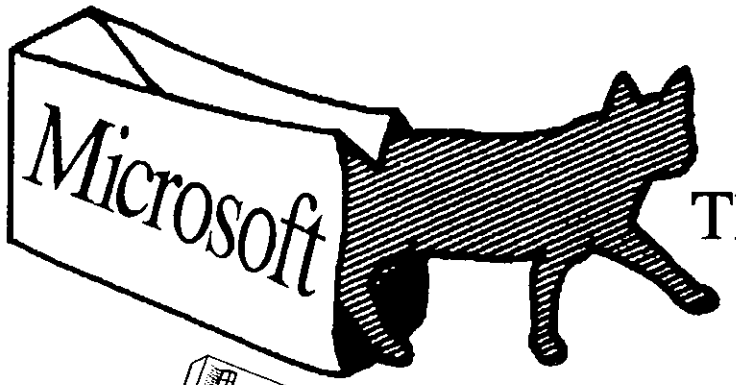
OCIPUG

READ.ME.DOC

APRIL 1992 | ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP | VERSION 8.04

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 9:00 A.M.



The Cat's out of the bag...

DETAILS INSIDE ON PAGE 13

ALSO SEE PANACEA'S WINSPEED

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

General Meeting Report

Harv Haight

At 8:52 a.m. Vice President Richard Villa opened this 85th General Meeting, followed by Mike Springer (and John Goodman) with Random Access. Topics included non-lowlevel format of IDE drives by SpinRite II, problems with AST interrupts, incompatibility of some BIOS ROMs with Windows 3.0, the need to get some Logitech drivers for Windows 3.0 direct from factory, some intermittent keyboards with Word for Windows, and a caution about leaving Fdisk via reset unless sure. Mike again spoke of the upcoming Modem Sunday seminar on April 5th. After SIG leader announcements at 9:08 a.m., President Steve Burnside echoed Anne Fawcett's plea for help with VHS tapes for the daytime Office/Basics classes and discussed other goals set for completion by November (including a drive for 500 more members and possibly expanded facilities for the general meeting). Members were given sets of "business cards" for distribution, publicizing OCIPUG and showing how to get to General Meetings.

Terry Currier next introduced SAINT $ILICON (Jeffrey Armstrong), who first came to the attention of OCIPUG at Comdex and who appeared (without cost to OCIPUG) to acquaint us with CHIP (the Church of Heuristic Information Processing). Working out of Santa Cruz, Jeff has been perfecting his high-tech comedy routine for the past five years and most members found it hilarious (I counted one four-letter word and a few suggestive remarks, which led to comments from a few members). In a white suit and with a green tie, studded with pin-ons and flashing emblems, and with an IC on his forehead, he punned and quipped Silicon Valley technical jargon fast and furiously, but with pertinence to things, places, and persons. Typical: "Difference between a used car salesman and computer salesman—the car salesman KNOWS he's lying!" The audience fell into a pattern of echoing his "HAL-lelujah!" calls, amid chuckles from all sides. The hall was packed as a result of mailouts from Microsoft, and our favorite *Register* columnist Michelle Vranizan, was also present and enjoying the monologue. During the break which followed, Jeff autographed his *The Binary Bible* for members who purchased copies.

Lotus was a no-show, disappointing members who came for its presentation of Ami-Pro 2.0. However, this gave Dean Ossola, local representative of Microsoft, an opportunity to expand his demonstration of Word for Windows 2.0 to include a preliminary discussion of Microsoft's Excel 4.0. Dean is responsible for area training of local dealers, so did a thorough job of showing features of both, as well as fielding questions from the floor. Microsoft will be back with a more detailed session for Excel 4.0. Word for Windows 2.0 changes from earlier versions were based upon usability lab research and seem to have removed bugs effectively from this extremely popular program. Truthfully, the program goes far to match results from more difficult and costly desktop publishers, although inevitably it demands more memory than earlier versions.

As each member entered the auditorium, he/she got two raffle tickets, with matching stubs for each, put into a box. The raffle was based upon withdrawal of stubs from the box after a random mix. Microsoft provided many programs for this raffle, including a generous number of Word for Windows 2.0; All of us at OCIPUG wish to thank Microsoft for its generosity. A list of winners appears elsewhere. ■

ABCs of the BBS

Bob Ottke

LET'S TALK ABOUT MODEMS.....

By now, most of you have had the opportunity to try our new Wildcat! BBS. From what we have heard, most are enthusiastic about the change, but a few are still having some problems in navigating in the new environment. Stick with it. It is just a matter of becoming accustomed to some minor changes in the setup. If your interest in telecommunications has been stimulated, you may be thinking of a new modem. That can be confusing, and there are as many opinions as there are users.

If you don't already have a modem installed, you have a few decisions to make. First, of course, is how much you are willing to invest. These days, you can get on line for as little as $50 or you can spend well over $1000. As you will see, the higher priced modems can save you money in the long run, depending on what your main uses are.

Modems come in two main types: internal and external. There are advantages and disadvantages to each. The internal is usually a little less expensive, as it does not have its own power supply or case. But it doesn't have those pretty lights, either. Not that you need them, but they can be helpful in letting you know what your modem is doing. Also, one of the most important disadvantages of an internal is that it requires a slot. The external does not, and it can be moved from machine to machine very easily. It also can disappear mysteriously in certain environments. The higher speed, higher cost modems are almost always the external type. Either one can be installed with little difficulty, and the configuration is about the same on both.

Next consideration is speed, and that is directly related to cost. My advice would be to avoid anything less than 2400 bps. There are some very inexpensive 1200s around, but they are S L O W ..... Within a year or two, many of the BBSs will not be supporting 1200. The first modems were acoustic couplers, where you placed the handset of a telephone in a funny little box and let it beep away at 110 bps. Now, all are electronic, and speeds run up to 57,600 bps. Our BBS will not accept less than 1200, and we will soon have capability at the top speeds. As a rough guide, it will take you about an hour to download a 1 MB file at 1200, and about 8 minutes at 9600.

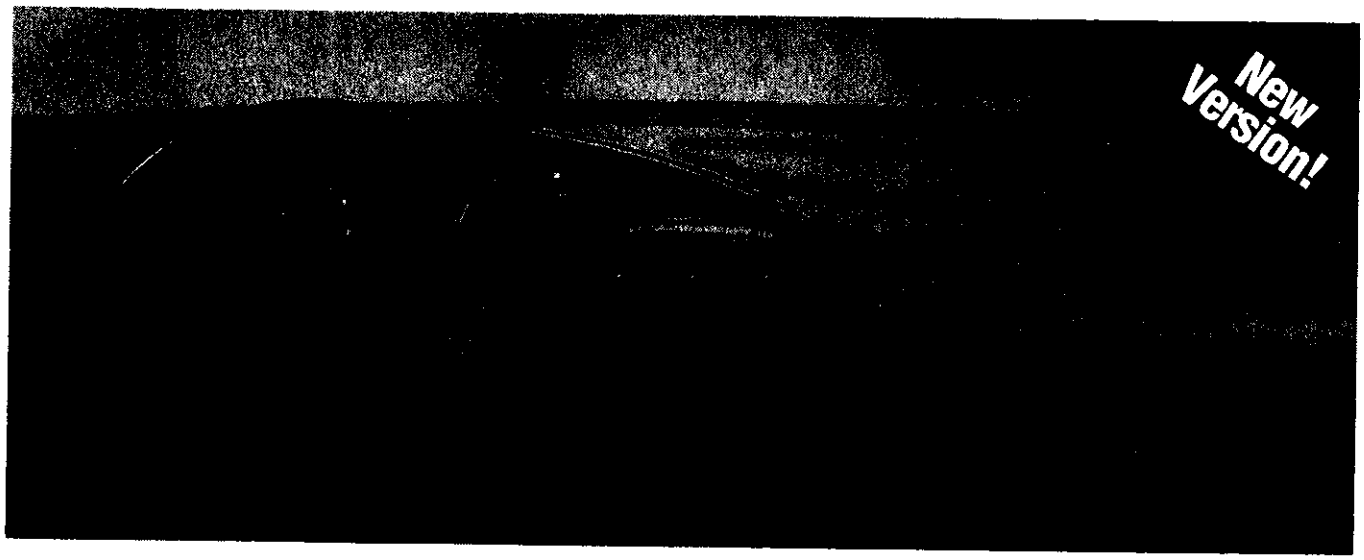
So, why not run at 38,400 or faster, and do the same file in two minutes? Now, things get a little complicated. The files that you will be dealing with more than 90% of the time are compressed (ZIP) files that have very little empty space, and just can't be compressed any more. To go to 38,400, the system must call on such arcane things as v.42bis and MNP5. Those are additional compression algorithms built into the communications setup, and will not do you much good with ZIP files; in fact, they might even slow you down a little. From practical experience, I find that a setting of 19,200 is about 20% faster than the same file at 9600.

The newest modems on the block are ones that incorporate a feature called v.32bis. This started with the U.S. Robotics modems more than a year ago, but would only work when one USR was talking to another. Now things have been a bit better standardized, and many companies are offering v.32bis modems capable of 14,400 bps. If speed is your thing, especially if you are doing a lot of long distance downloading, this is definitely the way to go. The big three, USR, Hayes, and Intel, are all offering modems of this type at street prices of $700 or so. A lot of lesser-known companies are offering similar modems at street prices of $250 to $400, and most include 9600 bps FAX capability. Due to a lot of technical considerations, these will probably be the fastest modems for several years.

The commercial arrival of these v.32bis modems is resulting in a lot of price competition. While the big three will not come down much, you can expect to see some of the lesser brands at much lower prices, especially if you will be content with 9600 (i.e., without the v.32bis capability). Whatever you buy, you should get at least a two year warranty, and most will go five years.

To get the most out of these high speed modems, you should have an I/O card with a 16550 AFN chip. While the lower number chips will work with the high speeds, your best efficiency is with the 16550. The chips are available for twenty bucks or so, but if your present chip is soldered to the card, better buy a complete new card for about $30.

Continued on Page 5..



"Have you driven dBASE lately"

The new 1.5 model of dBASE IV is here

And it's loaded with more standard features. Like mouse support for easy maneuvering through applications. Multi-file view editing for direct updating. Query By Example (QBE) summary operators and pick lists for increased operations. And automatic installation of complex programs and configurations. So whether you're a first-time buyer or a dBASE expert, you can quickly get the best out of dBASE IV v1.5.

Mouse support

Increased performance for faster results

Shift into the information you need sooner with the dBASE IV v1.5 new optimization technology—IQ!.™ Now dBASE has three different ways of retrieving data and will automatically choose the fastest one for you.

Superior programmability for complex applications

Now up to 40 open work areas are possible at any one time, offering greater flexibility for more complex applications. Enhanced BLANK support gives you the power to detect empty fields for data validation and statistical operations. Plus, the widely respected dBASE Template Language is now standard in dBASE IV v1.5.

A great product begins with the basics

Behind the new features of dBASE IV v1.5 lies the flexibility of a worldwide standard. No other database software is available on more platforms than dBASE. Add that to the dBASE Control Center with its road-tested design tools and the dBASE Programming Language, featuring integrated IBM's SAA-complaint SQL, integrated debugger, and built-in applications generator, and you have the most well-rounded database management and application development product in the world.

IQ! technology

Technology you can build upon

There are no stop signs ahead for dBASE IV v1.5 thanks to its Open Architecture Control Center, allowing you to add third-party designers to your crew—and access additional tools—at any time.

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dBASE IV v1.5 marks a return of innovation and pride to the dBASE community. And now that dBASE IV v1.5 is part of the Borland family, you can expect Borland's world-renowned service and support. Now is the time to join the more than three million people who already drive dBASE.

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- New optimization technology—IQ!
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- "INDEX" functions
- 40 work areas
- Template language included
- Enhanced BLANK support
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- Conditional compilation
- Low-level file I/O
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- Enhanced RUN function

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PRODUCT REVIEW

HOLLYWOOD VER. 1.0

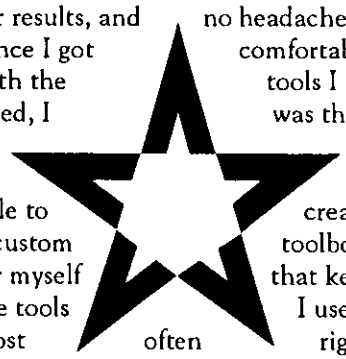
Toni Federe

IBM/Hollywood, Version 1.0, was my first presentation graphics software experience. After spending about fifteen minutes reading the *Installation and Tutorial Guide*, I was ready to get started. This software requires: DOS 3.3 or higher; Windows 3.0; a 286 or 386 processor (386 recommended); a minimum of 8 MB available (8,234,275 bytes needed to install all files); a mouse; EGA, VGA 8514/A or any video adaptor supported by Microsoft Windows 3.0, except CGA; 1.6MB RAM or greater (2MB recommended). The list price is $499 and the street price is about $400.

I installed IBM/Hollywood on my 386/25 with VGA, 4MB RAM and a Deskjet Plus printer. I had over 36 MB free. The installation took about 25 minutes. If you tend to get anxious when nothing's happening on the screen...no hourglass, movement on the graph bar, or name change on the "file now being copied" indicator...consider yourself forewarned! Two of the disks took a full two minutes for the screen to refresh! Have patience. Right off the bat, it's fun to use.

I followed the tutorial. It didn't take long before I was comfortable with the tools and left the tutorial project behind to begin an original presentation. I got carried away with layering black text over color images. I kept reminding myself that I really should push "COLOR PRINTER" up to the top of my wish list, as I became proficient at editing text and relocating items within this black and white presentation.

Because my output destination was black and white, I didn't get around to using the color tools and functions or the slide service bureau. The select, cut, paste, zoom, text, special text (rotated, mirrored, shadowed) data chart and text chart tools were easy to learn and use. I had some difficulty learning to manipulate the draw tool (lack of hand/eye coordination?) and editing shapes gave me a #10 headache so I simply deleted the file and started over with much better results, and no headache. Once I got comfortable with the tools I liked, I was then able to create a custom toolbox for myself that kept the tools I used most often right at my "mouse -tips."



My creation was a 3x5 layout, extolling the virtues of OCIPUG, which I intended to include with this review. According to the manual, files can be exported in BMP, CGM, CLP, ESP, GIF, IMG, MSP, PCX, PIC, SCD, TIF or WMF format. EPS was Publisher Sunny Lockie's preferred choice. (Let me deviate for a moment to give Robin Clark and Sunny Lockie a VERY BIG Thank You for all their time and help in trying to get an acceptable printing from the EPS file as created by IBM/Hollywood.) All our efforts failed to produce a readable EPS document.

At this point I called technical support. IBM no longer supports this product and gave me the number for Claris/Hollywood. I got through right away. I then learned that I didn't have the current version (which is 1.0.2). I asked if the current version had any changes that affected the export files or if the manual had changed. The answer was "no" on both counts but that there were changes in some of the printer drivers and some other "minor" changes. Technical support offered to call Sunny to see exactly what she had done to print the file and they would try to recreate the problem in their lab and then get back to me. In the meantime they were going to send an upgrade disk. It has been several weeks since I spoke to them but I still have received neither the upgrade nor a return phone call.

In doing further research in the manuals, I found, in the addendum, several pages of "exceptions" regarding export files. There are six exceptions concerning exporting files in EPS format, one of which is: "The EPS filter exports bitmapped information only. It does not export text or vector information." There are twelve pages of "exceptions" and "considerations" regarding the various export files.

Even though I had some frustration with this effort to export a file, I don't want to leave you with the idea that I didn't like this product. If you will be printing your presentations yourself, the output is simply beautiful! I couldn't ask for a cleaner, crisper look. If you want to learn more about this product, there is an excellent review in the March 17, 1992, issue of *PC Magazine*.

If I receive the upgrade, or learn some new trick that affects export files, I will be sure to write a supplemental article. Overall: it's fun; it's versatile...but it has some limitations. I would research some other products before spending $400 plus on this product. ■

BOOK REVIEW

DOS FOR DUMMIES

Michael Springer

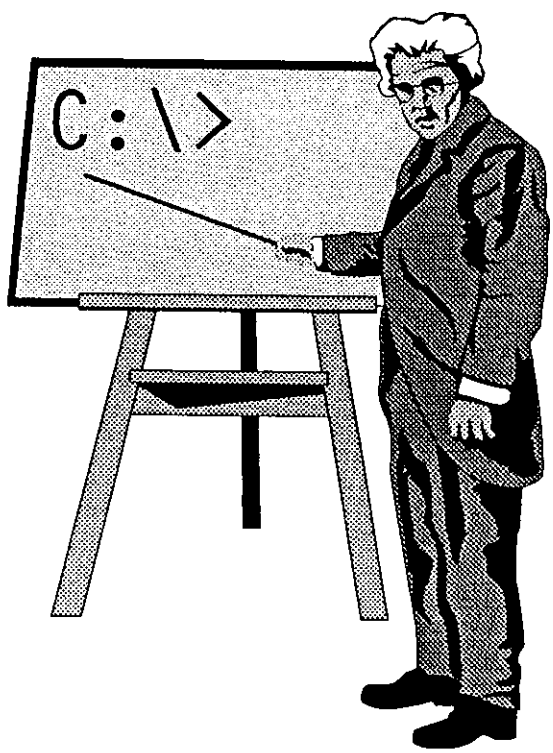
DOS for Dummies by Dan Gookin
IDG Books Worldwide, Inc. 1991
$16.95, 292 pp.

If you don't read manuals, except when things are going wrong, this is your kind of book. The author states in the introduction that the book is not meant to be read from front to back. Instead, you look in the index for words that relate to your problem and then turn to the page listed. Chances are that once you have read a bit of the book you will browse through much of the rest just to check out the cartoons and the author's humorous presentation of topics about which you already know something. And, you'll probably learn something in the process.

With index topics such as ?(question mark), any key, battery, printers - double-spaces printed for everything, quitting, switching disks inappropriately, troubleshooting (43 items), and undoing, the index is useful even when one doesn't know the correct technical word. Portions of the chapters are clearly marked with icons (little pictures) for *technical stuff* (usually accompanied by a heading that indicates this is stuff to ignore or skip), *tip*, *warning* (a picture of a bomb), and *reminder* (a nudge to remember to do something).

The chapter names indicate that this is a down-to-earth, non-technical treatment of DOS. How do these names strike you?—File Fitness (Stuff you Do with Files); RAM (or, Memory, the Way We Were); The Hard Drive: Where You Store Stuff; and After You Panic, Do This. But, don't let the levity mislead you. The information is sound and complete enough for most computer users. The presentation is casual, easy to read and to understand. More important to me, the author deals with the computer system, including peripherals. How many DOS books discuss paper jams in the printer?

Being a DOS junkie, I violated the warning and read the book from cover to cover. The book reminds me of the "Rocky and Bullwinkle Show." There is a readily apparent, humorous presentation of the information and a sometimes-not-so-subtle second level of humor that should attract even the DOS power user or guru. ■



ABCs OF THE BBS
...Continued from Page 2

How about communications software? Well, I could tell you a number of stories about that! With the 2400s, just about any software will work well. I have used ProComm for several years, and it is the most popular among OCIPUG users. When I went to high speed, though, I started running into problems with uploads--lots and lots of errors. It turns out that only the very latest version of ProComm works well with the 16550 UART, and your setup must be just right, particularly with the flow control. Anyway, I have switched to Qmodem 5.0 and am delighted! It is a commercial version of the QM45TD-1 & 2.EXE on the BBS, along with OLX-TD.ZIP, the offline mail reader. Those may be downloaded, or you may buy the disks from Librarian Jim Fort. Telix is also a good one, but I have not worked with that. Incidentally, you can run any of the DOS comm programs in the background with Windows, if you have it properly set up, and are willing to accept an even slower Windows. At least you can play solitaire during a long download!

Just a closing word of caution. There are some advertisers who are willing to stretch the truth. Would you believe that?? There are some modems advertised as 9600 that are really only 2400 with MNP5. Yes, if you are sending an uncompressed file to another MNP5 modem, you MAY get close to 9600, but don't count on it. If you are buying a high speed modem, you want one that offers v.32, and v.42bis on a 9600. If you are going for the hot 14,400, you must have v.32bis.

We are working on some special deals for you to take place in a couple of months. No free lunch, but it might be worth waiting for.

Come around to the Modem SIG first Thursday of every month.... ■

PRODUCT REVIEW

WINDOWS 3.1

The Behemoth Cometh

David Black

Windows 3.1 is sure to be the biggest upgrade for PC users since DOS 5, with the potential of becoming even bigger. But is it worth going through the trouble of upgrading? Let's take a look.

UNDER THE HOOD

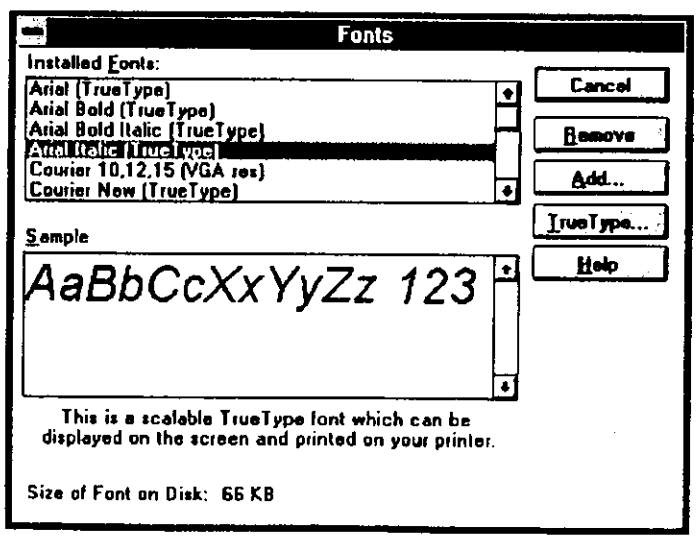
Below the snazzy graphics, wonderful windows, and interesting icons, Windows 3.1 is a substantially different animal from its more peculiar ancestor. When Windows 3.0 shipped, there were some 500 major bugs Microsoft knew about in the program, providing an endless number of causes for the dreaded Unrecoverable Application Error. While most, if not all, of these problems have been fixed, if a UAE occurs now, Windows gives you the opportunity to exit just that application, and shut down your other applications before exiting Windows. Another first in this version is the inclusion of Microsoft's new Fast-Disk technology. Initially set up only to work with IDE disk drives, this new disk access system allows 32 bit disk access under Windows, via a permanent swap file. Without FastDisk, in 80386 Enhanced mode, Windows must actually drop down to Standard mode every time it needs to write to disk, and then attempt to re-enter 80386 Enhanced mode. This tedious process was the culprit for many of the crashes under Windows 3.0. Other enhancements under the hood include a new version of SMART-DRV. It's finally becoming a speedy and useful disk caching program, complete with staged write (this allows the cache to store writes to disk in a buffer, until it fills, and then dumps it all out to disk at once). There are new versions of HIMEM.SYS, EMM386.EXE, and RAMDRIVE.SYS as we have come to expect. All of these changes have made Windows a much more stable and usable operating system for everyday use.

SPRECHEN SIE DOS?

The DOS Box is yet another feature of Windows 3.1 that has been improved greatly over v3.0. Completely rewritten, from what I have heard, it runs your DOS applications much faster and with fewer crashes. But if a misbehaved program does violate system integrity, you can hit Ctrl-Alt-Del and Windows will pop up a screen allowing you to shut down just the offending application. Also, for the first time in Windows, the mouse will work while inside a DOS Window. Also, with the proper Video drivers, you can change the size of the font in a DOS Window inside Windows, on the fly. But this feature, as well as, the mouse support for DOS windows does depend on the video driver you are using. Any of the Microsoft supplied drivers do have these features implemented, but many of the third party drivers do not. So be sure to contact your video card vendor and request Windows 3.1 drivers when they are available, as they will help your software run better.

THE TALE of TWO FONTS

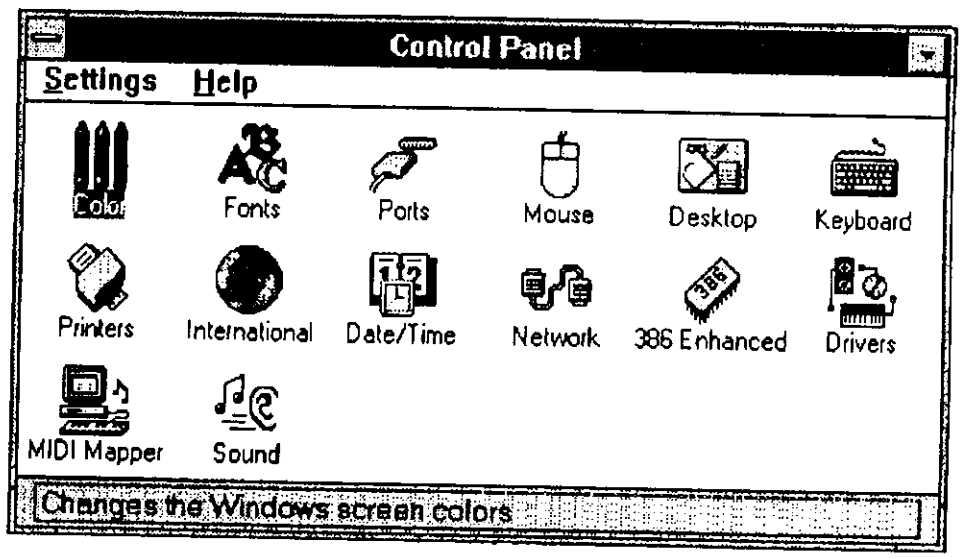
Another new component in this release of Windows is the long-awaited inclusion of TrueType font scaling technology within Windows. For many users, this will eliminate the need for Adobe Type Manager to get scaleable fonts on their printers. But TrueType does not completely eliminate the need for Adobe Type Manager. TrueType still cannot use Type 1 Adobe Fonts, but if you need to use Type



1 fonts you can run ATM with TrueType. In printing to older lasers, especially the LaserJet Series II, TrueType flat out beats ATM in speed. Whereas ATM prints to a printer by sending a page as one huge bitmap, TrueType, on the fly, creates soft font(s) to upload to the printer consisting only of the characters needed for the particular document. This approach is considerably faster than ATM.

SOUND AT LAST

Ever since the introduction of the Multimedia Extensions for Windows, we have all been drooling over what it offers, especially sound support. However, now you will not need the multimedia extensions to have sound under Windows. Microsoft saw fit, in their infinite wisdom, to include the sound portions of the Multimedia Extensions in Windows 3.1, along with the Media Control Interface (herein referred to as MCI). The sound portions include support and drivers for the playback and recording of digitized audio and synthesized music. Digitized audio can be used in two circumstances: (1) If you have a sound card compatible with the SoundBlaster and/or have a specific driver for your card. (2) If you have no sound card currently, you can download a driver to play digitized audio on your PC Speaker, although not at the same quality as compared to a sound card. (See the end of this article for where to get this driver free). The synthesized music drivers will work with one of two setups: (1) if you have a MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) adapter and one or more MIDI synthesizers connected. (2) If you have a sound card with AdLib compatibility, you can emulate a MIDI synthesizer with the included AdLib driver.



The MCI included allows for the control of certain devices with simple, English-like commands that can be embedded in everything, from applications in C or Visual Basic, to presentations created in presentation packages.

YET ANOTHER REHASH

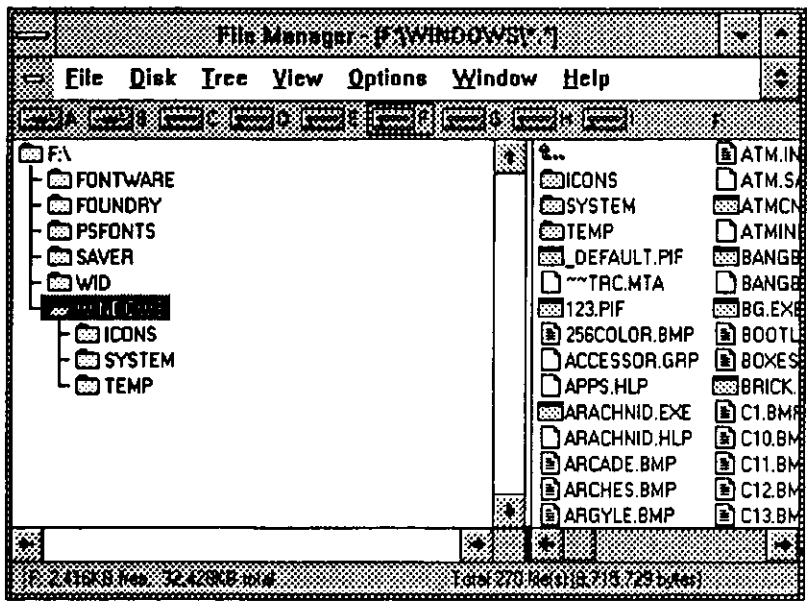
As usual, Microsoft has seen fit to rework most of the applications they include in the Windows 3.1 package. Program Manager has seen few improvements, except for a minor interface overhaul. The Windows Control Panel is now the same as the one in Multimedia Windows, with installable modules to control various settings. Most of the applications have seen only a minor facelift, with a new icon, and the addin of support for OLE. Reversi, a fixture since Windows 1, is gone, replaced by a new version of Minesweeper, originally included in Microsoft's Entertainment Pack 1 for Windows. Two new utilities included are Sound Recorder and Media Player. Sound recorder provides a basic set of tools to record and edit sound via a sound card, also being an OLE server for sound objects. Media Player provides a basic tool to playback any type of Multimedia resource file, provided the driver for that resource is installed on the system. These include Sound files, MIDI files, animation clips, and even audio disks on a CD-ROM drive.

GRABBING THE BULL BY THE HORNS... OR JUST SAY OLE!

The other major improvement in Windows 3.1 is the inclusion of Microsoft's Object Linking and Embedding specification v1.0 (OLE for short). OLE allows you to embed objects in your documents for easy updating and editing. Take, for example, you have Word for Windows installed under Windows 3.1 on your machine. You just finished a document you were working on and decide to add a bit of voice annotation to a certain section. You move your cursor to where you want to insert the sound and select Object from the Insert menu. You scroll down the list to Sound and click OK. Instantly the little Sound Recorder app included with Windows 3.1 pops up and you use it to record your annotation. You then select Update from the File menu and exit Sound Recorder. You now have a little box in your document you can double-click on to play back the annotation you recorded. To edit this sound, simply select

the object and then select Object...from the Edit menu and up pops Sound recorder once again.

OLE allows you to place an object in an application, and beside saving the current data in that object, it also saves a reference to what application that object was created in, as well as where to find that application. As more and more applications begin to support this specification, it will become easier and easier to create documents with multiple types of objects in them (graphics, charts, sounds, tables, bitmaps, etc.) and to edit those objects to keep them up-to-date. Currently when you want to edit an OLE object, it brings up the application it was created in (the server application) where you can edit it and then update the data in your document. The announced OLE 2.0 specification coming in a future version of Windows will also have the ability to edit the object right in your document rather than having to start up another application. OLE has the potential to make tasks in the Windows environment much easier, when application vendors have the chance to rewrite their packages to support OLE.



PROGRAMMER'S PARADISE?

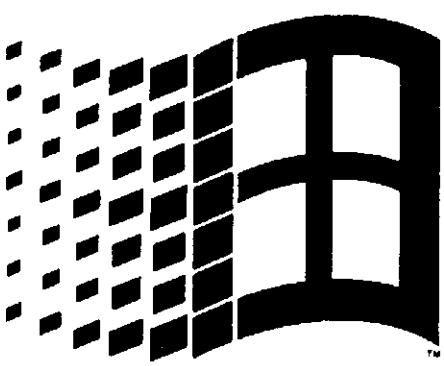
If you are a programmer who writes for Windows, as I am, then you have been waiting anxiously for Windows 3.1 and the new Software Development Kit to make our lives easier. Windows 3.1 includes a number of new functions which make many tasks much easier for both the programmers, and the users of their products. There are now standard "File Open..." and "File Save As..." dialog boxes we can call. Microsoft has also reengineered many of the undocumented functions in Windows 3.0, to allow easy access to them. New data structures and Window Styles also abound. These will hopefully make applications easier to write and maintain, now that we do not have to reinvent the wheel every time we want to do certain functions. New tools are also coming out very soon, including the Windows 3.1 SDK, Microsoft C/C++ v7.0, the Visual Basic Professional Toolkit, and hopefully a new version of Quick C for Windows.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS...

Is Windows 3.1 worth the upgrade cost? After evaluating all the improvements and new features I would have to scream YES at the top of my lungs. While it does not include all the things we had hoped for, it does fix many of the problems with Windows 3.0. However, we will have to wait for applications and driver vendors to catch up and rewrite their products for Windows 3.1.

WHERE TO GET WINDOWS 3.1 FILES

I should also mention that I have now set up a BBS dedicated to supporting Windows and Programming, on which I have a good amount of files for Windows 3.1. PACIFIC ELECTRIC can be reached at 714-830-7613, 24 hours a day, and currently running PCBoard 14.5a. Access will be given instantly to anyone who fills out the short user questionnaire, along with no upload/download ratio for now. ■



PRODUCT REVIEW

QUATTRO PRO SE

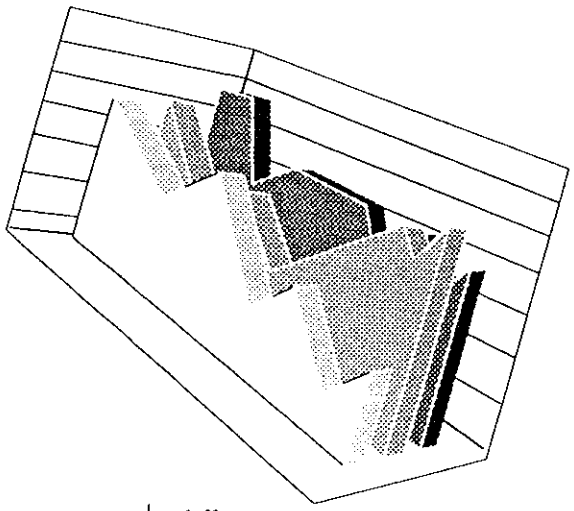
Chris Lloyd

Finally, a computer spreadsheet with price appeal and reputation for the home and small business owner. It is Borland's Quattro Pro SE (Special Edition). Borland has taken an aggressive stand on trying to capture market share in home and small business software by introducing Paradox SE and Quattro Pro SE. They have also bundled it with another popular program of Geoworks. Quattro Pro SE is a fast and reliable low-end DOS program with a suggested retail price of $69.95.

Quattro Pro SE comes with a 600+ page manual, in an easy-to-read format, with instructions that take you through a tutorial on the use of the product's features. I am not a frequent user of spreadsheets, so I found it a little harder getting through the book tutorial. A tutorial on disk would have made the process easier, and since Borland is trying to capture a share of this projected market, it seems it would have been more advantageous for them to have included a tutorial on disk. I do, however, appreciate the context-sensitive help and topic screens that come with this program.

The program was easy to install on my hard disk and I had no complications. It takes about 2 1/2 MB of storage, 512K RAM, and you should have at least 4MB of free disk space. This spreadsheet program is large enough for home and work, with a little left over for some fun on one worksheet, which has 256 columns and 8192 rows. If you have extended memory of 340K (1MB RAM) when you start Quattro Pro SE, you can store its swap files in that extended memory for faster running of the program.

The screen is similar to other spreadsheet programs and if you have used them it should help in your navigating through Quattro Pro SE. This program has pull-down menus, which are well organized, making it easy to learn, and they are fully-integrated. On the right side of the menu is a mouse palette which is a simple aid for the mouse user. There are 9 boxes, 7 of which can be programmed to type any keystrokes, macro command, or invoke any Quattro Pro SE menu. The manual painstakingly takes you, step by step, through each command and has symbols to alert you to additional situations that pertain to the topic being discussed. Sometimes, while in a program, I've felt that there must be a shorter way of doing the sequence, but I have very seldom found one. With this program I have found a way to cut my keystrokes; you can define the Ctrl-key to any item on the Quattro Pro SE menus.



One of the more powerful features of Quattro Pro SE is that you can work in multiple windows and link these windows to each other. You can open multiple File Manager windows and perform file operations among them. You can arrange the windows so they are laid out like a block pattern of tiles or in a cascade stack, whichever is easier for you. Imagine, you can be working in up to 32 files simultaneously; I'm lucky if I can work in 2. There are over 100 built-in financial, mathematical, and scientific functions. You can also print your spreadsheets in landscape mode.

Spreadsheets can be put into 14 different graph types or 4 different 3-D graphs. You can also insert the graph into the spreadsheet so you can present your figures in a picture, as well as, a number format. Let's say that you wanted to add that little pizzazz to your graph because it looks bare. You have a graph annotator which can add: arrows, lines, freehand drawings, text anywhere, portions of other graphs, or insert pictures from a sampler of clip art. In other words, you can design and hammer out a presentation you can be proud of. Not only can you use cell notes to document your spreadsheet, but you can use Map View to look at the types of cell content of each cell, thus assuring you that the content is correct for that cell. Your calculations can be done in the background, while you continue to work on your spreadsheet. This spreadsheet can also be setup so you set the goals and it will show you how to solve them.

As you can see, Quattro Pro SE has a lot of features, yet, I have only touched the surface. As I stated earlier Quattro Pro SE comes with Geoworks Pro.

Continued on Page 12...

PRODUCT REVIEW

PICTURE WIZARD

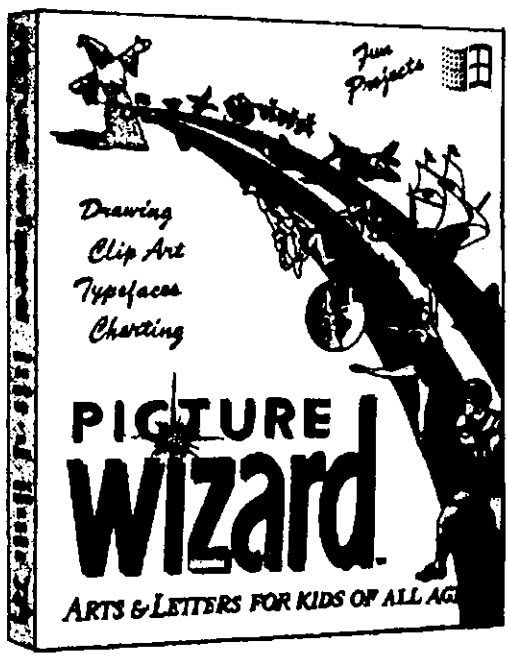
Harv Haight

Broderbund's PRINT SHOP is familiar to school kids from Kindergarten through High School, and is present on many computers owned by parents. It's a program that is easy to learn and to apply, and one that uses clip art to produce greeting cards, posters, signs, and banners with just about any PC with a single 360K floppy drive, a monochrome screen, and almost any 9-pin dot matrix printer or better.

OCIPUG members, at the December 1991 meeting, were shown Broderbund's KID PIX paint program; a fantastic step better than PRINT SHOP. Its versatile tools and sound effects take 2.5 MB of hard drive on a 286 or better with a VGA screen. Its street price of less than $40 makes it easy to own, if you have the hardware. It takes a 24-pin dot matrix printer or better to do justice to what you have on screen.

And now we have, from Computer Support Corporation, the PICTURE WIZARD program. Like KID PIX, low-cost at less than $60 on the street. But to run PICTURE WIZARD, you must have a 286 or better (with 2 MB of RAM, a hard drive, and VGA screen), MSDOS 3.0 or later, Windows 3.0, and a mouse. And you'll need to free more than 7 Mb of hard drive to house PICTURE WIZARD.

CSC markets ARTS and LETTERS, a worthy competitor to COREL DRAW. PICTURE WIZARD is touted in a news release as "the only vector-based graphics software product designed for first-time users of computer graphics, especially children." It has fantastic features like Bezier curve drawing tools, 15 typefaces, predefined color palettes, line styles, type styles, and a special charting tool. It can access over 1,000 clip art images of high quality, for use in dozens of fun projects like puzzles, greeting cards, posters, signs, and banners. CSC President Fred Schoeller says that, "by the age of eight, children have developed the fine motor coordination necessary to draw without difficulty." Perhaps some such child, after mastering DOS, Windows, and the complex steps necessary to work with PICTURE WIZARD, can show OCIPUG members how better to use PICTURE WIZARD effectively.



Truthfully, PICTURE WIZARD clip art is wonderful and fully colored; images can be rotated, sized, stretched, and slanted for endless variation. Typefaces can be sized from 1/8" to 24" and italicized. Numbers can be presented as pictures in pie, bar, or line charts automatically. It is a useful accompaniment to CSC's ARTS and LETTERS in all ways, and well worth the money, if you have the equipment to use it.

But please, CSC, don't snow us poor keyboarders with such flamboyant claims of what ORDINARY kids can do with PICTURE WIZARD. BRIGHT kids, yes, with affluent, computer-literate parents with lots of patience! ■

PRODUCT REVIEW

QUATTRO PROFESSIONAL 4.0

Robin A. Clark

My first ever spreadsheet was VisiCalc. That was about a hundred years ago (in computer years), and was about the slickest miracle to ever hit a computer. At least, it was to me. It let me do things I could never do before, like balance a checkbook and keep a budget. From there I graduated to FlashCalc, which was even slicker because it gave me custom column widths and an 80-character screen display. It balanced my checkbook even faster, and made a half-decent database to keep track of books. Both programs gave crisp green characters on a black background, and fit on one single-sided, single-density diskette. From there to Lotus 1-2-3, which still fit on a single diskette, although the diskette was now double-sided and double-density.

OH! How times have changed.

Borland (the folks who brought us the $29.95 Pascal compiler and Sidekick) decided to enter the spreadsheet market, and there's been no looking back. The first version of Quattro was so nice that Lotus was packed away in the closet with no regrets (that is, no regrets from me—I'm not sure Lotus would feel the same way). Quattro is now Quattro Professional, and has just reached Version 4.0. And it's slick...Real slick.

Last July I told you what I thought of Quattro Pro version 3.0. It was easy to use, yet extremely powerful. It could create quality presentations quickly and easily by using fonts, graphs and graphics (inserted directly into the spreadsheet). It could run on an XT, yet had at least as much power as Lotus or Excel. Possibly more. I loved it then, and still love it. It's the last in a long line of spreadsheets—I'll never switch again. And, one of the reasons is that Borland is constantly improving Quattro.

How can you improve on the best? Make it easier? Yup. Quattro Pro now spans two 1.44 meg diskettes (that's not much these days), and uses 6 meg of your hard disk (more with all of the fonts installed). And, unlike most software being written these days, it will run on anything from a yawning XT to a screaming 486.

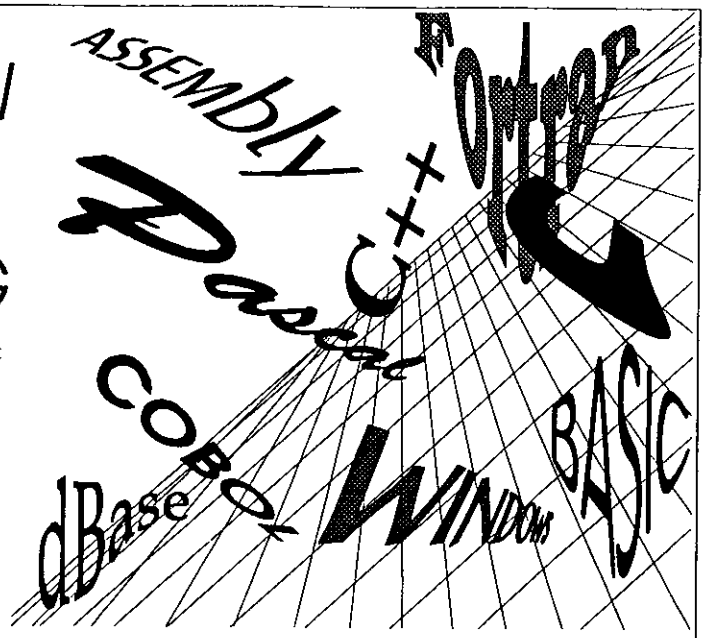
Graphs can be created, edited and annotated, then pulled into the spreadsheet to illustrate calculations and data. Quite a few clip art files are supplied, and can be pulled into the spreadsheet to help spice up that presentation. Quattro is practically a desktop publisher in its ability to change fonts, add boxes and shadow, and generally create a spreadsheet that is clear and concise, yet interesting to look at.

With version 4.0, Borland has added some new concepts and tools that make Quattro even more fun and productive. The most obvious new feature is the SpeedBar. This is a shortcut menu that sits under the pulldown menu commands, and gives you quick access to the most commonly used commands. Copy, Format, Style, and other commands can be reached directly with the mouse instead of working your way through layers of menus. And if you don't agree with Borland as to which commands belong on the SpeedBar, then add your own. Those familiar with version 3.0 will know the SpeedBar as the mouse palette—greatly improved. (There's Borland for you—they keep fixing things that were never broken in the first place—and making them better than ever). A second SpeedBar gives you quick and easy access to the most common formulas and functions, for example, Turbo Sum, which lets you add up a column of numbers in an instant.

Other new features that make spreadsheeting more convenient include the ability to insert or delete blocks that make up partial lines, and attach notes to blocks of data as well as cells. Formulas can now be password protected (don't forget the password, though, or the formula can never again be edited). You can now copy, with or without, copying the format and style,

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMING

Wendy Sarrett



This month we follow up last month's discussion of design with a discussion of implementation issues.

When one goes to implement SW there are a number of issues that arise. Among the issues are language, tools, what O/S it will run under (Windows? DOS?), performance, and portability. Note that these issues are intertwined. For example, the language used, influences performance and portability.

LANGUAGE

In reality, the language that we choose to use is usually limited to what we know and what languages we have on our machines. However, there are some tradeoffs to be made. For example, suppose you were writing a program for windows and have access to both Windows SDK and Visual Basic...which should you use??? Using Visual Basic would probably take less time but is not as flexible and produces code that is slower. If you're writing a small-to-moderate sized program, speed is not critical, and you need it fast, then Visual Basic is a logical choice. However, if you're writing a large program that you're going to sell, then Windows SDK would most likely be used. Note that sometimes these are not black or white issues. Often you can mix languages. Visual Basic can access dlls (dynamic link libraries) written in Windows SDK. "C" programs can have inline assembly code or access separately compiled assembly code. A common strategy is to write most of the code in a higher level language like "C" and then rewrite any speed critical parts in assembly if additional performance is needed.

Another aspect to consider is that some languages are better at certain things than others. For example, certain types of basic are designed to be very strong in file handling. "Lisp," a language frequently used in the AI world is very strong in working with lists of data. "C" is quite general, you can do just about anything with it, but little is already "done for you."

A third thing to consider is the difference between interpreted and compiled languages. Interpreters take a line of code and translate it as you run it (at runtime). A compiler translates the entire code into machine code and you then run that. An interpreter is easier to develop code with as you can change code and re-run it quickly, rather than having to recompile. A compiler, however, produces quicker code and does not require the interpreter to be running in order to run the code. Qbasic is an example of the former, Borland C++ is an example of the latter. There are also products that allow one to interpret while developing the code but then compile it to an EXE file when we are happy with it. An example of this is qbx (Microsoft's professional basic).

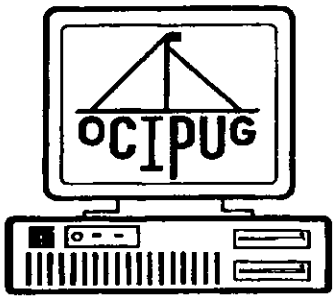
Finally, chose the tool to fit the task. If you want a program that mainly executes DOS commands, write a batch program, not a "C" program. However, if you want to do a program with a lot of mathematical calculations, DOS batch language would be inappropriate.

TOOLS

There are a number of programming tools and libraries available to make your job easier. There are many libraries to create nice user interfaces, databases, etc. Common tools include debuggers, profilers (measure a programs performance), etc. Other types of tools exist for program testing, creating installation programs, an so on. Libraries that provide commonly used routines, or routines geared toward the type of programs you want to write can be quite valuable timesavers.

OPERATING SYSTEM

This decision depends on your purpose. If you are writing a program that needs to run on low-end machines, (for example, an 8088 laptop) you do not want to write it for Windows for obvious reasons (Windows will not run on such a machine!!!). If you don't mind limiting the program's use to higher end machines, you might want to write a Windows program. While Windows is very popular (the main reason a lot of the new software coming out is windows based), it is more diffi-



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
APR	26	27 OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM	28 Personal Finance	29	30	1	2 New Users 9 AM / DOS 1 PM
MAY	3	4	5 Spreadsheet	6 Multimedia	7 Modem	8	9 Real Estate-8 AM Pacific Beach Escrow / Programming 9 AM / OS/2 1 PM
	10	11 MS Word	12 Database	13 Word Perfect	14 Graphics	15	16 Q & A 1 PM
	17	18 Genealogy	19 BBS	20 Office/Basics 10 AM / Windows 3.1	21 Windows Drawing 6:30 PM @ Graphix Zone	22 Geo-Works	23
	24/31	25 Memorial Day	26 Personal Finance	27	28 Hardware	29	30 9AM - OCIPUG General Meeting O.C.C. Science Hall

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 — 3RD TUE

SIG Leader: Bob Ottke 714/759-1515

Monthly work party on the BBS. Meet in office area of SIG SPACE.

DATABASE — 2ND TUE

SIG Leader: Bob Schmiedeke 714/536-1178

This SIG discusses various database programs, specializing in *dBASE*. **At the May meeting we will discuss the new dBase IV 1.5.**

DOS and LANGUAGES — 1ST SAT

Co-SIG Leader: Chris Lloyd 714/894-4837
Co-SIG Leader: Bob Peringer 714/633-3232
Designated Guru: John Goodman 714/895-3195

This SIG covers DOS, helping you to take command of your PC. **At the May meeting Bob Basaraba will review Digital Research's DR DOS 6.0.**

GENEALOGY — 3RD MON

SIG Leader: Stan Sabin 714/968-7307

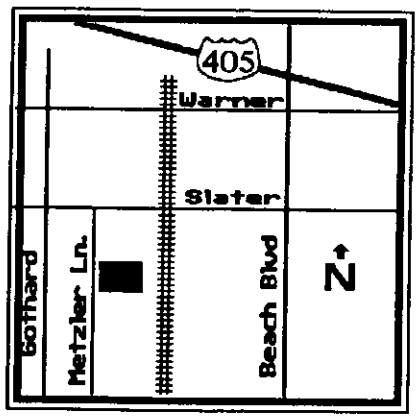
For beginners to experts. If you know a little about Genealogy or a lot this SIG is for you. **At the May meeting we will learn to create and utilitize GEDCOM files to transfer data.** Please bring your questions. Everyone welcome!

GEOWORKS — 4TH FRI

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

This SIG covers *GeoWorks Ensemble* and related topics. **In May we will learn to import and export data thru DR DOS's task swapper. Random access will follow.**

SIG SPACE



17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211
Huntington Beach

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 computer graphics and animation. **At the May meeting we will show Autodesk's 3D Studio, Version 2.0.**

HARDWARE — 4TH THU

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

This SIG is one of the most popular, judging by the strong attendance. **At the May meeting we will demonstrate Microscope 2000 with new hardware diagnostics tools & boards. Come see what the White House uses for diagnostics!**

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 May meeting we will evaluate an review EcoMail and Patricia Hoffman's virus summary, with a general discussion on viruses.**

MULTIMEDIA — 1ST WED

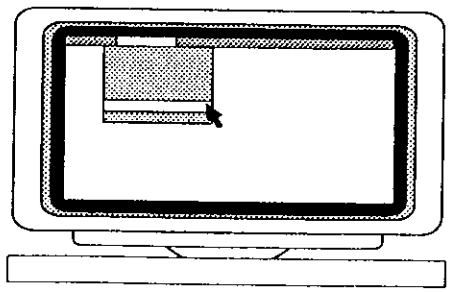
Co-SIG Leader Dave Carroll 714/775-3130
Co-SIG Leader Richard Villa 714/841-6991

NEW SIG. This SIG covers hardware and software products for use in Multimedia presentations, including the new MPC specifications. We will cover both end-user applications as well as development tools. **At the May meeting Craig Lewis of Passport Designs will present their Master Trax Pro, a MIDI Sequencing program for MPC.** Come see what Multimedia is all about!

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 TWO in the cycle. You may start at any point in the cycle.



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

OFFICE/BASICS — 3RD WED

SIG Leader: Anne Fawcett 714/968-5000

DAYTIME SIG for BEGINNERS!

10 AM to Noon: DOS & WordPerfect 5.1

Noon to 1 PM: Lotus 1-2-3 Ver. 2.2

Small Businesses! Free training! Buy memberships for employees to attend on company time. Learn the basics of these "industry standards." Bring any file problems on disk.

OS/2 — 2ND SAT

SIG Leader: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

Designated Guru: Steve Schiffman 714/531-0376

Come learn about what OS/2 is all about and what this new operating system can do for you. Come learn about OS/2. **Check the HOT-LINE for May's topic.**

PERSONAL FINANCE — 4TH TUE

SIG Leader: Max Lockie 714/644-0103

This SIG discusses the various financial packages for the PC. **At the May meeting we will return to Quicken 5.0 for DOS.**

PROGRAMMING — 2ND SAT

SIG Leader: Wendy Sarrett 714/733-9906

This SIG covers various aspects of programming and programming languages. **At the May meeting we tentatively plan a shoot-out between Microsoft C/C++ 7.0 and Borland's C++ 3.0.**

Q & A — 3RD SAT

SIG Leader: Terry Currier 714/774-2018

Come and learn about this popular database and word processing program. **At the May meeting we will continue to look at the IDG book *PC World Q&A Bible*.**

REAL ESTATE — 2ND SAT

Contact Person: Jim Dickerson 714/536-8444

Contact Person: Tom Sutro 714/754-7045

Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and several local Boards of Realtors, this is one of our largest SIGs. **Check the HOT-LINE for May's topic. Meets from 8 to 10 AM.**

Beach Pacific Escrow, 16401 Gothard St. (NW corner Gothard & Heil), Huntington Beach.

SPREADSHEET — 1ST TUE

SIG Leader: Neil Carman 714/964-1901

This group covers popular spreadsheet programs, including Microsoft Excel, Lotus 1-2-3 & Quattro Pro and shareware products, for both beginners and advanced users. **Check the HOT-LINE for May's topic.**

WINDOWS 3.1 — 3RD WED

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 May meeting we will discuss Windows 3.1's TrueType technology and have a discussion of Windows 3.1 tips & tricks. NOTE: NEW MEETING DATE.**

WINDOWS DRAWING — 3RD THU

SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/722-0327

This SIG will cover intermediate and advanced topics relating to *Corel DRAW!* and other drawing packages. **At the May meeting we will show Gold Disk's Professional Draw.** 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.

WORD — 2ND MON

SIG Leader (Word for Windows): Michael Muller 714/650-4041

SIG Leader (Word 5.5): Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

Both *Microsoft Word for Windows* and *Microsoft Word 5.5* are powerful and popular word processing packages. Note the Word SIG covers *Word 5.5* (DOS text & graphics) AND *Word for Windows 2.0*. **In May, at the Word for Windows 2.0 (Latest version 2.0A) session: (1) We will explore to understand Word for Windows help and how to use the help and on-line lessons to speed your work. At the Word 5.5 (DOS) session: Tips and tricks in being more productive with multi-glossary files. Random access will follow each session.**

WORDPERFECT — 2ND WED

SIG Leader: Susan Novak 310/594-4144
W-310/491-3081

Contact Person: Jeff Sinn 714/775-2390

Come and learn about this popular word processing package. **At the May meeting Gordon McComb, author of WordPerfect Macros & Templates, will speak on macros.**

Saturday, April 25th, 1992 - 9:00 AM to Noon

GENERAL MEETING

Microsoft Windows 3.1
Microsoft Excel 4.0
Panacea WinSpeed

⇨ 8:40 to 9:00 AM - Random Access!

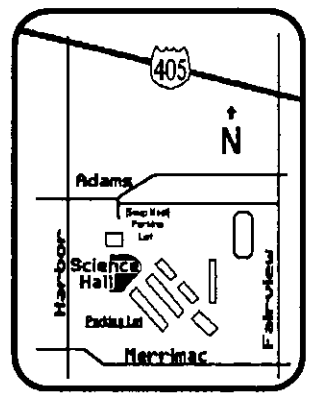
MEETING LOCATIONS

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.

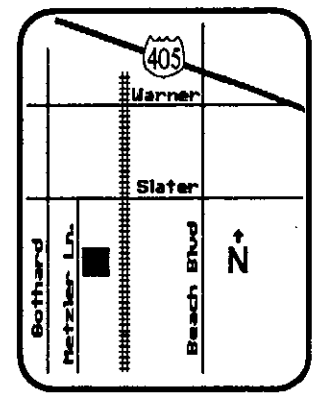


SIG Space

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.**

OCIPUG SIG GUIDE camera ready copy produced with: *Microsoft Windows 3.1*, *Aldus PageMaker 4.0*, *Corel Draw! 2.0 & Publisher's Paintbrush for Windows* using an *HP LaserJet III* with Pacific Data Product's *PacificPage XL & PacificType* PostScript-compatible cartridges, including Adobe downloadable fonts. Graphic illustrations by Richard Villa, Steve Burnside, & David Carroll.

Keeper of the Calendar: Richard Villa - 714/841-6991 - Deadline for June Calendar: Friday, May 15th

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cult to write a Windows program than a DOS program. This decision can influence the program's design. (Remember, the steps from initial idea to code are not linear, you are constantly backtracking and changing things.) Note that the operating system decision influences other things such as portability. For example, it's much easier to port a non-Windows program to other platforms (e.g. Unix, etc.).

PERFORMANCE

As I mentioned earlier, the choice of language has an impact on performance (speed, size, etc.). However, this is not the entire story. The choice of algorithm (how you do something in code) is critical. A perfect example is sorting. There are a number of algorithms for sorting a list of objects. Some are significantly faster (require less program steps) than others. Computer scientists measure an algorithm's speed based on how much processing needs to be done in relation to the amount of data. A detailed discussion of this is beyond the scope of this article. However, there are a number of books that go into this topic, showing examples of how such things as sorting can be done most efficiently.

Another aspect of performance to consider is the machine's capabilities. Memory access is fast. Disk access is slow. However, there is only so much that you can have in memory. Thus, be aware of how much disk reads and writes your program is doing. Be aware of how much memory you are allocating for your program. Especially, be sure to free memory you allocate when it is no longer needed. If you leave unused memory allocated, your program could very well hang the machine (on a PC) or have other nasty effects. This is known as a "memory leak."

Finally, as I mentioned above, there are programs known as profilers that measure a program's performance and measure how fast various parts of the program are. If you are writing a professional program where performance is important these tools can be quite valuable.

PORTABILITY

At some point you may want to take a program that you wrote for one platform and run it under a different environment. Moving a program from one platform to another is know as porting. Thus, ideally a program should be implemented so that this can occur with minimal work. This goal influences language selection and program design. Certain languages such as "C" and "Basic" are common on many platforms. "C" is probably one of the most common today. Assembly code is, by definition, NOT portable. Some languages are specifically designed for portability. An example of this is certain versions of basic and standard (ANSI) "C." However, even a portable language doesn't guarantee portability. Special libraries may not be available for other platforms. This is the flipside of their ability to be valuable time savers. Even the libraries included with your compiler may not be portable. (Borland's manual clearly distinguishes between library functions that are standard (ANSI) "C" and those that are specific to their product.)

Certain platforms (e.g. Windows) have special libraries of their own. Thus, by definition, their portability is limited.

In conclusion, there are often trade-offs between doing things easier or better now, and portability later on. However, there are some things that can be done to help. Try to put the "non-portable" aspects of your code in one place. For example, if you are using machine-specific screen input/output, create your own functions that call these functions and only call your functions in other places in the code. Here's an example of what I mean:

```
function write_a_line(string)
  { machine specific code goes here
  }

function other_function()
{ write_a_line("Hello World")}
```

CONCLUSION

As you can see there are a lot of decisions to be made when implementing a program. These decisions effect the programs performance, portability, and other aspects of its overall quality. Next month, we will start a discussion of a character-based user interface. ■

REMEMBER...
THE NEXT
GENERAL MEETING
IS APRIL 25

Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey

I was amazed, but not surprised, at the amount of Borland bashing at February's General Meeting. While Borland is considered one of the computer industry's bright stars in software, their frequent upgrades angered many of our members. When Borland was asked, "Why so many upgrades and how can I stay current," Borland's reply was, "Borland is a business and will push their current product line." I have to admit that I felt this sounded somewhat callous. However, I must thank Borland for an excellent presentation of Quattro Pro 4.0 and also for supplying copies of Quattro Pro 4.0 for our raffle. Besides, I was lucky enough to win a copy! I am currently reviewing Quattro Pro 4.0 and considering how impressed I am, I may jettison Lotus 123 Release 3.1+ from my system.

I still believe, however, that software manufacturers do tend to concentrate on the business aspects and forget about the software product itself, and the needs of the purchaser or end user. What I propose is a Software User's Bill of Rights. This would be a set of rules that consider the end user's (that's us) rights for a better product.

SOFTWARE USER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Software shall be easy to use and very powerful...

This is the fundamental reason why the end user bought the software product in the first place, isn't it? Unfortunately, many products are so feature-laden and complex that the user never does learn to use very many of them. At February's General Meeting, Borland said that 80% of users know how to use only 15% of a product's capabilities. When Steve Burnside asked at one meeting, "How many users know all the DOS commands?" there were no hands raised at all! This is surprising, considering the fact that there were so many computer experts in one place.

2. Manuals supplied to the end user shall be informative, easy to use, and complete...

Too often the poor user is overwhelmed by copious amounts of documentation with no idea where to start. Complete...yes, easy to use...no. Some major offenders include Microsoft, Borland, and Lotus. If a large number of books must be used, a volume labeled "Start Here!" should be included. When was the last time you looked at the Windows documentation? Things are so bad that when I buy a Microsoft product, I always buy a third party book to understand how to actually use the product!

3. Software installation shall be straightforward...

Some installations require that you keep the manual nearby. Software should be easy enough to install without resorting to the manuals. In fact, ideally, software installation should be so easy that the user can answer a few questions, then shove in floppies as the computer prompts.

4. Software installation shall give the user a choice of automatically altering your startup files, or deferring changes to a separate file so the user can study the ramifications of these changes...

Since software and hardware conflicts often occur as new software is added, the user must have the option to block changes to their startup files. Of course, the user doesn't fool around with startup files on the Macintosh system.

5. Tutorials shall teach and not overwhelm or underwhelm the user...

Some tutorials are very good while others are so terse that I can't figure out why I'm doing what the tutorial is instructing me to do. Borland's Quattro Pro 4.0 tutorial is about 150 pages long and each chapter is so packed with tips, hints, sidelines, and theory that I find it hard to make it through an entire chapter before getting hopelessly bogged down. Other tutorials are so trivial that they are just wasted storage space and paper.

6. Help screens shall teach and not overwhelm nor insult the user...

Help screens are often the biggest storage space hogs within an

application. Users don't want to choose help, then get referred to the manual after a simple one sentence explanation. Cute balloons are also limited to a single sentence explanation. Borland uses a very good method of on-screen help. Click on the trouble area and a list of additional topics becomes available. This is similar to Hypertext or contextual help with an added twist. Don't forget, software manufacturers: if help screens are not helpful, the end user would rather do without!

7. Warranty cards shall include the name of the software product...

This may sound dumb but Microsoft is the worst offender here. When I bought Windows 3.0 with a Microsoft mouse, I received a large box with two similar looking warranty cards containing registration numbers but without any software product identification. What's even worse, one line on each card asks for the name of the product! The software manufacturer shall also acknowledge receipt of Warranty cards and, again, let's not forget the name of the software product on each card.

8. Software upgrades shall offer real improvements to the user...

Somehow I feel that upgrades should have enough improvements to offer a real incentive to the end user to upgrade. Also, frequent upgrades only serve to anger the end user who must part with hard cash and invest more of his or her precious time to relearn the application. Judging from the comments at February's meeting, Borland is extremely guilty of frequent upgrades.

9. Software upgrade pricing shall be reasonable...

This seems to be a foreign concept to manufacturers. Did you bite at Microsoft's $129 upgrade for Word 2.0 for Windows? Yes, this is only about 25% of the $495 list price and 50% of the street price. A great price, except that you have already invested in the package. How many millions of users will bite at Microsoft's $49 upgrade offer for Windows 3.1 or $99 to obtain the True Type Font package as well? Upgrading means that the end user is making a financial, as well as, a personal commitment to that software package.

10. Software shall be value priced...

Let's face it, software is expensive. As I mentioned earlier, Microsoft's Word for Windows is typical of productivity software pricing with a list price of $495 and a street price around $260. End users have a difficult time obtaining all the productivity applications they need with these high prices. Companies have a difficult time deciding on expensive site licenses or multiple single copies as needed.

11. Customer service shall be the Number 1 priority...

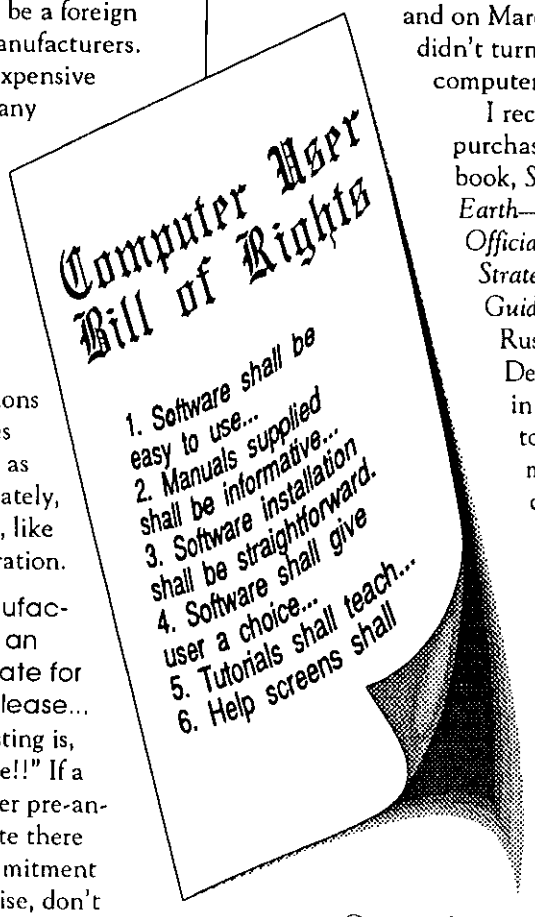
This is getting to be a foreign concept to many manufacturers. Yes, help lines are expensive to maintain. Yes, many end users don't bother reading the manual. But, why was the software application released in the first place? If manufacturers were to adopt many of the suggestions made here, help lines might not get nearly as much traffic. Fortunately, there are exceptions, like WordPerfect Corporation.

12. Software Manufacturers shall stick to an announcement date for a new software release...

What I am suggesting is, "No More Vaporware!!" If a software manufacturer pre-announces a release date there should be a firm commitment to that date. Otherwise, don't bother making an announcement at all! If you remember, Lotus is most famous for releasing Lotus 123 Version 3.0 and Version 2.2 two years after their original announcement date.

IN CLOSING...

I hope that March 6 was a virus-free day for you. For those few who don't already know, that was the day the Michelangelo virus was supposed to strike. One caller on the OCIPUG Support Group Helpline, did report that he used the Anti-virus software provided at the February meeting and it detected the presence of the Stoned virus, which is the progenitor of the Michelangelo virus. My 10-year old daughter told me that she understood about the virus threat and her solution was not to turn on her computer on March 6. I was impressed by her understanding. Her solution was part of my solution. I performed a virus scan on my system, then a full archival backup, and on March 6 didn't turn on my computer.



I recently purchased the book, *Sim-Earth—The Official Strategy Guide* by Rusel DeMaria, in order to further my appreciation of the simulation game, Sim-Earth.

Continued on Page 18...

A SINCERE APOLOGY FROM LOTUS...

Due to unforeseen circumstances Lotus Corporation was unable to do their scheduled presentation at the OCIPUG March General Meeting. The OCIPUG Program Committee and the Lotus Ambassador made all the necessary arrangements and the presentation was confirmed. However, due to a personnel mistake at Lotus Atlanta Headquarters, the presenter was not properly notified. Lotus Corporation wants all the OCIPUG members to understand how deeply concerned they are about this error. They know that there is no real way they can make up for the disappointment to our members but, in partial compensation, they have pledged to send us a substantial number of software packages to be raffled off at a future General Meeting. Final arrangements for this are pending at press time and further details will be announced as soon as available. They sincerely apologize for any inconvenience they may have caused our members. ■

COMPUTIMES by Clark & Harkins

"Frankly, I think it's a blatant violation of the truth in avertising laws."

HERB'S HANGOUT
...Continued from Page 17

I reviewed SimEarth in the May 1991 issue of *README.DOC*. It is a very enjoyable, but complex, game. *SimEarth—The Official Strategy Guide* is considered a supplemental user's manual. Rusel DeMaria is an Editor of the *Secrets of the Games* series of books for Prima Publishing, and has been involved in understanding SimEarth ever since its inception. The book is divided into four sections, 1) Tutorial, 2) Reference, 3) Simulations, and 4) Additional Information, which also includes a troubleshooting guide and glossary. The Tutorial gives you experience with a controlled simulation and teaches you the right buttons to push to obtain a desired result. The author stresses that there is enough randomness in each simulation run to guarantee that no two runs will turn out the same way.

In the Reference section, each button and control is explained in greater detail than the original reference manual. DeMaria offers many tips and hints, as well as, theory along the way. In the Simulations section there are specific suggestions for enjoying the various simulations such as Aquarium, Stag Nation, and Modern World scenarios. The Troubleshooting Guide is exactly that; it offers help for common trouble areas and in avoiding dumb mistakes. A glossary tops off a fine book. *SimEarth—The Official Strategy Guide* lists for $18.95 and can be found at a 20% discount at many stores that sell software titles, such as Crown Discount Books and the ACP store. ■

PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Jean Stevens, Editor

The products listed below are available for review by Club members. If you would like to be a reviewer for any of these products, or want more information, please give me a call at 644-1017.

The ground rules are that the reviewers are required to write a minimum 300 word review for *README.DOC* within thirty days of receiving the product. Upon receipt of a satisfactory review, the product then becomes yours to keep, subject to the manufacturer's license agreement, restrictions and limitations. These are complete applications with documentation, not demo disks.

SOFTWARE:

QUICKEN - Finance Software (new Windows version)

KNOWLEDGE WINDOWS - An environment for rapid application development under Windows

PRINTQ - Version 5.0, print spooling software

SITBACK FOR WINDOWS - Backup system that backs up newly created or modified files *automatically*

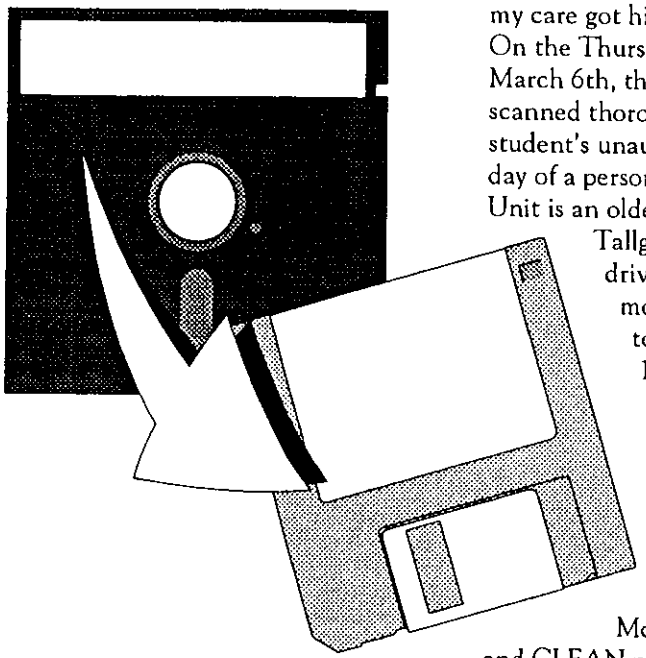
POWER LAUNCHER - Application launcher and manager for Windows

GAMES:

WARLORDS - Strategy game of empires, castles, armies, heroes, monsters, and dragons.

TECHTIPS

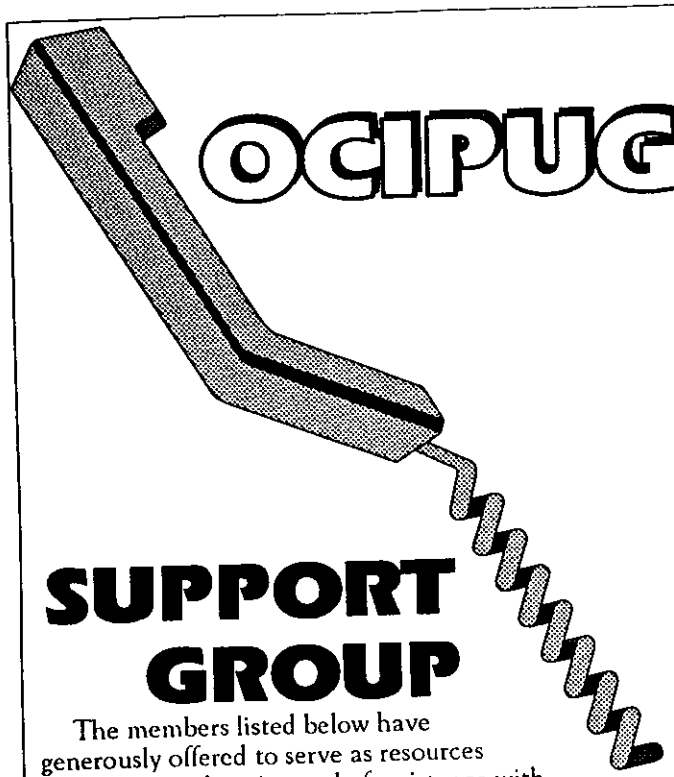
Harv Haight



A high school hard drive under my care got hit by Michelangelo! On the Thursday before Friday March 6th, this unit had been scanned thoroughly, but a student's unauthorized try on Friday of a personal game disk did it. Unit is an older AT with a separate Tallgrass 80-MB hard drive that requires a modified PCDOS 3.1 to operate. It has a 1.0-MB C: drive for DOS and special drivers, and equally allocated space on D: E: and F: drives. A separate boot-up disk with the McAfee V86 SCAN and CLEAN programs spotted Michelangelo and removed it, but the hard drive files were apparently wiped out. With the boot-up disk, the empty C: drive was recognized, so I used the Tallgrass-modification of SYS.COM to install DOS and followed this by copies of the other original C: files.

Suddenly all drives were back! Evidentally the loss of drivers prevented contact with drives D: E: and F: but did not affect the individual drive FATs. Chances are good that this reasoning could apply to other drives split into several logic drives, with only the C: drive wiped clean, but I fear that destruction of a large STACVOL device driver, by Michelangelo or related "stoned" viruses, might make successful recovery more difficult. ■

"Shareware Notes" in February's *README.DOC* led to a correction in the March issue: 1.44-MB 5-1/4" disks were not recognized by an AT (as pointed out by Paul Conway and corroborated by my tests). Author Mike Stowe, when informed of this, pointed out to me that some older BIOSs intercept suspicious media. Starting with EQUICOPY v1.10, he now includes in the archive EQUICP11.ZIP (on our BBS) a TSR and device driver EQUIFIX.EXE to overcome this problem. He suggests putting EQUIFIX.EXE in the CONFIG.SYS (device=equifix.exe); it adds a 128-byte burden to RAM, with no advantage to loading high. I've tried it; it works, but if a self-booting 3-1/2" disk is "equicopied" to make a 5-1/4" 1.44-MB disk it will work in my AT but will not boot it up (although it boots up my 386SX). Oh, well, ya can't win 'em all!



SUPPORT GROUP

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. 848-8491
Lia Varner ..... 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ..... (213) 987-0632
Christian Malm, CPA ..... 9 a.m.-9 p.m. M-F
Anytime Wkends 966-5339

Ami Professional

Mark Burrell ..... 9 a.m.-12 noon 777-2130
Richard Sinor ..... 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 970-1323

Basic

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

C & C++

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

Champion Business Systems

Kevin Post ..... Anytime 969-9495

Clarion

Mark Burrell ..... 9 a.m.-12 noon 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 ..... 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291
(Control Center)

dBase Programming

Tom Toner ..... 10 a.m.-8 p.m. 537-9175

Disk & Memory Management

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

DOS

Harv Haight ..... 9 p.m.-11 p.m. 546-0820
Herb Huey ..... 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m. 525-1608
Lia Varner ..... 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ..... (213) 987-0632
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 p.m.-10 p.m. 525-1608
Mark Burrell ..... 9 a.m.-12 noon 777-2130

Fortran

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

Genealogy

Stan Sabin ..... 5 p.m.-9 p.m. M-F 968-7307
Preston Hill ..... 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291

HP 95 LX Palm Top

Don Lafferty ..... Anytime 665-6707

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 p.m.-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

Lotus 1-2-3

Lia Varner ..... 8 a.m.-6 p.m ..... (213) 987-0632
Herb Huey ..... 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m. 525-1608

MAS 90

Christian Malm, CPA ..... 9 a.m.-9 p.m. M-F
Anytime Wkends 966-5339

Off-Line Mail Reader

Steve Burnside ..... 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. 722-0327

PCTools

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

PAF

Preston Hill ..... 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291
Stan Sabin ..... 5 p.m.-9 p.m. M-F 968-7307

PAF Disk Doctor

Ted Carpenter ..... 9 a.m.-12 noon 756-9346

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

Q&A
Mark Burrell ..... 9 a.m.-12 noon 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 p.m.-12 p.m. 777-2130

Quicken
Preston Hill ..... 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291
Ron Ross ..... 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F 964-5137
Anytime Wkends

Quickpay
Ron Ross ..... 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F 964-5137
Anytime Wkends

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

Ventura Publisher
John Goodman ..... 12 noon-12 midnight ... 895-3195

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
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 Products
Susan Novak ..... 5-8 p.m. M-F ..... (310) 594-4144

WordPerfect
Mark Burrell ..... 9 a.m.-12 noon 777-2130
Preston Hill ..... 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 892-1291
Mike Wierman ..... 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F
Anytime Wkends 894-4040
Linda Leydekkers ..... 10 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F 968-0924
Susan Novak ..... 5-8 p.m. M-F ..... (310) 594-4144

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

(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) ■

BATCH FILE BASICS

Michael Springer

Though we have not exhausted all the ways that FOR-IN-DO can be used, we will wrap up coverage of this command with two examples in this article. One more time for review —

```
FOR %%variable IN (set) DO action using
                           %%variable
```

I use FOR-IN-DO in all batch files that ask the user to supply a disk drive letter. This accomplishes two tasks, getting rid of invalid user responses and adding a colon to the drive letter when the user neglects to do so.

SITUATION

A batch file works on any of drives C:, D: and E:. No other drive letters are permitted. The drive letter is provided by the user on the command line as replaceable parameter 1. Lazy users like me usually neglect to provide the colon.

SOLUTION

The batch file must test for a valid drive letter value of C, D or E. A colon must be added if the lazy user did not provide it.

A test that checks for a "usable as supplied" replaceable parameter value is made first. Then a test that checks for a valid drive letter without any punctuation is made. If both tests fail, the user is notified that there is a problem with his or her input.

The testing portion of a batch file might look like the lines below —

```
FOR %%t IN (C: D: E: c: d: e:) DO  if %%t!==%1! goto :VALID
  FOR %%u IN (C D E c d e) DO  if %%u!==%1! goto :ADDCOLON
    goto :ERRORMSG

:VALID
  set dskdrv=%1
  goto :RUNMAIN

:ADDCOLON
  set dskdrv=%1:
  goto :RUNMAIN
```

You need to look closely at the "set dskdrv=" line in both parts above to see how the colon is added. It is easy to miss. Using an environment variable to hold the correct form of the drive identification permits manipulation of the user's input. So, a lazy user like me can use either upper or lower case and ignore the colon, and the batch file will work in spite of me.

SITUATION

Now for an almost-real batch file inspired by a question George Margolin asked me at the last General Meeting. As I understand the situation, a graphic-file converter that George uses takes a GIF file and changes it into a PCX file. The source-file name and the converted-file name are provided by the user on the command line. A lot of typing and time is involved when one has a bunch of files to convert.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

To simplify things a lot, let's stipulate that the files to be converted will be copied by the user to a particular directory before the conversion process is started. A batch file will feed the file names to the converter without any user participation. The processed files will be written to a separate directory.

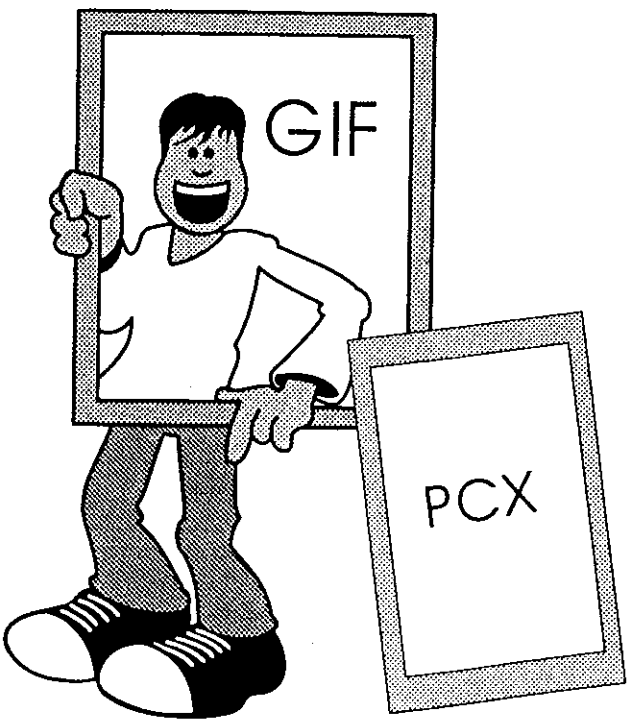
BATCH FILE BASICS

...continued from page 18

```
:: G2PCX.BAT    delivers files to a process
:: Last revised - 3/31/92
@echo off
echo.
echo    =-=-=-=-=-=  G2PCX.BAT  =-=-=-=-=-=
echo    delivers all GIF files in F:\SRCE to a process and stores the
echo    results in matching files in F:\CONVRTED
echo.
echo    Copy all the GIF files to be processed to F:\SRCE before running
echo    this batch file.
echo.

:START
  :: be sure a directory for converted files exists
  if not exist F:\CONVRTED\prn  md F:\CONVRTED
  :: check status of source files
  if not exist F:\SRCE\*.GIF goto :SRCEMSG
    goto :RUNPROG

:RUNPROG
  F:
  cd \SRCE
  for %%y in (*.GIF) do C:\UTIL\GIF2PCX %%y F:\CONVRTED\%%y
  ren F:\CONVRTED\*.GIF *.PCX
  goto :END

:SRCEMSG
  echo.
  echo  =-=-=-=-=-=  No GIF files found in F:\SRCE.  =-=-=-=-=-=
  echo.
  goto :END

:END
```

Did you find the FOR-IN-DO? It causes GIF2PCX to be run once for each GIF file in the SRCE directory and it provides the name for the converted file.

The name of the conversion program, the drive letters and the directory names can be changed as required to suit any particular real-life situation. And, the batch file could be enhanced to ask for the drive letters and directory names instead of having them "hard-coded" in the batch file. ■



DOS

Audrey Wolden

The March DOS SIG was a well attended meeting with Bill Domingo demonstrating DOS 5.0 DOSSHELL and Task Swapping. SIG Leader Chris Lloyd stated that John Goodman was busy finishing his book, and was not able to attend this meeting. However, John expects to be at the April SIG when Mike Springer will be reviewing CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT. At a future DOS SIG, Bob Basaraba will review DR DOS 6.0.

Bill demonstrated that DOSSHELL may be accessed either from the command line, or it may be the last line in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. Most commands, but not all, can be performed entirely from the Shell. The MOVE command can only be used while in the Shell, whereas, the FIND command is usable only from the command line. Bill, using the DOSSHELL, was able to access and view, on split screens, more than one drive and various programs.

There are numerous ways to use DOSSHELL, as Bill demonstrated. You can run other programs without leaving DOSSHELL, then type EXIT to return to it. Using the Task Swapper with the DOSSHELL takes a total of 40K of memory; without the Task Swapper it takes 10K. You can enable the Task Swapper or not, as you wish. To speed up the task swapping you can make a temporary swap file into a RAM disk. The Task Swapper has 3 confirmation stops you can activate as per your skills.

You can access DOSSHELL from any drive, see two drives at the same time, and copy or move files from one drive to another through the use of the mouse and keyboard, or the mouse alone.

The display feature in the Shell allows you to view file contents—in hex or ASCII. You can also change the color configuration of your screen through the DOSSHELL. Bill also pointed out that it is best to use Search from the root directory, otherwise, it will only search through the current directory, not the whole drive. Other features discussed were associating a file with a particular extension to bring it into a particular program, and use of "Refresh."

Discussed in random access were: removing TSRs from memory by loading a special program before loading a TSR; setting up a data file directory on your system, so program files will not be backed up whenever you do a full backup. (Use of batch files is highly recommended by both Bob and Mike); the difference between hardware and software fonts; Michelangelo virus (download VSUM.ZIP from the BBS); ASSIGN.COM use and memory size will stay in use after having used ASSIGN.COM; and why one might have a problem using CHKDSK on an E drive. Both Bob Basaraba and Mike Springer fielded the random access session with their great expertise.

And that about sums up this very informative SIG session. ■

PROGRAMMING

Wendy Sarrett

In March we were treated to a fascinating presentation on neural net programming by Dr. Steven Hampson. Dr. Hampson discussed some of the basic algorithms and concepts used in the study of neural nets. In April we will see Borland's new training tapes on object oriented Windows programming. In May, we are planning a "shootout" between Borland C++ 3.0 and the recently announced Microsoft C 7.0. Anyone interested in programming is welcome. ■

HARDWARE

Don Krueger

STEVE SCHIFFMAN SITS IN FOR BOB BASARABA

Steve conducted the SIG in a random access manner. The group indicated an interest in the following areas:

1. Mouse problems
2. Floppy drive directory problems
3. Architecture in memory cache
4. Tutorial about interlaced monitors
5. Hardware copy protection for software
6. Types of rodents
7. Don Krueger's AST notebook

1. *Mouse problems.* Computer displays message "mouse not found." This is for the bus mouse that comes with ATI Wonder card. Suggestions were to check if the mouse card is recognized by system by taking card out and reseating it, making sure jumper settings on the card were not changed. Run TI diagnositcs program. ATI should be contacted for advice. Check for possible interrupt conflict.

2. The problem on a 286 with install disks was of the DIR command not reporting a new directory list when the floppy was changed. The disk drive did not report a media change. Suggestions were that some software cache programs cause this problem. It may also be a bad floppy controller card. Maybe a bios problem. A place to start is to flush the memory by pressing "CTRL C" and recheck the DIR.

3. *Memory cache on the mother board versus software cache.* Some thoughts were offered. Motherboard secondary cache is located between the CPU and the main memory and is usually present in fast 386 machines. The idea is to eliminate the wait states and these RAM caches typically range from 64 to 256k. There was some dicussion about write back vs write through caches and the SIS chipset which can be configured either way through the bios. Walter Srebnik suggests we get a chip set manufacturer to speak at a Hardware SIG or General Meeting.

Disk caches are similar to buffers but can be smarter and much larger. Intelligent Access Controllers are more expensive. They can come with as much as 8 mg of cache and can be an advantage in networking or multimedia. These can greatly increase hard disk life by reducing disk searches. Software cache is an economical substitute.

4. *Interlaced monitors.* Richard Miller diagrammed the way a monitor scans on both interlaced and non-interlaced monitors. It takes only 1/30sec to scan from top to bottom in standard video. Interlacing scans every other horizontal line and then returns to scan the remaining lines. To some an undesirable flicker is noticed. VGA and higher resolutions cause the horizontal scan to increase to cover more pixels and still keep the time to 1/30sec. If flicker is noticed, choose the non-interlaced monitors or use a lower resolution mode.

5. *Copy protection.* Software protection can often be bypassed with programs like "Copy II PC." Hardware modules, which plug into an LPT port are almost foolproof but can cause problems because some parallel ports won't recognize them. Check with the application manufacturer on this one.

6. *Types of rodents.* Bus and in-port mice are almost the same and do not need a serial port. A true bus mouse has no processor in the mouse but a serial mouse does. An in-port mouse may have to be deconfigured before a serial mouse using a COM port can be loaded. Port designation is not necessary for a Microsoft serial mouse; it can find its port. Radio mice need a battery in the mouse to power its transmitter. The receiver has to be in the proximity to receive the signal and wild frequencies around the equipment can cause an unsteady cursor.

7. The notes for this report were taken on my AST Premium Exec notebook. This machine is a 386SX/25 with 4mg of RAM (upgradeable to 8mg for "ouch" another $1000), 60mg HD, internal modem & math coprocessor. It weighs 7.5 lbs and has one serial and one parallel port. Also in the accessory bay are plugs for an external monitor (VGA), external keyboard, and of course the power module. The CPU runs on an AMD chip which provides for power saving features similar to Intels SL chip. The notebook has a great CMOS which allows the screen shutdown and disk access time to be tailored for the desired power drain. It has a backlit LCD screen which is about as bright as any I've seen, with the exception of Toshiba's 486 notebook (big bucks). It has an extra function key (Fn) which helps make the screen more readable and when pressed along with the A, B, D, E, or R changes respectively; color characters to shades of gray, display characters to bold, display between LCD and external, enlarges characters to the most the screen will allow, and reverse screencolors.

It ran on the battery for this session of 2 hours using WordPerfect. I'm sure a big spread sheet would cut this time considerably.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. If errors are found in this report it's because I'm not very expert but I learn a little each day. ■

WORDPERFECT

Jeff Sinn

The March meeting of the WordPerfect SIG opened with a Random Access session, with Susan Novak fielding questions on a variety of topics, including: saving a document as an ASCII text file (Ctrl- F5, (T)ext, (S)ave); how to keep the pull-down menu bar visible at all times (Shift-F1, (D)isplay, (M)enu, (V)isible); and making small adjustments in the line and character spacing of a document by changing the leading and kerning, respectively (Shift-F8, (O)ther, (P)rinter).

The main part of the meeting was devoted to the favorite "Tips and Tricks" from the members of the SIG. George Austin made a presentation on the use of "Dead Keys" to assign your commonly used functions or characters (say, a bullet) to a key and invoking it by pressing the "Dead Key" first, then the selected key. This is done through the use of the Keyboard Layout (Shift-F1, (K)eyboard). You can also use more than one "Dead Key," so the number of key assignments can be quite large. Getting this set up to begin with can be a little tricky, so George has offered to write an article explaining it, in a future issue of *README.DOC*.

Bob Schmiedeke, the dBASE SIG leader, demonstrated how to convert a WP secondary merge file into an ASCII comma delimited file which can be used by dBASE, as well as other programs, such as, Lotus 123.

Other useful Tips and Tricks: Macros for changing data directories, and previewing and printing documents; using the powerful indexing feature to mark, define, and generate an index in WordPerfect; creating a file macro from a key defined in Keyboard Layout (Shift-F1, (K)eyboard, (E)dit, (S)ave); and the Ctrl+ cursor right or left to adjust individual tab settings (Shift-F8, (L)ine, (T)ab) while viewing the results on the screen above.

Bring your questions and we'll see you on the second Wednesday of the month! ■

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
...Continued from Page 27

COORDINATION OF GUEST SPEAKERS WITH USER GROUPS

Richard Sabin started this effort last year. Terry Currier has checked into the reserved dates of July 31 and August 21 (both on a Friday as Saturdays are booked for weddings) for the South Coast Community Church in Irvine. Rental is $500 and $25/hour for sound. This is in addition to our General Meeting. Terry Currier moved that we proceed with this coordination with other user groups for guest speakers with a target date in July. Robin Clark seconded and motion passed. He would like Bill Gates (Mircosoft) and Philipe Kahn (Borland) to speak at the July meeting. We will be soliciting for new members at this meeting. Richard Villa called for a vote on the motion and it passed.

FUTURE GENERAL MEETING FACILITIES

Terry Currier contacted other clubs for input. Most vendors will rent equipment. We need to consider renting the bigger auditorium from Orange Coast College. It will be in renovation and we must request one year in advance. This subject was deferred until next month.

Richard Villa discussed use of the monitor for General Meeting viewing and using the three beam for St. $ilicon. He asked for approval of an expenditure of $100 to enhance existing equipment. Bob Basaraba moved that Richard Villa be given up to $100 to buy the suggested splitter/amplifier for General Meetings. Preston Hill seconded. Richard Villa called for the motion and it passed.

Terry Currier reported income of $137 from the Library. Jim Fort is our new Librarian. Preston Hill suggested that SIG leaders be members of the Library Committee, that disks sold at SIG meetings be considered Library disks and sold at Library prices. Richard Villa said a policy should be set. Discussion ensued concerning disk problems, SIG leaders should not be responsible for technical support for disks and leaders should be members of the Library Committee on a voluntary basis. Bob Basaraba moved to table the motion, Terry Currier seconded and motion passed.

Ginger Buck moved that the meeting adjourn at 8:45 p.m., Bob Basaraba seconded and motion passed. ■

(Editor's note: The above minutes do not become official or certified until adopted by the Board at their next Board meeting.)

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - MARCH 30, 1992

As submitted by Ginger Buck, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Villa, Vice President
Ginger Buck, Secretary
Preston Hill, Treasurer
Bob Basaraba
Jim Bonacci
Robin Clark
Terry Currier
Sunny Lockie
Bob Ottke

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Burnside, President
John Goodman, Past President
Ben LeGare
Stan Sabin

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Tom Stolp, Parliamentarian
Jim Petit
Dean Raustadt
Sharon Raustadt
Michael Springer
Thurman Wade

The Regular Meeting of the OCIPUG Board of Directors convened at 6:52 p.m. at the SIG Space with Richard Villa presiding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 1992

Preston Hill moved to accept the Minutes with one minor correction, Robin Clark seconded and motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Preston Hill distributed copies of his report. He explained that bank account data is unverified as bank statements were not received before our Board meeting. Only the BBS Committee has turned in its budget request. Ginger Buck moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Bob Basaraba seconded and motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBS Committee Chairman Bob Ottke said users are giving enthusiastic reviews regarding Wildcat. There are still a few glitches to be worked out and the new version needs to be installed. He has requested one more node and two high speed modems. Bob Ottke also stated there is a possibility of putting a fourth node on a 2400 baud dedicated to non-members. Bob Basaraba moved to accept the BBS Report, Robin Clark seconded and motion passed. Membership Committee Chairwoman Robin Clark reported 36 new members and a total of 946 active members. Discussion ensued regarding distribution of the orange OCIPUG cards to prospective members at the ACP Swapmeet on March 29 and placing them in the SIG Space. Preston Hill moved to accept the Membership Committee Report, Bob Basaraba seconded and motion passed. Public Relations Committee Chairwoman Sunny Lockie said an extra 300 *README.DOCs* were ordered per Stephen Burnside's request for advertising purposes. She circulated the first draft of our OCIPUG brochure for members to see. Sunny Lockie announced that Borland plans to put in a full page ad for the rest of the year. Bob Basaraba moved to accept the Publications Committee Report, Jim Bonacci seconded and motion passed. Program Committee Chairman Terry Currier announced vendor presentations for April and May and that he is planning an auction in June. A lengthy discussion followed regarding raffle tickets at the General Meeting on March 28; problems incurred, members' feedback, and obtaining a bar code reader for this purpose. Robin Clark moved to start using raffle tickets and stop using the raffle program beginning with the next General Meeting until we find a better system. Richard Villa called for a motion and was defeated.

OLD BUSINESS

NICK ABACO PROPOSAL OF RENTAL OF ADDITIONAL SIG SPACE

Preston Hill reminded members of Michael Springer's concern regarding fire safety regulations. Discussion was deferred until next month when Mr. Abaco contacts us regarding this matter and when Preston Hill receives all the budget reports/information.

Thurman Wade requested a letter of receipt acknowledging his donation of $1,656.66 and Preston Hill will handle this. Bob Basaraba discussed securing computers in the SIG Space, the need for keys and keying all the locks alike. We do not have a SIG Coordinator or a Facilities Chairman. One person could hold both titles. The President can make appointments for these two positions. This subject was deferred until next month and Richard Villa is to discuss it with Stephen Burnside.

NEW BUSINESS

VCR FOR SIG SPACE

Ann Fawcett wants to start a daytime SIG to show pre-recorded tapes of equipment available for training purposes. Bob Basaraba moved that the Vice President appoint someone to purchase a VCR with recording capability not to exceed $300. Sunny Lockie seconded. Richard Villa called for the motion, it passed and Bob Basaraba was appointed to make the purchase.

Continued on Page 26...

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 APRIL

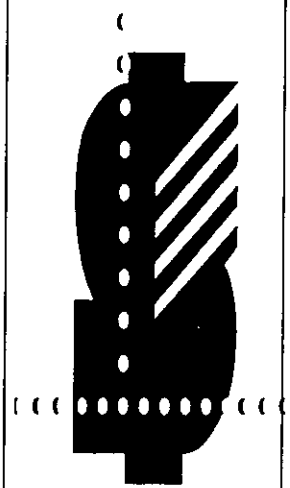
Joy Agnew
David Allen
Larry Bailey
Jack Bentley
Charles Bilderback
Gerald Bretts
Andy Broadway
Debbie Broadway
Donald Burdorf
Victor Camfield
Gene Carter
Betty Casteel
Joyce Cheng
Tony Cheng
Tom Childers
Chin-Yong Chong
Edward Dalton
Joe De Carlo
Julie De Carlo
Syd Deem
Steven Dela
Jim Dickerson
Albert Ellenbogen
Edward Etter
Richard Evins
Richard Foster
Paul Frech
Kathleen Garrison
John Gillis
Billy Hall
Katherine Ann Hall
Carl Held
Dan Jacobs
Richard Kenyon
Mary Klempen
Evelyn Langford
Ben LeGare
John Long
Ramon Lugo
Eileen Maag
Donald Mikami
Gary Nelson
Eleanor Parmalee
Dave Patterson
Ann Pierce
Ross Pierce
Phillip Roberts
Dave Robinson
Herb Rosner
James Rush
Gordon Savage
Patricia Seitsinger
Muzaffar Siddiqi
Don Smith
Ellis Thomas
Don Tunnell
Richard Villa
Dennis Walz
Robert Weikart
Terry Weiss
Michael Wilson
Herbert Wolfson
Joe Zerbrowski

FEBRUARY & MARCH 1992 FINANCIAL REPORT
Preston Hill, Treasurer

	Unrestricted Funds	Tim Smith Scholarship Fund
Cash Balance - January 27, 1992	$ 7,986.83	$3,492.63
INCOME		
General - Interest Income	$ 44.06	$ 6.69
Sales - Mugs	10.00	
Library - Sales	282.00	
Membership Dues - New	1,206.00	
Dues - Renewal	3,564.00	
Newsletter - Advertising	90.00	
Total Income	$ 5,196.06	$ 6.69
EXPENSES		
BBS - Software	$ 55.00	
Telephone	299.64	
Board of Directors - Supplies	20.70	
Print/Copy	9.16	
General - APCUG Dues	25.00	
Postage	29.00	
Rental - OCC Science Hall	180.00	
Library - Supplies	42.40	
Membership - Postage	33.00	
Newsletter - Printing	2,965.83	
Postage	381.73	
SIGS - Rent-SIG Space	1,604.00	
Total Expenses	$ 5,645.46	
Net Change in Cash Balance	$ - 449.40	$ 6.69
Cash Balance - March 30, 1992	$ 7,537.43	$3,499.32

THESE MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN MAY

Delbert Aud
Miles Beck
Richard Beckman
Jim Bonacci
Robert Bond
Arthur Boughey
Solon Braff
Larry Brockett
Susan Brockett
Dan Brostoff
Julia Conaway
Paul Conaway
Gene Conley
Bob Crippen
Kenneth Curry
Frank Cusenza
Teddy Edwards
Anne Engebretsen
Ragnar Engebretsen
William Fleischman
John Gallie
Marco Giammarinaro
Allen Gibbs
Margaret Goedeke
John Goodman
James Goodwin
Dave Gryvnak
Kenneth Kamber
Allen Kaplan
Gregory Kishel
Brad Kreko
Carl Laird
Tanis Lockwood
David Lorenzini
Darren Major
Ann Martin
Arnold Montgomery
Marlene Montgomery
Kevin Moser
Herbert Moss
Margie Nakamura
Dale Nunneley
Robert Penewell
Ron Perkins
Joseph Reister
Kelly Reister
Richard Sabin
Robin Sabin
Martin Schmidler
Jorge Schulz
Dave Shickle
Robert Shourt
Michael Singleton
Betty Springer
Hugh Springer
John Squirrell
June Squirrell
Roger Stollenwerk
Mary Stone
Brian Sullivan
E. Thomas Suter
Chris Teague
Tracy Timmons
John T. Tinney
Thurman Wade
Paul Watanabe
Donald Wilgus
LaMar Williams
Audrey Wolden
John Woolston
Ira Yawnick



1992 OCIPUG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Stephen Burnside	722-0327
Vice President	Richard Villa	841-6991
Secretary	Ginger Buck	534-7878
Treasurer	Preston Hill	892-1291
Past President	John Goodman	895-3195

DIRECTORS

Bob Basaraba	1993	559-6539
Jim Bonacci	1992	650-2922
Robin Clark	1993	786-7880
Terry Currier	1993	774-2018
Ben LeGare	1992	472-0944
Sunny Lockie	1993	644-0103
Robert Ottke	1992	759-1515
Stan Sabin	1992	968-7307

PEOPLE AND NUMBERS TO KNOW

Membership SIG Chairman	Robin Clark	786-7880
Program Chairman	Terry Currier	774-2018
Bulletin Board	Robert Ottke	759-1515
Library Committee	Jim Fort	550-9909

OCIPUG BBS & MESSAGE LINE NUMBERS

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

OCIPUG General Meeting Dates 1992

Our General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month.

April 25

May 30

June 27

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

CMS ENHANCEMENTS

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