

README.DOC

SEPTEMBER 1991

ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP

VERSION 7.9

SATURDAY
 SEPTEMBER 28
 9:00 A.M.



September's meeting will feature two award winning programs: Q&A and PackRat.

Q&A, from Symantec, is the number-one-selling flat file database known for its ease of use. OCIPUG has been using it to keep track of its members for four years. It's great because it mail merges with the word processor so easily. Our own Mark Burrell, a consultant who helped beta test this product and writes applications for Q&A, will be showing Q&A to us.

PackRat, from Polaris, is a top-rated Personal Information Manager (PIM). You can customize it to satisfy almost all your needs, from phone list to project management.

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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 number is (714) 843-2048.

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Harv Haight,
Advertising Manager OC-IPUG
P. O. Box 1589
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.

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ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	\$150.00
Half Page	\$ 85.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
Business Card	\$ 25.00

README.DOC NEWSLETTER STAFF

Publisher	Sunny Lockie	644-0103
Editor	Jean Stevens	644-1017
SIG Guide Editor	Richard Villa	841-6991
Advertising Manager	Harv Haight	546-0820
Past Editor:	Tom Sutro	1985-1987
Past Publishers:	Steven Dela	1987-1989
	Stephen Burnside	1989-1990

CONTRIBUTORS

David Black	Harv Haight
Paul Brainerd	Herb Huey
Ginger Buck	George Mefferd
Stephen Burnside	Bob Ottke
Steve Clancy	Wendy Sarrett
Terry Currier	Jeff Sinn
Steven Dela	Jean Stevens
Anne Fawcett	Michael Springer
John Goodman	Richard Villa

PRODUCTION

Sunny Lockie
Richard Villa

DISTRIBUTION

Stacy Kile
Greg Lockie

Camera ready copy produced with:

80386-33 WORD-tek	Publishers PaintBrush
HP LaserJet III	Ventura Publisher 3.0
Pacific Page Postscript 4.0	Corel Draw 2.0
with PacificType	

Printing by Champion Graphics, Santa Ana.

README.DOC is published monthly. A subscription is included with all paid memberships in the Orange Coast IBM PC Users Group.

Address all inquiries and address changes to:
README.DOC, P. O. Box 6100-211
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

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Send all submissions to the Editor, on or before the deadline listed below, using one of the following formats:

1. **UPLOAD** to the Bulletin Board, indicating the format by extension, such as: ASCII.TXT, MSWord.WRD, WordPerfect.WP.

2. **5 1/4" DISK** mailed to the Editor in time to meet the deadline: P. O. Box 8224, Newport Beach, CA 92658.

3. **HARD COPY** is acceptable only if typed and double-spaced.

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL ALWAYS BE 12 MIDNIGHT ON THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MEETING.

General Meeting Report

Harv Haight

At 8:54 a.m. the 78th General Meeting was opened by a Random Access, with John Lunsford moderating and extensive audience participation. At 9:17 a.m. President Steve Burnside formally opened the meeting, with news of a User Group offer from US Robotics of older 9600-baud modems, and with a request for possible member donation of a VCR for use at SIG space meetings; Thurman Wade responded, as usual. Thanks, Thurman!

Hardware guru Bob Basaraba then introduced Drew Dutton (SW USA Technical Manager, Advanced Micro Devices) and Joe Sekel (AMD Senior Application Engineer at Newport Beach). Backed by Joe, Drew gave us an informative run-down of AMD's history, its products, and its conflicts with Intel.

AMD was created in 1969 by ex-employees of Fairchild Camera. It now has over \$1 billion in annual sales. Its product emphasis had been EPROMs and embedded RISCs. With Intel absent from the field, AMD now is the major source of 8086, 8088, and 80286 ICs; AMD is a legal second source to Intel to satisfy IBM insistence in the early eighties. Just how far the agreement extends to 80X86 and 80X87 products is now contested in the courts.

AMD aims to be a strong contender in portable and desktop IBM type markets. Important factors for portables are 1) battery life, 2) form factor, 3) performance, and 4) cost. AMD will not market computers but

offers to manufacturer-customers appropriate designs using the AM286ZX (for a smaller motherboard) and the AM386DXL (for 30-40% lower battery drain). The AM386DXL parts have a standby mode drain of less than 80 microamps; with immediate resumption of pre-standby sequences, for usual program material at a given clock rate the AMD parts generate less heat. And since AMD parts are pin-to-pin compatible with Intel parts, Intel is pushed toward lower competitive pricing.

A short break ended at 10:51 a.m. After SIG announcements, Dave Lorenzini showed how the Microway FASTCache SX/Plus upgrade board (32-KB cache) improved performance of a PC-AT machine: Norton SI from 4.4 to 14.0; Landmark overall from a 8-MHz equivalent to a 26-MHz equivalent, or from a 4.8xIBM-XT to a 16.2xIBM-XT. Dave said the \$600 overall price for a 20-Mhz board could almost buy a stripped-down 386SX, but the upgrade made sense if other hardware were to be retained and reconfiguration avoided.

The last speaker was Darryl Wheeler, Sales Manager of the Franchise Division of CMS Enhancements, aided by Robert Wagner, CMS Product Marketing Manager. Darryl summarized the growth of CMS Enhancements since 1983, when its major output was PC and AT drive kits. Recently, CMS Enhancements started marketing com-

puters, as well as peripherals.

Darryl spoke at length about hard drives: ST-506 (MFM and RLL), ESDI, SCSI (1 and 2), and IDE (AT 40-pin). The ST-506 type is seldom installed today; the ESDI has been generally superseded by the IDE type (Intelligent Device Electronics) with a Western Digital WD1003 driver board built-in and a simple motherboard interface. The SCSI type fits into a motherboard interface that accommodates many different peripherals; this type is used with Apple's MacIntosh and for many IBM types of more than 300 MBytes capacity. Type 1 transfers at 5 MBytes/second with an 8-bit width; type 2 transfers at 10 MBytes/second with either a 16- or 32-bit width.

Bob Wagner displayed CMS Enhancements new dual drive, two in a half-height panel mount; one power lead and separate signal cables.

In the raffle which followed, many members won CMS T-shirts and one lucky person (see elsewhere) won the unit Bob displayed. Others won AMD 80286 coprocessors. OCIPUG thanks AMD, CMS Enhancements, and Richard Sabin for donating prizes for the raffle. ■

President's Message

Stephen Burnside

This month I would like to express the gratitude of all our members to Michael Dietrick and Maricela Miranda, OCIPUG members, who volunteered the services of Michael's company, M. D. Ultra Clean, and spent a Saturday afternoon cleaning the SIG space carpet. I also want to express appreciation to all the members of the Programming SIG who helped move chairs into the empty room across the hall. More and more of our members are pitching in and doing whatever they can to help our club—it seems to be catching on. So, if there is something you can do, whether it's being a member of the support group, donating your skills or services, or helping out monetarily with the equipment fund, don't hesitate to come forward.

It seems our club is becoming quite popular and as a result we are experiencing standing room only at some of our SIG meetings, particularly the Genealogy and GeoWorks SIGs. At the Genealogy SIG some of the overflow has been reported to have been caused by the attendance of non-members on a repeat basis. We have also noted some repeat attendance by non-members at the General Meeting. While OCIPUG has always encouraged non-members to attend our meetings, we've stipulated that after one or

two meetings, the non-member should make a decision whether or not to join. At the last Board of Directors this situation was discussed and the Board decided that the most "tactful" way of handling this is to encourage all members to wear their badges. We hope the sight of a "sea of yellow badges" will reinforce the idea that OCIPUG is made up of members and that will encourage the "auditors" to sign up.

As to the matter of the Video system for the SIG space and the General meeting, we seem to be heading more and more toward a presentation tablet as the most cost-effective solution. Next month at COMDEX, I and others will be looking at presentation video devices and lining up vendors to demo their systems at the General and SIG meetings. I have received a few suggestions from members and am most grateful for them. Please remember that the system we require must be completely external from the user's computer system, so that precludes the use of any system which requires anything to be installed inside the user's computer.

There will be tickets for the exhibits at COMDEX available at the September General Meeting. They will have to be mailed so that they arrive by October 9th in order to get into the exhibits free of charge. ■

Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home? Maybe yes, maybe no. Do you ever expect to use it? Probably not. At least, let's hope it will never be necessary. When you need it, you REALLY need it.

Same with computer virus detectors and cleaners.

With the care that all responsible SysOps devote to the matter of virus infections in their software, it is very unlikely that you will ever get an infection from any software downloaded from a BBS. But they are out there! Notice that I said "very unlikely." We don't know how the warped mentality of some virus developer is going to work. Can he make one that activates next January, and remains, for all practical purposes, undetectable until then? Maybe. Probably! There are, by some counts, over five hundred viruses out there, and more are coming out every week.

You are all familiar with the need to have a BOOT DISK. We all had them automatically while we were running DOS 3.3. Have you made your BOOT DISK for DOS 5.0? If you have, congratulations! You are probably in the minority of those using DOS 5.0. You don't get one automatically any more. You must MAKE one. What does this have to do with viruses? Plenty! You should also have an SYA (you figure it out!) disk. Actually, they can be one and the same, particularly if you are running high density disks.

The basic, minimal boot disk is nothing more than a bootable disk. That is, it has the two hidden system files, and COMMAND.COM. If you have a crash, or something unforeseen happens, you can at least get your system running. But, depending on the specific configuration of your system, you may have more than a little trouble accessing extended partitions. So you get your C: drive up and running, but calling D: gives you "Invalid drive."

If, perchance, your problems have been caused by a virus infection, your boot disk may already be

ABCs of the BBS

Bob Otke

infected, and you haven't made any progress toward solving the problem. How about formatting your hard drives? How recent is your backup??

SYA to the rescue! Simply insert SYA into the A: drive, and do a cold boot. Where do you get this magical SYA disk? You MAKE one. It must be specific for your own system, so you can't go buy one - not even from John Lunsford.

Here's how you do it. Add your own variations, as you wish. Minimum will be the SYSTEM files and COMMAND.COM. DOS 5.0 now automatically copies COMMAND.COM when you do SYS A:, or do a FORMAT A:/S. Next, I like to have access to my other drives. Since I use SpeedStor, I need to call Sstor in my CONFIG.SYS. Therefore, I need a copy of CONFIG.SYS on my SYA disk. If I'm going to call the driver, it must be copied onto the SYA disk also. Of course, booting from A: will probably generate some error messages when certain things (like ANSI.SYS and mouse drivers) are not found. Ignore them. Then, it is nice to have a PATH statement, so I'll need a copy of my AUTOEXEC.BAT. Once again, ignore the error messages such as "File not found."

If we want to deal with viruses, we must first find them, and then remove them. I keep an up-to-date version of SCAN.EXE (SCANV80.ZIP) and CLEAN.EXE (CLEAN80.ZIP) on my SYA disk. Since I don't make a practice of memorizing the documentation of those programs, I copy the DOC

files also, so I'll have some idea of the best way to use them. Since McAfee updates those programs regularly, I copy the new versions onto the SYA disk as they become available. (By the time you read this, we will probably have SCANV81 and CLEAN81, or later.)

If you run Quarterdeck's MANIFEST program, or something similar, you can add a nice touch by putting a copy of your current total configuration on the disk as well. Manifest will print-to-file all of that information and call it MANIFEST.PRN. I usually rename that to something like 910822.MAN so I can tell at a glance when it was done. That may come in handy if my CMOS or other crucial data are messed up. CheckIt also allows you to make an overall configuration file.

Now....the ESSENTIAL STEP in making your SYA disk. IT MUST BE WRITE PROTECTED. Without that, you don't have an SYA disk that will SYA.

Like the fire extinguisher, the best way to be sure you'll never need it is to have one available....

NEW ON THE BBS....

WOPRA10.ZIP and WOPRB10.ZIP are WinWord Office Power Pack.

DOSEA5.ZIP is an excellent Hypertext "book" on DOS 5.0.

CPB0701A,B,C.ZIP (3 files) are patches for PCTools 7.0.

In addition, there are lots of new ATM Type 1 fonts. You'll find them by doing a S|earch for ATM*.* and GS22*.*. ■



Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey

AMAZING PRICES

I was at the July 28, 1991 ACP Swap Meet and was amazed at some of the prices I saw. First, I spotted a Conner 200 MB IDE drive for only \$525 which, in the latest issue of Computer Shopper, was running at \$675 and higher. Later, I had pains in my side when I found the Cyrix 83D87/25 Mhz coprocessor going for \$175! Two months earlier I bought this coprocessor, from the same company at the swap meet, for what was then the tremendous price of \$330. It looks like competition from AMD has spilled over into the coprocessor regime.

Now for the most amazing bargain! I saw a 286 system with SVGA monitor and card, 20 MB drive, and one MB of memory for..... \$380!! For that price, the 286 becomes an inexpensive throw away item like VCRs, microwave ovens, and other electronic gear that we have come to take for granted. On the high end, it looks like complete 486 systems are dropping under \$2000. All I can say is Christmas is coming early for some of us!

486SX REVISITED

I have been keeping track of 486/486SX/386 prices for the past two months. Prices are dropping fast for all these CPU chips and it

looks like competition is shaking up Intel. Recent reviews of 386/40 MHz and 486SX systems have shown that the performance differences of systems using these CPUs are slight. What is more important is the caliber of your hard disk, video card, and the amount of memory in your system.

I was reminded that what Intel may be doing with the 486SX is simply what memory chip makers routinely do in screening their chips. When memory chips are tested, the chips are separated according to their speed capability (i.e. 80 ns chips versus 60 ns chips). This is good industry practice that produces maximum yield from a single chip die design.

It is not difficult to imagine that Intel may have an unacceptable number of 486 chips that can't meet the 25 MHz criteria but can qualify under a 20 MHz clock speed. So what is Intel going to do with these slower 486 chips? The best solution is to sell these chips as 20 MHz 486s. But who is going to buy a 20 MHz 486? But what if Intel makes some minor modifications, changes the model number, and puts on a flashy marketing campaign? You have a potential best seller!

OF UNHEALTHY MICE

Five co-workers had trouble making MS-DOS 5.0 work with

their mice. They worked fine with Windows 3.0 since Windows has its own mouse drivers. All five guys have Microsoft compatible mice while I have the genuine article. I gave them my mouse driver and their mice now work with MS-DOS 5.0. It turns out that MS-DOS 5.0 requires Microsoft mouse driver version 7.0 or later (mine is version 7.01).

This is just a reminder to all of us (myself included) that device drivers can get obsolete and that you should periodically check if a more recent device driver is available. The manufacturers of your particular device will usually make a new driver available for free or for a nominal amount.

One guy at work is steamed that MS-DOS 5.0 didn't work with his particular mouse driver since it worked with MS-DOS 4.01. It took the purchase of MS-DOS 5.0 and reading the Readme files before he suspected that he might have a problem with his mouse driver. As a matter of fact, Michelle Vranizan of the Orange County Register incorrectly reported this as a known MS-DOS 5.0 bug.

This co-worker does have a valid point. Two other co-workers had no problems with their mice under DR DOS 5.0 but their mice failed to work under MS-DOS 5.0 until they used my mouse

driver. This co-worker suggested that Microsoft should place a warning label on the outside of the package. This is somewhat impractical considering the number of potential incompatibilities mentioned in the Readme file, but imagine if Microsoft placed a warning sticker on their products like on a cigarette pack. WARNING!! This package may be hazardous to your mouse's health!

OF LOST MEMORIES

I just received my Microsoft Fortran 5.1 upgrade. This is a completely new product with improved programming tools. Version 5.0 takes 3 MB of disk space while the improved version 5.1 takes 6 MB of disk space!! This is progress? The heart of this compiler (and for future releases of other Microsoft languages) is the Programmer's Work Bench (PWB). This Windows-like interface now takes about 10 seconds to load while it used to take only 5 seconds for me to type in the compile and link command. In addition, I also bought the Source Profiler which will indicate the frequency of use in my source code. This takes another 2 MB of disk space. If you only have a 10 MB hard disk you are in trouble!! Funny, it was only two versions ago (version 4.1) that you could run on just a few 360K floppies!

CONFUSING MEMORIES

While getting MS Fortran 5.1 to work, I had to re-allocate my extended memory to allow Fortran to take advantage of it. It has been a royal pain fighting memory problems even with my 5 MB of RAM. If you haven't noticed from last month's column, I like the Motorola 680X0 microprocessor family. With its flat addressing scheme you can directly access up to 4 Gigabytes of memory. The Intel 386/486 chips have this same potential but only in protected mode. The 286 can address up to 16 MB in protected mode and only 640K in real mode. Of course, the

poor 8088 can only address 640K.

Squeezing the maximum amount of memory is a rite of passage that every PC user must go through. It requires the user to learn about some rather arcane topics. No wonder memory management programs like QEMM and 386MAX are some of the top selling utility programs. Most of us are aware that the first 640K of memory is called standard memory. The region between 640K and 1 MB is known as high memory. This region is reserved for use by your system—for video memory, BIOS, and so on. What makes this more confusing is that MS-DOS 5.0 refers to the 64K of memory above 1 MB as high memory. Confused? Then let's take this one step at a time.

STANDARD MEMORY

The 8088/8086 CPUs dedicate 20 pins to create unique memory addresses. This allows the 8088/8086 to directly address 220 unique bytes or 1 MB of memory. In the original PC architecture, the first 640K of memory was reserved for DOS and the 384K region between 640K and 1 MB known as high memory was reserved for system use. This is the area that QEMM and 386MAX manipulates to squeeze out extra memory space.

EXPANDED MEMORY

Expanded memory is a bank switching scheme that allows the CPU to access a large amount of memory through a 64K window located within the high memory region above 640K and below 1 MB. Expanded memory is also known as EMS (Expanded Memory Specification) or LIM (Lotus, Intel, and Microsoft) who originated this method of accessing memory. Since expanded memory uses addresses below the 1 MB addressing limit of 8088/8086 chips, XT's can access larger amounts of memory with special EMS memory cards. Now the hangup to this scheme is that it is slow due to all this bank switching,

and you can't make much use of this extra memory unless you have programs that adhere to the LIM standard (latest version is LIM 4.0).

EXTENDED MEMORY

Next, we come to extended memory. Memory above 1 MB is extended memory. The 286 chip has an additional 4 address pins over the 8088/8086 giving it 24 or 16 times 1 MB for a total of 16 MB. When the 286 emulates an 8086 it runs in real mode meaning that it can only handle 1 MB. In order to access the full 16 MB, the 286 must run in protected mode. With a 386, it is physically possible to address up to 4 Gigabytes of memory since it has 32 address pins (232 bytes). However, most 386 machines place an artificial limit of 16 MB due to BIOS and bus connector limitations.

When the 286 was designed, the Intel designers didn't think it would be necessary to be able to switch back and forth between real and protected modes. Various tricks were used to go back to real mode when DOS service was called. None of these tricks were satisfactory and so running code in extended memory has not been possible until recently. Extended memory in the DOS world has been limited to disk caches (Smartdrv.Sys) and ram disks for print spooler buffers (Ramdrive.Sys). Since I'm still a programmer, I have always chafed at the 640K limit for writing programs. Now, new software products by Microsoft and Borland use DOS Extenders to break the 640K barrier. My latest version of Fortran is capable of running programs as large as 16 MB but I had to do some extended memory re-allocations.

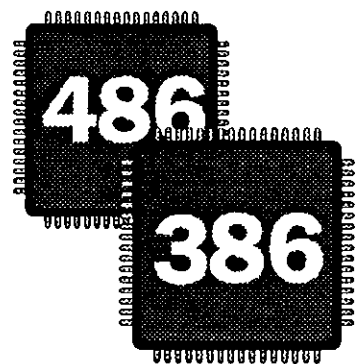
HIMEM

HIMEM became popular when Microsoft released Windows 2.1

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INTEL VS AMD.... WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Steven Dela



I have to admit, I've been very skeptical of the new 386/40 chip from Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) until I heard their presentation at the August OCIPUG General Meeting. It was enlightening to see that another company can offer something a little better, a little cheaper, and the benefits trickle down to us at the end user level.

Rumors about compatibility, possible design flaws, and the copyright infringement challenges, had many of us sitting on the sidelines watching the battle between Intel and AMD shaping up. After all, why should we choose the AMD chip now, only to find out that it might not be available or supported in the coming months, depending on the outcome of the lawsuits between the two chip makers.

In the next several months, developments will shape the future of computers as we know them, just as the unfolding events in Europe and the Soviet Union will shape the political climate in the world for the next generation.

The information presented at the meeting demonstrated that AMD is committed to developing and marketing the 386 series of chips, in head to head competition with Intel. In fact, you will probably see other companies (Phoenix; Chips and Technology?) enter this market once the legal issues are settled. What seems to set AMD apart from Intel is the use of low power (i.e., cooler running) and faster running (40MHz) chips that have more potential in portable and pen based small sized computers.

The differences pointed out by the AMD representatives made sense from our perspective as users.

Lower prices for more powerful chips; you bet! Cooler running chips at higher speeds; you bet! Lower power consumption chips for notebooks and small computers; you bet! How can the end user lose? Besides, isn't better that we keep all the high technology chip designing companies here in the U.S. rather than force them to go offshore and lose the jobs and revenue.

I posed a question to the representatives as to why no major computer manufacturers have taken on the AMD chip. Sure there are companies like Blue Star Computer that have taken the plunge, but where is IBM, COMPAQ, AST, and TOSHIBA? Are they too afraid of offending Intel in that they wouldn't dare jeopardize their main source for CPUs?

Well, that was clearly answered the last week in August by Orange County's best known computer manufacturer, AST Research. They just announced the release of an upgrade to their Premium Exec Notebook line, a computer based on the new AMD 25MHz low power chip. Again, the main feature mentioned was longer battery life, even while using a faster processor and a larger hard drive (80MB) than the other notebooks on the market.

From some of the questions asked by the audience, there is great interest in seeing more of this technology come to market. We can only hope the development of a 486 chip is not too far down the road. This would translate into less expensive and better alternatives for all of us. The reason for the lack of any portable 486 computers on the market is two-fold. The

power consumption is too great for a battery based computer, and the heat generated by the 486 is tremendous. Maybe an AMD 486 could solve those problems.

The perception of the two chip makers in the marketplace is that Intel is a great marketing company and AMD is a great technology company. We'll see. After all, it was Intel that invented the 286, the 386, and the 486 chips. AMD has done a great job of reverse engineering the designs and improving the features. Isn't competition great!

Most of us came away from the meeting with a better understanding of the market, the politics, and the maneuvering going on in the Industry. Certainly the technology is there and we can benefit from that today. Maybe there will be an AMD CPU in your future soon.

Some late developments in this gigantic battle: AMD has filed a **2.5 Billion** dollar counter-suit against Intel, charging harassment, unfair competition, and trying to monopolize the CPU market. Stay tuned for this one.

In a somewhat related matter, many OCIPUG members are considering the purchase of notebook size computers. An interesting fact I found out recently demonstrates the volatility of this market. Of the 130+ vendors at Fall 1990 COMDEX that displayed laptop/notebook computers, there are only 23 still in business. We'll see what Fall

...continued on page 9

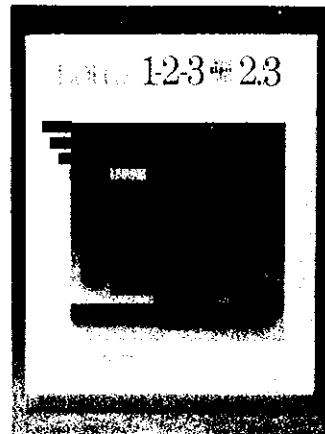
A LOOK AT LOTUS 1-2-3 v2.3

Harv Haight

In reviewing Borland's QUATTRO PRO 3.0 for July's README.DOC, Robin Clark was enthusiastic about its features. In the race for spreadsheet market share, however, LOTUS 1-2-3 still leads, and hopes to stay in front through the new features and faster action of its v2.3 Release. Lotus designates Release 2.3 as "for the DOS user," and quite recently announced Standard Edition of 1-2-3 for Windows and 1-2-3 for the Macintosh.

What was done in earlier releases by "Add-ins" now is built-in. A fully interactive WYSIWYG environment (via "Always" technology) can be invoked automatically at start-up, or well into a worksheet, to access any spreadsheet feature with full

mouse support. Dialog boxes, improved prompts, and context-sensitive help make it easier. Four Bitstream "Speedo" fonts and full color (encoded in the saved file) for CGA or better, make an elegant display. New graph types can be drop-shadowed for 3-D effects. Spreadsheets or graphs can be expanded or compressed to fit a given page. A printer different from that on hand may be specified. Print-out of spreadsheet or graph can be a background operation. Release 2.3 aims to please desktop publishers!



For those of us who use "character" mode, Release 2.3's Magellan technology makes it simpler and quicker. Two add-ins are new. Viewer and Auditor. Viewer allows you to view the contents of a worksheet before it is retrieved or linked. Word processing or electronic mail files can be browsed through from within 1-2-3. Auditor identifies, checks, and analyzes complex spreadsheet logic. A current file directory can be edited. Function keys are more versatile;

the DEL key now can delete the contents of the current cell when 1-2-3 is in the Ready mode. There are new function keys. A Learn feature, to record keystrokes for a macro, supersedes the previous add-in. Macro Libraries can be created

and managed. Minimal recalculation, as with the Speedup add-in, occurs with a "Natural" setting. HAL features, such as, "undo" and "search and replace" are part of this release. Cell pointers can be stored in expanded memory, as can the "undo" buffer. With a blank worksheet, "Worksheet Status" shows how much expanded and conventional memory is available for a worksheet, after chosen features have been activated.

For a hands-on evaluation, I installed Release 2.3 on a 10 MHz 640-KByte XT-clone with a CGA

monitor, and on a 16 MHz 2-MByte 386SX with a Hercules flat BW monitor. Release 2.3 came on nine DSDD disks. Choosing all options, the loaded program had 215 files and took 6547 Kbytes of hard drive; 53 files/1055 Kbytes were fonts.

On either 386SX or XT-clone, both a standard Microsoft mouse or a roller-ball mouse worked well, although I found a letter choice from the menu to be much faster. Tutorials and help screens seemed much better than those of release 2.2 and earlier, and correlated well with printed documentation. September's BYTE magazine (p. 280) calls Release 2.3 faster than earlier releases and QUATTRO PRO 3.0; even on the XT 10-MHz clone I found delays were minimal.

Despite its hogging of hard drive space, I like Release 2.3 (my anxiety has been lessened since I installed Stacker). My early .WKS files and more recent .WK1 files all work, and I see a need on occasion for many of Release 2.3's frills.

The cost to upgrade from an earlier version seems reasonable, but given the more aggressive special pricing of the competition, like Borland's QUATTRO PRO, we'd be reluctant to shell out the \$495 list price for v2.3. ■

Q&A

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Terry
Currier

More Symantec BBS messages about Q & A

/Q&A #12608 02-JUL-91 07:28
(Reply to #12090, Reply to #12039)

From: Bra

To: Freudy

Re: QA4 Lookup (1 reply)

What does Concurrent or Non Concurrent mean. And is it possible to have the ALT-7 in a program statement so that when you enter the field with restricted specs, it will come up automatically?

/Q&A #12947 08-JUL-91 11:47
(Reply to #12608, Reply to #12090, R*)

From: Freudy

To: Bra

Re: QA4 Lookup

Concurrent and Nonconcurrent I suppose you are referring to the Custom Help screen, If so, Concurrent means that you will be able to type into a field while the custom help screen appears on the screen, unlike the Nonconcurrent in which the next key you hit will make the custom help screen disappear. There is no way to get the restrictions to automatically pop up.

Dave Freudenstein
Technical Support

/Q&A #12702 03-JUL-91 15:06

From: Cta

To: ** ALL **

Re: Editing form programming (1 reply)

I'm editing form field programming in 4.0 with about 100 fields. Experiencing about 90 seconds delay in saving new entries. IA is not involved, using a 286 clone. Doing in all in a 3 meg ram disk doesn't help. Is this slowness inherent in the product? Is there a work-around? Is there some way to debug fragments of a form and then easily assemble them into a whole? 90 second saves make for long and frustrating debugging?

/Q&A #12805 05-JUL-91 22:17 (Reply to #12702)

From: Marky

To: Cta

Re: Editing form programming

Cta, You might check to see if you have numerous speedy fields in your database. If you maintain several speedy fields, it may slow down the addition of new records as all speedy fields are updated on saving record. You may check for speedy fields in the database design.... File, Customize, Speedy Field, I believe are the keystrokes to check this. Mark

/Q&A #12897 07-JUL-91 08:51 (Fw by Sysop)

From: Robrob

To: ** ALL **

Re: QA 4.0 problem (1 reply)

Help! I have been using Q&A 3.0 for database applications. I flat out refuse to use Q&A's write module anymore. I'm into windows based word processing and will never go back to the old way. I even asked my wife to help but she won't use it either. She hates the blue screen and white characters. I purchased JustWrite and have been using it for my mail merge applications. Now I just upgraded to Q&A 4.0. I opened my old databases which changed them to Q&A 4.0 format. Now they won't work with JustWrite! What gives? Is there some utility program that could solve the problem? I really need to do several mailings and I'm stuck. When will you have a real word processing program that displays actual fonts as they will look, without having to go to a print preview? How could you do so much to the database side of the application while leaving the WP side in the dark ages?

/Q&A #12916 07-JUL-91 17:10 (Reply to #12897,
Fw by Sysop)

From: Marky

To: Robrob

Re: QA 4.0 problem

Just Write does not work with the Q&A 4.0 file types.....an oversight on Symantec's part which I have been told they are working on. If you have converted your database files to 4.0 format, you cannot directly merge with Just Write. However, there is a temporary (until Symantec fixes this) work around which we are using now. I have a macro which exports the database to a dBASE format which Just Write can work with. If you need to have fields on which to retrieve other than those to be included in the merge, be sure to include them in the export field spec. Otherwise you can export only the fields that will be included in the merge and speed up to process a lot. When I started doing this, it took a lot of the sting out of the realization that Q&A 4 would not do it for me correctly (yet).

Mark Burrell
Computer Smarts

/Q&A #12811 06-JUL-91 01:17

From: Pat

To: ** ALL **

Re: mass up (1 reply)

I have a very large inventory database containing auto parts. I need to put one or two letters to the stock number. The problem I can't seem to get around is I need to add it in the 3rd position. Example: CA.12345667 is the old stock number and I need to change it to read "car.12345667" All stock contain a period in the 3rd position now. Thanks in advance.

Pat Ely

/Q&A #12917 07-JUL-91 17:21 (Reply to #12811)

From: Marky

To: Pat

Re: mass up

You can update the file and insert the R in the third position of all records for the field you wish. Do the following:

Main Menu, select File

File Menu, select Mass Update

Enter retrieve spec for the records to update or leave blank to update all records, and press [F10].

At the update spec, move to the field to be updated and enter the following:

#1=@left(#1,2)+"R"+@mid(#1,3,25)

Press F10 to start the mass update.

NOTE: This should only be performed on the file after you have made a backup copy immediately prior to attempting the mass update. The programming statement tells Q&A to take the left two characters of the stock field ("CA" in this case) and add "R" to it, and add

the rest of that field from the third position (the ".") on for 25 characters. If you want to add a lowercase "r" instead of uppercase "R", be sure to use the lowercase "r" in the mass update spec above.

Mark Burrell

Computer Smarts

/Q&A #12347 28-JUN-91 09:22

From: Michal

To: ** ALL **

Re: SOFT FONTS (1 reply)

I have an HP IIP Laser printer, is there a way to access the soft fonts available? Everytime I try QA Write tells me I have selected the wrong printer, so I change back to HPIIP and the soft fonts are no longer available. I am using QA 4.0.

/Q&A #12944 08-JUL-91 11:22 (Reply to #12347)

From: Freudy

To: Michal

Re: SOFT FONTS

First choose the correct printer driver for your printer HPLaserjet II/D/P then on the special printer options (when installing the printer) make sure the FONT FILE NAME line has the correct font file you are using.. If you have not already run the utility QAFONT.EXE on the soft fonts then you must, this utility will automatically create a font description file for you.. The utility is in the Q&A 4.0 system diskettes and then follow the instructions..

Dave Freudenstein

Technical Support . ■

*Continued from page
AMD & Intel...*

1991 COMDEX brings in October.

It points out an important fact. In considering a purchase, not only check out the features of the computer, but check out the company that sells the units, and the manufacturer of the unit. The potential problem is, if your unit needs parts or service in the future, who will be there to support it? Many of the cheap units out there now are from offshore manufacturers whose name no one recognizes, or is able to contact directly. They could be in business tomorrow or maybe not, where will that leave you?

As many in the industry have acknowledged, there is going to be a tremendous shake out in the notebook market before the end of the year. Prices for a typical 386SX/20MHz with 40MB hard drive, a 1.44 floppy and VGA screen and video output will probably fall to \$2000 or less before years end. All related to competition and pushes in technology such as seen from AMD. ■

CUSTOM COMPUTER

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PROCOMM PLUS 2.0

Steve Clancy

PROCOMM PLUS 2.0 is the long awaited update to PROCOMM PLUS 1.1. It adds many features and functions that have been lacking in a program of PROCOMM's reputation—many being the direct result of user "wish-lists." The jump from the last shareware version of PROCOMM (version 2.4 and above), to the first version of PROCOMM PLUS was not dramatic, at least from the user's standpoint. PROCOMM PLUS 2.0 is essentially the same product as PLUS 1.1B, but adds some extremely useful new features, and refines some of the older ones. Thus far, there appears to be no "test-drive" version of 2.0 available. According to Datastorm, the 1.1B Test Drive version will be the most current available for the time being.

NEW FEATURES

PROCOMM PLUS now detects and automatically supports the advanced features of the 16550 UART, which buffers data, facilitating high speed data transfers.

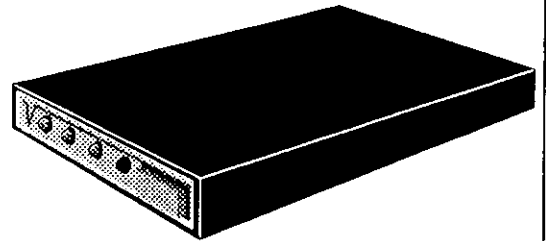
The Dialing Directory itself supports all baud rates up to 115,200 baud, and offers three new commands. Directory entries may be sorted in several ways, and users may also "Jot Notes" about an entry. The Dialing Directory can now display 25 entries per screen page (if you're using an EGA or VGA system). More functions can be defined for each directory such as COM port, type of connection (direct/modem), keyboard map, Meta key file, and others. The Toggle Display, displays these options in three screens for each directory entry.

ZMODEM has finally been added to PROCOMM PLUS as an internal protocol. In the past, third-party ZMODEM implementations have been added through PROCOMM PLUS's "External" protocol option. Internal ZMODEM is much cleaner and has the added advantage of being directly under PROCOMM PLUS's control for time/date stamping, CRC error detection, windowed or streaming transmission and crash recovery. In addition—and this is a really nice feature—ZMODEM can be set to automatically engage whenever the ZMODEM on a remote system signals the beginning of a download. I have tested PROCOMM PLUS's ZMODEM with DSZmodem (Omen Technologies) and PCZmodem (PcConnect Zmodem by Drue Kennon and Gary Smith) and have found it to work flawlessly.

Other protocol changes include the addition of RAW ASCII (for transparent ASCII transfers), the renaming of version 1.1B's YMODEM BATCH/YMODEM-G BATCH to YMODEM/YMODEM G and YMODEM/YMODEM-G to 1K-XMODEM/1K-XMODEM-G. The CompuServe-B protocol (actually Quick-B) has been upgraded to CompuServe-B+, which adds crash-recovery capability and file size information on downloads.

With version 2.0 a feature called the "Clipboard" has been added. This capitalizes on PROCOMM PLUS's ability to recognize on-screen DOS filenames and allows the user to "cut" filenames directly

from a BBS listing or directory and then "paste" the filenames to the remote computer for downloading. The user can send an entire list of names, "tag" selected filenames, or edit the Clipboard. This feature does away with the need to copy long lists of filenames onto scratch paper, however, it is of marginal



usefulness on non-BBS systems. Much wider applications of the feature would be possible if any online text could be cut and pasted while online.

The Redisplay Terminal mode command (ALT-F6) can now write either a marked block of text or the entire buffer to disk. The Clipboard can be used from within Redisplay as well. Up to 63K can now be reserved for the redisplay buffer as well. I find now that I can usually scroll back through at least my entire current online session, and often several past ones.

Terminal mode has several new commands. ALT-U will perform a terminal reset, CTRL-] will toggle the Status line on and off, ALT-J initialize your modem, and CTRL-\ will either toggle your current video mode or place PROCOMM PLUS into Monitor mode (where data received from the other computer is directly displayed on your

screen without translation or filtering).

Full 132-column support (both hardware and software) has been added, and EGA/VGA systems can display extra lines in Terminal mode. If your hardware cannot support a full 132-column display, then this option enables a "scrolling" window on a virtual 132-column screen, making an 80-column screen become a movable window. PROCOMM PLUS can also take advantage of the high-resolution VGA hardware available for PCs. It is possible to toggle between several different video modes within the program, switching resolutions with a single Terminal mode command.

The keyboard macros used in version 1.1B have been replaced with "Meta keys." Meta keys not only send text strings, but can also be used to load and run external programs or ASPECT scripts. Meta keys can also be used to run external programs that "hook" directly into PROCOMM PLUS, and that have been expressly written to read the current PROCOMM PLUS setup values and session parameters, allowing a seamless connection to PROCOMM PLUS.

The PROCOMM PLUS Help facility now supports searching for a particular text string, and will display a Topic list to speed your selection of Help text. The help screens are still somewhat limited, though, and the manual is still handy to have close by.

PROCOMM PLUS now fully supports a Microsoft-compatible mouse. I found I could use my Microsoft tracking ball without any extra setup beyond that normally needed. A mouse can be used throughout the program, including the pull-down menus, the redisplay buffer, and the help facility. Moving the mouse cursor to the top of the screen automatically invokes the pull-down menus, and from there, most PROCOMM PLUS functions are available. There are still some functions which need the

keyboard, of course. X and Y direction mouse sensitivity can be set directly from the General options setup screen.

PROCOMM PLUS Host mode has been greatly enhanced. Users can now add custom screens, menus and file listings. A Sysop-defined Inactivity Timeout prevents a user from tying up your Host system, and a PC can be automatically rebooted if carrier is lost while a user has Shelled to DOS. Host even allows the addition of custom-written external "doors1" or maintenance programs. Host mode now supports three security access levels: Limited, Normal, and Privileged.

The ASPECT script language has received nearly 100 new commands. Scripts are now compiled for faster execution and smaller size. A script compiler (ASP-COMP.EXE) is provided. Compilation also means better security for autologon scripts that contain passwords or other private information. Many of the new commands are similar to commands in the popular "C" programming language. A conversion program (CONVERT.EXE) will convert 1.1B script files to the newer format. This is not always foolproof, though, and seems to work best for simple 1.1B scripts. More complex scripts do not always convert properly, and may need editing or rewriting.

The manual set has been extensively rewritten and updated, with a separate *ASPECT Script Language Reference Manual* provided especially for ASPECT programmers. The manual is much easier to use compared to the previous versions. There are examples of actual online sessions, and a good "Getting Started" chapter. A "Quick Start Guide" is also included.

Support is still available on the CompuServe DATASTORM support forum (GO DSTORM). The forum has been revised and expanded to serve PROCOMM PLUS 2.0 users. A new message

area has been added for related discussions and questions, and a new library has been added that contains files for use with the new version. Support for earlier versions continues in separate message and file library areas. The DATASTORM public BBS is also available at 314-875-0503 (2400 MNP 5), 314-875-0608 (2400 BPS) and 314-875-0523 (9600 BPS V.32 & HST).

BUGS

There have been reports of some bugs and problems with version 2.0, as happens with most software releases. Re-

cently a maintenance release, version 2.01, became available and registered users have been given the opportunity to obtain the release at no charge. This release has no new features, but corrects some terminal emulation problems, correctly supports the 16550 UART, supports some early version of DOS, and fixes some minor ASPECT problems that were reported.

DATASTORM also released an earlier set of patches to correct some reported problems. These patches have been available on their BBS as well as on the DSTORM CompuServe forum. I personally had a problem with nulls being added to the beginning of some lines of my log files. Fortunately one of the provided patches cured the problem immediately. ■

(Editor's note: Steve Clancy is SysOp of the Wellspring RBBS and Librarian at UC Irvine's Biomedical Library.)



ShortTAKES

David Black

OPEN UP YOUR WINDOWS...

We are still waiting for Windows 3.1 and standards for multimedia hardware. There have been a few clues everywhere that Microsoft plans to release at least the multimedia extensions in the late fall, if not the entire Windows 3.1 package. Another rumor floating around is that Microsoft will release a CD-ROM version of Windows with complete on-line hypertext documentation. This may be all fine and dandy, but I still do not have a CD-ROM drive because I am waiting for the next standard to appear, and a reliable vendor to deliver a low-cost product that will really be supported. Oh well, I'll just have to live with 3.0 for now.

NORTON DESKTOP FOR WINDOWS...

We saw a pre-release demo of this product a few months ago, and a full month after the announced shipping date, Norton Desktop for Windows is finally in the stores. (Wouldn't you know that they released just as I went on vacation?) After playing with it for a few days, I really like it. A lot of the utilities are very useful, and the interface is MUCH better than Program Manager. (The Windows shell from hell, or the MS-DOS Executive's Evil Brother perhaps?) Installation was a breeze, but at first the interface seemed very archaic compared to what I was using before. I was using Program Manager as my

primary shell, but minimized 98% of the time, and also using Application Dock (see below) to start most of my applications. The file manager is a great improvement over that in Windows 3.0, even including the Norton Viewer. This utility, both in the file manager or in a separate program, allows you to select a file such as a bitmap or Word for Windows document and view it on the fly without starting up the application. The Smart-Erase and Shredder utilities provide full Windows support for Norton 6.0 utilities.

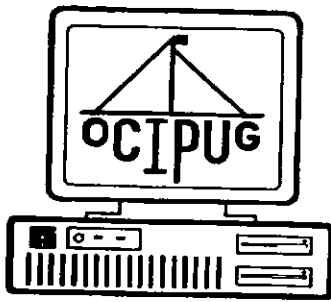
One of the really nice utilities included in this package is the Norton Backup for Windows. I really never played with the dos version very much, but the Windows version is spectacular. If you had a tape drive, (I don't) you could probably backup one drive in the background while you were using another. Even if you are using floppies, this backup program is fast, easy to use, and may convince me to give up FastBack Plus. My only gripe is that they did not include the full version, or the DOS version in the package. Oh well, the next time Symantec comes to a General Meeting, I guess I will just buy the full package.

Norton also includes yet another Icon Editor, a Windows version of Disk Doctor (will only check for, but not repair problems), Windows sysinfo, a calculator, SuperFind (a great text search program), a screen saver, KeyFinder (a utility to tell you what key code to use to get a character), a

program scheduler, and finally a Windows Batch Builder program. Whew! A really long list of features. Well it should be, as the complete install takes a whopping 5.5 megabytes of disk space. Another utility worth noting is the Printer. This is an icon that sits on the desktop. When you drag a file onto the printer icon it attempts to open the application associated with that file and print it. Don't ask me how they do this, they just are able to do it. If either no application is associated with it, or it can't run the application that is, then it will go ahead and print the file, unformatted. Pretty fancy stuff. Of course, you can copy and format diskettes, as any decent shell should be able to do. This mile long list of features is also accompanied by two miles of On-Line Help.

With all of this, Norton Desktop sounds like the best thing since sliced bread, but I have a few complaints about it, as I seem to with everything. First and foremost, you cannot start the Norton Desktop minimized and as your primary shell. This is annoying as I was planning to start the desktop minimized, and use my Application Dock program like before. There could be an option to position the icons on the desktop evenly spaced like in a window. Also, they could have included the full separate version of the Norton Backup for Windows in the package. I found this program on my

...continued on page 13



Orange Coast IBM PC User Group SIG GUIDE

A Calendar of Meetings & Events published by Richard Villa

For more information on membership, write to OCIPUG at PO Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Call Voice - 714/843-2048 or BBS - 714/843-0388

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEP	29	OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM	Spreadsheet	Windows 3	Modem		New Users 9 AM DOS 1 PM
	30						
OCTOBER	6	7	8 Database	9 Word Perfect Program Committee	10 CAD/ Graphics	11	12 Programming 9 AM OS/2 1 PM
	13	14	15 BBS	16 Office/Basics 10 AM Investors	17 Corel Draw 6:30 PM @ Graphix Zone	18	19 Q & A 1 PM
	20	21 Genealogy	22 Personal Finance	23	24 Hardware	25 Geo-Works	9AM - OCIPUG General Meeting O.C.C. Science Hall
	27	28 MS Word OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM	29 Real Estate 8 AM	30	31		

All Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are held from 7 PM to 10 PM at our SIG SPACE, located at 17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211, Huntington Beach unless otherwise listed.

BBS

SIG Leader: Bob Ottke 714/759-1515
 Monthly work party on the BBS. Meet in office area of SIG SPACE.

CAD/GRAPHICS**2ND THU**

SIG Leader: David Carroll 714/775-3130
 Designated Guru: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

This SIG covers hardware and software products in both computer aided design and graphics. At the October meeting we will discuss video input and video output from your computer.

COREL DRAW/VENTURA**3RD THU**

SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/722-0327
 Asst. SIG Leader: Sunny Lockie 714/644-0103

This SIG will cover intermediate and advanced topics relating to both *Ventura Publisher* and *Corel DRAW!* Check the **HOT-LINE** for October's topic. Please come with your questions. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

So. Cal. Graphics Resource Center (formerly the Graphix Zone), 38 Corporate Park, Irvine - Near Jamboree & Alton Pkwy.

DATABASE**2ND TUE**

SIG Leader: Bob Schmiedeke 714/536-1178

This SIG discusses various database programs, specializing in *dBASE*. At the October's meeting, Rita Botwin will conduct a class in building a database program. Topics include: startup menus, entry screens, and validation of entries.

DOS and LANGUAGES**1ST SAT**

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. This SIG is about the program you use every day: DOS. Also about languages (e.g. BASIC) & other system issues. At the October meeting we will have another **HOT** topic.

GENEALOGY**3RD MON**

SIG Leader: Stan Sabin 714/968-7307

For beginners to experts. If you know a little about Genealogy or a lot this SIG is for you. **We will be discussing match & merge and using alternate databases at the October meeting.** Please bring your questions. Everyone welcome!

GGEOWORKS**4TH FRI**

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

This SIG covers the new product *GeoWorks Ensemble*. Come with your questions at the October meeting.

HARDWARE**4TH THU**

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

This SIG is one of the most popular, judging by the strong attendance. Come with your questions at the October meeting.

INVESTORS**3RD WED**

SIG Leader: Joe Farber 714/642-6993

Explore the world of computer-aided investing. Demonstrations of software for stock market investments, and open-ended discussions of the state of the market are presented at each meeting.

MODEM**1ST THU**

SIG Leader: Bob Ottke 714/759-1515
 Designated Guru: Rich Sabin 714/965-6734

Reach out and access the whole world of information through telecommunications. At the October meeting, a representative from Prodigy will give an on-line presentation of their service.

NEW USER/NEW MEMBER**1ST SAT**

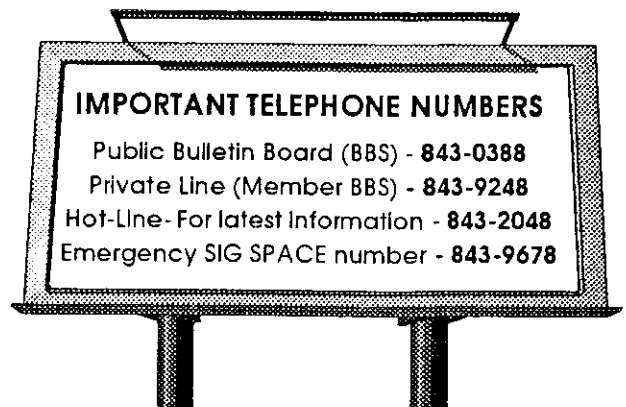
SIG Leader: John Lunsford 714/995-0947

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. You may start at any point in the cycle.

OFFICE/BASICS**3RD WED**

Anne Fawcett 714/968-5000

DAYTIME SIG for BEGINNERS! Each meeting has 3 segments: DOS, *WordPerfect* and *Lotus*. The meetings will run on a 4-month cycle and August is number **ONE** in the cycle. You may start anytime. Let's explore the *basics* of these office "industry standards." This SIG meets from **10 AM to 11:45 AM**.



OS/2

SIG Leader: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050
 Come learn about what OS/2 is all about and what this new operating system can do for you. Check the HOT-LINE for October's topic.

PERSONAL FINANCE

SIG Leader: Max Lockie 714/644-0103
 This SIG discusses the various financial packages for the PC. At the October meeting we will continue to talk about Quicken 4.

PROGRAMMING

SIG Leader: Wendy Sarrett 714/733-9906
 This SIG covers various aspects of programming and programming languages. At the October meeting we will discuss Object Oriented Programming (OOP).

Q & A

SIG Leader: Terry Currier 714/774-2018
 Come and learn about this popular database and word processing program. Check the HOT-LINE for October's topic.

REAL ESTATE

Contact Person: Jim Dickerson 714/960-9691
 Contact Person: Tom Sutro 714/754-7045
 Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and several local Boards of Realtors, this is one of our largest SIGs. Come for coffee at 8:00 AM.

Newport Mesa Association of Realtors, 401 North Newport Blvd., Newport Beach.

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. Check the HOT-LINE for the topic for October.

WINDOWS3

SIG Leader: Richard Villa 714/841-6991
 Asst. SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/722-0327
 This SIG covers software for Microsoft Windows 3.0 during the first half, and specializes in PageMaker 4.0 or other advanced topics in the last half. At the October meeting we will discuss FAX software and hardware for Windows and have a demonstration of "faxing" with Windows. Please bring your questions!

2ND SAT

WORD

SIG Leader: Winston Jewson 714/544-4330
 Microsoft Contact: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050
 Microsoft Word 5.5 is a powerful and popular word processing package. At the October meeting Dave Lorenzini will continue with Part II of hints and techniques of using Word macros to accomplish sophisticated tasks.

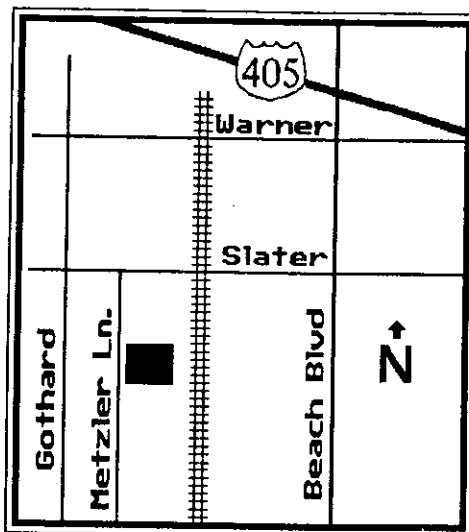
4TH MON

WORDPERFECT

SIG Leader: Susan Novak 213/594-4144
 W-213/491-3081
 Contact Person: Jeff Sinn 714/775-2390
 Come and learn about this popular word processing package. At the October meeting - Learn how to sort your data, secondary merge files & tables. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SIG NOW MEETS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY!

2ND WED

SIG SPACE



**17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211
 Huntington Beach**

ATTEND A SIG MEETING THIS MONTH - FIND OUT WHAT'S HOT!

Saturday, September 28, 1991 - 9:00 AM to Noon

**GENERAL
MEETING**

Q & A 4.0

Mark Burrell, Computer Smarts

Packrat 3.0

Chad Kimbleberg, Polaris Software

⇒ 8:40 to 9:00 AM - Random Access!

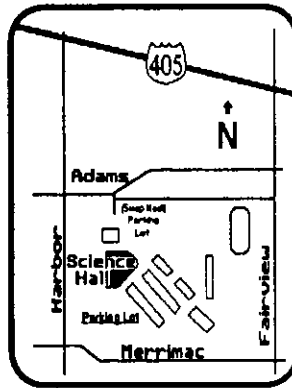
**MEETING
LOCATIONS**

Orange Coast
College

Costa Mesa

2701 Fairview Rd.

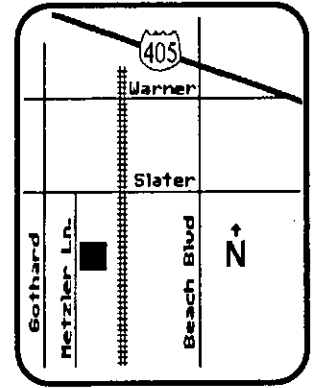
General Meeting:
Science Hall (next to
Chemistry Bldg.)
Parking in campus lots
available off Adams or
Merrimac.



SIG Space

Huntington Beach
17632 Metzler
Lane, Suite 211

SIG Meetings:
Take elevator to 2nd
floor.
Parking in lot or on
street



**MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION**

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was formed in 1985, and has become one of the largest and most respected User Groups in the country.

OCIPUG, a non-profit corporation, is an all-volunteer organization which provides PC enthusiasts with an opportunity to gain knowledge and gives assistance to those who need it.

Membership includes:

- ✓ subscription to README.DOC, the monthly newsletter published by OCIPUG
- ✓ discounts on Public Domain, Shareware and User Supported software
- ✓ access to the OCIPUG RBBS private telephone line
- ✓ eligibility for monthly raffle at General Meeting

If you would like to become an OCIPUG member please call 714/843-2048 and request an application for membership, or write: OCIPUG, PO Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-6100.

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Keeper of the Calendar: Richard Villa - 714/841-6991 - Deadline for October Calendar: Friday, September 13th

...continued from page 12

Short Takes

33Mhz 80386 to be a bit sluggish when loading. I guess that is to be expected with so many features and a program that takes 5.5 megs of disk space, but this still keeps me from using it full time. I would really like to be able to load the quick access shell minimized as my primary shell, as it is a great improvement over Program Manager. I also heard a complaint from my Physics teacher who bought Norton Desktop and found it to be just too complicated. While I personally like to mess around and play with new interfaces, some people don't. They want something that is not extremely complicated, that they can start using right away. But then again, straight Windows itself is a problem in this area already. With all of this, the Norton Desktop gets an 8 out of 10, and a positive recommendation.

APPLICATION DOCK FOR WINDOWS...

You may have seen this program on local bulletin boards. Actually this is one of the shareware applications I am writing at the current time in Visual Basic. What is it? Application Dock gives you a NeXT like Icon Bar, or Application Dock along the right side of your screen. This allows you very easy access to several of your applications, just by double clicking on the appropriate icon on the dock. You may have seen the shareware versions 1.0-2.0 up, but as I write this, I am readying the release of version 3.0 and a lot of major enhancements. (By the time you read this, 3.0 may already be released) After dopping out a few calls to the Windows API, the program now automatically senses the size of your screen, and provides the option for larger buttons. Currently I am going through a beta testing stage with a few close friends, and trying to think of what to add next. I

would suggest that you download the shareware version of the program, (APDCK-2.ZIP on the OC-IPUG BBS) play with it, and either give me a call or write me a letter with suggestions for improvement. If you really like this program after trying it out, I would encourage you to register (only \$10), and get the latest version along with printed docs and other goodies.

GAMES, GAMES, AND MORE GAMES...

Well, game releases over the past few months have been pretty dull and dreary, but now that summer is coming to an end, game software publishers are pressured to release things while it is still summer so as to honor release dates. One game coming soon is the sequel to the Secret of Monkey Island. I think it is to be called LeChuck's Revenge. For those of you who have not heard of the first, it was a wonderful satire using cliches from every pirate movie ever made, with all of the bad (so bad it's great) humor and jokes you associate with computer adventure games, along with great sound and VGA graphics. It's one of the best adventure games on the market, but be sure to get the VGA (256 color) version.

SECRET WEAPONS OF THE LUFTWAFFE...

It is finally here! Nine months after it was scheduled for release, Secret Weapons of the Luftwaffe has finally been released. This is quite simply one of the best air-combat simulations on the market (in the same league with Wing Commander). In this game, you fly one of nine classic WWII era aircraft, for either the Allied or the German airforce. The reason for the name is that you can also fly the ME-252 Jut Plane, as well as the German Flying Wing. The action is great, with superb VGA graphics and sound board support. But as with all simulations of this caliber, you need some horsepower

to run it. Besides processor speed, expanded memory also helps a great deal. But unlike other simulations, disk space required is minimal. While you could play from floppies (who would want to?) the game takes about 2.5 megs installed on your hard disk. This is a MUST HAVE for any WWII buff with the computer to handle it, and is yet another fine release from LucasFilm Games.

HEADLINE HARRY AND THE GREAT NEWSPAPER CHASE...

This game came out only a few days before this article was due. Basically this is an educational game in the tradition of the Carmen SanDiego Saga. What makes this game really stand out is the excellent graphics and sound. Get the 256color version if you have VGA, as the graphics are stunning. Even with my outdated AdLib music card, the game provided excellent sound effects and a lot of digitized voice. While I have not yet reviewed this game at length, it seems like an excellent piece of work. Definitely worth it if you have a child who enjoys these games. (One hint, the Sooner state is Oklahoma, remember?)

IN THE DOS REALM...

DOS 5.0 is finally in the #1 selling position at PC Connection after only a few months on the market. Besides that, there really isn't that much new this month. I finally played around with Stacker a while ago, while helping out a club member with his laptop. I am still leary of being dependant on that device driver all of the time, otherwise I really like Stacker. The way in which it works and installs is very elegant and easy to understand. If at some point in the future I become REALLY desperate, then I just may get this product to use on my downloaded files storage drive.

...continued on page 14

...continued from page 13
Short Takes

HARDWARE...

It seems that 40Mhz 80386s are more and more popular lately, although I still have reservations about them. They remind me of the short popularity of 20Mhz 80286 machines, one of which I bought. Another interesting product just coming to market is a new breed of SVGA cards using special RAM-DACs. I found a company in northern California selling a Tseng Labs 1meg SVGA board with either an Edsun or HiColor RAMDAC or even both. The Edsun as we all know provides anti-aliasing for no more jaggies, while the HiColor, true to its name, gives you 15bit color, or the ability to display and manipulate Targa Images. The board with both chips was only \$300, and seems like a great deal. Call or talk to me if you are interested in this and I will give you the rest of the information. Another product I am researching at the moment is the VideoVGA display board from Targa. This board combines a good solid SVGA board (Tseng Labs Chipset & 1meg of ram) with full genlocking hardware. This allows you to overlay realtime video from a VCR or other source with video images from your computer, or just record video from your computer. If this board does not cost more than \$600, then it will be yet another addition to my ever changing collection of hardware. This could prove to be very useful for some projects to gain that extra advantage.

A FEW FINAL NOTES...

Remember that I am in the OCIPUG Support Group, so feel free to give me a call with any question at any reasonable hour (my only request). Also, I don't get any rewards for anything mentioned here, I only relay information I have found to be useful and interesting. ■

RAFFLE WINNERS IN AUGUST

CMS ENHANCEMENTS

CMS T-Shirt & Sunglasses - \$19.95

Donald Wilgus
Victor Stanley
Bob Gauger
Dave Patterson
Richard Miller
Michele Miller
Bill Metcalf
Michael Singleton
Fred Strauch
Katherine Ann Hall
Roger Richesson
Jeff Sinn
LaMar Williams
Bill Crane
Bernie Goldware

All-Media Floppy - \$345.00

Jim Petit

ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES

AMD 287 Coprocessor - \$99.00

Victor Stanley
Richard Kenyon
Rocky Ford
Judy Lopez
Darren Major
Steve Schiffman
Arnolkd Montgomery
Nancy Swan
Ray Bock
Robert Goodwin

RICHARD SABIN

Computer User Dictionary - \$9.95

Robert Weikart

Pacific High Compact Disc - \$12.95

Mike Moon

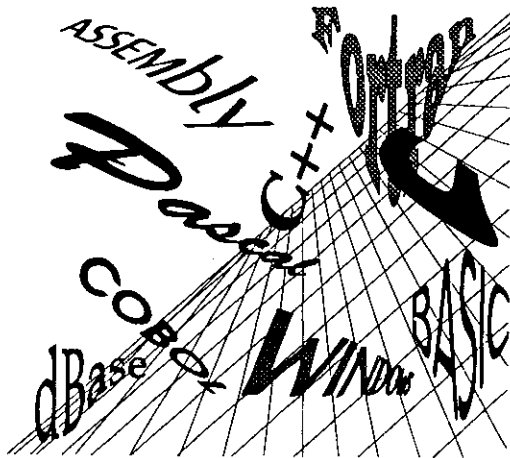
Twist & Shout - \$79.99

Roger Hartman

KRIS JAMSA

Simply DOS Book - \$14.95

Robert Brinkmann



INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMING

Wendy Sarrett

This month we will talk about numeric data. Numeric data basically comes in two flavors; floating point (numbers with decimal points) and integers (whole numbers - numbers without decimal points). Floating point numbers can be classified into numbers that have less than a given number of digits (single precision), and numbers that have more than a given number of digits (double precision). Integers can be classified in a similar manner. The chart below explains the differences (the size and range data comes from Microsoft GW-BASIC User's Guide and User's Reference, and the Help screens from Qbasic):

Integers:

Range -- $+ - 32768$ (integer)*
roughly $+ 2$ billion (long)

Size -- 2 bytes/element (integer)
4 bytes/element (long)

Speed -- Fastest to work with

Float:

Range -- 8 digits (single precision)
8 digits (double precision)

Size -- 4 bytes/element (single precision)
8 bytes/element (double precision)

Speed -- Slow

* Note that shorter (2 byte) integers are declared as integers while long (4 byte) are declared as long. Here is a simple example using numbers:

```
DIM NUM AS SINGLE
DIM NUMINT AS INTEGER
```

```
PRINT "Please Enter A Decimal Number"
INPUT NUM
PRINT "Please Enter an integer"
INPUT NUMINT
NUM = NUM / 2
NUMINT = NUMINT / 2
PRINT NUM; NUMINT
```

This will print the value of each number entered divided by 2. You will notice that if you give the program an odd integer it rounds the quotient $NUMINT/2$ up. For example if one enters a 7 for the integer value the resulting value printed is 4. To get the proper result then, it is necessary to alter the program slightly:

```
DIM NUM, NUM1 AS SINGLE
DIM NUMINT AS INTEGER
```

```
PRINT "Please Enter A Decimal Number"
INPUT NUM
PRINT "Please Enter an integer"
INPUT NUMINT
NUM = NUM / 2
NUM1 = NUMINT / 2
PRINT NUM; NUM1
```

The difference is that the result of the integer (NUMINT) divided by two is assigned to a variable (NUM1) of type single (single precision floating point). This automatically makes the result a single.

The most common use of numeric data is to perform calculations. The basic operators are ^ (exponentiation), - (negation), * (multiplication), / (division), + (addition), - (subtraction). In Basic (and indeed most programming languages), calculations are performed in the following order: Exponentiation, negation, multiplication, division, addition and subtraction. This default ordering avoids ambiguity when parenthesis are not used. For example, $2 * 3 - 4$ will always equal 2. If the calculation $2 * (3 - 4)$ is desired, parenthesis will have to be used. Try running the following program:

```
DIM RESULT, RESULT1, RESULT2, RESULT3 AS
INTEGER
RESULT = 2 * 3 - 4
RESULT1 = 2 * (3 - 4)
RESULT2 = 3 * 2 ^ 3
RESULT3 = (3 * 2) ^ 3
PRINT "RESULT IS: ", RESULT
PRINT "RESULT1 IS: ", RESULT1
PRINT "RESULT2 IS: ", RESULT2
PRINT "RESULT3 IS: ", RESULT3
```

Thus we have seen the basics of numeric data. I encourage you to type in the programs presented and see numeric data in action. Then try modifying the programs and see what you get! Next month the topic will be "decisions" or the famous "if" statement.

Continued on page 20

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Terry Currier

August was a good month for signing up new members. The Genealogy SIG played a big part in it by bringing in 8 new members, and the Corel SIG brought in 6 new members. Of course having good speakers, and a great BBS helps, also. (Editor's note: Not to mention a first class Newsletter, Terry.)

Peter Allen lives in Newport Beach and is a computer technician. His hardware consists of a Gateway 386 with Super VGA, modem, and an Epson printer. For software he uses WordPerfect, Microsoft Quick C, Networking, and communication programs.

Bob Blount lives in Signal Hill.

Troy Bolda is from Norwalk and is shifting the geographic center of the club. Joining with him was **Celia, Lance, Ralph, Trent,** and sister **Robin Meler**. He has a 286 computer (Can you imagine the line to use it?).

Stefane d'Avad comes to us from Huntington Beach.

Gene Duchene lives in Huntington Beach and is a consultant. He has a 386 and a Comrex 420 printer (Yeah, I never heard of it either). He uses Q&A Write, Lotus, Q&A, Boyan, and Checkbook Plus.

Drew Dutton is an engineering manager from Mission Viejo. If the name sounds familiar it's because he's from AMD and was one of the speakers at our last General Meeting. He has a Computrend 386 with Super VGA, and an HP Laserjet printer. He uses Word for Windows, Norton Utilities, Ventura Publisher, Quicken, and Designer.

Gloria Dutton lives in Costa Mesa and has a 286 and 386 computer.

Stephen Eakin from Costa Mesa is a programmer/analyst. He has a 386 with VGA and uses

Wordstar 2000, Quattro, and Q&A (had to have at least two).

Michael Gooding lives in Huntington Beach and is a real estate appraiser. He has a Packard Bell 286 with VGA and modem along with an HP Laserjet II printer. He uses Microsoft Word, PC Tools, and Procomm.

John Hennessy lives in Garden Grove and has a 286.

Paul Johnson lives in Seal Beach and is a physician. He has a 386 and a Panasonic printer. He uses Word for Windows, and Quicken.

Cuong Le is a senior programmer from Westminster. He has a 386 and an HP Laserjet II printer. For software he uses Word for Windows, Excel, dBASE, Procomm, PageMaker, Photo Styler, Norton Utilities and PC Tools.

Keith Lue from Irvine is a Regional Manager. He has a Toshiba 386SX and a Cannon LBP4 printer. He uses WordPerfect, DataPerfect, PlanPerfect, and DrawPerfect (he has so much of their software he should work for WordPerfect).

Michael Luongo sells machinery and lives in Mission Viejo. He has an 8088 and an IBM 286 with an Epson printer. **Peggy Luongo** joined with him.

Les Matson is retired and lives in Torrance. He has an AST

386SX and Epson LQ 850. He uses WordPerfect, Alpha 4, Procomm+, Norton Utilities, PC Tools, and Xtree Gold.

Barbara Miles is from Huntington Beach and I liked her right away—she has an 8088 Leading Edge Model M (same as me). She is a housewife and uses an Okidata 192 printer. She uses Leading Edge word processor and has WordPerfect but has not used it yet.

Dave Neil lives in Huntington Beach and has a 286 computer.

Peter Rader comes to us from Westminster. We should thank his wife, since she gave him a club membership as a birthday present.

Virginia Reese from Garden Grove is a bookkeeper. She has a Compaq 286 and an 8088 clone. She uses an Epson FX 286 and a Panasonic printer. Her software choices include Symphony, Batchmaster, and PAF.

Jerry Rounsavell lives in Irvine and is an auditor. He has a 386SX and an Epson printer. He uses WordPerfect, and Lotus.

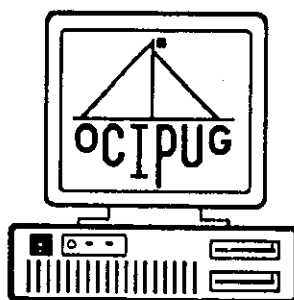
Thomas Rousseau lives in Fountain Valley.

Peter Routon comes from Fullerton.

Price Shipiro lives in Corona Del Mar and has a 286.

Joy Soldan joins us from Orange and is a transcriptionist (I had to ask, I thought it meant she was spiritual). Anyway she has an IBM 286 with an HP Laserjet II printer and uses WordPerfect, Lotus and PAF.

Paula Tueken resides in Mission Viejo and has an Info 286 with an Epson LQ 1050 printer. She uses WordPerfect, and dBASE III+.



Continued on page 23...

BATCH FILE BASICS

Michael Springer

A few bugs crept into last month's article. Actually, 16 of the 17 incorrect lines suffered from the bugs eating the *greater than* symbols (shifted period key). The *README.DOC* staff's publishing program must like to eat them. If you typed in the batch file listing as printed you certainly got some strange results. First, let's note the corrections needed.

```
3n3 goto dosloc
should be
goto dosloc
```

The 16 lines following `:dosok` should end with greater-than-symbol `> prn` instead of just `prn`.

The lines between `:dosok` and `set answer=` produce hard-copy by redirecting to the printer what normally would be screen output. This is a very useful feature.

The two lines with the `FIND` command use both piping and redirection to route a command's output through a "choosing" process and finally to the printer. Here, the `FIND` process delivers only the directory entry data for the particular filename to the printer. All of the normal `DIR` command output is "piped" to the `FIND` command and only the appropriate line passes through the `FIND` filter.

Note that it should be obvious that redirection to the printer will take place and a non-functioning printer will cause a problem. The 'prn' (which could be almost any DOS device or even a disk filename) is a reminder that a part of the computer system will be used when the file is executed.

The piping symbol "`|`" that delivers the output of one command to the input of another command is not as polite as the redirection symbol. Piping inherently and invisibly uses the current drive and current directory to hold temporary files created and usually removed by DOS. There is no additional clue that the current drive (which might be a floppy, RAM or hard drive) will be used.

If, when the file is executed, a floppy drive is the current drive, and if it has no disk in it, the latch is not closed, or the disk is too full, the computer will produce error messages. The same file will work properly on the same computer if a RAM or hard drive is the current drive. This is the type of problem that drives programmers crazy.

Last month, *ANSWER.COM* was introduced as a way to get keyboard input while in a batch file, making possible interactive batch files. *ANSWER.COM* can be used to make a selection from a list or to set the value of a variable that will affect how a program operates.

BRANCHING

A menu inside a batch file can be implemented with *ANSWER.COM*. Let's develop a simple menu (which would be only part of a batch file) to illustrate this.

```
:mainmenu
echo MYSETUP utility
echo 1 - output to printer
echo 2 - output to disk
echo 3 - quit program
echo Choose 1,2 or 3
echo.
answer
if %answer%!=1! goto useprn
if %answer%!=2! goto usedisk
if %answer%!=3! goto end
goto mainmenu
```

The batch file will branch to (go to) only one target segment of the entire batch file depending on the choice made. What happens in a particular segment can vary tremendously.

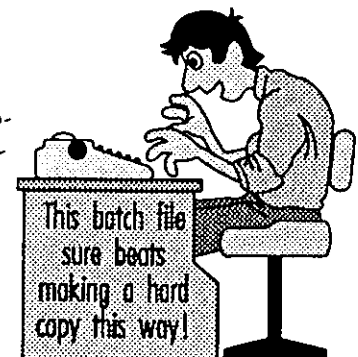
ESTABLISHING PREFERENCES

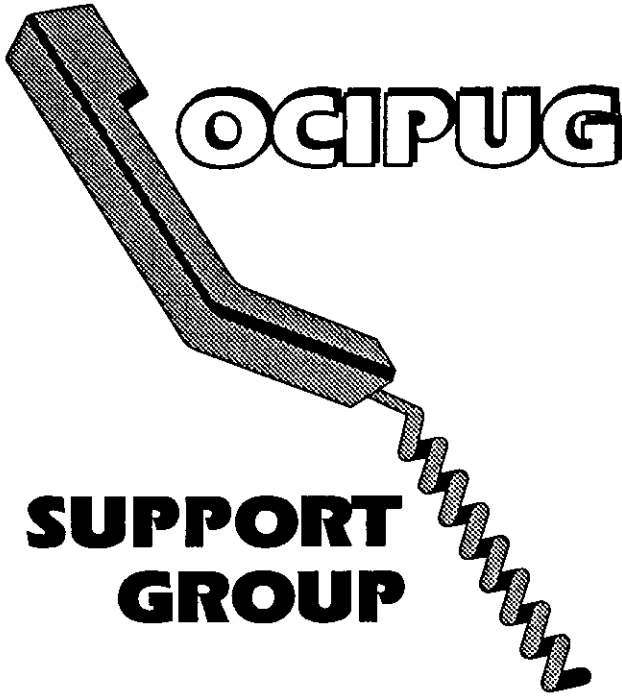
Instead of using a menu and different segments of a batch file, one sometimes can define the value of an environmental variable, thereby establishing a preference item. Last month's batch file could be made more flexible by asking where the output should go - either to the printer or to a named file. One might add the following before the line

```
:dosloc -
echo Type PRN for output on
echo the printer or provide drive
echo and filename (b:mydata.dat)
echo for disk output.
echo.
answer
set outdev=%answer%
```

Replace "prn" in all the lines at the end of *MYSETUP.BAT* with `%outdev%` so that your preference response will determine the output location for each redirection.

Either branching or establishing a preference can be incorporated into *MYSETUP.BAT* to provide printer or disk output. I leave the proper implementation of these techniques as an exercise for the reader.





The members listed below have generously offered to serve as resources for other members in need of assistance with specific hardware or software problems. They are there for you, but please bear a few things in mind:

1) The times listed are when these volunteers are available to assist you. PLEASE respect their times by limiting your calls to the hours indicated.

2) Your questions should be specific and reasonably brief. Consult your manual, tech support, etc., FIRST, so as not to take up their time needlessly.

3) All of our volunteers have expertise in the areas shown, but *nobody knows everything*, so be understanding by not expecting them to know *everything*.

4) This service is free, and available to our members only. Our volunteers are not doing this for personal gain, but as a service to benefit their fellow PC users, thereby making OCIPUG a stronger organization.

AccPac Plus

Donna Fulmizi	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	848-4207
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213)987-0632

Ami Professional

Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130
Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323

Basic

Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608
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C & C++

Wendy Sarrett	7-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	733-9906
---------------	-----------------------------------	----------

Clarion

Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130
--------------	---------------	----------

CorelDraw

John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
Steve Burnside	11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	722-0327

dBase IV

Preston Hill (Control Center)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
----------------------------------	---------------	----------

DOS

Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820
Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213)987-0632
Ann Fawcett (Beg.)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
David Black	3 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203

Excel

Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130

Fortran

Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608
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Genealogy

Stan Sabin	5-9 p.m. M-F	968-7307
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Hardware

John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820
Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040
David Black	3-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203

Lans

Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040
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Lotus 1-2-3

Ann Fawcett (Beg.)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213)987-0632
Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608

PCTools

Preston Hill (PCShell)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
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PAF

Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
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PerForm

Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323
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Q&A

Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130
Terry Currier	8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.	774-2018

Quattro Pro

Preston Hill 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291
 Mark Burrell 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 777-2130

Quicken

Preston Hill 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291

Ventura Publisher

John Goodman 12 noon-12 midnight 895-3195
 Mark Burrell 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 777-2130

Windows

David Black 3 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F
 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends 830-9203

Mike Wierman 6-9:30 p.m. M-F
 Anytime Wkends 894-4040

Mark Burrell 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 777-2130
 Steve Burnside 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. 722-0327

Darren Major 8 a.m.-2 p.m. M-F
 Anytime Wkends 646-6904

Word

John Goodman 12 noon-12 midnight 895-3195

WordPerfect

Ann Fawcett 8 a.m.-9 p.m. .968-5000
 (Beg.)

Mark Burrell 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 777-2130

Preston Hill 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291

Mike Wierman 6-9:30 p.m. M-F
 Anytime Wkends 894-4040

Linda Leydekkers 10 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F 963-8444

XTree

Richard Sinor 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 970-1323

Disk & Memory Management

Harv Haight 9 p.m.-11 p.m. 546-0820

Mike Wierman 6-9:30 p.m. M-F
 Anytime Wkends 894-4040

(Editor's note: If you would like to be listed here as a volunteer to help with any PC-related subject please give me a call at 644-1017 or leave a message on the BBS. We need volunteers in many more software and hardware areas. The success of this program depends on your help. Jean Stevens) ■

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9 AM - 6PM MON-FRI..... 10 TO 5 SAT



...Continued from page 4
Herb's Hangout...

and is the reason that MS-DOS 5.0 takes very little standard memory. The 286 can access a 64K chunk of memory above 1 MB in real mode due to a bug. When the 286 tries to access memory that is within 16 bytes of the 1 MB limit, the 286 accesses what it thinks is the final 64K chunk of memory or simply 64K over 1 MB (minus 16 bytes). The HIMEM driver takes advantage of this bug and thus MS-DOS 5.0 can stuff part of itself into this area.

FUTURE PROMISES

OS/2 makes use of extended

memory. However, since OS/2 runs only in protected mode, there are no real distinctions between different types of memory. There is simply memory—whatever you happen to have in your system just like in Motorola 680X0 based (i.e. Macintosh) systems. This is the way it should be. Problem is that Microsoft is vacillating in its commitment to OS/2 leaving IBM to support OS/2 alone. But wait, Microsoft says they plan to release a new version of OS/2 as well. I smell bad blood in the air. Is there going to be an inexpensive OS/2 for the masses. I hope so. I got a great idea! Let's tell Bill Gates that this is what we really want!

IN CLOSING

I've received a total of 8 calls in the two months since the Support Group started. If other members of the Support Group have been as busy, then OCIPUG has a winner! I found that it can be tough trying to figure out possible solutions to your computer problems over the phone. I hope I have been some help. I'd sure like to get some feedback from callers when they get their problems solved (engineers like solving problems). If you have a goodie I might even be persuaded to come over to see if I can help. If you want to just shoot the breeze about computers give me a call. By the way, I wouldn't mind a few good ideas for future columns!

DO YOU JUST BELONG???

Author Unknown

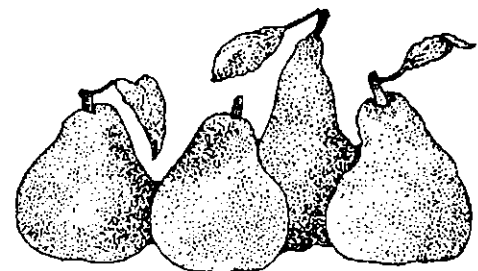
Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you meet in private
And criticize and knock?
Do you work on committees—
To this there is no trick—
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?
So come to meetings often
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.
Think this over members,
You know what's right from wrong,
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong???

(Reprinted from the Monterey Bay PCUG Newsletter)

Continued from page 15
Programming...

We'll close with one more example for you to type in. Enjoy!

```
DIM APPLE, PEARS, APPLETOT, PEARTOT,  
TOT AS SINGLE  
DIM NUMA, NUMP, NTOT AS INTEGER  
APPLE = .25  
PEARS = .3  
PRINT "How Many Pears Do You Want?"  
INPUT NUMP  
PRINT "How Many Apples Do you Want?"  
INPUT NUMA  
APPLETOT = NUMA * APPLE  
PEARTOT = NUMP * PEARS  
TOT = APPLETOT + PEARTOT  
NTOT = NUMP + NUMA  
PRINT "Value of Apples", APPLETOT  
PRINT "Value of Pears", PEARTOT  
PRINT "Total", TOT  
PRINT "AVERAGE", TOT / NTOT
```



Q & A

Terry Currier

For those of you looking for books on Q&A to supplement the manual, I can't recommend the book by Que. I took a look at it and was not impressed. Two people who did buy the book have expressed sorrow that they did. I did buy one that has impressed me so far—it is *Q&A Bible* by Thomas Marcellus, the Technical Editor for *The Quick Answer*. While it is a bit steep at \$40, it has a disk with some examples included, and without going through it all, it looks to be a solid book with good information in it.

My thanks to Henri Laborde for showing us how to make some custom menus in Q&A 4.0. For October I will cover the Q&A Write. . ■

WORDPERFECT

Jeff Simm

The August meeting of the WordPerfect SIG opened with random access on a variety of topics including start-up command line options, naming DOS text files, footnotes, and tables.

The first presentation of the evening was on cross referencing. This allows you to include references (such as, see Figure 1) in your document and have WordPerfect automate the process of creating and updating references, even when the location in the document has changed.

The last part of the meeting was devoted to DrawPerfect, which is WordPerfect Corporation's charting and vector-based drawing program, similar to Harvard Graphics. The big difference is that DrawPerfect defaults to a WordPerfect .WPG graphics file format, which is readily usable in your WP documents. Tip: For DrawPerfect users, replace WP's WP.DRS file with the one supplied with DrawPerfect—DP fonts can then be printed in WP without being converted to something WP understands.

For more Tips and Tricks in WordPerfect, see you at the WordPerfect SIG meeting on the second Monday of the month. Also, visit the WordPerfect conference (WORDPER) on the OCIPUG BBS for announcements and answers to questions from other WordPerfect users. ■

PROGRAMMING

Wendy Sarrett

At our August meeting we discussed programming libraries including; QuickPak Professional, a professional library for MS- Basic and Vermont Views, a screen design language for C and C++. Bill Phillips then discussed Debug and demonstrated how it could be used to change data in binary files.

In September we will discuss Windows programs and have everyone present examples of work they've been doing in Visual Basic, Windows SDK, etc. I encourage all who have an interest in programming to attend, and present your work. ■

OFFICE BASICS

Anne Fawcett

This daytime SIG for DOS, WordPerfect, and Lotus has been fun. Beginning in September the meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will share the following for beginners who couldn't make the August meeting.

When using WordPerfect, if you would like to glance at the screen and be able to see a symbol to show where you pressed the Enter Key in your document, do the following:

Make a change in the Setup menu to show a special character of your choice. Let's say you would like a "heart" displayed. (*Note, the heart is not printed with your document; it's just for screen display.*) Shift-F7 for Setup menu, D for Display, E for Edit Screen Options, H for Hard Return Character. Hold down Ctrl key and press 2. You won't see anything yet. Type your code: 5,0 and press Enter Key. Then F7 back to your document and you will see the heart displayed on the screen every place the Enter Key was pressed; at the end of a short line, end of paragraph, etc. Note that if you wanted to use a special character, such as, 1/2 in your document, instead of Ctrl-2, you use Ctrl-V, then type the code, such as 4,17. Ctrl-2 has to be used in the Setup menu.

Bring your problems on a disk each month and we will all learn more from sharing.

I recommend WP users attend the WP SIG run by Susan Novak. She shares her excellent instructing abilities, knowledge, professional handouts, and her sense of humor. She is a great asset to OCIPUG. ■

SUMMARY OF DRAFT OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 1991 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(As submitted by Ginger Buck, Secretary)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Burnside, President	Ben LeGare
Richard Villa, Vice President	Sunny Lockie
Ginger Buck, Secretary	Bob Ottke
George Mefferd, Treasurer	Jim Petit
Terry Currier	Stan Sabin
Harv Haight	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

John Goodman, Past President	Jim Bonacci
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MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Michael Springer	Tom Stolp, Parliamentarian
------------------	-------------------------------

The regular meeting of the OCIPUG Board of Directors convened at 7:00 p.m. at the SIG Space with Stephen Burnside presiding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 29, 1991

Harv Haight moved to approve the Minutes with two corrections and Terry Currier seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

George Mefferd reported the budget comparison through July is \$10,900 which is 7% ahead. Jim Petit was unable to get insurance information on the TV monitor. George Mefferd said Ed Josephs is very cooperative on repairs if we let him know. Our last month's rent is "forgiven" only on the first renewal but he will continue this policy with a rent increase of 4.5% (\$40). It was brought to the Board's attention that we have paid the last month's rent and have a \$750 security deposit. George Mefferd also found the Articles of Incorporation stamped by the Secretary of State and gave them to Sunny Lockie. Ginger Buck announced she wrote both the Federal and State Tax Boards and the Secretary of State for Letters of Determination/Certification regarding the Club's non-profit status. Tom Stolp moved receipt of the Treasurer's Report and Harv Haight seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications Committee Chairman Sunny Lockie said a complaint was received on the BBS regarding the APCUG article. She also stated we are getting more articles of good caliber which entails more pages in README.DOC. BBS Committee Chairman Bob Ottke said we are moving ahead on plans to change the hard/software on the BBS. Jim Petit said we have had DESQview problems for several months. Discussion en-

sued regarding various equipment needed, donated, what is used now, difficulties involved, and costs of upgrades and replacements. Jim Petit will continue to work on the Lantastic network. Membership Committee Chairman Terry Currier said the Genealogy SIG brought in eight new members and we got six new members from the Corel SIG. We have a total of 915 members with 30 non-renewals. He gave checks and cash totaling \$3,200 to George Mefferd. Harv Haight moved acceptance and Stan Sabin seconded. Motion passed.

VIDEO DISPLAY SYSTEM

Stephen Burnside said we are limited in our search for a larger General Meeting site by the equipment we use and what is available to serve us. The alternatives are to buy a presentation tablet (LCD) for \$1,500 which does not exceed 640/800 resolution and can only produce 23 colors or get a new projection system for \$6,000. He continued by questioning if we could obtain funds by raising dues, holding a special fundraiser, asking for a one-time donation from members, having a bake sale, etc. Discussion ensued regarding renting equipment or buying it and getting dealer support for setting up, alignment, and how to use it. Suggestions were made for holding a computer show, raffling a 486 system, or building systems for sale (no support would be available). Stephen Burnside requested Board members to check out equipment and report on their findings. Jim Petit reported that the Jovian box is not available until mid-September and it is 800/640. The Video Display System was tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Richard Villa announced that the WordPerfect SIG has been moved from the second Monday to the second Wednesday effective October. This SIG has been operating to overflow capacity. He further stated the Prodigy representative wants to do a presentation to our group in an effort to renew and better their relationship with computer groups. Bob Ottke said they may be willing to sponsor the survey and suggested the MODEM SIG in October as the most beneficial time. Stephen Burnside said we would be happy to have Prodigy come. Tom Stolp suggested writing the representative a letter stating that some "vocal" people may attend the presentation.

Stan Sabin stated that the Genealogy SIG was SRO with over 70 in attendance. He questioned reserving seats for club members only. Bob Ottke suggested en-

...Continued from Page 22
Board Minutes...

couraging members to wear badges and seats would be reserved for those with badges. The DOS and Corel Draw SIGS are, at times, in overflow capacity, too. Stephen Burnside will address this issue in his President's Message column in the newsletter. Ginger Buck moved the meeting adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Harv Haight seconded. Motion passed. ■

...Continued from Page 16
New Members...

Robert Walker is a photographer living in Costa Mesa. He has an IBM PS2-60 (286) and a matching IBM Proprinter. He uses WordPerfect, Lotus, dBASE IV, Procomm, Access Studio Accounting, First Publisher, and Access Studio Management.

Maureen Wise lives in Fountain Valley and is a secretary. She has an HP Laserjet II printer and uses Quicken, and Microsoft Works.

Yvonne Young is from Newport Beach and is a bookkeeper. She has a Franklin 8088 and Citizen 120D printer, and with that she uses WordStar, Quattro Bitcom, Carbon Copy, Norton Utilities, and 1DIR Plus.

Jeanne Zepeda has an 8088 computer with EGA and uses a Panasonic 1524 printer. She lives in Orange and is a secretary. She uses WordPerfect, Quicken PAF, and Harvard Graphics. ■

TIPS & TRICKS

STOPPAGE.PS

John Goodman

Do you have a PostScript printer (or a PostScript cartridge for your LaserJet or similar laser printer)? Does your printer always spit out a page of configuration information each and every time it starts up? Are you fed up with the time and paper you waste?

If these things are true for you, then STOPPAGE.PS is for you. I found this little file somewhere (I have forgotten just where). It is similar to one described in the manual for various PostScript printers, but it will save you having to type it yourself. Just download it to your printer. I did this by the following DOS command:

```
COPY /B STOPPAGE.PS /B LPT1:
```

where the /B is to force it to copy the full file without regard to content and not to add a Ctrl-Z (end of file mark) at the end. As long as your printer was on and not doing anything at the time it should now be set to not print that dumb page every time.

You probably can get it to print a copy of that page any time you want by some front panel operation. If not, just edit this file to change the word false to true in the fourth line.

By the way, the first line is not necessary, strictly speaking, at least not for PostScript. It is necessary, however, if your printer is able to detect which print jobs are PostScript and which are not. Those first two characters (%!) tell those printers (and various utility programs that do a similar job) that the following is a PostScript file.

Enjoy. I have.

STOPPAGE.PS

```
%! This line serves to identify this as PostScript code to other programs.  
serverdict begin 0 exitserver  
statusdict begin  
false setdostartpage  
end  
*
```

The asterisk in the last line must be replaced by a Control-D character and that should be the last character in the file. ■

**Do you have any useful Tips & Tricks that you'd like us to publish?
Please upload them to the newsletter section of the BBS or put
them on a disk and hand it to the Editor at the General Meeting.**

As a courtesy to OCIPUG members, the memberships up for renewal are published in README.DOC every month.

**IS YOUR NAME LISTED BELOW?
DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!!**

**THESE MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN
SEPTEMBER**

Max Adrian	Chris Hansen
Louis Alaia	Jim Hicks
Vance Avis	Julia Hoigaard
Rod Ayers	Tom Kilpatrick
Sharon Ayers	Ralph King
Patrick Barry	Hank Kunczewski
Jerry Bell	Larry Larsen
Dale Benson	Grace Ligo
David Black	Ted Lincoln
Joseph Bollinger	Peggy Macadudin
Joe Brasher	Bill Mancina
Stephen	Louis Maragliano
Clarke-Willson	Richard Miller
James Clymer	Richard Nelson
Donald Crow	Bill Pan
Tracy Day	William Reinhardt
Jerry De Ainza	David Ricketts
Chip Dever	Nicholas Shishkoff
Lionel Dyck	Clyde Slay
Donald Earhart	Catherine Su
Dee Epley	Tom Toner
Elton Epley	Mark Vroegindewey
Toni Federe	Patricia Wendorf
Lyle Frevert	Robert Wendorf
Tiffany Griebenow	Terrie Lee Whittaker

**AUGUST 1991 FINANCIAL REPORT
George Mefferd, Treasurer**

	Unrestricted Funds	Tim Smith Fund
Cash Balance - July 31, 1991	\$10,906.70	\$3,892.19
Cash Receipts		
Interest	\$ 38.36	\$ 10.86
Advertising	85.00	
Membership Dues - New	1,062.00	
Membership Dues - Renewal	2,205.00	
Library Receipts	192.00	
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 3,582.36	\$ 10.86
Cash Disbursements		
Rental - General Meeting	\$ 180.00	
Rental - Sig Space	767.00	
Printing - Newsletter	1,222.69	
Postage - Newsletter	200.00	
Printing - Membership	85.94	
Postage - Membership	95.18	
Postal Permit	75.00	
Telephone - BBS	96.81	
Library Expense	73.07	
Miscellaneous	17.77	
Total Cash Disbursements	\$ 2,813.46	
Net Change in Cash Balance	\$- 768.90	\$ 10.86
Cash Balance - August 31, 1991	\$11,675.60	\$3,903.05

THESE MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN OCTOBER

Fredric Apt	Jeannine Englehart	Philip Grossman	Paul Nelson	Nancy Swan
Richard Black	Michael Englehart	Ella Hatfield	Albert Ohlig	Peer Swan
Ronald Blalack	Wayne Englehart	Bill Hinds	Lew Oriard	Lloyd Swanson
Edwin Breitenbach	Amanda	Jack Howe	W. Mark Pickel	Rolland Thomas Jr.
Bill Brown	Feyerabend	Herbert Huey	Kenneth Pollock	M. Lia Varner
Jerry Brown	George Feyerabend	Gary Jacobson	Allan Roberts	Barto Wash
Doreen Burchett	Lan Feyerabend	Don Koontz	Gaye Roth	Ruth Wash
Jay Burchett	Evelyn Files	Mike Kruss	Andrea Ryan	Cliff Webb
Emanuel Cattolica	Leon Files	Gordon Lewin	John Ryan	John Yasment
Jim Chambers	Dorothy Foster	Wendy Luther	Steve Ryan	
Olivia Chambers	Iler Ganz	A.J. Marchin	David Salcido	
James Chester	Patricia Ganz	Christine	Tom Scalse	
Ron Collins	Joni Goodnight	Mc Donald	Raymond Shaw	
Dewey Coursey	Ken Goodnight	Bill Mc Grath	Bill Singleton	
Robert Dickinson	Robert Goodwin	Bill Menna	Peter Sivgals	
John Donovan	Alicyn Griswold	Coleman Mobley	Gilbert Smith	
Jack Douglas	Mark Griswold	Robert Mosier	Anthony Stelmack	
Chuck Durgin	Sue Griswold	Michael Muller	Carl Sufall	

1991 OCIPUG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Stephen Burnside	722-0327
Vice President	Richard Villa	841-6991
Secretary	Ginger Buck	534-7878
Treasurer	George Mefferd	673-4759
Past President	John Goodman	895-3195

DIRECTORS

Jim Bonacci	1992	650-2922
Terry Currier	1991	774-2018
Harv Haight	1991	546-0820
Ben LeGare	1992	472-0944
Sunny Lockie	1991	644-0103
Jim Petit	1991	841-3699
Robert Ottke	1992	759-1515
Stan Sabin	1992	968-7307

PEOPLE AND NUMBERS TO KNOW

Membership	Terry Currier	774-2018
SIG Chairman		
Program Chairman	Richard Sabin	965-6734
Bulletin Board	Robert Ottke	759-1515
Library Committee	John Lunsford	995-0947
Facilities Chairman	Joe Farber	642-6993

OCIPUG BBS & MESSAGE LINE NUMBERS

Public Line (1200/2400)	843-0388
Members only (1200/2400/9600)	843-9248
OCIPUG Info & Message line	843-2048

OCIPUG General Meeting Dates 1991

Our General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month except when there is a conflict with a major holiday (see asterisk).

September 28

October 26

November 23*

December 14*

Membership Form

Bring to General Meeting or mail to return address on the back cover

New Renewal Information Update Date: _____

Have you ever been a member of OCIPUG? _____ If so, what is your member number: _____

Individual Membership \$36.00 per year Family Membership \$45.00 per year

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Title: Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr. (Circle One)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Family Members: _____

Address: _____ Unit No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

I consider myself to be: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

My computer is a None 8088(XT) 286(AT) 386SX 386 486SX 486

OCIPUG Business Sponsorship Program



GARDEN OF EDEN
16485 Magnolia Street
Westminster 92683
841-4994

Your support enables us to better serve our members.

If you or your company would like more information on this program, please call Harv Haight at (714) 546-0820.

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