one topic, see some key word that you want to explore further, digress to learn about that topic, digress to some sub-sub-topic, etc., and eventually, when you are ready, return right to the point where you left off in the original topic. To do all this one need merely "point and shoot", that is, one simply moves the highlight to a keyword and presses the Enter key for one or more screens full of information about that topic. The Escape key returns you to the point where you pressed Enter.

So these programs provide you with lots of help in an easy to use form for DOS and other technical details about your PC. What if you want to have a similar kind of help for some other topic? For example, your company's new whizbang software program? Or on the standard operating procedures around your office? No problem. Flambeaux's HELP Development Kit to the rescue!

With the Development kit you can write your own help text and use its compiler to create a data file just like those used by DOS HELP or TECH HELP. The Development kit also includes the HELP "engine" that makes accessing these data bases so simple.

None of these programs is



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shareware or freeware. You must purchase each one. But if you buy the Development Kit you are allowed to give away up to 50 copies of the HELP "engine" program with any database you may write at no extra cost. If you need to distribute more copies than this you will have to make special arrangements with Flambeaux.

After a break the meeting continued with two UCLA Business School students, Michelle Barnes and Ned Hawley. They are working on a project for Peter Norton Computing to survey market opinion about both the Norton products and those of their competition.

Michelle and Ned drew out the group's experiences and attitudes toward the Norton Utilities and several other products, most notably PC Tools. There was also some discussion of the Norton Guides (in some ways similar to the Flambeaux products) and the Norton Commander.

Generally the people present had high praise for the Norton line of programs, though there were

some problems noted with customer support. Central Point Software (makers of PC Tools) received very high praise on this point from several people.

One of the advantages of being in a user group is the chance not only to hear about what is new, but to influence manufacturers before they bring out their next product. This was a prime example of that process. And to sweeten things even further, we ended the day with a raffle for two copies of the Norton Utilities, Advanced Edition, version 4.5. Thank you Peter Norton.



SIG REPORT REMINDER

If you attend a SIG meeting and find that the information is of particular value, think of writing a short article for the newsletter.

This is one way we can share the information that these meetings provide. Many times, people come to a meeting searching for that one answer that will make computing much more enjoyable.

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| We welcome the following new members this month: | Gerald Bennett | Anant Gajjar | Takashi Mitsutomi | Margie Norton | Mark Waelde |
| | Thomas Brock | Gene Hales | John Moore | Tricia Sebreros | Donald Weiner |
| | Jon Chelin | Gary Kaleta | Peter Murry | Harold Sharp | Gary Zimmerman |
| | Larry Courter | Randolph Kroenert | Steve Nickless | Jane Smith | |
| | May Ethridge | Harold Metz | Yoshi Noguchi | Rich Smith | |

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| The following memberships expire in February: | Edgar Breisch | Marilyn Fry | Phillip Loveridge | Renee Opperman | Ali Tehrani |
| | Robert Bromm | Carl Geil | Bruce Martin | Stephen Petrangelo | Robert Thompson |
| | Miles Chard | Bruce Gilreath | Richard Mayeda | Keith Raffel | Marcine Aniz Uhler |
| | Charles Chicowlas | Paula Grippi | Jerry Mayfield | Gary Rawlings | Harris Weingart |
| | Bruce Cleeremans | Ann Hamill | Tom Miner | William Rhoton | Bernie Young |
| | Victor Contreras | Ann Hickey | George Moore | Randy Rosebrook | Jeff Zimmerman |
| | Bert Cordes | Lucille Hunter | Andy Mott | Joan Rowe | |
| | Robert Davis | William Kidd | Dean Neiman | Arthur Saltzman | |
| | Lloyd Dietz | Eric Knaus | Rob Nichos | Elizabeth Schendel | |
| | Joe Domingues | Herman Kuhlendahl | Craig Oberlin | Florence Sobwick | |
| | Bob Fry | Dennis Lee | Melvin Opperman | A.C. Sprik | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| The following memberships expire in March: | Reinhard Arnold | Donna | Tom Kimberly | Douglas Nowlin | Gail Thomas |
| | Gregory Beutler | Friebertshauser | John Klose | Sumiye Onodera | John Turner |
| | Thanh Bui | Juan Gallo | Raymond Leybourne | John Penn | Les Waverly |
| | Gregory Cimmarrusti | Gregory Garnier | Charlie Lin | Thomas Perdue | Denese Wecker |
| | Ruth Clausen | Keith Hawthorne | Benjamin Lopez | Chris Pesavento | Ronald Weimer |
| | Debbie Crowley | Doug Hockett | Kathleen Manelli | Arnold Quevedo | Richard Wells |
| | Lori Cushenberry | Loren Hunt | Michael Marois | Charles Reince | Shirley White |
| | Susan D'Antuono | William Hutchings | Scott Mather | Sandy Ryan | Allan Whitfield |
| | James Diefenbach | Reta Hutchins | Wes McKane | Kent Soughers | Carl Yost |
| | Thomas Elder | Edward James | Shirley Miller | Frank Sutton | |
| | Glenn Emigh | Mark Johnson | Sig Nehring | James Sutton | |
| | Everett Freywald | Nancy Kahn | Don Norton | Oscar Taylor | |

OCIPUG Financial Report

Jerry DeAinza, Treasurer

OCIPUG January, 1988 Changes in Cash:

| | Unrestricted Funds | Tim Smith Fund |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Cash balance, December 31, 1988 | \$13,909.73 | 1,334.77 |
| Cash receipts | | |
| Membership dues | 1,728.00 | |
| Advertising | 90.00 | |
| Interest | 61.71 | |
| Contributions, Tim Smith Fund | | 2,634.00 |
| Library fees | 259.00 | |
| | 2,237.71 | |
| Cash disbursements | | |
| Meeting expenses | 422.39 | |
| Printing | 1320.29 | |
| Postage | 185.00 | |
| Promotions | 149.46 | |
| Telephone | 69.12 | |
| Supplies | 16.78 | |
| | 2,163.04 | |
| Cash balance, January 31, 1988 | 13,984.40 | 3,830.05 |

"Random Access" Question Form

At most OCIPUG General Meetings we have a portion of the time set aside for
Questions and Answers. We call this our "Random Access" session.

Please mail it at least a week ahead, or turn it in at the membership table when you come to the meeting.
Add additional pages as necessary. Questions not answered at meeting may be answered in the newsletter.

Name: _____

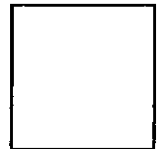
Information on your Computer System:

CPU (8088, 80286 or 80386): _____ Bus (ISA, MCA or EISA): _____

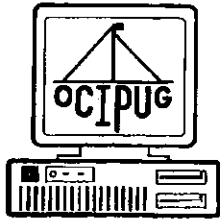
Operating System (DOS or OS/2, etc.): _____ Version: _____

Your Question: _____

Other things you think we should know about your system: _____



**Orange Coast IBM-PC User Group
P. O. Box 6100-211
Costa Mesa, CA 92628**



OCIPUG

Orange Coast IBM-PC User Group

Membership Application

(For NEW and RENEWING members)

Instructions

This form has been designed as a self-mailer. Simply remove this whole page carefully, attach your check for **\$36.00**, then fold the page in thirds, add postage and mail it.

We are not asking a whole lot of questions, but we need you to answer each one we do ask.

New Member or Renewal

Present Member Number: _____

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We can mail the newsletter, etc., to either your home or work address.
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Company: _____ Title: _____

Home Telephone: () _____ Work Telephone: () _____

The above information will only be used internally for our membership functions, including mailing out the club newsletter. We may also publish a membership directory, but if we do you may be included in it or not, at your option.

You may list me in the Membership Directory: Yes ___ No ___ You may print my address: Yes ___ No ___
You may list my work phone: Yes ___ No ___ and my home phone: Yes ___ No ___

Staple check here.

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| Dave Lorenzini | 1989 | 852-8663 |
| John Lunsford | 1990 | 995-0947 |
| Richard Villa | 1990 | 213-439-8110 |
| Bonnie Ulanovsky | 1990 | 646-5230 |

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| Publisher | Steven Dela | 775-8373 |
| Editor | | |
| Technical Editor | | |
| SIG Guide Editor | Richard Villa | 213-439-8110 |

People and Numbers to Know

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| Programs | Dave Lorenzini | 852-8663 |
| Membership | Tom Sutro | 850-0474 |
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| Stanton Public Domain (300/1200/2400) | 894-2246 |
| Software Exchange (300/1200/2400) | 552-3515 |
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| OCIPUG Information & Message Line 898-7998 |
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Future OCIPUG General Meeting Dates (1989)

Our General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month except when there is a conflict with a major holiday (asterisked months in list below).

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| January 28 | February 25 | March 18 * |
| April 29 | May 20 * | June 24 |
| July 29 | August 26 | September 30 |
| October 28 | November 18 * | December 16 * |

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If you or your company would like more information on this program: please call Steven Dela at 714-775-8373.

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